

**Arab Strategic Framework
For the Eradication of Multidimensional Poverty
2020-2030**

May 2019

“Emphasizing that investing in the human being is the shortest way to achieve the required economic growth, and building upon the rapid developments that have negatively affected the Arab developmental gains in light of the challenges Arab countries face, which led to the increase of poverty and unemployment rates, we adopted the Arab Strategic Framework for the Eradication of Multidimensional Poverty 2020-2030 as a framework that enhances Arab efforts aiming to achieve the comprehensive sustainable development in the Arab region, with a view to reducing the multidimensional poverty index by 50% by 2030, stressing the importance of monitoring the implementation of this framework. We call upon the Arab private sector and civil society institutions to provide all the necessary support in a way that positively reflects on the Arab human being”.

From Beirut Declaration issued by the Arab
Economic and Social Development Summit
Beirut-Republic of Lebanon
20 January 2019

Contents

Statement of Arab Planning Institute	1
Statement of League of Arab States	2
Statement of the Council of Arab Ministers of Social Affairs	4
Report Preparation Team	5
Introduction	6
Section I: Analysis of Current Situation of Poverty in Arab Countries	8
1-1 Indicators of Material and Multidimensional Poverty in Arab Region	8
1-2 Poverty and Gender	17
1-3 Poverty and Human Capital	18
1-4 Poverty, Rural Development and Internal Migration	22
1-5 Poverty and Food Security	22
1-6 Poverty and Demographic and Urban Challenges	24
1-7 Poverty and Social Protection Policies in Arab Countries	25
Section II: Proposed Development Model to Address Multidimensional Poverty	29
2-1 Components of Multidimensional Poverty Eradication Strategy	29
2-2 Components of Multidimensional Poverty Eradication Policies	33
2-3 Proposed Development Model for Multidimensional Poverty Reduction: Objectives and Goals	38
2-3-1 First Axis: Inclusive, Employment-Intensive and Pro-poor Growth	38
2-3-2 Second Axis: Modern, More Effective and Empowering Social Policies	38
Section III: Proposed Policies and Programs to Address Multidimensional Poverty	43
3-1 Policies of Stimulating Pro-poor Employment-Intensive Growth	43
3-2 Education Policies and Programs	45
3-3 Health Policies and Programs	46
3-4 Policies of Improving Living Standards of the Poor	46
3-4-1 Effective Social Development Policies	47
3-4-2 Policies and Programs for Provision of Housing Units and Public Utilities	48
3-5 Role of UN and LAS in Achieving Strategy Objectives	49
3-5-1 UN Role	50
3-5-2 Role of LAS and Arab and Regional Development Institutions	52
Section IV: Integrated Framework for the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Arab Strategy for the Eradication of Poverty	53
4-1 Facing Multidimensional Poverty: Theory of Change	54
4-2 Logical Framework for Monitoring and Evaluation	55
4-3 Goal Measurement Indicators	62
4-4 Institutional Framework for Monitoring and Evaluation	82

4-5 Monitoring and Evaluation Reports	85
4-6 Conclusion	86
Appendix.....	87
References	93

Statement of Arab Planning Institute

Within the framework of coordination and cooperation with the Social Affairs Sector and the Technical Secretariat of the Council of Arab Ministers of Social Affairs in the LAS, and on the basis of its role as an independent regional Arab institution aiming to promote development efforts in different Arab countries, in April 2018, the Arab Planning Institute took up the task of preparing the document of the “Arab Strategic Framework for the Eradication of Multidimensional Poverty”, in implementation of the decree made by the Council of Arab Ministers of Foreign Affairs at its meeting held in Sharm El Sheikh in November 2017.

In this context, the Institute formed a team including its senior consultants and experts to prepare the document in cooperation with the regional offices of the UN specialized organizations. Based on the findings of social and economic policies derived from successful experiences in different countries of the world, the document of the proposed strategy aiming to fight multidimensional poverty represented in different types of deprivation was based on emphasizing the importance of promoting inclusive growth that contributes to fighting poverty and enhancing employment. The strategy document also highlighted the role of different social policies in the redistribution of a part of the economic growth in favor of the disadvantaged society segments through disseminating education and public health services, eliminating precarious housing units, and ensuring minimum financial resources for disadvantaged groups and those unable to work.

At its fourth session, held in the Lebanese Capital, Beirut, on 20 January 2019, the Arab Development Summit approved the document of the “Arab Strategic Framework for the Eradication of Multidimensional Poverty 2020-2030”, which was adopted by the Arab leaders and commanders participating in the Summit, who highlighted the importance of monitoring the implementation of this document.

The Institute highly appreciates the confidence of the LAS officials in its development services. I would like to extend my utmost consideration and appreciation to the work team for the invaluable efforts that have been exerted in preparing this document, emphasizing the continuous readiness of the Institute to dedicate its potential and expertise for the service of the Arab development, hoping that this strategy will be translated in the action plans and programs of Arab national governments, in order to contribute to achieving the objective of eradicating multidimensional poverty, as all of us, as decision makers and officials of Arab developmental institutions, hope to achieve positive results that reflect on the welfare of Arab citizens and achieve the goals of sustainable development in the Arab region.

Director General
Dr. Bader Othman Malallah

Statement of League of Arab States

Our Arab region is passing through a delicate phase. The political developments that have taken place over recent years, which have resulted in armed conflicts in several areas in our Arab world, have led to increased burdens and pressures on developmental efforts, which has negatively and directly affected the living standards of Arab citizens, in particular that these crises have resulted in large flows in the numbers of Arab refugees, which are the highest in the world since World War II.

The multidimensional poverty is one of the most serious challenges that our Arab world faces at the present time. Therefore, we have had to act urgently through sustainable and permanent actions, in order to face and eradicate this phenomenon, in order to ensure an effective response to development challenges that is consistent with the commitments of the Arab Member States of the LAS at the international level, especially within the framework of implementing the UN Agenda for Sustainable Development 2030, which highly places the eradication of all dimensions of poverty on the list of its 17 goals.

In pursuance of this objective, the Fourth Arab Economic and Social Summit (Beirut, 2019) adopted the Strategic Framework for the Eradication of Multidimensional Poverty as a guiding framework for Arab countries in preparing their policies and programs aiming to eradicate poverty. This important document reflects the centrality of the poverty issue that has a direct impact on the daily life of Arab citizens, as well as the keenness of Arab governments to support the efforts and initiatives aimed at promoting Arab joint social and developmental work.

This strategic framework supports the efforts exerted by the LAS in this important area to implement the specialized programs, strategies and declarations, primarily the Arab Program for Poverty Reduction in Arab States, adopted by the First Development Summit in Kuwait in 2009, decision made by the Second Development Summit in Sharm El Sheikh in 2011 regarding the enhancement of efforts aimed at implementing the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the eradication of poverty and hunger in Arab States, the Arab Declaration on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Plan 2030: Social Dimensions, adopted by the 27th Arab Summit (Nouakchot 2016), which focuses on the eradication of multidimensional poverty, decision made by the Arab Summit at its 29th ordinary session in (Dhahran 2018) on the establishment of the Arab Center for Social Policy Studies and Eradication of Poverty in Arab States, and other important Arab decisions and charters in this regard.

In general, this strategic framework is based on a scientific analysis of the reality of poverty in the Arab region, and proposes practical policies for addressing and eradicating it, which are based on stimulating employment-intensive growth, education and health

policies and programs, and policies aiming to improve the living standards of the poor, through effective social development policies and housing and public utilities provision programs.

As I put this distinguished scientific effort in the hands of the Arab reader, I hope that it will contribute to illuminating the path for all those interested in issues of poverty and social development in the Arab world.

**Secretary-General
Ahmed Aboul Gheit**

Statement of the Council of Arab Ministers of Social Affairs

I am pleased to submit this important strategic framework, which is one of the recommendations of the Arab Multidimensional Poverty Report, launched by the Council of Arab Ministers of Social Affairs on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in 2017. This framework also complements Arab countries' efforts aiming to eradicate multidimensional poverty and is one of the main goals of the Sustainable Development Plan 2030.

This strategic framework, initiated by the Council of Arab Ministers of Social Affairs in cooperation with the Arab Planning Institute, is the result of tireless work of a team of experts and the Department of Development and Social Policies of the General Secretariat of the LAS. The framework was discussed and enriched during a number of meetings and workshops at the level of senior officials and specialists of Member States, with significant contributions of the UN specialized agencies, culminating in the adoption of Arab leaders at the Fourth Arab Economic and Social Development Summit (Beirut, 2019).

Through analyzing the current situation of the various dimensions of poverty in Arab countries, including the achievements made by Arab countries and taking into account the daunting challenges facing the development process in Arab countries, this strategic framework seeks to develop an Arab development model focusing on Arab people and their development through proposing necessary policies and programs, towards an integrated digitized monitoring and evaluation framework, which helps link databases in Arab countries, in accordance with international standards.

It is my honor to thank all those who contributed to the preparation and enrichment of this strategic framework, from the Member States, Social Sector of the Secretariat General of the LAS and the Arab Planning Institute, in cooperation with the UN, hoping that it will contribute to supporting the efforts of Member States to eradicate all dimensions of poverty and implementing the Sustainable Development Plan 2030.

**Head of Executive Office
Ghada Fathi Wali**

Report Preparation Team

- Dr. Ashraf Al-Arabi (Head of work team)
Advisor – Arab Planning Institute
- Dr. Nehal Al-Mugharbal (Report editor)
Manager of Legislations, Policies and Urban Governance Program – United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Work Team of Arab Planning Institute

- Dr. Belkassem Al-Abbas
- Dr. Waleed Abdul Mulla
- Dr. Faisal Al-Manawar
- Dr. Nawaf Abu Shamaleh

Work Team of LAS

- Counselor/ Tariq El-Nabulsi
- Mr. Abdul Hamid Rumaita

UN Specialized Agencies

- Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia(ESCWA)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- World Food Program (WFP)
- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO)
- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat)

Introduction

"Eradicating all forms of poverty in all places" is the main objective of the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. About 836 million people around the world still live in extreme poverty, while one out of five people in developing regions still earns less than \$ 1.25 per day (UNFPA). According to the latest international report on multidimensional poverty of 2018, which covers 105 countries globally, where about 75% of the world's population (5.7 billion people) live, 23.3% (about 1.3 billion people) of them suffer from multidimensional poverty.

In Arab countries, the international report, which covers 342 million people living in 13 Arab countries, shows that 66 million people (19.2%) suffer from multidimensional poverty. Poverty rates vary largely among Arab countries. In Somalia, 82% of the population suffer from multidimensional poverty, while in Jordan and Libya this percentage was less than 2%. The report also points out that 70% of the poor who suffer from multidimensional poverty in Arab countries live in Sudan, Yemen and Somalia.

As Arab countries and their organizations top the list of the world's countries that committed to achieving the sustainable development goals, primarily the eradication of all forms of poverty in all places, it is logical that the LAS adopted -in cooperation and coordination with its partners in the region- the issue of the first Arab regional report on multidimensional poverty in 2017 after a preparation period of about three years. Given the scarcity of available data, the report covered only 10 Arab countries, namely: Jordan, Tunisia, Algeria, Comoros, Sudan, Iraq, Egypt, Morocco, Mauritania and Yemen. The report indicates that out of the 286 million people living in these countries, 116.1 million people (40.6%) are classified as "poor families," of whom 38.2 million (13.4%) live in extreme poverty.

As part of these remarkable efforts, the present document seeks to present an Arab strategic framework that Arab countries can use as a guide in developing their strategies and plans to eradicate multidimensional poverty and achieve sustainable development goals in general. The document begins by analyzing the current situation of poverty in Arab countries, based mainly on content of the Arab report on multidimensional poverty, as well as the contributions of the regional offices of the UN specialized organizations and experts of the Arab Planning Institute. The document then defines the features of the target situation by 2030, and then propose the economic, social and developmental directions and policies that the authors of the report consider important in the next ten years so that Arab countries can bridge the current gap between the current situation and the aspired situation. Since the monitoring and evaluation of performance is the obvious weakness in all previous strategies and plans, the present document presents a proposal for an integrated monitoring and evaluation system to be adopted by the LAS in

coordination with its partners in different organizations and countries to ensure the seriousness of implementation and correct the course whenever necessary.

It remains to be emphasized that the analysis conducted in the present document has taken into account -as far as possible- that Arab countries are not one homogenous group. On the contrary, three subgroups can be easily distinguished by level of income and human development according to World Bank and UNDP ratings. The first group includes the Arab Gulf States (Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sultanate of Oman and Qatar), which are usually classified as high-income countries with very high human development. The third group includes Yemen, Sudan, Mauritania, Somalia, Djibouti and Comoros, which are classified as low-income countries with low human development, while the second group includes the rest of Arab countries, which are classified as middle-income (either low or high) countries with high or medium human development. The authors of this strategic framework also took into account that many Arab countries have suffered - and some are still suffering - from long years of wars and internal and external conflicts that must be taken into account when diagnosing the problem or proposing solutions, primarily Iraq, Lebanon, Sudan, Somalia, Libya, Syria and Yemen. This distinction will be useful in understanding the dimensions of the multidimensional poverty problem in the Arab region, as well as in proposing policies appropriate to the circumstances and development phase of each country or group of countries within the region.

Section I: Analysis of Current Situation of Poverty in Arab Countries

1-1 Indicators of Material and Multidimensional Poverty in Arab Region

The Arab Library is full of reports and studies that have extensively diagnosed and analyzed the problem of poverty, or one of its dimensions, in the Arab region. Probably the Arab report on multidimensional poverty of 2017 is the latest one. Therefore, the present section will summarize the main findings of the report, considering them as the starting point that will be based on towards the implementation of the proposed strategic framework for the eradication of various dimensions of poverty in Arab countries during the period 2020-2030.¹

At first, it should be noted that the spread of poverty in a society or region is mainly due to the low rates of economic growth in such region, as well as the low quality of this growth in terms of inclusiveness, sustainability and ability to generate decent and adequate jobs to accommodate new entrants to the labor market, as well as inefficient income redistribution policies.

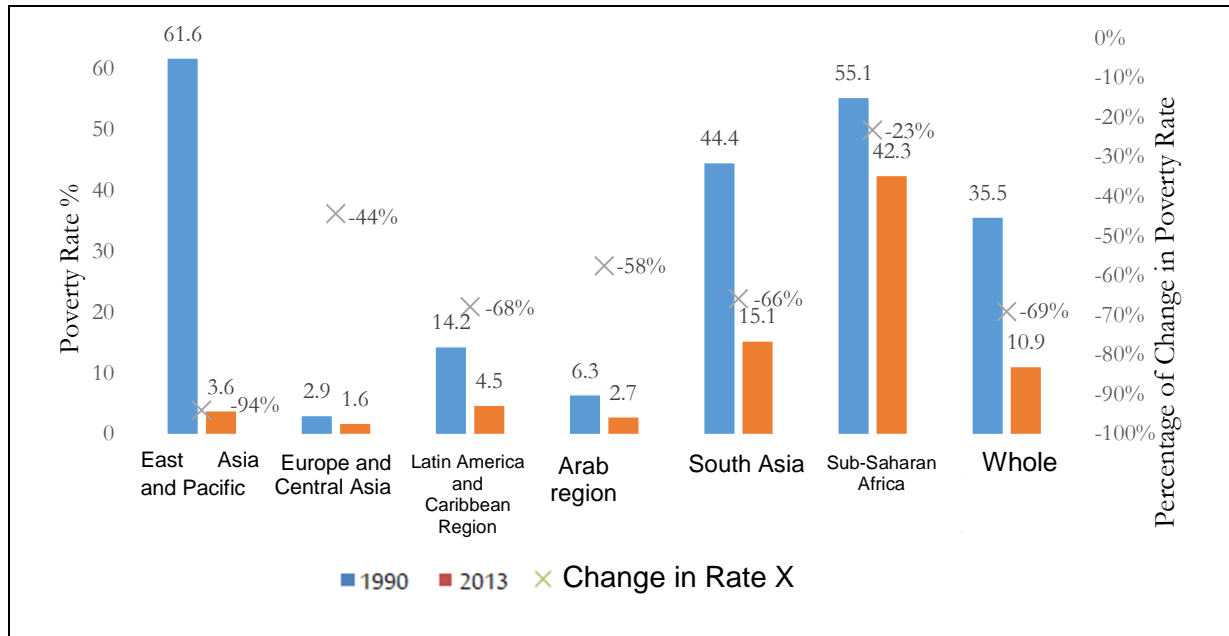
Poverty is usually measured by monetary standards, which use income and household expenditure surveys to estimate the percentage of population with levels of expenditure (or income) below the poverty line; a threshold representing the cost of basic food and non-food needs. Usually, there are two poverty lines, the national and international poverty lines. National poverty lines are calculated to reflect national consumption patterns and prices as well as its normative characteristics, while the international poverty line has been developed by researchers at the World Bank to assess and track the incidence of extreme poverty globally. At present, the international extreme poverty line is \$ 1.9 per day, which reflects the average national poverty lines for the 15 poorest countries in the world that were identified in 2011 and converted to dollars using purchasing power parity adjusted exchange rates (ESCWA, 2018).

Figure (1-1) shows the number of the poor according to the international poverty line of \$ 1.9 per day by region in 1990 and 2013. Based on this graph, we can conclude that poverty in the Arab region is low and continues to decline from 6.3% in 1990 to 2.7% in 2013. As to the Arab region, the poverty rate in 2013 is also low at about 4% (after the annexation of Sudan and Mauritania to the Arab region). From 1990 to 2013, the Arab region recorded a 58% decline in extreme poverty, which makes it one of the world's best areas in terms of

¹ In addition to the Arab report on multidimensional poverty, on which this section will mainly be based on, the contributions of regional offices of United Nations organizations and experts of the Arab Planning Institute, which were specifically prepared for this document, will be used -whenever required by the analysis.

the achievement made in this field. This achievement is consistent with the increase of GNI per capita in the Arab region compared to other developing regions (ESCWA, 2018).²

Figure (1-1): Poverty Rates by Region
Based on the poverty line of \$ 1.9 per day
(Purchasing Power Parity of 2011), 1990-2013



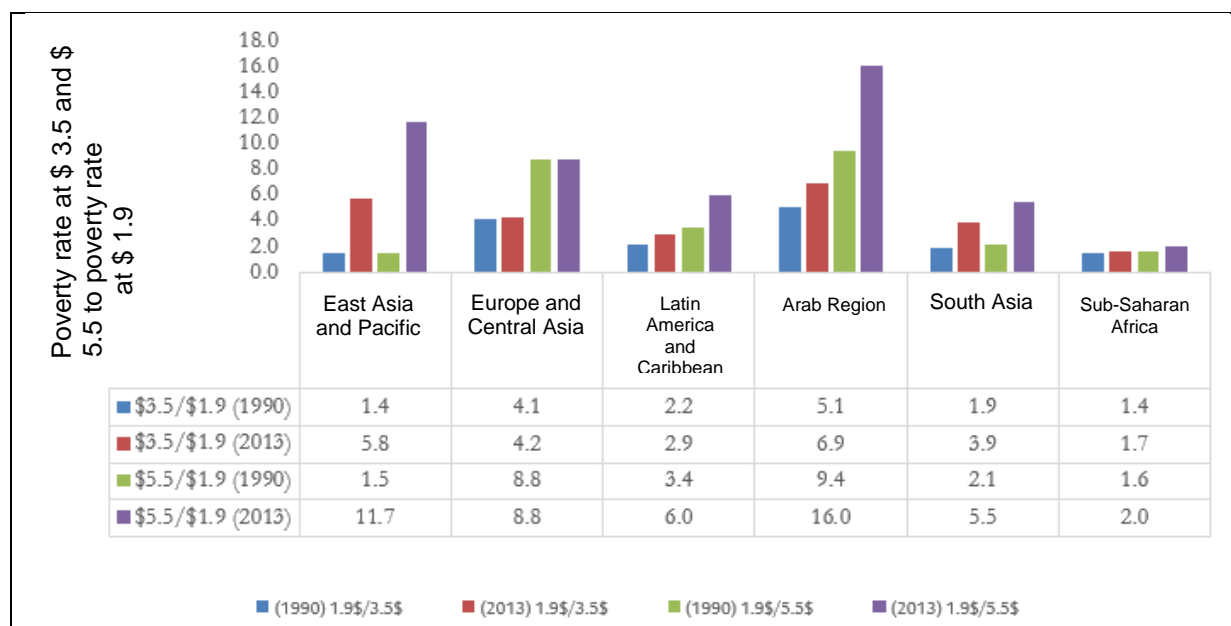
Source:2018, ESCWA.

However, Figure (1-2) highlights a different reality, if the number of poor people is estimated when the international poverty line is up to \$ 3.5 and \$ 5.5 per day. In 2013, when the poverty line rose from \$ 1.9 to \$ 3.5, the number of poor people in the Arab region rose almost 7 times to 18.4%, and rose 16 times to 42.7% when using \$ 5.5 a day as the poverty line. The figure shows that the percentage of increase in the number of the poor in the Arab region when changing the poverty line is the highest compared to the different regions of the world, which shows the high sensitivity when choosing the poverty line in the region, as a large proportion of the region population is concentrated near the extreme poverty line amounting to \$ 1.9 \$ per day. This reflects a high degree of vulnerability of a large segment of the population to shocks or reforms in economic and social policies (ESCWA, 2018).

