AFSD 2022
Arab Forum for Sustainable Development
Recovery and resilience
Forum