² The first report on progress in achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals of the Gulf Cooperation Council, issued in July 2018, stated that "since the average income per capita in all the GCC countries has increased significantly for a long time (more than \$ 30,000 per capita per year according to current exchange rates), all those countries have exceeded the international poverty line (\$ 1.9 per capita) for a long time, with no individual residing in any of those countries with an average daily income of less than \$ 1.9".

Figure (1-2): Poverty Rates Sensitivity

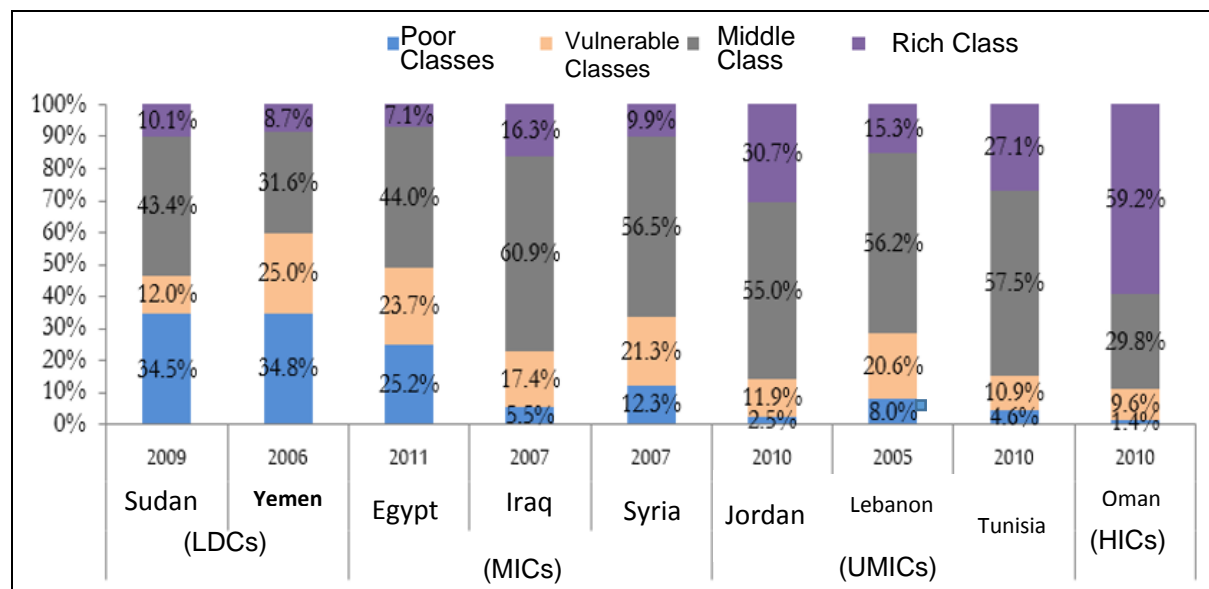
When increasing poverty threshold from \$ 1.9 to \$ 3.5 and \$ 5.5, 1990 and 2013



Source: 2018, ESCWA.

As mentioned earlier, national poverty lines are more appropriate to calculate the cost of basic needs in a specific country. However, the main constraints consist in the lack of cross-country comparability due to differences in poverty definitions, welfare measurement techniques, etc. In 2015, ESCWA led a research project to identify a consistent measurement approach to examine the population distribution across four economically distinct segments (the poor, the vulnerable, the middle class and the wealthy). The project covered nine Arab countries. In contrast to the international poverty threshold, Figure (1-3) shows the increase of rates of poverty and vulnerability in many countries in the region. In addition, the report concluded that from 2000 to 2010, a slight change was observed in the proportion of the poor, the vulnerable and the middle class, with the exception of Egypt, where the proportion of the population classified as poor and vulnerable grew to the detriment of the middle class (ESCWA, 2018).

Figure (1-3): Relative distribution of population in a number of Arab countries According to poor and vulnerable groups, middle and rich classes (%) 2005-2010



Source: 208, ESCWA.

On the other hand, the writings of the famous Indian economist Amartya Sen, Nobel laureate in economics, presented a different approach to addressing the issue of poverty that is much broader than the approach of income poverty or monetary poverty and is based on the capacity approach. This approach has provided a conceptual framework for considering poverty as the inability to enjoy fundamental rights and freedoms in life that lay the foundation for measuring multidimensional poverty. The multidimensional poverty indicators reflect non-monetary deprivation in various dimensions, which provides a more accurate picture of the experience of the poor. The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), published by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) in 2018, includes three dimensions - education, health and living conditions - expressed in 10 indicators. As shown in the following Table (1-1), among 1.3 billion poor people in the world, about 5% live in Arab countries, 19.2% of the region population suffer from multidimensional poverty, while the deprivation severity is about 51% (2018, ESCWA).

Table (1-1): Multidimensional Poverty Index by World's Regions

Developing Regions (United Nations Statistics Division)	Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) ¹	Population Percentage (H) ²	Severity (A) ³	Number of Poor ⁴ (Million)	Population Coverage by Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)
Arab Countries	0.098	%19.2	%50.8	65.7	%85
East Asia and Pacific	0.025	%5.9	%43.1	117.7	%94
East Europe and Central Asia	0.009	%2.4	%38.3	3.5	%43
Latin America and Caribbean Region	0.042	%10.1	%41.8	52.3	%81
South Asia	0.143	%31.3	%45.8	545.9	%95
Sub-Saharan Africa	0.317	%57.8	%54.9	559.6	%99

Source: Global MPI Report, UNDP and OPHI September 2018⁵.

(1) Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) ranges from 0 to 1.

(2) Population percentage is the percentage of the population with a deprivation rate of 1/3 or higher.

(3) Severity is the average percentage of weighted deprivation among the poor.

(4) The number of poor uses population numbers 2016.

(5) Totals are weighted according to the population number; the poor people proportion is multiplied by the population numbers in 2016 according to the database of United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), Population Division (2017).

In 2017, the Arab report on multidimensional poverty was published, which used the methodology of the International Directory after introducing some amendments that reflect the specificity of the Arab region (Table M-1 in the Appendix). The report pointed out that although the percentage of familiar extreme poverty is modest in the Arab world, it does not reveal the full reality, as the proportion of the people suffering from extreme poverty in the group of countries included in the Arab report on multidimensional poverty reached 13.4% (38.2 million), while the level of poverty, which also includes extreme poverty, is much higher. The proportion of the poor in the 10 countries covered by the Arab Report is about 40.6% (116.1 million). The regional poverty severity average (poverty severity index) is about 51% for both extreme poverty and poverty.

Percentage of families suffering from multidimensional poverty in Arab countries
According to the International and Arab Directory

	Country	Global Ranking on Human Development Index (2017)	Extreme Multidimensional Poverty Rate (%) (Arab/Regional Directory 2017)	Multidimensional Poverty Percentage (%) (Arab/Regional Directory 2017)	Multidimensional Poverty Percentage (%) (International Directory 2017)
Countries with high human development	Lebanon	80	-	-	-
	Algeria	85	0.62	24.0	2.1
	Jordan	95	0.28	11.7	1.3
	Tunisia	95	0.61	17.8	1.3
	Libya	108	-	-	2.0
Countries with middle human development	Egypt	115	3.0	27.2	5.2
	Palestine	119	-	-	1.0
	Iraq	120	6.47	45.5	14.7
	Morocco	123	8.93	36.6	18.6
Countries with low human development	Syria	155	-	-	7.4
	Mauritania	159	51.57	89.1	50.6
	Comoros	165	26.36	73.9	37.4
	Sudan	167	49.93	73.5	52.4
	Djibouti	172	-	-	34.6
	Yemen	178	30.58	69.1	47.8
Average of Arab countries		-	13.35	40.55	19.2

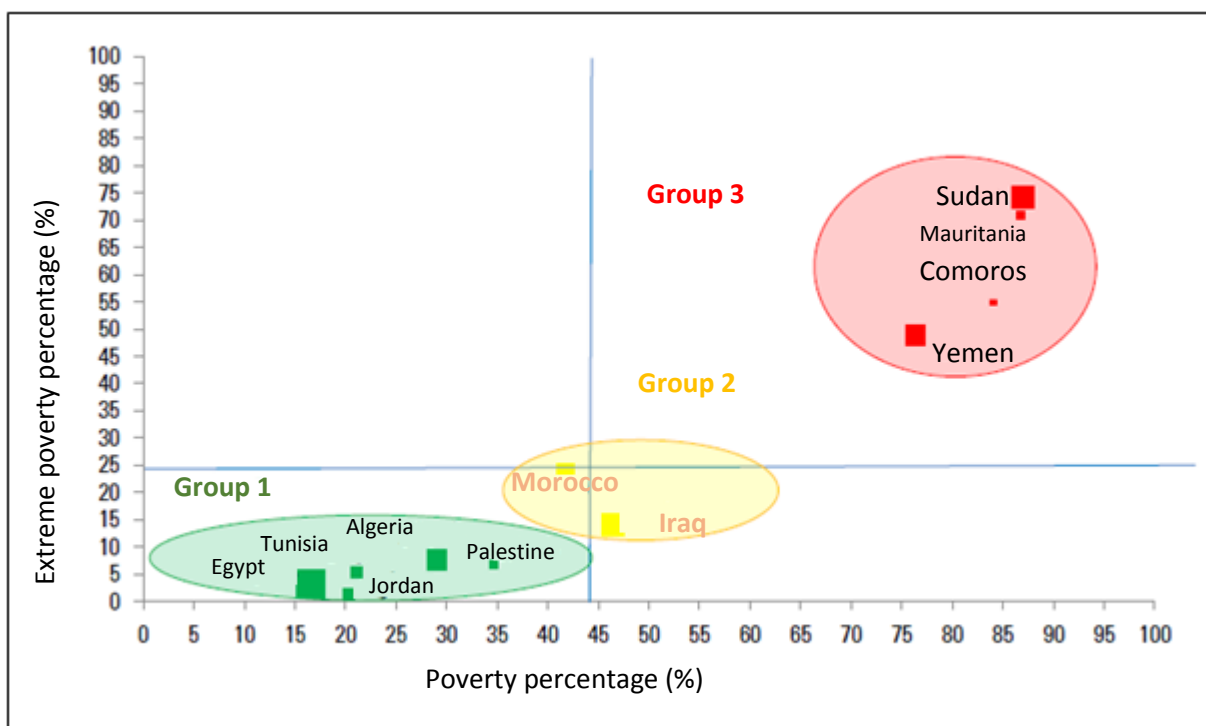
Source: Human Development Report (2018) and Arab Report on Multidimensional Poverty (2017).

Since children in Arab countries (population under the age of 18) represent a large proportion of the total population, from 27.7% in Tunisia to 47.4% in Iraq, the Arab report - based on the UNICEF methodology - measured the children poverty index in Arab countries, where the measurement included five dimensions of child welfare for each of the two age groups (0-4 and 5-17), that were selected in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. As to children 0-4, the dimensions examined were water, sewage, housing, health and nutrition. As to children from 5 to 17, the dimensions taken into account were water, sewage, housing, information and education (Table M-2 in the Appendix). Arab countries were divided into three groups: Group 1: countries with low acute poverty and moderate medium poverty, which includes Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Palestine and Tunisia; Group 2: countries with low acute poverty to medium and medium to high poverty, which includes Iraq and Morocco; and Group 3: countries suffering from

acute poverty and extreme poverty, which includes Comoros, Mauritania, Sudan and Yemen (UNICEF, 2018).

As shown in Figure (1-4), the multidimensional poverty rate among children is also very high, with 52.5 million people representing 44.1% of children living in poverty, and 29.3 million children, i.e. one out of four children, live in extreme poverty. These percentages vary largely among the three groups of Arab countries. The extreme poverty rate in countries of Group 1 is very low, ranging from 1.2 to 7.7% of all children, while the poverty proportion ranges from 16.6 to 34.7%. In countries of Group 2, extreme poverty ranges between 14.0% and 23.8%, and the poverty proportion is between 41.8 and 46.5%. In countries of Group 3, the percentages of child poverty is alarming, as extreme child poverty affects between half and three quarters of the total number of children (from 48.8 to 74.2%), and normal poverty proportion is between 76.4 and 87% of the children.

Figure (1-4): Groups of countries in relation to child poverty



Note: (1) The size of the bullet point reflects the number of population under 18 years.

(2) Blue lines indicate the weighted average of countries.

Source: Arab Report on Multidimensional Poverty, 2017.

The results vary moving from extreme poverty to poverty. Although the countries of Groups 1 and 2 have a relatively low proportion of poverty, a much larger proportion of the population is vulnerable to poverty (27.1% in Group 1 and 31% in Group 2). Overall, a quarter of the region's population is vulnerable to poverty, which means that nearly two-

thirds of the Arab population is either poor or vulnerable to poverty. In general, the real challenge facing the countries of Groups 1 and 2 is to deal with the large proportion of people vulnerable to poverty. Group 3 countries need to alleviate extreme poverty, which affects about half of their total population.

Other distinguishing features of the poverty issue in Arab countries are the clear disparity and inequality in the distribution of poverty at the spatial level (between rural and urban areas; between governorates or states within countries; among different groups of countries) and at the level of the social and economic characteristics of households (e.g. larger households, and families whose head did not receive any education). The main findings of the Arab report on multidimensional poverty can be summarized as follows:

- Female-headed households are more vulnerable to extreme poverty in countries of Group 3, and male-headed households are more vulnerable to extreme poverty in countries of Groups 1 and 2.
- The greatest disparity in poverty is due to the education of the head of household. The probability of families with uneducated head being exposed to poverty is eight times higher than that of the households headed by those with the highest level of education available in the country (higher education).
- The disparity in poverty rates according to the level of education of the head of household rises in Groups 1 and 2 with low poverty rates. As to Group 3, the proportion of the poor did not differ according to the level of education of the head of household, which indicates that education in these countries was not a sufficient condition to avoid falling into poverty, possibly due to the lack of employment opportunities.
- The vulnerability of families in the lowest quintile of wealth to fall into extreme poverty is fifty times higher than those in the upper quintile.
- At the Arab level, the indicators of the multidimensional poverty index for extreme poverty are 1.87% for urban dwellers and 11.26% for rural population. As to poverty, these indicators are also 11.4% for urban dwellers and 29.2% for rural population. This increase in the rural poverty index is applicable to all countries.
- Although less than half of the Arab population live in rural areas, 83% of the extreme poor and 67% of the poor live in rural areas.
- The percentage of poor children in rural areas is about 55%, i.e. 1.8 times more than in urban areas.
- Children in less wealthy households (according to the definition of wealth index based on family properties) are 3.7 times more likely to be at risk of multidimensional poverty than children in richer groups.
- Rural children, with a poverty rate of 36.3%, are 3.6 times more likely to suffer from extreme poverty than children living in urban areas.
- Children in households headed by an uneducated person may be 2.3 times more likely to have extreme poverty than those families headed by a person who has a primary education or more.
- The wealth index shows the greatest amount of disparity, as 47% of the children live in the poorest households according to the wealth index, and in contrast, only 4% of children

live in richer families fall. In other words, children in the poorest quintile are 12 times more vulnerable to extreme poverty than children in the top quintile of the wealth index.

- Denial of education is the biggest source of familiar poverty, while housing conditions and malnutrition are the main sources of child poverty.
- Education in the countries of Groups 1 and 2 contributes most to poverty and extreme poverty, while in countries of Group 3, the biggest contributor is living conditions. Education contributes to extreme poverty in urban areas more than rural areas, where living conditions are more important.
- Poverty is unevenly distributed within countries, i.e. among governorates or states of the same country. Differences between countries, governorates and internal regions are generally higher in Groups 2 and 3 than Group 1.
- Local disparities in the Arab region are very high, which should be given adequate attention when developing a strategy to combat poverty. The most disadvantaged governorate (according to multidimensional poverty indicators) in Mauritania, the country with the highest percentage of poverty according to the same indicators, has greater deprivation than the poorest governorate in all the countries of Groups 1 and 2.
- The 15 poorest governorates or provinces in the 11 countries surveyed are located in only three countries: Sudan (9 states), Mauritania (5 states) and Yemen (one state), many of which are located in Sudan and Yemen in conflict zones.

If we add to the above the challenges posed by conflicts and wars that continue to rage in the region, which undoubtedly have very serious negative effects on the conditions of the poor, the picture becomes more complex. The ongoing conflict in Yemen, for example, has plunged the Yemeni people into a humanitarian crisis and pushed millions of people to the brink of famine. The conflict has claimed more than 10,000 lives, while some 7 million people have suffered severe food shortages. This has led the UN World Food Programme (UNFP) to declare that the country is at risk of starvation. There is no doubt that the situation of multidimensional poverty today in Yemen is much worse than that of previous years, especially in the health dimension. Many other Arab countries face political turmoil: four of the 11 countries have been directly and significantly affected by conflicts or occupation, namely: Yemen, Iraq, Sudan and Palestine. The impact of the ongoing conflict on human development is much more severe than material damage and slower growth of GDP. Perhaps what best reflects this fact is that although the region's population is about 5% of the world's population, the region accounts for more than 53% of the total refugee population and 37% of the displaced population in the world. The World Development Report issued recently by the World Bank noted that between 2011 and 2017 nearly 4 million Syrian children left school because of the civil war. Many are unlikely to make up for the lost school years (W.B., 2019).

This can be fully clarified if we highlight the situation of poverty in the State of Palestine and the impacts of the Israeli occupation. All residents of the State of Palestine are directly

affected by the occupation. Restrictions on movement hinder economic growth and production activities, lead to the fragmentation of Palestinian lands socially, politically and geographically, and restrict people's ability to benefit from vital resources such as water and land. As to the Gaza Strip, any serious analysis of poverty must consider the impact of ten-year restrictions on the movement of people and goods. Furthermore, the conditions constrain the movement of the Palestinian Government as they prevents them from formulating and implementing a specific long-term development strategy.

It is no exaggeration to say that the Palestinians are exposed to an unknown reality and deprivation in various forms. Israeli settlement construction is often accompanied by demolitions of Palestinian structures. In 2016, a total of 1093 Palestinian homes were demolished, which is the highest number since the beginning of data collection in 2009. East Jerusalem residents live under the constant threat of eviction from their homes or the cancellation of their residency. As the population of the Gaza Strip has been cut off from the rest of the Palestinian territories for nearly a decade, the infrastructure of the Gaza Strip is under intense pressure. As of 2017, the Strip has experienced a severe power outage of up to twenty hours a day. Because of the pollution and over-extraction of coastal groundwater, only 5% of it remain fit for human consumption. In addition, children are especially affected by the occupation and the frequent escalation of violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In addition to previous indicators and challenges, there are many issues that are strongly linked to the issue of poverty, whether to its material or multidimensional concept. The most important issues to be highlighted in this field are the gender, education, health, food security, population and urban development. The following is an attempt to shed light on these issues, particularly with regard to their relations to the subject of the present document.

1-2 Poverty and Gender³

Statistics around the world show that women are poorer than men. Estimates show that women account for 70% of 1.2 billion people living in poverty. Unequal power relations and participation in decision-making between women and men are among the structural causes of social and political instability that generates poverty. Thus, reducing gender inequality will have a strong contribution to poverty alleviation and achievement of social justice and sustainable development goals.

There are many issues relating to women, which pose a fundamental challenge to efforts aiming to eradicate multidimensional poverty in Arab countries. The first of these issues is the improvement of women's sexual and reproductive health. In 2013, a study conducted by the World Health Organization (WHO) indicated that the increase in spending on these

³ This part is mainly based on UNFPA, 2018 unless otherwise mentioned.

services by only \$ 5 per person per year until 2035 in 74 countries with high maternal and child mortality rates could result in nine times more economic and social benefits, including the increased GDP growth through improved productivity. Other studies have shown that the use of contraception means and access to family planning information and services facilitate the achievement of a "demographic dividend" - which consists in an accelerated economic growth resulting from a decline in fertility and a decline in dependency ratios due to changes in the age structure of the population, which results in the increase of productivity and wealth.

There are many harmful practices and customs in Arab countries, such as child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM), both of which constitute a violation of human rights. Child marriage limits the chances of girls to complete education, raises fertility rates, reduces rates of participation in labor force, and the levels of income they receive over their lifetime. In other words, the risk of living in poverty for girls who marry early as children is much higher than their peers who marry as adults and have opportunities in their lives to obtain better education, health and informed choices about their reproductive lives and contribute to economic development. FGM also causes a number of serious health consequences, which may lead, in some cases, to death, as well as high cost of treatment.

If we add to the previous challenges the fact that estimates show that women and girls constitute about half of the internally displaced or stateless population worldwide. Gender disparities in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations ("FCS") reflect the norms and dynamics that perpetuate inequalities and exclusion factors that help conflict and instability continue. Therefore, facing continuing challenges facing women in fragile and conflict-affected situations is not only a security imperative but also a priority to achieve sustainable development. Violent conflict and fragility affect men and women in various ways that are rarely recognized and addressed in the core of construction and reconstruction policies and programs. Forced displacement often contributes to an increase in the number of families headed by women or children, as men leave home to join armed groups, seek economic resources, or experience violence or death. Family separation is common, either as a deliberate or accidental feature of insecurity. In addition, women and girls often suffer from the indirect impacts of conflict, including malnutrition, disease exposure and lack of access to health services (including reproductive health services). Widowhood and female-headed households generally show poverty and extreme poverty.

1-3 Poverty and Human Capital

Deprivation of education and good health services is an engine of intergenerational transmission of poverty. Children living in households that have not completed primary education and do not enjoy affordable health care are very likely to be poor, either in the

narrow monetary sense or in the broad multidimensional sense. There is no doubt that the Arab region has experienced tangible achievements in the field of education over the past decades, especially with regard to enrollment rates, average years of schooling, literacy rates among adults, reduction of gaps between males and females ... and other successes and achievements that cannot be ignored. In 2015, enrollment in primary education reached 100%, up from 89.8% in 1999. Furthermore, higher education enrollment increased by 72.2% between 1999 and 2015. Adult literacy increased by 28.9% between 1999 and 2015. At the same time, however, the Arab region still faces many of the challenges that any comprehensive strategy aiming to eradicate multidimensional poverty must face. An important study of the World Bank highlighted the most important of these challenges (W.B., 2008), as follows:

- There is a significant gap between what education systems are currently producing and what the region needs to achieve its development goals. The region has produced less educational outcomes than many competitors, which were measured by years of educational attainment in the adult population. Educational achievements to date are partly exposed to high dropout rates and relatively low scores in international tests. Literacy rates remain low and education systems produce more graduates in humanities than basic and applied sciences.
- Previous and ongoing educational reforms tend to focus heavily on engineering the educational process, while giving much less attention to motivating relevant actors and enhancing public accountability. This shortcoming threatens the future competitiveness of the region, which requires a diverse and ever-changing set of educational outcomes for a wider group of individuals, especially in light of the increasing challenges posed by globalization and trade liberalization, not to mention the Fourth Industrial Revolution.
- Large part of the accumulated human capital in the region is still either lost, in the form of high unemployment rates among graduates, or inefficiently exploited, as is the case for public employees. The region is no longer able to tolerate such a separation between education outcomes and requirements of the labor market.

As with education, it can be said that the level of services and health care in the Arab region has experienced tangible improvement over the past decades. This improvement has been reflected in a clear development in almost all health indicators in Arab countries. For example, life expectancy at birth in the Arab region rose from 58.5 years in 1980 to 71 years in 2015, and child mortality decreased from 131.9 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1980 to 36.8 deaths in 2015.

However, evidence still indicate that there is large room for improvement, as countries of the region suffer from low government spending on health care, as governments in the region spend an average of less than 10% of their budgets on health care. This has led to a rise in private spending on health, bringing individuals and families in the region to bear

about 40% of health care costs, which forced the families to give up the demand of health care or face poverty because of incurring the financial burdens resulting from high health expenditures (World Bank, 2013).

Given the delay in the priority of public spending on health in Arab countries, it is natural that most of these countries suffer from inequitable access to health services. For example, a woman living in an urban area in the Arab region enjoys rights twice more than a rural woman, with regard to dealing with skilled birth attendants midwives during birth, as well when requesting contraception means. In addition, the burden of non-communicable diseases is on the rise, threatening the health and prosperity of future generations. There are four countries in the region (Kuwait, Egypt, UAE and Bahrain) where obesity is an endemic disease and affects men and women by one of the highest rates globally. Furthermore, tobacco is used among men and with high rate among young women. Road accidents are also among the leading causes of death among young people in the region, while depression is a major cause of diseases among women in the region. The poorest countries in the region suffer from high levels of malnutrition (nearly 60% of children in Yemen are stunted) and a high maternal and child mortality rate (World Bank, 2013).

As we have confirmed earlier, the countries of the region vary considerably in terms of income, from among the highest in the world to the lowest level. While some have advanced technology, others lack access to water, sewage and electricity. Some countries are still struggling to control infectious diseases, while others face a greater threat of chronic non-communicable diseases. Poverty, conflict, unhealthy lifestyles and environmental degradation have undermined efforts to reduce and prevent diseases, disability and death. Crises are a distinctive feature of the region, affecting directly or indirectly nearly two-thirds of its countries. These crises, exacerbated by brain drain, have led to unprecedented and devastating consequences for social and economic life.

The World Bank has recently launched a new international measure that measures the amount of human capital that a child born in 2018 - for example - can expect when the child reaches the age of 18, in light of the risks of poor education and poor health prevailing in the country where he was born. The index is designed to show how improvements in current education and health outcomes constitute the productivity of the next generation of workers: it assumes that children born in a given year are experiencing the current educational opportunities and health risks over the next 18 years. Therefore, this new measure focuses on results - not inputs such as spending or regulation, which are the most important when it comes to multidimensional poverty and sustainable development, making it more important for policymakers who design and implement interventions to improve these outcomes over the medium term. The human capital index consists of three dimensions and four indicators: (1) the measure of whether children survive from birth to school age (5 years); (2) the measure of expected years of schooling

adjusted by the quality of education; (iii) two broad measures of health - rates of stunting, and adult survival rates (WB, 2019).

As shown in the following Table (1-3), there is a clear disparity in the levels of human capital in Arab countries. Three groups of countries can easily be distinguished: the Gulf States, foremost among which is Bahrain, which ranked first in the Arab region and 47 in the world (out of 157 covered by 2018 report); the group of countries of Jordan, Palestine, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco and Egypt, which ranked from 79 to 104 respectively; and finally, the group countries of Comoros, Iraq, Sudan, Yemen, Mauritania and Southern Sudan, which ranked internationally late (from 123 to 156) according to this index

Table (1-3): Human Capital Index in the Arab Countries, 2018

	Country	Index Value	Ranking (out of 157 countries)
Countries with very high human development	Bahrain	0.67	47
	UAE	0.66	49
	Oman	0.62	54
	Qatar	0.61	60
	KSA	0.58	73
	Kuwait	0.58	77
Countries with high human development	Jordan	0.56	79
	Algeria	0.52	93
	Tunisia	0.51	96
	Lebanon	-	-
	Libya	-	-
Countries with medium human development	Palestine	0.55	82
	Morocco	0.50	98
	Egypt	0.49	104
	Iraq	0.40	129
Countries with low human development	Comoros	0.41	123
	Sudan	0.38	139
	Yemen	0.37	145
	Mauritania	0.35	150
	Southern Sudan	0.30	156
	Syria	-	-
	Djibouti	-	-

Source (2019, W.B.)

1-4 Poverty, Rural Development and Internal Migration⁴

Poverty is fundamentally a rural phenomenon, as 70% of the poor in the Arab region currently live in rural areas and rely heavily on agriculture to earn their living. They also rely more on small family farming, which constitutes 80% of the total agricultural production in the region. Employment creation - particularly job opportunities for young people - remains difficult in the region, with unemployment currently projected to exceed 30%. Unemployment and the limited access of the rural poor to their basic social rights are among the main drivers of forced displacement - mainly among young people - from rural to urban areas - and to a lesser extent - to other rural areas, seeking to find jobs opportunities, wages and better living conditions. The lack of decent job opportunities in rural areas results from a variety of often interconnected factors, including land division, environmental degradation, food insecurity, low productivity and lack of social protection.

These changes in the structure of rural communities directly affect food security in the region because of the high dependence on these (rural) communities, especially small family farmers, for food production. Without these farmers and herders, poverty and hunger will directly and negatively affect the development and long-term stability of the region. This is particularly disturbing in some countries in the region that already suffer from fragility due to the lack of governance and investment, as well as the severe population vulnerability.

This level of fragility is expected to increase due to the various challenges facing natural resource management, including water scarcity in the region, in addition to desertification and land degradation, which pose a significant threat to sustainable productivity in the region due to the increased land division and limited land tenure rights to smallholder farmers. In fact, the economic cost of land degradation in the region is estimated at \$ 9 billion, resulting from salinization, erosion, pollution and poor land management.

These challenges are particularly evident in countries facing internal crises, such as Iraq, Libya, Syria and Yemen, as well as in neighboring countries. These factors are expected to continue to deteriorate due to climate changes, which are expected strong impact on the Near East and North Africa region, with rising temperatures and overall decline in water resources and availability.

1-5 Poverty and Food Security⁵

⁴ This section is mainly based on the contribution of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Achieving food security and the second objective of sustainable development goals (SDGs) poses a challenge for Arab states and are unlikely to be achieved in affected countries if current conditions of conflict and instability continue. Causes include conflict, civil unrest, demographic and socio-economic trends, and governance challenges, amid scarce resources and increased reliance on food imports (cereals), as well as exposure to economic shocks, natural disasters and climate change.

Conflicts in Syria, Yemen, Iraq and Libya continue to have a profound humanitarian and food security impact. In Syria, violence has caused a 67% drop in the country's GDP and seriously undermined the food security - 70% to 80% of Syrians now need humanitarian assistance, while 50% need food assistance. In Iraq, where violence has reduced GDP by 58%, 30% of the population need humanitarian assistance, while 9% demand food assistance. Yemen also suffers from conflict, leading to a situation where 70% to 80% of the population needs humanitarian assistance and 50% needs food assistance. In addition, food insecurity continues to prevail among vulnerable groups in protracted crisis situations in countries such as Palestine and Sudan.

High food prices are also contributing to increased vulnerability of food security and nutrition in LAS countries. Almost all Arab countries are net food importers, which means that their populations are highly vulnerable to rising world food prices. The main consequences of poor food security in the Arab region can be summarized as follows:

A) Malnutrition: Malnutrition remains a major health problem with very serious consequences and cannot be ignored. It is the largest cause of child mortality. The consequences of early childhood malnutrition continue throughout life and are transmitted between generations. They cause poor mental and cognitive development and, therefore, have detrimental consequences on adult health. Malnutrition among women of childbearing age increases the maternal mortality rate and the risk of low birth weight for their children.

B) Micronutrient Deficiency: Iron-deficiency anemia is a serious public health problem in many countries.

C) Obesity and non-communicable diseases: The epidemiology of non-communicable diseases, such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes and cancer, and the risk factors for these diseases are closely related to food consumption, dietary patterns, nutrition and lifestyles. The reports show alarming numbers due to the spread of obesity and non-communicable diseases. Increased weight and obesity are strong risk factors for cardiovascular disease and diabetes (type 2) and a major contributor to premature mortality.

⁵ This section is mainly based on WFP, 2018, unless otherwise stated.

1-6 Poverty and Demographic and Urban Challenges⁶

Important challenges for many Arab countries in their quest to eradicate poverty are those related to the population issue, including population growth rates, migration, urbanization, population density, age structures (especially youth and older persons), urban demographics and unequal spatial development. The population size, structure and spatial distribution have impacts on economic growth, sustainable development and prosperity by influencing labor markets, income distribution, pressure on resources and infrastructures, anti-poverty programs, social protection and pensions. Population dynamics also influence family and community options to promote economic and social development (UNFPA, 2018).

The data indicate that the population of Arab countries increased from 150 million in 1980 to 317 million in 2007, reaching 378 million in 2014 and now approaching 400 million. The main demographic challenges and associated challenges related to the urban demographics of the Arab States can be highlighted in the following points: high population growth rates; imbalance in population density distribution; increased rural-urban migration; displacement caused by occupation; security issues; natural disasters and man-made disasters; social inequality and marginalization of groups such as the elderly and persons with disabilities; limited participation of women and young people in the development process; imbalance between urban and rural areas in the development process⁴ and high poverty rates in urban areas.

Access to housing and infrastructure services is one of the major determinants of living standards and multidimensional poverty. In this regard, Article 38 of the Arab Charter on Human Rights states: "Everyone has the right to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, ensuring their well-being and decent life, including food, clothing, housing, services and the right to a healthy environment. States Parties shall take the necessary measures commensurate with their resources to ensure these rights." Accordingly, some Arab countries have made significant progress in increasing the supply of affordable housing units, elimination of informal and poor areas and development of infrastructure. However, there are still many challenges facing Arab citizens in this field, the most important of which can be summarized as follows: inability of the public sector to meet the increasing housing needs; increase in the cost of land equipped with services ready for habitation; lack of adequate funding mechanisms; inconsistent access to basic services and international planning standards; increased gap between demand and supply of housing units for low-income people and poor distribution of units; absence of a housing stock management system to ensure the maintenance and exploitation of all

⁶ This section is mainly based on LAS & UN-Habitat, unless otherwise stated.

vacant units; lack of integration of housing and job opportunities; failure of providing housing units for low- and middle-income groups by the private sector; poor public-private partnerships for infrastructure provision; widespread ownership of housing units; limited safe lease stock at reasonable prices; high prices of building materials; misuse of modern and sustainable construction techniques; difficult access by a number of people to adequate potable water and sewage services; inadequate and inefficient public transport networks and roads.

Furthermore, the majority of Arab countries face many challenges related to land and urban planning, the most important of which can be summarized as follows: expansion of major cities; decreasing agricultural land as a result of urban growth; urban deformation; spread of informal settlements; lack of maintenance of archaeological and heritage sites; high land prices; degradation of old neighborhoods; and lack of national and regional plans in some countries.

Arab countries also face a number of challenges associated with urban governance and legislation. The lack of institutional and legislative structures in many Arab countries is one of the reasons for increasing the effects of unplanned urbanization, as well as the limited coordination between the various ministries and institutions concerned with urban development, both at the central and local levels. Efforts aiming to strengthen the capacity of local authorities to promote decentralization continue to be constrained. The shortage of accurate and comparative data on urban development trends at the regional level limits the vision of regional development.

In addition to previous challenges, the Arab region faces other challenges related to environmental and urban sustainability and climate change, the most important of which can be summarized as: desertification and water scarcity; limited dependence on new and renewable sources of energy; limited attention to the impact of climate change on cities; poor private sector participation in the field of the environment; lack of an integrated system for the collection and treatment of hazardous and solid waste; inadequate disaster risk reduction system; water and air pollution; disturbing depletion of natural resources; poor response to international environmental standards and use of eco-friendly technologies.

1-7 Poverty and Social Protection Policies in Arab Countries

The follower of the level of performance of social policies in Arab countries and institutions of social work will find that the process of their performance or work across different stages of time has been influenced by many trends and practices, in accordance with the political and social reality and development requirements of each country separately. These practices are divided into the use of a preventive (weak) approach and the another treating approach (which is the prevailing work approach) aimed at

alleviating difficult negative living conditions and improving the humanitarian conditions of marginalized social groups and segments, especially the poor. Most countries in the region rely on one of two approaches of social safety networks: 1) mainly relying on public support systems (ration cards), which are generally inefficient and in favor of the non-poor, which affects the effectiveness of interventions; and 2) a number of fragmented programs that have limited impact on combating poverty and inequality due to lack of coverage, leakage and limited benefits.

In general, when looking at the nature of social policies that have been adopted in the Arab region in recent periods, five homogeneous groups of Arab countries can be distinguished, which are very similar in their characteristics and policies, as follows:

- Countries with broad natural resources (Gulf States) that achieved the Millennium Goals and more, and were not much affected by the economic crisis of 2008, where visible unemployment is low and material poverty is almost non-existent. However, the social policy of government employment and broad support (**rentier state**) has now become a heavy burden on the budget and requires urgent and sustainable solutions in light of the decline and fluctuation of oil revenues. This requires the formulation of programs of economic and financial reform and review of development visions.
- Countries with diverse economies that have generally achieved the Millennium Goals and were greatly affected by the economic crisis that erupted in 2008 and then by the various political events since 2011 (Tunisia, Egypt, Morocco, Algeria, etc.), which led to the decline of many indicators and the emergence of deep developmental problems (underlying). These countries need to review the development model and quality of growth and turn it into a comprehensive operational growth, as well as review the framework of development policies, including social policies as well as corporate governance.
- Countries with diverse economies that have generally achieved the Millennium Goals and were greatly affected by the economic crisis of 2008 and then have been affected by the conflict in the neighboring countries (Lebanon and Jordan), which has led to the decline of many indicators and the emergence of deep problems, especially the influx of displaced persons. These countries need to finance exceptional efforts of housing and food, provide educational, health and other social services, as well as review the development model and quality of growth and turn it into a comprehensive operational growth similar to the countries of Group 2.
- Countries with diverse economies that have generally achieved the Millennium Goals and were greatly affected by the economic crisis of 2008 and the various political events since 2011 that have turned into conflict (Syria, Yemen, Libya, Iraq). These countries need reconstruction and establishment of mechanisms for political and community consensus as a precondition.
- Poor countries that have not completed the Millennium Goals and have been affected by the instability for a long time (Mauritania, Sudan, Somalia, Djibouti and the

Comoros). These countries need large-scale development plans, particularly through external funding, and to improve efficiency and effectiveness of social policies.

The Arab report on multidimensional poverty concluded that the contribution of current social protection measures to poverty reduction in the Arab region in general was modest, and that these measures were limited, for the most part, to employees of public and systemic sectors, while employees of informal sector are either self-employed, unemployed or out of the workforce, and have limited access to social protection programs. This partly explains the reason for the preference of job seekers for public sector jobs. However, the ability of the public sector to absorb a significant proportion of entrants into the labor market has been greatly reduced as a result of demographic changes and the new economic and financial reality, making the need for social protection for employees of non-systemic sector, self-employed and unemployed persons more urgent in the different countries of the region.

In addition to the social protection measures based on the participants' contributions (prepaid) in the Arab region, these measures are also general subsidies usually focused on supporting basic food commodities, fuel and energy. In 2010, the Arab region spent an average of 5.7% of GDP on subsidies and less than 1% on social safety networks that do not subsidize commodities. These subsidies are generally regressive in nature and benefit the rich relatively more, as there is no mechanism to target the most needy. In fact, advocacy for support reform in the region is based on real reasons, and a number of countries are already moving towards reforming the support system. The decline in oil prices in the past few years has joined the list of support reform stimuli in oil-exporting countries, while has contributed to some extent to alleviating the pressure on the budget in other countries. There is no doubt that the support reform can provide significant financial amounts that should be used to reduce poverty and to design social protection initiatives that take into account the needs of families and children in the region.

In sum, it can be said that the social protection system in Arab countries has faced many challenges during the past years, the most important of which can be highlighted as follows:

- Challenges associated with budget constraints, high levels of deficit and government debt, and, therefore, the poor expenditure on social protection programs, as well as inefficiency of this spending.
- The phenomena of child poverty and geographic pockets of poverty continue to grow as a result of poor levels of social justice “Equality of distribution of opportunities”.
- Increased risks of vulnerable groups and segments such as high rates of malnutrition, particularly in low-income Arab countries, some middle-income countries, poor enrollment of children in the educational system, increased school dropout rates, etc.

- Low female participation in the labor force in the Arab region, which is not necessarily their choice, but may be due to weak support systems (such as public transport and child care services), weak empowerment, educational deficiencies, wage discrimination, etc.
- Continuing difficulties faced by persons with disabilities, such as high unemployment rates, poor access to social services, etc., which may cause exclusion and social marginalization.
- Social safety networks that do not involve providing support in the Arab region, mostly fragmented programs, each of which have significant shortcomings. With regard to coverage, family benefits are usually limited to those in systemic employment, while social protection coverage is not available for children who are still under school age. There is no doubt that the rationalization of these various programs is of great benefit.
- In addition to the fragmentation and gaps in social safety networks, the level of benefits provided is generally low. For example, while children represent 32.1% of the population in the Arab region, public expenditure on social protection of children does not exceed 0.8% of GDP. According to the World Bank, the Arab region significantly needs to develop social protection measures and targeting mechanisms.

In addition to the previous challenges that have plagued most of the Arab countries, the rapid changes in the global economy under globalization and the emergence of a fourth industrial revolution have added more “new” challenges to the effectiveness of these policies. The emergence of global value chains (driven by liberalization of trade and financial flows) and associated new labor market regulations, increased competition in markets of goods, services, labor and finance, the expected disappearance of many traditional occupations and professions occupied by the poor and the middle-income, in addition to the monopoly of specialization in services and manufacturing industries with high level of knowledge and added value by some companies and countries ... are just examples of the magnitude of the new challenges facing Arab and developing countries in general in their quest to eradicate or mitigate poverty. The picture complexity is compounded by the constraints faced by the private sector and civil society organizations in most Arab countries, which hinder -or insufficiently stimulate- these partners to carry out their economic duties and social responsibilities in light of the general weakness of institutional frameworks and standards of governance and transparency in the vast majority of Arab countries.

Section II: Proposed Development Model to Address Multidimensional Poverty

The multidimensional poverty strategy in the Arab States aims to reduce the multidimensional poverty index by 50% by 2030, bringing the index to 10%. After the first section of the strategy has analyzed the current situation of multidimensional poverty in different Arab countries, including the most important challenges facing these when in addressing and trying to reduce this phenomenon, the current section of the strategy will present the proposed development model to address multidimensional poverty, as well as the goals and objectives of each of the three dimensions of poverty, namely, education, health and living standard, until 2030.

2-1 Components of Multidimensional Poverty Eradication Strategy

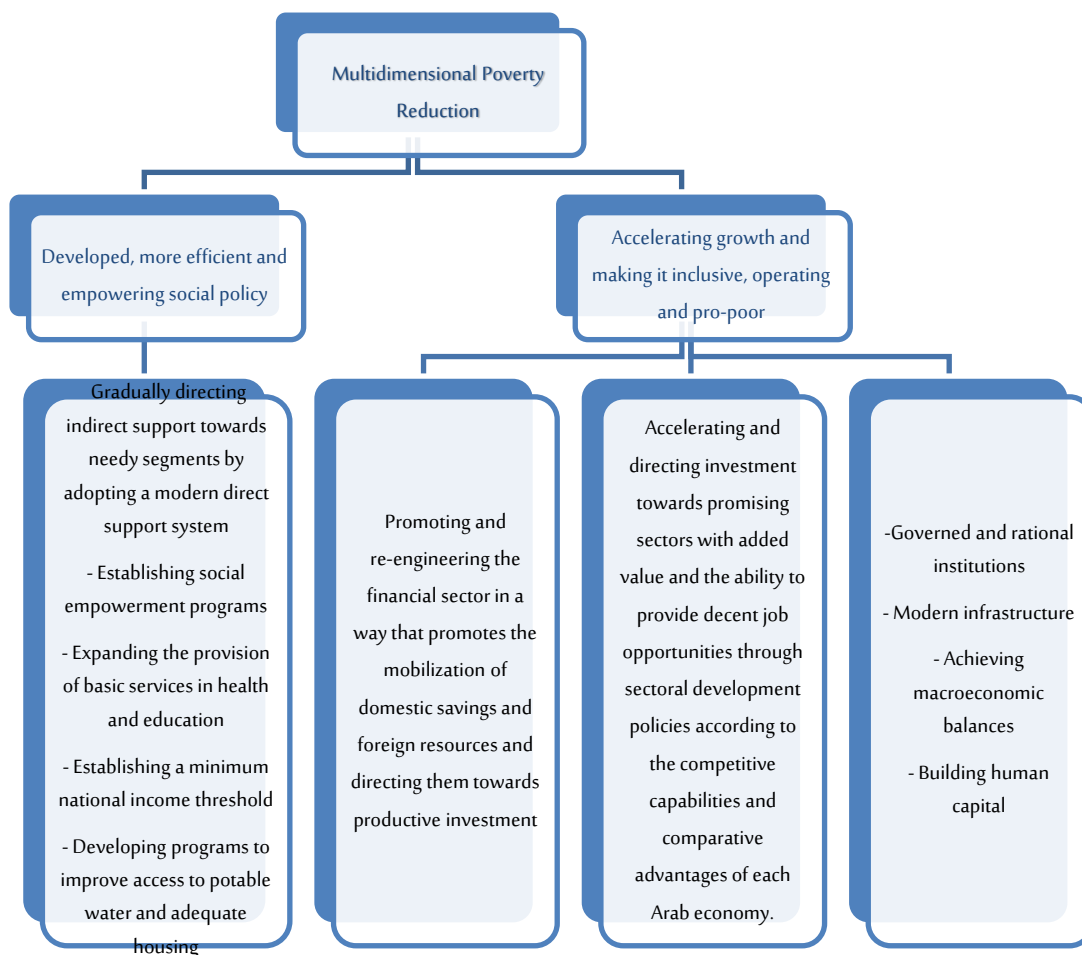
No matter how different the Arab reality is in the spread and depth of poverty, fighting and eradicating it must be based primarily on activating the economy, accelerating economic growth in a sustainable manner and making it inclusive, rich in employment and pro-poor. Secondly, it must be based on formulating social policies based on expanding opportunities, empowering the poor and low-income to live a decent life and obtain reasonable and thoughtful access to social services, especially in the field of public elementary education, preventive basic health and the provision of decent job opportunities in employment-intensive sectors using consistent with the poor skills, providing adequate housing units, with an emphasis on the need to give greater importance to the segments that are unable to contribute to the labor market, such as children, people with disabilities, the elderly and the unemployed.

The Arab long-term economic growth record, which was extensively analyzed in the second edition of the Arab Development Report issued by the Arab Planning Institute, shows that the latter was generally modest, as the per capita income growth reached only 1.4% during 1950-2010, 4%, while this rate reached 4% in Asian countries, which enabled them to reduce the poverty gap significantly. This modest record of Arab economic growth indicates that the model of economic growth in the Arab countries should be reformulated so as to enable Arab countries to achieve significant increases in income

levels and create job opportunities suited to the number of newcomers to the labor market and, thus, reducing the incidence of poverty and closing the income gap between Arab countries and the rest of the world.

The proposed model for addressing multidimensional poverty in Arab countries, as shown in Figure (2-1)1, is based on several components, which fall mainly under the component of growth acceleration and making it inclusive and employment-intensive, which constitutes the necessary condition for the success of any national and Arab strategy to address poverty, and the component of high-effective empowering advanced social policy.

Figure (2-1): Proposed model for addressing multidimensional poverty in Arab countries



Based on successful international evidence and practices, accelerating growth requires working on multiple fronts, most importantly building institutions based on transparency, legal accountability, combating corruption and bureaucracy, imposing the rule of law within the framework of a market-based development model, private sector initiative, partnership with the public sector, with the State being more oriented towards the

functions of regulation, legislation and protection under a modern consultative strategic planning model.

In addition, the various recent developmental experiments have proved the importance of human capital in creating and sustaining growth especially in the era of globalization and fierce competition among nations. This requires the completion of programs of dissemination of public elementary education, elimination of illiteracy, ignorance and school dropout, especially in rural and isolated remote areas, expanding the scope of higher technical and professional education, improving the quality of education system and linking it to the needs of the labor market, as well as employing technology and scientific knowledge transfer policies and employing them in building a diversified economy.

Accelerating growth requires the construction of a modern infrastructure capable of providing high quality logistics services that will help enhance the competitiveness of the economy, attract investments and control various production costs.

Furthermore, achieving a reasonable measure of the balance of the macroeconomic environment, especially the fight against hyperinflation, plays an important role in stimulating growth through the design of monetary and fiscal policies that achieve the required balances and contribute to the overall and employment-intensive growth through fiscal policies that stimulate growth, aids and government spending.

These four factors (institutions, infrastructure, human capital, and the balance of the macroeconomic environment) are necessary to launch the process of economic growth, but are not enough to stimulate the pace of growth and change its structure in order to become inclusive, pro-poor and employment-intensive, as accelerating the growth pace requires significantly raising investment and directing the same towards productive, employment-intensive, high-value-added and export-oriented sectors, particularly in the employment-intensive sectors in low- and middle-income countries and capital-intensive in high-income countries.

Raising the pace of investment requires reconsidering and reforming the financial system arrangements to allow the mobilization of financial resources available and directing the same towards investment through improved levels of access to financial services and the adoption of saving and modern funding tools, encouraging small, Islamic and technical funding, as well as developing programs of partnership with the private sector in the field of investment through different formulations of construction, operation and ownership, encouraging the development of micro, small and medium enterprises, developing youth employment and entrepreneurship programs. It also requires the adoption of an active policy for attracting foreign direct investment, especially in the field of industry and

agriculture, as well as through economic diplomatic policies aimed at making the most of the bilateral and multilateral aids and concessional debt, and improving access to international financial markets by working to reduce sovereign risk. Furthermore, directing investments towards employment-intensive sectors also requires a modern industrial policy based on changing the incentive system to combat all kinds of rent and monopolistic behavior, promoting productive activity and reducing all obstacles and constraints facing long-term productive investment.

Although the rapid economic growth channel will allow large numbers of the poor to escape from the cycle of indigence and unemployment through economic empowerment, a significant segment of society will not benefit from rapid growth. Taking this group out of indigence and poverty requires the employment of social policies and measures aimed at reducing poverty and deprivation and gradually shifting from the provision of social protection and care to raising the capacity of the social strata concerned to integrate into economic life in a sustainable manner.

Given the high cost of traditional social policies based primarily on public support in most Arab countries today, and in view of their failure to address the consequences of economic vulnerability as evidenced by the persistence - and sometimes - increase of poverty, unemployment, gender disparities and various social pests, these policies must be reconsidered so that they are based on direct targeting of disadvantaged and needy segments and working to empower them and push them to reintegrate into economic life through:

- Trend towards reducing or eliminating the public support of prices in areas of food, energy, transport and housing, and transferring it directly to the target groups by adopting a modern and strict targeting system by adopting objective criteria for targeting.
- Continuing to provide public elementary education, vocational training, basic health services, and develop the social security system and retirement systems.
- Establishing social empowerment programs through restructuring and training programs, microenterprises, labor market mechanisms in favor of youth, girls and internal areas, and improving access to funding and assets (land and production inputs).
- Establishing a system of minimum income for the needy and unable to work, such as the elderly, people with disabilities and widows.
- Working to eliminate fragile housing units through the establishment of programs aiming to develop and support social housing and improve sewage, infrastructure and potable water through the financing of local programs for public works targeting mainly the poor and local development.

2-2 Components of Multidimensional Poverty Eradication Policies

The reduction of multidimensional poverty levels in Arab countries depends primarily on the achievement of ambitious goals for overall operational growth, i.e. high economic growth, accompanied by improved income distribution, able to generate decent and productive job opportunities. This requires the elimination or reduction of the negative impact of all structural constraints and imbalances that inhibit the growth of Arab economies through a well-managed development management that allows the activation of multiple policies aimed at mobilizing available resources and using them effectively to achieve development goals.

Various financial policies are among the most important instruments available to economic decision makers to stimulate overall and operational growth. This requires the mobilization of financial and material resources to maximize economic growth rates through working to increase the share of capital expenditure from total spending in the general budget and directing it towards the development of basic and technical infrastructures. Stimulating the overall growth also requires the use of redistributive policies to promote social justice and the elimination of deprivation and marginalization, especially through the employment of dynamic labor market policies based on integration and empowerment to ensure confronting unemployment and poverty, especially the unemployment of young people and learners, widespread in most Arab countries. The implementation of these policies faces a number of challenges, the most important of which is the imbalance of sources of tax and non-tax revenues and their inadequacy, as well as the difficulty of managing oil revenues, which are characterized by extreme volatility, which push the national economy into sharp trade cycles through the link of governmental spending with abundant oil resources, from which all oil-exporting countries suffer, which rely on the recruitment of large reserves to reduce the negative effects of this fluctuation on spending levels. High deficits and public debt of GDP also have a significant negative impact on the macroeconomic environment balance.

The weakness of the productive private sector, the rise in the size of the informal economy and the consequent decline in wages and salaries hinder the collection of more tax revenues. This has led to excessive reliance on indirect taxes for ease of management and imposition compared to direct taxes, which does not help improve income distribution in favor of the lower-income segments of society. The composition of public expenditure, which is biased towards current spending and is caused by the excessive expansion of government departments and their wide involvement in the economy, has led to a weak rate of overall employment-intensive growth.

At the level of the monetary policy, some Arab economies have had difficulty controlling inflation levels. Many countries have faced this challenge by applying tight monetary policies aimed at stabilizing prices. Monetary policy has been reoriented to control inflationary pressures through open market operations, repurchase operations, and use of discount rates. This necessitated strict monetary policies, which increased the cost of financing, particularly raising the cost of public debt servicing, and ultimately reduced the overall employment-intensive growth dynamics as a result of directing increasing resources towards public debt servicing.

Arab countries are experiencing a structural deficit in their trade and current balances despite the economic diversification efforts they have achieved, which is an indication that countries still have to grow faster to reduce the resources constraints that limit their ability to achieve the overall employment-intensive growth. Many countries rely mainly on remittances and aids and to a lesser extent foreign direct investment flows to meet the balance of payments deficit. Despite the volume of these flows, external indebtedness tends to grow in many non-oil Arab countries.

The trends of Arab economic growth and associated macroeconomic policies have had a wide impact on the social level, particularly in light of the challenges, constraints and bottlenecks facing social development in many Arab countries. Therefore, achieving the overall employment-intensive growth requires building strong social protection networks that reduce the negative distributional effects of growth and inflation, especially on vulnerable groups with limited capacity to ward off economic pressures. Furthermore, the reduction of multidimensional poverty requires facing multiple social challenges, improving levels of social empowerment, facilitating access to health and education services, and access to other basic social services through the development of multiple safety networks, particularly in the form of commodity price support and directing the same to those in need, as well as through increasing cash and in-kind transfers using effective targeting methods, fee exemption, conditional welfare programs, training, housing and lending support. It should be noted that many countries have developed these networks as part of structural reform programs to face the negative effects of liberal reforms. However, most of these institutions suffer from a severe shortage of resources and lack of efficiency in targeting the categories entitled to support, which reduced their ability to prevent social risks because of the poor coverage and poor impact on levels of deprivation and poverty and the leakage of aids and transfers to those who are not eligible. Under these constraints, the problem of poverty is spreading in many Arab countries, especially those that are experiencing political conflicts, as well as low-income countries. Poverty and unemployment are accompanied by the expansion of violence and harassment, especially youth unemployment and social disruption, which are all forms of challenges that can be partially addressed through overall growth, with emphasis on improving redistribution by directing growth benefits towards these marginalized groups.

Education is the key factor to build the human capital, which is a main factor in stimulating inclusive and employment-intensive growth by contributing to the provision of skilled and qualified workers on the one hand, and by contributing to improving income distribution. Despite the efforts exerted in the field of access to education and raising its levels, many Arab countries still suffer from low enrollment rates at the pre-primary, primary, secondary and university levels compared to the average of some other regions. This decline is due to the large differences between rural and urban areas, as well as to a large gap in the quality of education in middle- and low-income countries, in addition to low enrollment rates in higher education, due to high costs and low success rates in qualifying examinations such as baccalaureate and secondary school. Despite the good efforts made by Arab countries in building the human capital, its relations with the inclusive employment-intensive growth is very weak. This is due to the low quality of education and its direction towards the specializations that reduce the relevance of its outputs to the requirements of the labor market.

Health development is one of the cornerstones of human development and a form of the human well-being which the inclusive employment-intensive growth attempts to achieve, given its positive impact on the quality of life. Despite the progress achieved by many Arab countries, there are large disparities between the Arab countries with very high human development and low human development countries. This is reflected in the challenges of facility management and low levels of health service delivery, especially in public facilities, which focus on the provision of basic health services, while the private sector focuses on providing high-return hospital services. Given the growth of informal sector and the lack of adequate insurance coverage, the inclusiveness of growth is low, especially in countries where non-basic treatment is not free. The quality of life in Arab countries also faces major challenges, including the presence of a large number of people in poor Arab countries deprived of clean and safe water, as well as the lack of sewage, which inevitably affects the quality of life through the spread of communicable diseases, which reflects the challenges of inclusive growth whose benefits do not positively affect the lives of most people. Social challenges in Arab countries, as mentioned above, extend to the expansion of the gender gap and discrimination against females, especially in countries with middle and low human development. The challenges extend to the fragility of the housing and real estate sectors, where entire segments of some communities have difficulty obtaining decent housing units. This has led to the spread of slums, especially in light of the acceleration of rural migration and forced displacement as a result of conflicts in some Arab countries. The presence of slums coincides with the prevalence of poverty, school dropout, street children, poor integration of youth into society, marginalization of public benefit and civil society institutions, and the weakness of social responsibility practices of the private sector, which are all factors that do not help deepen the inclusive growth. Despite the acceleration of growth pace, the distributive dimension and lack of access to social services is the main factor causing the weakness of the inclusive employment-intensive growth.

The development of the economy, including the productive and service sectors, and the improvement of the welfare of citizens require the existence of an advanced public utility sector such as water, energy, housing and transport, all of which are essential sectors for achieving inclusive employment-intensive growth, especially in its distributive dimension, which contributes to achieving social justice through easy access to the services of public benefit sectors. The water sector is facing some challenges as all Arab countries have scarce water resources. In addition, reliance on groundwater, seawater desalination and large dams are very costly. Water shortages are expected to increase and water poverty pace to rise. This is in itself a threat to the inclusive growth requirements consisting in raising Arab citizens' share of safe water and providing large quantities for industry and agriculture to meet the increasing demand for water, especially in light of the inefficiency of the water resources sector.

As the Arab growth rate is insufficient to accommodate the number of unemployed persons, it is difficult to have employment-intensive growth (i.e. to achieve a normal unemployment rate). This requires reformulating the Arab growth strategy to be consistent with the goal of providing decent and productive jobs especially for young people. In the absence of a realistic increase in growth rates to rates out of reach, the best alternative would be to implement a more effective labor policy in the area of reducing the unemployment rate. Given the historical experience of the difficulty of raising Arab growth rates by more than 5%, the most appropriate alternative is to reform labor market and integrate and empower job seekers to achieve employment-intensive growth. It should be noted that the more historically flexible labor is, the less labor market reform is needed to achieve growth. In Arab countries, which did not have high business elasticity, the need to reform the labor market, with a view to achieving employment-intensive growth is more pressing.

The requirements for reforming the economic and social management needed to address the problems and challenges, as well as those needed to serve the requirements of inclusive and employment-intensive growth, are crucial. Accordingly, it is necessary to distinguish between the requirements of economic management and the requirements of social management in Arab countries. As far as the requirements of economic management are concerned, the fiscal policy is essential to achieving the expansion of public investment directed towards the poor, especially the emphasis on the importance of not over-fearing high inflation rates, as well as the emphasis on the role of tax mobilization as a basis for increasing public revenues and the importance of working to reorient the fiscal policy towards the non-periodic fiscal policy instead of the periodic one. It is also useful to follow the "financial rules" in a way that serves the objectives of inclusive growth by not looking at the budget deficit policy as a rejected option in all cases, as the budget can be funded through deficit under specific conditions. It should be noted that it is

important to reuse the support tool in a way that serves inclusive growth and through the use of internationally used programs such as conditional and unconditional cash transfer programs.

The inclusive employment-intensive growth requires reconsidering the objectives of Arab central banks to include inclusive growth as a requirement of monetary policy. Surveys have shown that many central banks that incorporate such a goal within their objectives achieve higher growth than traditional monetary policy application cases, as well as the importance of consistency between fiscal and monetary policy in order to serve the inclusive growth, through the use of necessary tools for coordination between these two types of policies.

As to social requirements of inclusive growth, attention needs to be given to the requirements of combating poverty, addressing unemployment, increasing access to health and education services, activating social safety networks and the importance of social mobility and the role of middle class, as well as the integration of young people into labor markets through many proposals, whether based on participation or non-participation, social protection management and minimum social protection, which are required to obtain the minimum health care, education and basic income. This requires a focus on consistency between the requirements of economic and social management.

The institutional requirements of inclusive Arab growth are of great importance in economic life. Governance indicators do not reflect encouraging performance in many Arab countries. As to labor market institutions, it is important to adopt international labor standards related to decent work, gender equality and social protection legislation. It is noted that most Arab countries have sought to gradually ratify the most important conventions dealing with the abolition of forced work, discrimination against women and protection of children, while there are a few Arab countries that ratified the International Social Security Convention, in addition to the limited translation of ratifications on the ground.

One of the most important requirements of inclusive employment-intensive growth is to link monetary policy to the inclusive growth objective, through reconsidering the objectives of the Arab central banks and their independence. It is important to say that independence does not mean that there is no coordination between monetary policies and other economic and social policies. With the importance of reconsidering the role of central banks and monetary policy, whether through the policy of credit return or other monetary policy tools, in order to serve the inclusive growth, and in the area of financial policy institutions, the role of the "financial rules" in promoting inclusive growth (through the four rules followed in this field) must be emphasized. It is also important to enhance the role of Arab financial institutions and the role of public budgets responsive to gender

(considering that non-discrimination by gender is one of the axes of inclusive employment-intensive growth). Furthermore, transparency plays an important role in the preparation, publishing, implementation and monitoring of Arab budgets through the so-called "Open Budget". Finally, we should emphasize the importance of institutionalizing corporate social responsibility in support of inclusive and employment-intensive growth, as well as environmental institutions (a component of inclusive growth), and the relationship among economic growth, social equality and environmental sustainability.

2-3 Proposed Development Model for Multidimensional Poverty Reduction: Objectives and Goals

The following are the objectives of the proposed development model to reduce multidimensional poverty in Arab countries and the policies that support this model and which are needed to achieve its objectives. Emphasis shall be placed on the objectives and policies of stimulating inclusive, employment-intensive and pro-poor growth, and on the objectives of effective and poor-empowering social policies and their achievement mechanisms.

2-3-1 First Axis: Inclusive, Employment-Intensive and Pro-poor Growth

The objective of achieving inclusive, pro-poor growth is to:

- Achieve an annual growth rate of 6-7% and sustain it over a relatively long period of time.
- Improve the distribution of income so that the Gini coefficient is between 0.3 and 0.35.
- Improve the growth potential to provide decent and productive job opportunities and achieve a middle unemployment rate of less than 10%, with a focus on reducing youth unemployment to less than 15% and stimulate women's participation in the labor force.

2-3-2 Second Axis: Modern, More Effective and Empowering Social Policies

- Commitment to provide the resources needed to finance a minimum social spending limit to ensure a system of protection and social welfare for the poor and low-income people.
- Gradual shift from indirect support (price support) to direct support system (transfers) through the establishment of a modern and mechanized system that increases the efficiency of targeting poor and low-income people.
- Establishment of a national income threshold that is periodically reviewed to suit the economic and social changes of different countries, taking into account that this

threshold must be suited to the change in living standards within each country between rural and urban areas and between different cities.

- Expansion of the social security umbrella and using its resources for health and retirement insurance.
- Integration of the cultural dimension within the framework of social policies and programs with a view to achieving social security and cohesion among the various segments of society.

The next section addresses the objectives and goals of each of the three dimensions of poverty, namely: education, health and living standard, until 2030.

2-3-2-1 Objectives and Goals in Field of Education

Education is the most influential dimension of the multidimensional poverty index in the vast majority of Arab countries. The reduction of multidimensional poverty requires a focus on building an educational system capable of empowering the poor socially and economically, which contributes to breaking the vicious cycle of transmitting poverty in the Arab region through an efficient and effective education system that is accessible to all without discrimination. This is achieved through a set of goals and objectives that include:

- First Objective: Educational system available to all without discrimination.

Goals:

- Providing adequate educational services in rural, informal, poor, remote, marginalized and disadvantaged areas.
- Expanding the availability of kindergartens to accommodate children in early childhood.
- Reducing the phenomenon of poor children drop out of education to work.

- Second Objective: Raising the quality of educational services and improving the quality of education.

Goals:

- Increasing the ability of elementary education graduates to meet the needs of the current and future labor market.
- Stimulating the demand for technical education and vocational training.
- Complete eradication of illiteracy.

- Third Objectives: Strengthening the capacity of education system to meet the needs of the poor.

Goals:

- Expanding the availability of scholarships for outstanding students in rural, disadvantaged and marginalized areas.

- Integrating poor children with disabilities into the educational system.
- Ensuring the right of children who have been subjected to forced migration because of wars and crises to continue their education without discrimination compared to their counterparts in other Arab countries.

2-3-2-2 Objectives and Goals in Field of Health

The strategic objectives of the health dimension is to "provide an integrated health system with availability and quality that can meet the needs of all poor and marginalized groups, while giving priority to women and children." To achieve this strategic objective, the following objectives and goals are emphasized:

First Objective: Expanding the comprehensive health coverage and ensuring that at least 100 million people benefit from the comprehensive health coverage to 2023 million and 250 million by 2030.

Goals:

- Making basic health services accessible for the poor without discrimination, especially in rural, disadvantaged and marginalized areas.
- Raising the efficiency of basic health services provided to the poor.
- Extending the comprehensive health insurance services to include seasonal and irregular employment.

▪ Second Objective: Improving the level of health services provided to the poor in their areas of presence.

Goals:

- Reducing maternal mortality rates and children under-five.
- Reducing maternal mortality rates.
- Early detection and treatment of non-communicable diseases.

▪ Third Objective: Enhancing the concept of healthy nutrition, especially in the early childhood stages of the poor.

Goals:

- Reducing stunting and obesity among poor children.
- Reducing the incidence of women with anemia.
- Providing maternity and childhood services without discrimination to women and children in rural, poor and marginalized areas.

2-3-2-3 Objectives and Goals in Field of Improving Living Standards

Mitigating the phenomenon of multidimensional poverty depends on improving the living standards of the poor by providing a minimum income by stimulating inclusive, employment-intensive and pro-poor economic growth, as well as providing social

protection for the neediest groups, enabling the poor to gain employment, developing public facilities and services to meet the right of the poor to a dignified life. The objectives and goals related to improving the living standards of the poor in Arab countries are set out below.

In Field of Social Protection

- First Objective: Adopting an integrated package of social protection policies for the neediest groups.

Goals:

- Reducing the proportion of the population below the extreme poverty threshold, with a focus on women heads of household and the elderly.
- Expanding the provision of basic commodities for the poor and the marginalized.
- Developing mechanisms to target poor and marginalized groups, to raise the efficiency of the support system.

Second Objective: Generating job opportunities to address multidimensional poverty and reduce inequality.

Goals:

- Providing decent job opportunities for poor groups not covered by the social protection system.
- Increasing the number of beneficiaries of micro-credit from among the poor and low-income persons.
- Providing decent job opportunities for poor people with disabilities.

In Field of Population and Urban Development⁷

Successful international literature and experiences show the existence of a direct correlation between increased urbanization rates (life in cities) and urban development rates, provided that the efficiency of urban development is improved. It is known that 50% of the population lives in cities and this percentage is expected to reach 70% by 2050. Cities have the ability to provide better services to the population and relatively more decent job opportunities than the countryside, with high levels of income in urban areas compared to the countryside. Thus, the development of the urban development system contributes to the improvement of the lives of citizens, targeting the adoption of a balanced, sustainable and comprehensive urban policy capable of achieving social integration of poor and marginalized groups and contributing to empowering them to live a decent life. In this context, the following objectives and objectives are emphasized:

- First Objective: Reducing population growth rate to replacement level.

Goals:

⁷ This section is based on LAS & UN-Habitat.

- Reducing the phenomenon of child marriage and all forms of discrimination against females.
- Improving reproductive health services ,and ensuring access to the poor.
- Encouraging females to complete their education up to the highest stages
- Promoting female participation in the labor market.
- Increasing populated areas.

- Second Objective: Developing the planning system for new cities and upgrading existing cities to promote the integration of the poor and reduce inequality.

Goals:

- Developing land system and expanding multi-purpose uses.
- Providing housing units for all income categories and upgrading facilities and public services.
- Enhancing the productivity of cities and increasing their ability to provide decent job opportunities for all groups.

- Third Objective: Achieving balanced pro-poor urban development.

Goals:

- Full and comprehensive development of informal settlements and preventing their spread.
- Reinforcing of rural-urban links and reducing assaults against agricultural land and internal migration.
- Supporting the role of different local units in the planning and implementation of balanced urban development.

- Third Objective: Improving urban environmental sustainability, resisting climate change and preserving natural resources.

Goals:

- Expanding the use of new and renewable energy resources and means of sustainable transport and providing public spaces.
- Reducing air and water pollution and developing an effective system for managing all types of waste.
- Developing contingency plans to respond to disasters ,and reducing ,and preparing for urban environmental risks.

It is necessary to highlight the importance of each country designing its own model to stimulate the economic growth, reduce the poverty index, achieve a fairer distribution of income and provide decent job opportunities, in the light of the priorities of each State and in accordance with the political, economic, social and environmental considerations of each State, in a way that leads to overcome the challenges and maximize the use of development opportunities available to each country. Each country should develop

realistic plans and identify actions to be taken in the light of potential demographic expectation and in the light of available human and financial resources, and choose the means of implementation and more efficient measures and policies, including conceptualizing potential partnerships with relevant stakeholders, within a specific institutional system and a specific timeframe. It is important to adopt the decentralization and balanced regional development, and encourage the participation of business organizations, consumer representatives, national private sector and civil society.

Section III: Proposed Policies and Programs to Address Multidimensional Poverty

Achieving the objectives and goals referred to in the previous section and addressing the challenges that impede the efforts aiming to eradicate multidimensional poverty in the region require the adoption by Arab governments of an integrated set of economic and social policies that address the different dimensions of poverty, while taking into account the nature, circumstances and developmental phase of each country. Within the framework of the developmental model proposed in the previous section, it becomes important to identify in more detail the most important policies and programs that emerge from this model, which are suggested to guide the preparation of national strategies and plans to achieve sustainable development goals in general, and the multidimensional poverty eradication goal in particular. These policies and programs are set out below, in preparation for building an integrated system to monitor the implementation of these policies and assess their impact.

3-1 Policies of Stimulating Pro-poor Employment-Intensive Growth

These policies aim primarily at increasing the investment rate to at least 30% of GDP through the following:

- 1- Increasing the capacity to attract domestic financial resources (savings), particularly in middle-income countries, by increasing the efficiency of the banking sector and improving the level of access to financial services, especially with regard to:

- Increasing revenues through incentive measures, establishing specialized banks and savings funds, using modern financial instruments to reduce the cost of financial services and reduce restrictions on banking activity in order to increase competition, especially by opening up the door for various forms of Islamic savings and others
- Working to increase the efficiency of the banking sector to direct resources towards the productive sectors with high added value through the establishment of specialized development banks, venture capital funds, Islamic formulas and microfinance.
- Enhancing the role and efficiency of financial markets, especially short-, medium- and long-term debt markets, Islamic instruments and public debt securities.
- Establishing specialized funds to finance small and medium enterprises.

2- Direct investment towards promising employment-intensive sectors:

Formulating industrial policies to direct investment towards selected, employment-intensive and high-value-added sectors, particularly in sectors with competitive potential, through:

- Developing and modernizing basic infrastructure using modern financing formulas such as public-private partnership.
- Focusing on raising and improving the human capital through qualitative investment in education and curriculum development from those based memorization to those based on the development of capabilities and skills, and linking them to the needs of the labor market, to enable graduates to compete in the national, regional and international labor market.
- Adopting a system of tax, financial and monetary incentives in favor of selected sectors.
- Adopting a modern indicative planning approach within a national strategy for strategic planning aimed at transforming Arab economies into emerging economies.
- Increasing the capacity to attract foreign direct investment and direct it towards productive sectors through the use of the national incentive system.

3- Achieving macroeconomic balances through:

- Prudent public financial management so as to work on limiting the financial deficit by 3-5%, as well as limiting the public debt by up to 60% of GDP and servicing external debt up to 25% of the value of exports.
- Using an active monetary policy to provide liquidity and reduce inflation by up to 5% annually.
- Raising the ability to manage the public debt and channel external financial resources from aids and loans to productive activity or infrastructure through

prudent external debt management and the adoption of financial hedging and risk management standards.

4- Good Governance Institutions

- Working to improve the quality of institutions and governance in order to improve the ranking of Arab countries in the most important international indicators within countries in the top third (like the World Bank Governance Index).
- Improving the order of economic institutions such as reducing bureaucracy and corruption.
- Working to improve the ranking of Arab countries in the indicators of the costs of doing business because of its importance in facilitating business and raising levels of productive investment.

3-2 Education Policies and Programs

- Expanding the availability of kindergartens and increasing reliance on one-classroom schools and community schools.
- Developing educational curricula to accommodate students with disabilities and training teachers and administrative staff to deal with them.
- Adopting cash support programs conditional upon enrolling in kindergartens and various elementary education stages.
- Providing the necessary funding to expand the provision of educational services from the public resources of States and by encouraging the participation of the private sector and civil society.
- Increasing the level of spending on education, improving its efficiency, and targeting disadvantaged and poorer areas.
- Strengthening the partnership between government, private sector and civil society for providing high-quality educational services in poor, disadvantaged and marginalized areas.
- Adopting different learning styles such as blended education and lifelong learning.
- Providing qualified teachers and educational staff capable of dealing with marginalized and vulnerable groups with disabilities or those who have been raised in areas of conflict or forcibly displaced, and understanding the circumstances of children and helping them engage in the communities to which they have moved, while retaining their identity.
- Reviewing and improving the curricula, to qualify graduates to the needs of the current and future labor market in light of the growing reliance on artificial intelligence and the revolution of information and services and electronic applications.

- Upgrading the level of technical education and vocational training and changing the culture of society towards graduates.
- Providing protection for educational infrastructure, teachers and students in conflict areas.
- Integrating displaced children smoothly into the educational process and giving them equivalent certificates that they would have received in their home country.

3-3 Health Policies and Programs

- Accelerating the implementation of comprehensive health insurance and providing more efficient services to the poor free of charge.
- Providing free medicine and treatment to the poor and the neediest groups through the umbrella of health insurance.
- Developing the capacity of the health system to respond quickly and effectively to current and potential emergencies and post-conflict situations affecting the region, and mitigating risks.
- Supporting the institutional development of the health sector to improve its efficiency and develop its capacity to meet the needs of poor and marginalized groups by supporting the capacity of local units close to citizens to provide primary health care services.
- Strengthening health system governance and applying transparency, responsibility, accountability, effectiveness and efficiency standards to serve poor, marginalized and neediest groups.
- Reconsidering the geographical distribution of different hospitals and health units and centers to achieve more equitable and efficient coverage and access the poor in their areas of presence.
- Developing healthy nutrition programs and encouraging healthy lifestyles to reduce obesity and associated diseases.
- Expanding the provision of vaccines to children under five years of age.
- Improving the reproductive health by raising awareness among poor groups about the various benefits of small family size to change their reproductive behavior, and facilitating access to reproductive health services for poor and marginalized groups.
- Expanding national campaigns for the detection and treatment of communicable diseases, focusing on the poor and marginalized groups most vulnerable to these diseases.

3-4 Policies of Improving Living Standards of the Poor

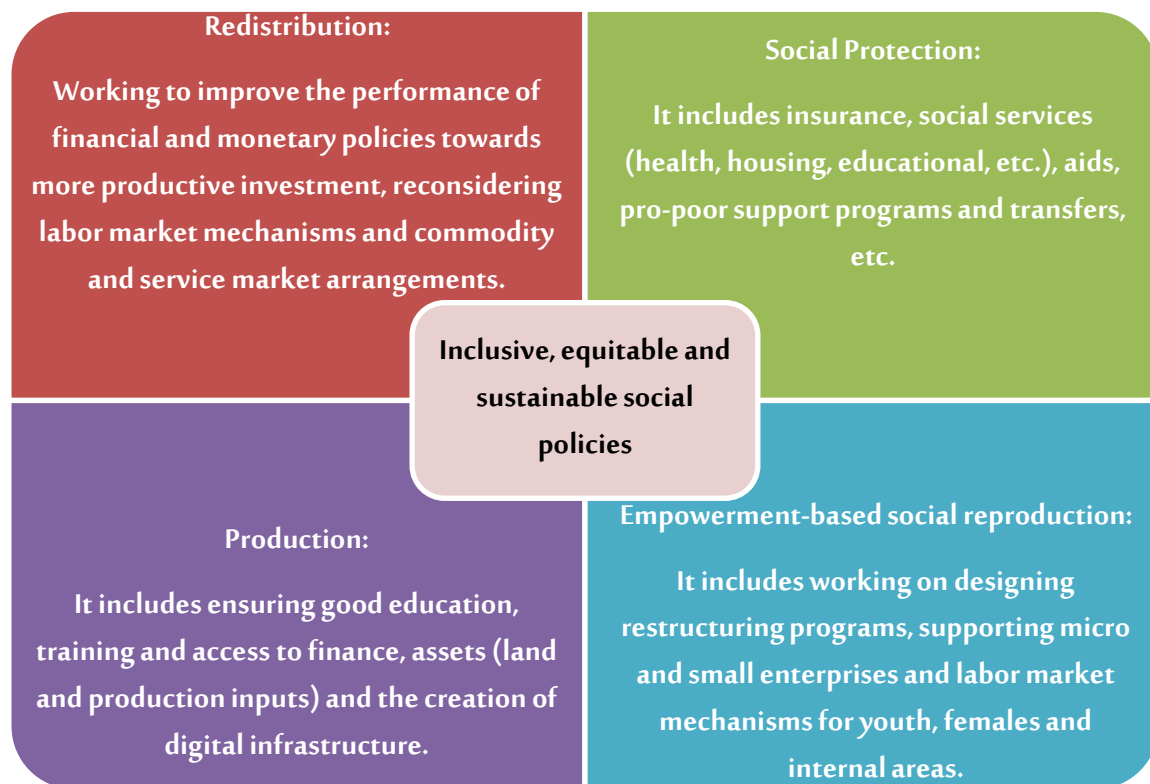
They are divided into two parts, the first of which is related to comprehensive social development policies and programs, while the second is associated with public facilities and services that raise the standard of living of the poor and marginalized groups.

3-4-1 Effective Social Development Policies

- Developing mechanisms to target the poor using the equation of alternative income sources tests to raise the efficiency of the social protection system and achieve the desired social justice.
- Establishing a reliable and flexible information infrastructure to contribute to the development of targeting mechanisms, standardizing databases used to improve targeting and prevent duplication and misuse.
- Providing innovative and sustainable mechanisms to fund social protection programs, strengthening cooperation and coordination between government, civil society organizations ,and other concerned parties - including foundations, charities, private sector and voluntary organizations working in the provision of social welfare and basic services to the poor.
- Developing legislative and institutional frameworks for social protection programs to raise their efficiency and increase their ability to provide services to the poor and neediest groups.
- Designing social protection programs that encourage beneficiaries to be self-reliant and get out of programs and aids whenever possible by encouraging investments in human capital development and linking aids to human development and employment programs.
- Increasing public and beneficiary awareness of social protection programs, their access requirements and procedures.

The following figure (3-1) summarizes the main social policies proposed to be adopted in Arab countries to address multidimensional poverty.

Figure (3-1): Summary of the most important social policies in the face of multidimensional poverty



3-4-2 Policies and Programs for Provision of Housing Units and Public Utilities

- Adopting ambitious social housing programs and providing different types of housing units that fit the nature of different communities (rural, Bedouin or coastal settlements).
- Expanding the geographical scope of distribution of social housing units to reach the poor and target groups in their places of presence.
- Providing renewable and sustainable sources to fund social housing programs.
- Completely eliminating dangerous informal settlements and reducing their proliferation again, determining the necessary measures to send the population back to these areas after development. In the case of moving to new places, the integration of housing, public services and job opportunities shall be taken into account, as these services must be provided in one place or very close places.
- Developing the land management system and ensuring that women's rights to land ownership, disposal and exploitation are respected.
- Implementing the most efficient planning principles based on the multiple uses of land and the integration and coexistence of all income groups in a single urban society.
- Enhancing the competitiveness of the local economy and its ability to contribute to the creation of decent and productive job opportunities for the poor and marginalized groups.
- Planning and implementing integrated urban sustainable transport programs that serve the poor and marginalized groups.

- Expanding clean potable water projects based on modern, advanced and less expensive technologies.
- Expanding the implementation of sewage projects, especially for villages and poor and marginalized areas, using innovative, more efficient and less expensive technologies.
- Expanding the encouragement of the private sector and civil society to generate electricity from clean and less expensive energy sources.
- Supporting and motivating poor and marginalized communities, especially in rural areas, to produce biofuels and use in cooking.
- Implementing integrated programs to raise awareness and develop capacities to deal with any natural disasters and to address the challenges resulting from climatic changes whose cost is borne by the poor and marginalized groups.
- Increasing the financial allocations used to finance potable water, sewage, energy and biofuels projects in order to increase their availability and efficiency in favor of poor and marginalized groups.

3-5 Role of UN and LAS in Achieving Strategy Objectives

Achieving the ambitious goals of this strategic framework to address multidimensional poverty and its proposed development model, policies and programs requires a number of enablers that are key factors to the success of this crucial regional project. These enablers include:

- Modern, sophisticated, efficient and effective institutions that are managed according to the best governance indicators.
- Sophisticated and integrated electronic system to link databases and to make planning decisions and conduct the monitoring and evaluation.
- Proving the necessary financial resources and developing new and innovative funding mechanisms.
- Raising the capacities of the various institutions concerned with multidimensional poverty.
- Electronic monitoring and evaluation system based on advanced performance indicators.
- Comprehensive plan for community outreach and gaining support for the various dimensions of poverty, its causes and coping mechanisms, and the challenges facing the implementation of these mechanisms and the desired objectives.
- Adopting the principle of participatory planning, implementation, review, monitoring and evaluation.
- Supporting the decentralization and the role of local communities and enabling them to participate in the identification of target and neediest groups due to its proximity to the citizens who live in cities and villages, and also in the provision of various services based on the principle of "local services" and sharing

responsibility with the central ministries and bodies that play an important role in policy-making, and setting the standards of services provision, monitoring, control, and developing capacities and providing necessary technical support.

- Expanding corporate social responsibility programs and directing them to serve the objectives of the multidimensional poverty reduction strategy in coordination with all relevant partners.
- Establishing an "Arab Observatory for Multidimensional Poverty" that includes a special component of the studies, scientific researches and practical experience, and a component of the data and information and their collection, estimation of the multidimensional poverty index, use of advanced methodologies for measurement to identify the dimension with the greatest impact on the value of the indicator to give it priority with and reduce its effects. The last component focuses on raising awareness and promoting the best practices and successful experiences in the field of multidimensional poverty reduction at the country and local level within Arab countries.

We cannot emphasize the principle of partnership without highlighting the significant role of the LAS and the various UN organizations in supporting efforts to reduce the multidimensional poverty in Arab countries. The following are ways to strengthen these efforts:

3-5-1 UN Role⁸

Based on the objectives set out in the second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, as well as those currently being drafted for the third United Nations Decade (UN, 2018), which provide a conceptual and programmatic framework for achieving the goals of sustainable development, the UN identified the following priorities to support different countries:

- 1- Supporting non-governmental organizations in the area of poverty analysis at the country level, through which multi-sectoral approaches to face poverty will be designed and implemented to address the structural causes of poverty, as well as assisting countries in analyzing demographic trends, age structures and population distributions so as to enable them to implement effective policies to deal with the population issue, especially with regard to its relation to poverty issues.
- 2- Macroeconomic policies that include mainstreaming gender perspectives are essential in poverty eradication. Thus, the UN will enhance macroeconomic frameworks that stimulate structural change and evidence-based integrated action strategies. The UN will also promote access to pro-poor technologies and green technologies, green tax reforms, generation of decent green jobs, and social protection policies to assist in transition phase. This will be done through intensive

⁸ This section is based on the ESCWA contribution (2018, ESCWA).

investment in employment programs and public works, especially those of interest to youth and women, ensuring that non-standard forms of employment or unemployment are protected through cash benefits and employment services.

- 3- Providing technical advice on how to plan and implement legal and regulatory frameworks based on workers' rights, including such areas as the transition to formal employment, safe working conditions, minimum wages and workplace protection programs.
- 4- Putting an end to gender discrimination at workplace by ensuring equal employment opportunities and wages, resuming labor market reforms consisting in targeting measures for the allocation of unpaid and paid work, including maternity leave, care insurance systems, decent and flexible business hours, and facilitating women's access to financial services.
- 5- Assisting labor unions and other national institutions to address harmful social norms that hinder women's access to decent work and the standards that reduce the value of female work (through educational campaigns, advertising and working with civil society groups, employers and the media), relying on union capacities by encouraging them to promote the needs of working women and to negotiate their interests with national policy makers through a participatory approach.
- 6- Supporting the establishment and implementation of improved investment plans for the national health workforce to create decent job opportunities in the health and social sector. This will include the calculation of the needs of the social welfare economy and the assessment of the rate of economic return of investments in public social plans and necessary infrastructure.
- 7- Expanding the scope of policy instruments of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing countries that help identify industrial improvements and diversification. This will encourage the generation of decent job opportunities and help develop creative industries.
- 8- Paying particular attention to the development of sustainable and inclusive agricultural and industrial sectors that generate decent jobs in rural areas, especially for youth, women and other vulnerable marginalized groups. This will consist of creating job opportunities in non-agricultural activities that will ensure improving food security and reducing poverty in a sustainable manner; strengthening the links between agriculture, industry and markets, including the transformation of food processing technology and the enhancement of food processing skills; enhancing food safety in the processing environment; improving the quality of food; encouraging competitiveness and productivity in the processing phase to add value to the agricultural production chain and facilitate the inclusion of rural risk-exposed communities in local and global value chains. This will lead to a shift in industries from the informal sector to the formal sector and greater access to administrative services that will facilitate the emergence of startups in rural

entrepreneurship. This in turn will lead to more self-reliant initiatives in rural areas that are based on sustainable means of economic activity.

- 9- Supporting countries and companies in adopting policies that generate integrated supply chains through participatory approaches. This will include gender-based assessments that study opportunities and obstacles facing female entrepreneurs and strategic sectors, and support the creation of financial information and services that meet the specific needs of women's enterprises in emerging markets, as well as promoting multi-stakeholder partnerships between business sector, government and civil society.

3-5-2 Role of LAS and Arab and Regional Development Institutions

A plan of action that could be adopted by Arab and regional development institutions, especially those under the umbrella of the LAS, should be based on some or all of the following elements:

- First: Call upon Arab economic and development institutions for a workshop during which the launch of the Arab Decade for Combating Multidimensional Poverty will be announced, and during which each institution will present its programs and activities aimed at reducing multidimensional poverty in Arab countries. This is related to the specificity of each of the Arab institutions, either in terms of the nature and requirements of the formulation of programs, or the approval of programs directed to Arab countries, or the approval of financial budgets and the methods of making them available for such programs, etc., so as to develop an implementable reality for anti-multidimensional poverty activities in Arab countries.
- Second: Call upon Arab development and economic institutions to clearly include the various dimensions of poverty within their planned or programmed activities during the period 2020-2030, in coordination with the target Arab countries.
- Third: Consider the possibility of establishing a working unit with the existing coordination secretariat of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD), which in turn is concerned with coordinating among financial and development institutions. This unit will assist in guiding the activities of the institutions involved in the coordination secretariat towards areas and activities with higher capacities to confront the multidimensional poverty in Arab beneficiary countries, to serve as a guiding tool for choosing between projects and programs eligible or nominated for implementation in the Arab beneficiary countries.
- Fourth: The reality shows the lack ,or inadequacy of mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the results of projects and programs implemented by Arab and regional financial and development institutions in Arab countries, which are supposed to contribute to measuring the impact and the economic, social and developmental impact of these projects on the economies and Arab beneficiary communities, including their

impact on addressing the various dimensions related to poverty. This mission can be delegated to an independent unit to be established in the LAS or with AFESD, or any of the other member institutions of the coordination group, as it is preferable not to commission the implementing entity with the task of evaluation and impact monitoring. Such mechanisms will provide extensive data and information that can be built upon in the future to straighten the paths, orientations and the nature of the work priorities for Arab and regional financial and development institutions.

Fifth: The need to expand the types of direct interaction between Arab development institutions and beneficiary communities through formulating partnerships with the Arab private sector, especially at the level of small investors, or at the level of private enterprises most compatible with addressing the issues of multidimensional poverty.

Sixth: Emphasizing the expansion of programs and grants to Arab governments to finance development projects that meet the general criteria and controls of each institution, with the addition of a number of other standards that guarantee the flow of effects of these projects to address the issues of multidimensional poverty, such as: (Affecting one or more dimensions of poverty, affecting the largest possible number of population, ensuring that no competition with private sector activities is undertaken and without prejudice to the rules and requirements of full competition among projects). The adoption of such standards represents a reorientation of the efforts of Arab development institutions towards multidimensional poverty issues, without contradicting their own work controls and rules, decision-making mechanisms or policy formulation.

Section IV: Integrated Framework for the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Arab Strategy for the Eradication of Poverty

This section of the strategy focuses on the formulation of an integrated monitoring and evaluation framework to analyze the "Theory of Change", which aims to identify the interrelationship among the policies and programs adopted by Arab countries to address the challenges facing the different dimensions of poverty and the targeted outcomes. This section also focuses on the design of the logical framework for pro-poor and employment-intensive growth and the three dimensions of poverty. It proposes a set of performance indicators that measure the progress of Arab countries towards achieving the sub-goals of

these dimensions. The base year value of these indicators and target values is determined in 2030. This section also describes the methodology for assessing the impact of policies and programs on achieving the main objective of the strategy. This section concludes with a suggested proposal for the institutional framework of the monitoring and evaluation system at the regional and country levels.

4-1 Facing Multidimensional Poverty: Theory of Change

The UN Sustainable Development Agenda 2015-2030 aims at eradicating poverty and hunger, improving education and health, achieving equality and raising the living standard of current and future generations by targeting the development of public utilities (water, sewage, energy and housing). The ambitious agenda did not overlook the economic aspects related to income, employment, production and consumption, and environmental considerations intersected with all development goals. Despite the importance of this integrated and interrelated developmental vision, which includes all ,so that no one lags behind development, the mechanisms of implementing this agenda and the necessary conditions to achieve these goals represent the desired change. Undoubtedly, countries that seek to benefit from these ambitious goals to achieve higher levels of development, raise the living standard of their citizens and safeguard the rights of future generations ,are clearly and explicitly aware that the reliance on the current development model, existing legislation and institutional frameworks and current financial, physical and human capacities is not at all appropriate to achieve the targeted development boom.

This logic applies perfectly to the anti-multidimensional poverty strategy, as an integrated and coherent framework, must be adopted to deal with the multiple aspects of poverty, to bring about the necessary change to lift citizens out of poverty trap, and to radically address the establishment and bequeathing of poverty, as well as to focus on capacity poverty in its wide concept that exceed addressing physical poverty. The desired change requires adopting a development model different from this currently prevailing in Arab countries, with a focus on the concept of human capital and increased investment in people, in addition to the Arab countries' investment in physical infrastructure. Partnership also plays a key role in change, as placing the burden of achieving comprehensive development on governments is no longer viable and unsustainable. Partnership requires identifying all relevant concerned parties, defining their roles and their contribution to achieving development goals. The number of these parties increases when dealing with a complex and important issue such as confronting multidimensional poverty, and differs from one country to another. However, we cannot overlook the important role played by the national conscious private sector, civil society, as well as national, regional and international financial and development institutions, in contributing to the achievement of the objectives of the multidimensional poverty strategy. Successful international experiences show the vital role played by the local administration in dealing

with the various aspects of multidimensional poverty, especially in light of the importance of the services locality principle, which focuses on the most efficient role of the local authorities closest to citizens in determining their living needs and providing their requirements as to utilities ,and services that affect their daily living standard and feeling of satisfaction. Regional universities, research centers and opinion leaders at the local level play an important role in promoting change, raising awareness and gaining support.

The most important areas that require radical change are the creation of innovative financing mechanisms to increase the financial capacity of countries to meet the requirements of addressing multidimensional poverty. It is not just related to the achievement of fiscal discipline and the provision of adequate financial space to finance the desired budget increases that are directed to improve health and education services, utilities and housing units to reduce multidimensional poverty, but it is also imperative to encourage the private sector to contribute to the provision of such utilities and services through social responsibility programs . Participatory planning will also increase the efficiency of using available resources to fund these services‘

The change may also require the development of legislation and institutional frameworks governing the provision of public services and utilities, as the vast majority of such legislation and institutional frameworks are outdated and unable to address the challenges of multidimensional poverty control, and may require modernization and development to allow the participation of relevant stakeholders. Developing human capacities is one of the most important conditions necessary to provide an environment conducive to change, as human resources are responsible for the change to be achieved. Innovation is one of the most significant elements influencing the process of change, especially in the changing circumstances and rapid technological developments in the world. Recent successful experiences show the employment of smart technology and applications, the knowledge economy and artificial intelligence in the service of development purposes, eradication of poverty, improvement of the living standard of citizens and the provision of services more easily and efficiently.

4-2 Logical Framework for Monitoring and Evaluation

The current section addresses the logical framework of the multidimensional poverty strategy, showing the relationship between inputs, outputs, strategic outcomes and achieving the overall objective of the strategy. By reviewing the logical framework, the desired change becomes evident as the inputs for the three dimensions focus on the enablers that turn these inputs into specific outputs that help achieve the targeted strategic outputs that collectively contribute to reaching the strategic objective. In terms of achieving high and sustainable growth rates, concentrated in employment-intensive

sectors and favoring the poor, and, consequently, decreasing unemployment rates especially among young people, the increase of investment rates in general and the increase in private investment in the employment-intensive sectors (such as spinning and weaving, ready-to-wear clothing, woodworking, electrical appliances, trade, logistics, construction, building, tourism and others), and the promotion of entrepreneurship ,are necessary inputs to achieve the desired operation. The increase in public revenues of the State - especially non-tax - in a way that does not adversely affect economic activity and leads to reducing the State budget deficit on the one hand ,and to achieve a more equitable distribution of income on the other hand. It is important to focus on reducing the domestic and external public debt proportion of GDP and on curbing inflation to stabilize the macroeconomic environment.

Increasing the budgets allocated to education, health, utilities and housing services increase the availability of these services, and thus contributes to reducing multidimensional poverty rates. Building capacities, developing institutional frameworks, raising awareness and increasing partnership contribute to improving the return on investment in these dimensions and help achieve the outputs related to the quality and management governance of these services. The combination of service availability ,and quality, while applying the principles of governance in the management of these services, reduces multidimensional poverty rates. Focusing on some sector-specific policies and programs will also have specific outputs that significantly affect the achievement of strategic results. The launching of an expanded and comprehensive housing program targeting low-income people will reduce overcrowding in housing units and thus addresses an aspect of the multidimensional poverty. Launching a school nutrition program (commonly known as National School Lunch Program “NSLP”) will achieve health-related strategic outcomes, as school nutrition contributes to the elimination of child malnutrition, even partially, and contributes to encouraging children to enroll in education. This also applies to conditional cash transfer programs that are linked to conditionality related to education and/or health.

The logical framework is a tool for strategic planning and results-based strategic management, and helps raise the efficiency of the implementation of strategies and monitoring the implementation of policies, programs and projects. The logical framework consists of **four** main pillars that define the description of the policy, program or project and links it to the inputs needed to reach the targeted outputs of the policies, programs and projects, and thus achieving the desired strategic results to reach the overall objective of the strategy. Inputs, outputs, strategic outcomes and overall objective are linked through systematic and coherent logical analysis. Input availability, results achievement and strategic results and overall objective achievement are verified through the use of performance indicators. The mechanism used for verifying these indicators is determined as well. There must be a number of assumptions that should be available to achieve coherence between different parts of the logical framework. The importance of these

assumptions arises because of the complexity of development issues ,and the complexity of the factors that affect them, their different importance and their consistency. Furthermore, these assumptions are outside the control of the authority that monitors the implementation of the strategy and links its inputs, outputs, results and objectives. Failure to achieve these assumptions may lead to a failure to reach specific outputs or outcomes. Thus, the overall objective will not be achieved because some assumptions are not achieved.

Inputs represent physical, financial or human resources that are provided to reach specific outputs, which represent goods or services that are available because of interventions or activities conducted. Strategic results are achieved in the short and medium term because of the outputs that have been provided. The impact is achieved in the long term because of interventions made, whether direct or indirect. Outputs consist of goods and services, while strategic outcomes consist of targeted institutional or behavioral changes that contribute to a change in the lives of citizens.

Indicators are the most important components of the logical framework, and are carefully chosen. Indicators are identified to measure the availability of inputs, access to outputs, and achievement of strategic results, overall objective or expected impact. These indicators measure the progress that is being made at the lowest cost, with greatest efficiency and at a specific time. Performance indicators must be specific, measurable, verifiable, relevant, and measured within a specific timeframe (SMART KPIs).

Table (4-1): Logical framework for addressing anti-multidimensional poverty

Component	Description	Indicator	Achievement Mean
Final impact	Multidimensional Poverty Index Decrease	Multidimensional Poverty Index	Arab Annual Report on Multidimensional Poverty

Component	Description	Indicator	Achievement Mean
First: Employment-intensive, pro-poor growth			
Strategic results	High and sustainable growth	Real economic growth rate	Ministry of Finance/ National Statistics Authority
	Less employment at the national level	Unemployment rate	
	Less unemployment among young people	Unemployment rate among young people (15-29 years)	
	Fair distribution of income	Gini coefficient	
Outputs	More balanced economic environment	Deficit proportion from GDP	Ministry of Finance
		Public debt proportion from GDP	
		External debt proportion of GDP	
	Inflation rate	Central Bank	
Inputs	Higher and sustainable public revenues	Growth rate of tax and non- tax revenue	Ministry of Finance/Central Bank
	Increasing inflows of foreign cash	Increase proportion of foreign direct investment	
	Investment environment conducive to entrepreneurship	Increase proportion of the number of small companies established annually	
	Employment-intensive investment	proportion of investment in employment-intensive sectors	
	High investment	Investment rate	
Second: Social Indicators			
1. Health Indicators			
Strategic results	1.1 Sophisticated and more efficient nutrition system	Stunting rate (among children under 5) Rate of obesity or emaciation	Human Development Index Database
	1.2 Lower child mortality rate	Percentage of children who died before the age of five	
Outputs	1.1.1 More physicians trained on principles of healthy nutrition	Number of physicians specialized in nutrition	Medical Association
	1.1.2 Broad awareness campaign to promote principles of healthy nutrition	Number of activities organized and publications	Organizers (civil society and/or international)

Component	Description	Indicator	Achievement Mean
		distributed	organizations)
	1.2.1 Vaccines necessary for children are available	Number of vaccines provided at maternity and child centers and to private sector	Health surveys
	1.2.2 More maternity and childhood health centers, especially in rural areas	Number of maternity and childhood centers established and operated in countryside	Health surveys
Inputs	Increase of the percentage allocated from public budgets for health expenditure and raise its efficiency	Percentage of health expenditure from GDP	Human Development Index Database
	Increase of training and qualification allocations	Value of training and rehabilitation allocations	Ministry of Finance
	Encouragement of the participation of civil society and private sector, especially at the local level, in the areas of awareness raising and training	Value of foreign aids allocated to civil society organizations and private sector to contribute to raising awareness about health issues	Human Development Index Database
2. Education Indicators			
Strategic results	2.1 Greater number of years of education	Number of expected years of education	Human Development Index Database
	2.2 Regular enrollment in education for longer periods	Number of persons aged 10 years and more who completed elementary education	
Outputs	2.1.1 Conditional cash transfers are more commonly used, especially in rural areas	Rate of increase of conditional cash transfers allocated to countryside	Country databases
	2.1.2 Year-long program for school feeding	Number of school feeding days	Country databases
	2.2.1 Less densities at classrooms, especially in elementary education	Proportion of students to teachers in elementary education	Human Development Index Database
	2.2.2 Advanced Curriculum	Number of curricula developed annually	Country databases
Inputs	Increase of proportions allocated from public budgets for spending on education and raising its efficiency	Percentage of education expenditure from GDP	Health expenditure proportion from GDP

Component	Description	Indicator	Achievement Mean
	Supporting entrepreneurship and integrating small enterprises into local and international value chains	Number of small enterprises established and those operating as local suppliers for medium and large companies	National databases

Component	Description	Indicator	Achievement Mean
3. Living Standard Indicators			
Strategic Results	3-1 Higher rates for the use of clean fuel in cooking	Contribution of living standard indicators to	Arab Annual Report on Multidimensional

Component	Description	Indicator	Achievement Mean
	3-2 More efficient sewage services	reduction of multidimensional poverty index	Poverty
	3-3 Safe potable water sources		
	3-4 Greater availability of electricity		
	3-5 Availability of adequate housing		
Outputs	3-1-1 Greater reliance on biofuels, particularly in rural areas	Proportion of households dependent on biofuels	National Database
	3-2-1 Innovative sewage systems widely used, especially in rural areas	Percentage of households with sewage services in countryside	Human Development Index Database
	3-3-1 Comprehensive coverage of household water connections	Proportion of houses with water connection in countryside	Human Development Index Database
	3-4-1 More comprehensive coverage of electricity networks	Proportion of households with electricity services in countryside	Human Development Index Database
	3-5-1 More efficient system for low-income housing	Increase proportion in low-income housing	Human Development Index Database
Inputs	Increasing percentages allocated from public budgets for spending on public utilities and raising their efficiency	Percentage of expenditure on public utilities from GDP	National Database
	Doubling allocations from public budgets for maintenance expenditure	Percentage of spending on maintenance from State budget	National Database
	Strict application of governance principles (transparency, control and accountability) for the public utility system	Utility Sector Governance Index	New Index*
	Enabling local administration to play a greater role in the provision of municipal services	Value of budgets allocated to municipalities to finance municipal services	National Database
	Raising citizens' awareness of the basic principles of sustainability, especially those related to public utilities	Efficiency of public utilities	New Index*

* A working group shall be formed to define the methodology for measuring the new indicators, in the light of the international experiences and scientific methodologies approved, and the availability of data, time, effort and cost necessary for the estimation.

Table (4-2): Assumptions and risks facing multidimensional poverty eradication

Dimension	Assumptions and Risks
-----------	-----------------------

Macroeconomic Environment	Continuing rise in oil prices (for oil importers)
	Global interest rates rise
	Continuity of trade wars
Health	Availability of necessary budgets to spend on training and qualification of doctors
	Distribution of budgets allocated to the health sector efficiently at local levels according to known and announced rules
	Responding to awareness raising programs about healthy nutrition
Education	Community response to curriculum development efforts
	Developing educational systems to respond to labor market requirements in the light of developments in the labor market that threat a large number of existing professions to be replaced by other more modern and developed occupations that require new skills.
	Availability of necessary budgets to provide educational services and improve the efficiency of the educational system
	Distribution of budgets allocated to the education sector efficiently at local levels according to known and announced rules
	Adopting necessary policies and programs to provide decent and productive job opportunities
Living Standard	Empower localities to fulfill their role of providing localized services through capacity development
	Availability of necessary budgets to provide, maintain and raise efficiency of public utilities.
	Distribution of budgets allocated to public utilities efficiently at local levels in accordance with known and announced rules

4-3 Goal Measurement Indicators

The following Table (4-3) indicates the compatibility between the multidimensional poverty axes and sustainable development indicators. The compatibility and convergence extend to link performance indicators as well. The importance of such compatibility consists in helping countries integrate sustainable development goals into the planning and monitoring system, accelerate necessary measures to achieve sustainable development goals on the one hand, and address multidimensional poverty on the other hand, in addition to adopting policies that will address multidimensional poverty and, consequently, achieve sustainable development.

Table (4-3): Sustainable development goals, dimensions of the multidimensional poverty strategy and performance indicators

Sustainable Development Goals		Multidimensional Poverty Axes	
Goal	Performance Indicators	Dimension	Performance Indicators
First Goal: Poverty Eradication	2-2-1 Percentage of men, women and children of all ages suffering from all dimensions of poverty according to national definitions	Multidimensional Poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Multidimensional Poverty Index
Second Goal: Hunger Eradication	2-1-1 Prevalence rate of undernourishment 2-1-2 Prevalence rate of moderate or severe food insecurity among the population, based on the scale suffering from food insecurity. 2-2-1 Growth stoppage prevalence rate among children under five years of age. 2-2-2 Prevalence rate of malnutrition among children under the age of five, disaggregated by sex (Emaciation and weight gain).	Nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Stunting rate (among children under five) ◆ Rate of obesity or emaciation ◆ Number of physicians with experience in nutrition ◆ Number of events organized and publications distributed ◆ Number of civil society and private sector organizations that contribute to raising awareness about health issues
Third Goal: Good Health and Welfare	1-2-3 Under-five mortality rate 3-2-8 Proportion of the population whose households spend large health expenditure calculated as a share of total expenditure or income of household 1-C-3 Density and distribution of health specialists 2-A-1 Percentage of total governmental expenditure on basic services (education, <u>health</u> and social protection)	Health-Nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Proportion of children who died before age five ◆ Value of vaccines provided in maternity and childhood centers and to private sector ◆ Number of maternity and childhood centers established and operated in rural areas ◆ Percentage of spending on health from State budget ◆ Value of training and qualifications allocations
Fourth Goal: Good Education	4-1-1 Proportion of children and youth (A) in second / third grade; (b) at the end of primary school; and (c) at the end of the first phase of secondary education, achieving at least the minimum level of proficiency in (1) reading, (2) mathematics, by sex 1-2-4 Proportion of children under five who are on track in	Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Number of expected years of education ◆ Number of persons aged 10 years and more who completed elementary education ◆ Rate of increase of conditional cash transfers allocated to countryside ◆ Number of school feeding days

Sustainable Development Goals		Multidimensional Poverty Axes	
Goal	Performance Indicators	Dimension	Performance Indicators
	<p>terms of growth in fields of health, learning, psychosocial well-being, by sex</p> <p>4-2-2 Rate of participation in organized learning (one year before the age of primary school enrollment), by sex</p> <p>2-A-1 Proportion of total governmental expenditure on basic services (<u>education</u>, health and social protection)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Proportion of students to teachers in elementary education ◆ Number of curricula developed annually ◆ Proportion of spending on education from GDP
Sixth Goal: Clean Water and Hygiene	<p>1-1-6 Proportion of population benefiting from potable water services managed in a safe manner</p> <p>1-2-6 Proportion of population benefiting from sound management of sewage services, including hand-washing facilities with soap and water</p> <p>1-3-6 Proportion of wastewater processed in a safe manner</p>	Living Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Proportion of households with sewage service in countryside ◆ Proportion of households with a source of clean water in countryside ◆ Proportion of households with sewage services in countryside
Seventh Goal: Clean Energy at Affordable Prices	1-1-7 Proportion of population benefiting from electricity services	Living Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Percentage of households with electricity services
Eighth Goal: Decent Work and Economic Growth	2-5-8 Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities	Operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Number of small enterprises established and those acting as local suppliers for medium and large enterprises

Sustainable Development Goals	Multidimensional Poverty Axes
-------------------------------	-------------------------------

Goal	Performance Indicators	Dimension	Performance Indicators
Eleventh Goal: Local Sustainable Cities and Communities	<p>2-1-7 Proportion of population relying mainly on clean fuel and technology</p> <p>1-1-11 Percentage of urban population living in poor neighborhoods, informal settlements or inadequate housing units</p> <p>1-A-11 Percentage of population living in cities implementing civic and regional development plans and integrating population projections and resources needs, by city size</p> <p>2-3-11 Percentage of cities with a structure that allows civil society to participate directly in urban planning, operates regularly and is managed democratically</p>	Living Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Proportion of contribution of living standard indicators to reducing the multidimensional poverty index ◆ Number of households that do not use clean oil in cooking ◆ Percentage of household members per room ◆ Proportion of households who depend on biofuels ◆ Rate of increase in low-income housing, percentage of expenditure on public utilities from State budget ◆ Percentage of expenditure on maintenance from State budget ◆ Utility Sector Governance Index ◆ Value of budgets allocated to municipalities to finance municipal services ◆ Efficiency rate of public utilities

The following Table (4-4) shows performance indicators as mentioned in the logical framework, which measure, in accordance with the above, availability of inputs, obtainment of inputs, achievement of strategic results and strategic impact. It is to be noted that there is a time lag between achieving strategic results and reaching the overall goal. The table also includes all data on performance indicators, which include the base year indicator value and target value for 2030, the source of data used to estimate the indicator value, the data collection methodology, the body responsible for data collection, the frequency of data collection or data collection times. Additional information may also be included, such as difficulties facing data collection, cost borne by the data collection body, and the body that will analyze the data.

Some countries may consider these indicators ambitious, while others believe they are not. In this context, it is worth noting that these indicators require more details according to each countries separately, according to various facts. Values for these indicators should also be determined for different income categories, by gender, age, educational level, type of work, local geographical scope (bodies, regions or provinces, lower regional or local levels) and other characteristics and features. It is proposed that the body concerned in each country with monitoring and evaluating the performance indicators will form a committee representing different stakeholders to determine the values of these target indicators and adopt them in order to reach these objectives through the proposed development model, policies, programs and mechanisms contained in the strategic framework to address the multidimensional poverty. It is certainly necessary to agree on the values of these indicators, considering them national and regional targets, which all countries seek to achieve through the proposed monitoring and evaluation framework.

National statistical and data agencies are expected to play an important role in the success of the monitoring and evaluation system. International development institutions, national and regional expertise establishments and research institutions can provide technical support to the statistical agencies and to the evaluation and monitoring bodies in different countries to fulfill their role in monitoring progress towards different objectives and assessing success in reaching local, national and regional targets, in addition to contributing to capacity development programs and monitoring and evaluation system development. We should refer to the importance of exchanging experiences among Arab countries in this field and mainstreaming successful experiences, results and lessons learned.

Table (4-4): Basic data of performance indicators

Indicator	Base Year Indicator Value (2016)	Target Year Indicator Value (2030)	Measurement Unit	Data Source	Data Collection/Estimation Methodology	Data Collection/Estimation Authority	Data Collection/Estimation Times
Multidimensional Poverty Index	21*	10	Percentage	Arab Report on Multidimensional Poverty	Estimation was done using multi- intervention deprivation methodology	League of Arab States in cooperation with others**	Every 5 years
Macroeconomic Environment Indicators							
Real economic growth rate	1.2 (2017)	6-7	Percentage		National Databases	National Statistics Authority	Quarterly
Unemployment rate	Unknown	10	Percentage		National Databases	National Statistics Authority	Quarterly
Rate of unemployment among youth (15-29 years)	28 (2012)	15	Percentage		National Databases	National Statistics Authority	Quarterly
Gini coefficient	Unknown	0.3-0.35	Percentage		National Databases	National Statistics Authority	Quarterly
GDP deficit percentage	Unknown	5-3	Percentage		National Databases	Ministry of Finance	Quarterly
Public debt proportion from GDP	Unknown	60	Percentage		National Databases	Ministry of Finance	Quarterly
External debt proportion from	Unknown	25	Percentage		National Databases	Ministry of Finance	Quarterly

Indicator	Base Year Indicator Value (2016)	Target Year Indicator Value (2030)	Measurement Unit	Data Source	Data Collection/Estimation Methodology	Data Collection/Estimation Authority	Data Collection/Estimation Times
GDP							
Inflation rate	Unknown	5	Percentage		National Databases	Central Bank	Quarterly
Growth rate of tax and non-tax revenues	Unknown	10 (annually)	Percentage		National Databases	Ministry of Finance	Quarterly
Increase proportion of foreign direct investment	Unknown	Doubling	Percentage		National Databases	Ministry/Authority of Investment	Quarterly
Proportion of increase in number of small companies established annually	Unknown	Doubling	Percentage		National Databases	Ministry/Authority of Investment	Quarterly
Proportion of investment in employment-intensive sectors	Unknown	30	Percentage		National Databases	Ministry/Authority of Investment	Quarterly
Investment rate	22	30	Percentage		National Databases	Ministry/Authority of Investment	Quarterly
Health Indicators							
Stunting rate (in children under 5) Rate of obesity or	22.2 (2014)	Zero	Percentage of total children under five	ESCWA	Health Surveys	Ministry of Health	Annually

Indicator	Base Year Indicator Value (2016)	Target Year Indicator Value (2030)	Measurement Unit	Data Source	Data Collection/Estimation Methodology	Data Collection/Estimation Authority	Data Collection/Estimation Times
emaciation among children under 5							
Percentage of children who died before the age of five	30/1000 (2014)	21/1000 (current situation scenario) 12/1000 (2030 scenario)	Number per 1,000 live children	ESCWA	Birth and Death Databases	Ministry of Health	Annually
Number of physicians specialized in nutrition	--	To be determined	Number per 10,000 children under five	New	National Databases	Medical Association	Annually
Number of activities organized and publications distributed	---	100 events per country	Number	New	e-Platform for Monitoring and Evaluation***	Ministry of Health	Annually
Proportion of children deprived from vaccines	13.5	5	Percentage	Human Development Report	National Databases	Ministry of Health	Annually
Percentage of increase in maternity and	--	100 (Doubling)	Percentage	New	National Databases	Ministry of Health	Annually

Indicator	Base Year Indicator Value (2016)	Target Year Indicator Value (2030)	Measurement Unit	Data Source	Data Collection/Estimation Methodology	Data Collection/Estimation Authority	Data Collection/Estimation Times
child centers established and operated in rural areas							
Percentage of health expenditure from GDP	5	5	Percentage	Human Development Report	Public Budget	Ministry of Finance	Annually
Percentage of training and qualification allocations from health budget	---	3	Percentage	New	Public Budget	Ministry of Finance	Annually
Increase proportion of the number of civil society and private sector organizations that contribute to raising awareness about health issues	---	100 (Doubling)	Percentage	New	National Databases	Ministry of Health	Annually
Education Indicators							
Number of	11.9 (2017)	14	Year	Human	National Databases	Ministry of Education	Annually

Indicator	Base Year Indicator Value (2016)	Target Year Indicator Value (2030)	Measurement Unit	Data Source	Data Collection/Estimation Methodology	Data Collection/Estimation Authority	Data Collection/Estimation Times
expected years of education				Development Report			
Percentage of individuals aged 10 years and more who completed elementary education	50 (2016)	65	Percentage	Human Development Report	National Databases	Ministry of Education	Annually
Increase rate of conditional cash transfers allocated to countryside	---	100 (Doubling)	Percentage	New	Public Budget	Ministry of Finance	Annually
Number of school feeding days	---	200	Day	New	e-Platform for Monitoring and Evaluation***	Ministry of Education	Annually
Proportion of students to teachers in elementary education	20 (2017)	15	Percentage	Human Development Report	National Databases	Ministry of Education	Annually
Number of curricula developed	---	5	Number	New	e-Platform for Monitoring and Evaluation***	Ministry of Education	Annually

Indicator	Base Year Indicator Value (2016)	Target Year Indicator Value (2030)	Measurement Unit	Data Source	Data Collection/Estimation Methodology	Data Collection/Estimation Authority	Data Collection/Estimation Times
annually							
Percentage of education expenditure from GDP	--	5	Percentage	Human Development Report	Public Budget	Ministry of Finance	Annually
Number of small enterprises established and those operating as local suppliers for medium and large companies	---	1000	Company/Year	New	e-Platform for Monitoring and Evaluation***	Ministry of Investment	Annually
Living Standard Indicators							
Contribution rate of living standard indicators in multidimensional poverty index	20	5	Percentage	Arab Report on Multidimensional Report	Estimation was done using multi-intervention deprivation methodology	League of Arab States in cooperation with others**	Every 5 years
Proportion of households who depend on biofuels	---	50	Percentage	Expenditure and Consumption Surveys	Survey on representative sample of the community	National Statistics Authority	Annually
Proportion of households with sewage services	81	90	Percentage	Human Development Report	National Databases	Ministry of Facilities / National Statistics Authority	Annually

Indicator	Base Year Indicator Value (2016)	Target Year Indicator Value (2030)	Measurement Unit	Data Source	Data Collection/Estimation Methodology	Data Collection/Estimation Authority	Data Collection/Estimation Times
in countryside							
Proportion of households with water connection in countryside	87	100	Percentage	Human Development Report	National Databases	Ministry of Facilities / National Statistics Authority	Annually
Proportion of population with electricity services in countryside	79	100	Percentage	Human Development Report	National Databases	Ministry of Electricity	Annually
Percentage of increase in low-income housing	---	5 (annually)	Percentage	New	National Monitoring Reports	Ministry of Housing / National Statistics Authority	Annually
Percentage of spending on public utilities from GDP	---	10	Percentage	Public Budget	National Databases	Ministry of Finance	Annually
Percentage of expenditure on maintenance from State budget	---	5	Day	Public Budget	National Databases	Ministry of Finance	Annually
Utility Sector Governance Index	---	To be determined	---	New	Questionnaire and National Databases	Independent Research Center	Annually

Indicator	Base Year Indicator Value (2016)	Target Year Indicator Value (2030)	Measurement Unit	Data Source	Data Collection/Estimation Methodology	Data Collection/Estimation Authority	Data Collection/Estimation Times
Value of budgets allocated to municipalities to finance municipal services	---	20	Percentage	Public Budget	National Databases	Ministry of Finance	Annually
Efficiency rate of public utilities	---	To be determined	Percentage	New	To be determined	Independent Research Center	Annually

* This estimate includes 10 Arab countries representing 75% of the total population of Arab countries, including Egypt, Iraq, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Jordan, Sudan, Yemen, Mauritania and Comoros.

** The report was prepared by the LAS, UN, ESCWA, UNICEF and OPHI.

*** As will be mentioned later.

Note: Base year data source: World Bank (2018) Development Indicators Database.

As an illustrative example that can be used as a guide, the Kingdom of Morocco prepared Table (4-5) which presents the most important indicators of multidimensional poverty that will be monitored in the Kingdom during the next period, which could benefit the rest of the Arab countries - after modifying the same to fit the specificity of each country - in the preparation of national frameworks for monitoring and evaluation of their multidimensional poverty eradication strategies.

Table (4-5): Table of multidimensional poverty indicators in Kingdom of Morocco

Mutidimensional poverty dimensions	Three most important indicators	Value (Base year)	Measurement unit	Frequency of measurement	Source
Material poverty of expenditure	Proportion of population living with less than \$ 2 per day	1	%	5 years	National Research on Consumption and Household Expenditure 2013/2014 (High Commission for Planning).
	Poverty gap according to national poverty threshold	0.9	%	5 years	National Research on Consumption and Household Expenditure 2013/2014 (High Commission for Planning).
	Population benefiting from health insurance programs as a proportion of the total population	57	%	Annual	National Health Insurance Agency
	Population benefiting from social protection programs as a proportion of the total population	-	-	-	-
Income distribution	Gini coefficient	39.5 (2014)	%	5 years	National Research on Consumption and Household Expenditure 2013/2014 (High Commission for Planning).
	Income share for the lowest 10% of the population	2.7 (2014)	%	5 years	
	Income share for the lowest 20% of the population	6.7 (2014)	%	5 years	
	Income share for the top 10% of the population	31.9 (2014)	%	5 years	
	Income share for the top 20% of the population	47 (2014)	%	5 years	
	Share of income for the second 20% of the population	10.7 (2014)	%	5 years	
	Share of income for the third 20% of the population	14.7 (2014)	%	5 years	
	Share of income for the fourth 20% of the population	29.9 (2014)	%	5 years	

Multidimensional poverty	Three most important indicators	Value (Base year)	Measurement unit	Frequency of measurement	Source
--------------------------	---------------------------------	-------------------	------------------	--------------------------	--------

dimensions					
Education	Duration of educational phases	- Primary 6 years - Preparatory Secondary 3 years - Qualifying Secondary 3 years	Number of years	Annual	Ministry of National Education, Professional Training, Higher Education and Scientific Research.
	Proportion of enrollment in different levels of education (net enrollment proportion for 2016/2017)	- Primary 97.3 - Preparatory secondary 85.6 - Qualifying secondary 32.9	%	Annual	Ministry of National Education, Professional Training, Higher Education and Scientific Research.
	Education expenditure as a share of total public expenditure	23.6 (2016)	%	Annual	Ministry of National Education, Professional Training, Higher Education and Scientific Research.
	Per capita public expenditure on educational services	1593 (2016)	%	Annual	Ministry of Economy and Finance.
	Education efficiency Indicators	-	-	-	-
	Education Equal Opportunity Index 2014	- Primary 98.1 - Preparatory secondary 85 - Qualifying secondary 73.0	%	Annual	High Commission for Planning
	Dropout proportions (Dropout Rate) (2015/2016)	- Primary 1.9 - Preparatory secondary 10.8 - Qualifying secondary 11.5	%	Annual	Ministry of National Education, Professional Training, Higher Education and Scientific Research.

Multidimensional poverty dimensions	Three most important indicators	Value (Base year)	Measurement unit	Frequency of measurement	Source
Health	Life expectancy	75.8 (2015)	One year	10 years	Demographic projections 2014-2050, High Commission for Planning.
	Under-five mortality rate	22.16	%	5 years	National Research on Population and Family Health,

		(2017)			Ministry of Health.
	Number of Hospitals / Beds (Public Sector)	22075/155 (2017)	عدد	Annual	Ministry of Health.
	Percentage of health expenditure as a share of total expenditure	5.3 (2015)	%	Annual	Ministry of Economy and Finance.
	Obesity proportion among population	17.6 (2011)	%	-	National Research on Measurement of Anthropology, High Commission for Planning.
	Per capita public expenditure on health services	1578 (2013)	Dirham	5 years	Health Account, Ministry of Health.

Living conditions

Population	Housing gap index (percentage of households registered)	18.80 (2014)	%	10 years	General Population and Housing Statistics, High Commission for Planning.
	Number of vacant housing units	146/1087 (2014)	Housing	10 years	General Population and Housing Statistics, High Commission for Planning.
	Housing expenditure out of total household expenditure	-	-	-	-
	Number of housing units that need destruction and reconstruction	-	-	-	
	Average number of individuals / number of rooms in the residential unit and its different areas	1.4 (2014)	One person	10 years	General Population and Housing Statistics, High Commission for Planning.

Multidimensional poverty dimensions	Three most important indicators	Value (Base year)	Measurement unit	Frequency of measurement	Source
Water	Coverage with water services as a proportion of the total population	73 (2014)	%	10 years	General Population and Housing Statistics, High Commission for Planning.
	Proportion of renewable financial resources	-	-	-	-
	Water projects expenditure as a share of total public expenditure	-	-	-	-
	Water consumption per capita	-	-	-	-

Sewage	Coverage with sewage services as a proportion of the total population	58.90 (2014)	%	10 years	General Population and Housing Statistics, High Commission for Planning.
	Proportion of treated wastewater	166000	m ³ per day	Annual	Directorate General of Water Engineering, Ministry of Equipment and Transport.
Nutrition	Expenditure on sewage projects as a share of total public expenditure	-	-	-	-
	Prevalence of stunting, height to age, percentage of children under 5 years of age	15.1 (2017)	%	5 years	National Research on Population and Family Health, Ministry of Health.
	Prevalence of emaciation, weight to height, proportion of children under five	2.6 (2017)	%	5 years	National Research on Population and Family Health, Ministry of Health.
	Prevalence of underweight, weight to age, percentage of children under 5 years of age	2.9 (2017)	%	5 years	National Research on Population and Family Health, Ministry of Health.

Multidimensional poverty dimensions	Three most important indicators	Value (Base year)	Measurement unit	Frequency of measurement	Source
Information technology	Number of governmental agencies that provide information to the public through a certified website	-	-	-	-
	Number of participants in the cellular service	41,514,000 (2016)	Participant	Annual	National Telecommunications Regulatory Agency
	Number of participants in the fixed telephone service	20,700,000	Participant	Annual	National Telecommunications Regulatory Agency
	Total capacity of central offices	-	-	-	-

	Number of Internet users	15,800,000 (2016)	Person	Annual	National Telecommunications Regulatory Agency
	Number of Internet users through cellular	15,817,000 (2016)	Person	Annual	National Telecommunications Regulatory Agency
	Number of high-speed Internet subscribers	17,047,000 (2017)	Participant	Annual	National Telecommunications Regulatory Agency
	Availability and information availability and handling law	Yes	-	-	Law no. 13,13

Multidimensional poverty dimensions	Three most important indicators	Category	Value (Base year)	Measurement unit	Frequency of measurement	Source
Employment	Rate of participation in workforce (%)	Total	46.7 (2017)	%	Annual	National Research on Employment, High Commission for Planning.
		Male	71.6 (2017)	%	Annual	National Research on Employment, High Commission for Planning.
		Female	22.4 (2017)	%	Annual	National Research on Employment, High Commission for Planning.
	Proportion of youth who do not learn, do not teach or train, age group of 15-24 (%)	Total	29.3 (2017)	%	Annual	National Research on Employment, High Commission for Planning.
		Male	13 (2017)	%	Annual	National Research on Employment, High Commission for Planning.



		Female	45.9 (2017)	%	Annual	National Research on Employment, High Commission for Planning.
	Unemployment rate (%)	Total	10.2 (2017)	%	Annual	National Research on Employment, High Commission for Planning.
		Male	8.8 (2017)	%	Annual	National Research on Employment, High Commission for Planning.
		Female	14.7 (2017)	%	Annual	National Research on Employment, High Commission for Planning.
		Proportion of persons who are unemployed for one year or more among the unemployed (%)	Total	70.8 (2017)	%	Annual
	Male		66.5 (2017)	%	Annual	National Research on Employment, High Commission for Planning.
	Female		78.1 (2017)	%	Annual	National Research on Employment, High Commission for Planning.
	Active working children	Total	247000 (2017)	Person	Annual	National Research on Employment, High Commission for Planning.
		Age group 7-14	49000 (2017)	Person	Annual	National Research on Employment, High Commission for Planning.
		Age group 15-17	198000 (2017)	Person	Annual	National Research on Employment, High Commission for Planning.

4-4 Institutional Framework for Monitoring and Evaluation

The institutional framework for monitoring and evaluation relies on a unified electronic information platform used to monitor the implementation of the multidimensional poverty strategy at the regional, national and local levels. The LAS, in cooperation with Member States and relevant local and international development institutions, is developing a strong planning and monitoring platform to meet the requirements of the multidimensional poverty strategy. This platform will be developed through the use of a broadly used tool to monitor the implementation of programs, plans and policies contained in development strategies through preparing, issuing and disseminating a set of reports that can be developed as needed, as will be explained later. The electronic platform is also used to assess progress towards achieving strategic objectives at the regional, country and local levels, as well as for each dimension. The system also contributes to the preparation of comparison reports between different groups of countries and between countries themselves and at different points of time. The final objective of using this electronic platform is to identify successful policies, programs and interventions that have a positive impact on reducing the multidimensional poverty index or its sub-indexes according to different dimensions, and, consequently, benefit from successful experiences. The platform also helps detect failure upon occurring, and then identify its causes to reach rapid methods of treatment and correct the course, also at the regional, country and local levels and to different dimensions.

The development of the electronic planning, monitoring and evaluation platform is based on the Data for All (DFA) Toolkit, which provides a leading information technology platform available to all. These publicly available tools confirm the importance of data and information in developing performance indicators, which are mainly based on for the purpose of monitoring, evaluation and management by results. The electronic system also contributes to developing policies supported by real evidence and inspired by successful experiences. International development organizations, especially UN organizations, use the DFA Toolkit to develop different electronic platforms to monitor and evaluate the progress made by different countries towards achieving the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030. Figure (4-1) indicates the basic components of the DFA Toolkit.

Figure (4-1): Components of Data for All (DFA) Toolkit

Data for All (DFA) Toolkit					
Planning	Analysis	  Data repository	Management	Use	
	Perception			Data integration	Administrative records
	Report preparation			Data management	Survey
Monitoring and Follow-up	Preparation of data tables			▲ Indicator registration	SMS
Modeling	File preparation			◆ Encoding	Logistics services
Prediction	Preparation of infographics			◆ Descriptive data	References
	Reading of data and information			▲ Digital Maps Library	Wi-Fi connection
	Planning			▲ Data entry	Smart devices
	Formation of photo gallery			▲ Data quality checker	Capturing big data
	Establishment of document repository			▲ Data exchange	Capturing geographic data
	Electronic gate management			My data	
	Cellular application			Data APIs	
	Advertising campaign design			Statistical training program	
	Training program design				

As indicated in the preceding table, the DFA Toolkit uses traditional and reliable national, country or international data sources (such as family surveys, population censuses, civil registry and biometric systems) and enhanced administrative information management systems (health and education). The DFA also helps take advantage of new innovative data sources, such as geographic and spatial data, disaster response planning, cellular data collection, smart devices, big databases, and SMS surveys. The above refers to the ease and flexibility of these tools in developing the planning, monitoring and evaluation system.

The interactive dashboard presents the progress and indicators of strategic objectives to address multidimensional poverty. Data are also presented according to the adequate classification: geographical regions, age groups, sex, income and other socio-economic characteristics. The implementation of the monitoring and evaluation platform will be

expanded at the country level, so that Member States can ensure the monitoring and evaluation of the national multidimensional poverty strategy in an effective and efficient manner.

The development of the electronic monitoring and evaluation platform(EMEP) requires a number of measures, which we summarize in the following steps:

- The multidimensional poverty strategy includes the theoretical framework for monitoring and evaluation, including the logical framework and results matrix.⁹
- Baseline or base year data are determined according to the latest available statement of each performance indicator. The base year may vary from country to country and from dimension to dimension. Therefore, it is important to agree on the base year to be used as a basis for monitoring according to the availability of published and reliable data.
- Objectives are defined for each country, dimension and performance indicator.
- Performance indicators are determined in a participatory and sound manner that ensures the availability of the basic conditions to be met by performance indicators, as well as the definition of indicator, its estimation methodology, measurement unit, methodology of data collection and data source, frequency of data collection and indicator estimation, and the body responsible for collecting such data and making them available through the electronic platform. Caution should be exercised when implementing this step, as the success and continuity of the electronic planning, monitoring and evaluation platform will depend on it.
- Goals and indicators are linked at the country and international levels to standardize the methodology of monitoring and evaluation, report preparation, and policy-making based on real evidence.
- Different rights of use are identified for data entry and analysis and reporting employees, which enhances the flexibility of the electronic platform while ensuring that responsibilities are defined easily and clearly.
- Officials can specify access to view and/or write data by geographical region or dimension concerned.
- Various resources required to achieve the objectives are included. These resources contribute to the shift from the goals to the desired change, monitoring and evaluating the impact of what is already being implemented through different indicators. The desired progress cannot be achieved without the necessary resources, whether the human, material or financial resources.

⁹ It is worth noting that a participatory work methodology must be adopted between Member States and within each country separately to review the proposed logical framework, proposed performance indicators, base year values, as well as target values. Assumptions and risks are also reviewed. Finally, each country will identify the measures, programs and policies it will adopt to address multidimensional poverty, within the overall objectives of the strategy and in accordance with the different groups of countries. Each country focuses on these measures, policies and programs with rapid results and limited cost, and gradually moves on to the long-term, difficult-to-achieve and high-cost targets. During implementation, monitoring and evaluation, the country may decide to reconsider its priorities and the mechanism of dealing with them.

- The electronic system contributes to the immediate communication with the decision maker, which helps develop the performance of governments to respond to any delay in achieving the desired achievement, which enhances confidence between citizens and their government.
- It is expected that the electronic platform will improve the ranking of Arab countries participating in the "Open Government" initiative launched by the World Bank, which will enhance transparency, accountability, responsibility and participation, which will significantly contribute to raising the level of citizen's satisfaction.
- The electronic platform also plays a vital role in raising the efficiency of different resources.

4-5 Monitoring and Evaluation Reports

- Reports must be presented at the country level every 3 months.
- Reports must be presented at the regional level each year.
- Each country must identify the necessary local reports to monitor the progress at the level of local units and assess the contribution of each region to the overall objective of the strategy, provided that the number of reports shall not be less than four reports per year.

Reports will be published on the electronic monitoring and evaluation platform(EMEP) , which will include areas of opinion, comment, questions, queries and to obtain basic data. Relevant development partners will take part in preparing independent reports that will be compared to regional and country reports.

Monitoring reports present the progress made in relation to the multidimensional poverty index and sectoral and spatial indicators, along with linking the same to monitoring reports of the UN Sustainable Development Goals until 2030.

It is worth noting that the institutional framework for monitoring and evaluation is also linked to a number of complementary frameworks that must be available to enable the monitoring and evaluation system to operate more efficiently. These institutional frameworks include an integrated results-based management framework, moving from item budget preparation to program and performance budgets, adoption of the participation-based planning methodology, adoption of the average expenditure framework, development of the public funds management system, and the use of geographic information systems. We emphasize that the technological development of the past few years gives Arab countries, statistical agencies and monitoring and evaluation entities the opportunity to benefit from the giant databases, internet of things and artificial intelligence to develop more efficient frameworks for data collection, analysis, report preparation and information exchange in a more speedy and efficient manner,

which ultimately reflects positively on decision-making, and, consequently, on achieving the desired objectives of multidimensional poverty reduction policies and programs.

4-6 Conclusion

This section has provided an initial conceptualization of the monitoring and evaluation system that must be developed to monitor the progress made towards the achievement of the strategy objective and assess the performance of different countries in addressing multidimensional poverty. This system also helps identify the necessary interventions, policies and programs to deal with this complex, deeply rooted phenomenon. It also contributes to assessing the impact of these policies and programs, re-planning and correcting the course to achieve the desired success.

Building upon the principle of "What cannot be measured, cannot be achieved", the system uses a set of performance indicators for monitoring, evaluation and correction of course. The base year values for each indicator are determined according to the data available in each country separately, along with proposing a specific goal that all countries seek to achieve, in addition to proposing targets for different groups of Arab countries according to their level of income and/or level of human development.

It is also proposed to transform the monitoring and evaluation system into an electronic platform that helps link databases in a common framework, while providing data at specific times. This platform helps publish monitoring and evaluation reports on a periodic basis to enhance trust between citizens and their government through transparency in monitoring and credibility in evaluation. The adoption of a participatory approach of planning, monitoring and evaluation has a positive impact on the citizen's sense of trust and willingness to participate positively.

Last but not least, the major challenge consists in the dilemma of data availability at the regional and country levels, most importantly at the local level. The modesty of the institutional framework required for expanding the use of giant databases and information available via internet has a negative impact on the utilization of the wealth of information and the fourth industrial revolution in monitoring, evaluation and formulation of policies based on approved facts and experiences.

Appendix

Table (M-1): Dimensions and indicators of deprivation in relation to household poverty and their weights

	Indicator	Global Multidimensional Poverty Index	Regional Multidimensional Poverty Index	
			Extreme Poverty	Poverty
Education	Study years	There is no family member aged 10 or more who has completed five years of study (1/6)	There is no eligible individual in the family who is over the age of completion of primary education who has completed primary education (1/6)	There is no eligible individual in the family who is over the age of completion of secondary education who has completed secondary education (1/6)
	School attendance	A school-age child does not attend school until the age of completion of grade 8 (1/6)	A child of primary school age does not attend school (1/6)	A school-age child does not attend school, or is enrolled in a lower school grade than the appropriate school grade by two or more grades (1/6)
Health	Under-five mortality	Any family child died during the five-year period preceding the survey (1/6)	Any child under the age of 60 months died during the five-year period preceding the survey (1/9)	As in extreme poverty (1/9)
	Nutrition	Any adult under 70 years, or any child (aged between 1 day and 59 months) is undernourished, determined in light of the relationship between weight and age (1/6)	Any child (aged between 1 day and 59 months) suffers from stunting (height to age < -2) or any adult suffers from undernourishment (person weight by kilogram (kg) divided by height by square meter < 18.5 (1/9)	Any child (aged between 1 day and 59 months) suffers from stunting (height to age < -2) or any child suffers from emaciation (weight to height < -2) or any adult suffers from undernourishment (person weight by kilogram (kg) divided by height by square meters < 18.5) (1/9)
	Early pregnancy or female genital mutilation	Non-existent in Global Multidimensional Poverty Index	A woman under the age of 28 is pregnant for the first time before she is 18 or is exposed to female genital mutilation (1/9)	A woman under the age of 28 is pregnant for the first time before she is 18 and is exposed to female genital mutilation (1/9)
Living conditions	Electricity	As in extreme poverty (1/18)	Families do not have electricity (1/21)	As in extreme poverty (1/21)
	Sewage	As in extreme poverty (1/18)	There has been no improvement in household sewage in accordance with sustainable development goals, or has been improvement but on the basis of sharing with other families (1/21)	As in extreme poverty (1/21)
	Water	As in extreme poverty (1/18)	The family does not have access to safe potable	There is no water in the house in the pipes of

Indicator	Global Multidimensional Poverty Index	Regional Multidimensional Poverty Index	
		water in accordance with the sustainable development goals, or safe potable water is 30 minutes or more back and forth on foot (1/21)	the house or the courtyard (1/21)
Housing unit floor or ceiling	The floor is composed of sand, dung, dirty things or is composed of (other) components. The ceiling is not considered in the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (1/18)	The floor is composed of mud, sand, dung, dirty things, or the ceiling does not exist or is made of straw, palm leaves or cod (1/21)	The floor is composed of mud, sand, dung, or temporary floor (wood / bamboo / cane / grass / sticks), cement land (no slab or tiles / asphalt strips), or the ceiling does not exist or is made up of straw, palm leaves, cod, mats, palm, bamboo, wooden board or carton (1/21)
Cooking fuel	Cooking depends on dung, wood or coal (1/18)	Family cooking depends on solid fuel: wood, coal, remaining parts of crops or dung or the family does not cook (1/21)	Family cooking depends on solid fuel: wood, coal, remaining parts of crops or dung, or the family does not cook or there is not a separate cooking room (1/21)
Overcrowding within housing unit	Non-existent in Global Multidimensional Poverty Index	Rate of overcrowding (number of family members to bedrooms) 4 or more (1/21)	Rate of overcrowding (number of family members to bedrooms) 3 or more (1/21)
Asset ownership	Families do not own more than one radio, television, telephone, bicycle, motorcycle or cooler, and do not own a car or truck (1/18)	The family does not have access to information or families that do not have access to easy transportation mean and easy livelihood assets (1/21)	The family has less than two assets to obtain information, or families with less than two means of transport and less than two of livelihood assets (1/21)

Source: Arab Report on Multidimensional Poverty, 2017.

Table (M-2): Multidimensional poverty index in relation to child poverty

Dimensions	Extreme Poverty	Poverty	Age
Water	Unimproved water source	There is no water in the house in the pipes of the house or courtyard	All children 0-17
	Distance is more than 30 minutes back and forth		
Sewage	Unimproved toilet facilities	Unimproved toilet facilities	All children 0-17
		Two-sex toilet	
Housing	Primitive floor/primitive beds	Primitive floor/primitive beds	All children 0-17
	Overcrowding (more than 4 persons per room)	Overcrowding (more than 3 persons per room)	
Health	Inadequate delivery assistance (0 - 23 months)	Inadequate delivery assistance (0 - 23 months)	Children 0-4
	Not immune (12 - 59 months)	Totally unimproved (12-59 months)	
		The mother did not receive prenatal health care	
		Infant and young child nutrition (0-23 months)	
Nutrition	Infant and young child nutrition (0-23 months)	Infant and young child nutrition (0-23 months)	Children 0-4
	Emaciation (less than 24 months)	Emaciation (less than 24 months)	
		Stunting (less than 24 months)	
		Obesity (less than 24 months)	
Education	Not enrolled in primary school (children of primary school age)	Not enrolled in school (all ages)	Children 5-17
	Did not complete the primary phase (from the age of the end of the primary phase to 17 years)	Two or more grades less than the appropriate grade or the primary phase was not completed (from the age of the end of primary phase to 17 years)	
Information	No information device or communication device available	No information device available	Children 5-17
		No communication device available	

Note: When analyzing child poverty in this report, a child is considered poor if he is deprived in two or more dimensions of deprivation.

Source: Arab Report on Multidimensional Poverty, 2017.

Table (M-3): Multidimensional poverty index at the urban and rural level

Country	Global	Global	Poor Percentage	Poor Percentage	Deprivatio	Deprivatio	
	Multidimension al Poverty Index Urban	Multidimension al Poverty Index Rural	A (Multidimension al Poverty) Urban	A (Multidimension al Poverty) Rural	n severity H Urban	n severity H Rural	
Countries with high human developme nt	Lebanon	--					
	Algeria	0.004	0.015	1.2%	3.6%	36.6%	40.1%
	Jordan	0.004	0.005	1.3%	1.4%	34.8%	38.3%
	Tunisia	0.001	0.014	0.2%	3.5%	35.1%	40.2%
	Libya	0.007	0.007	2.0%	1.9%	37.0%	37.1%
Countries with moderate human developme nt	Egypt	0.012	0.024	3.4%	6.3%	35.7%	38.2%
	Palestine	0.004	0.005	0.9%	1.3%	38.1%	35.8%
	Iraq	0.036	0.111	9.8%	26.0%	36.9%	42.7%
	Morocco	0.015	0.171	4.0%	36.6%	37.7%	46.7%
Countries with low human developme nt	Syria	0.021	0.039	5.6%	9.5%	36.8%	40.4%
	Mauritania	0.117	0.392	25.6%	73.2%	45.4%	53.5%
	Comoros	0.087	0.224	18.9%	45.8%	46.2%	49.0%
	Sudan	0.122	0.351	26.5%	64.0%	46.1%	54.8%
	Djibouti	0.158	0.480	32.6%	87.2%	48.4%	55.1%
	Yemen	0.075	0.315	17.1%	61.3%	43.6%	51.3%

** Global Multidimensional Poverty Index published by the OPHI (2018)

Table (M-4): Comparison of multidimensional poverty rates of poverty index
(World Bank / \$ 1.90 per day and \$ 3.10 per day)

	Country	Multidimensional Poverty	\$ 1.90 per day	\$ 3.10 per day	National Threshold Scale
Countries with high human development	Lebanon	-	-	-	-
	Algeria	2.1%	0.5%	3.9%	5.5%
	Jordan	1.3%	0.1%	2.1%	14.4%
	Tunisia	1.3%	2.0%	9.1%	20.5%
Countries with moderate human development	Libya	2.0%	--	--	--
	Egypt	5.2%	1.3%	16.1%	27.8%
	Palestine	1.0%	0.2%	3.4%	25.8%
	Iraq	14.7%	2.5%	17.9%	18.9%
	Morocco	18.6%	3.1%	17.0%	8.9%
Countries with low human development	Syria	7.4%	1.7%	15.3%	35.2%
	Mauritania	50.6%	6.0%	24.1%	31.0%
	Comoros	37.4%	18.1%	38.1%	42.0%
	Sudan	52.4%	14.9%	40.5%	46.5%
	Djibouti	34.6%	22.1%	44.6%	23.0%
	Yemen	47.8%	18.8%	52.2%	48.6%

Source: Accounts of Global Multidimensional Poverty Index, published by the OPHI (2018)

World Bank Database (2014)

- Unavailable data

References

I: Arabic References:

- Abushmala, Nawaf, 2018, Role of LAS and Arab and Regional Financial and Economic Institutions in Multidimensional Poverty Reduction Strategy in Arab Countries, unpublished background paper.
- Belkasem, Al-Abbas; Abdel Moulah, Walid, 2018, Proposed Development Model for Addressing Multidimensional Poverty, unpublished background paper.
- World Bank, 2013, Justice and Accountability: Engagement in Health Systems in MENA, Health, Nutrition and Population Sector Strategy (2013-2018).
- UNFPA, Population and Demographic Challenges and Factors and Their Impact on Poverty Situations.
- Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), 2017, Arab Report on Multidimensional Poverty. Beirut.
- GCC Statistical Center, 2018, Report on Progress in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals - 2030 in the GCC: First Report.
- Al-Mogharbel, Nehal, 2018, Arab Strategy for Addressing Multidimensional Poverty: Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System, unpublished background paper.
- Al Manawar, Faisal, 2018, Assessment of Social Policies and Social Safety Networks in the Face of Poverty in Arab Countries, unpublished background paper.
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), FAO Regional Initiative on Small-Scale Family Farming: Strategy for the period 2018-2021.
- Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO), 2018, Challenges Facing Education in Arab Countries and Their Impact on Multidimensional Poverty, Tunisia.

II: English References

International Labour Organization (ILO), 2018, Employment and Inequality in the Arab Region.

League of Arab States and UN-Habitat, 2018, Arab Strategy for Housing and Sustainable Urban Development 2030.

The World Bank, 2008, The Road Not Traveled: Education Reform in the Middle East and Africa, Chapter 9: The Road Ahead, MENA Development Report, Washington, DC.

The World Bank, 2019, The Changing Nature of Work, World Development Report, Washington, DC.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), 2018, Policy Brief: Education Deprivation in the Arab States.

United Nations for United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA), 2018, Poverty in the Arab Region Summary Situation Analysis and Global Strategic Frameworks.

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), 2018, Arab Poverty Strategy: Concept Note.

World Food Program (WFP), 2018, Inputs for the LAS Multidimensional Poverty Framework Exercise.

World Health Organization (WHO), 2018, Draft Thirteenth General Program of Work, 2019-2023, A71/4.

World Health Organization (WHO), 2018, Vision 2023: Eastern Mediterranean Region, Health for All by All.

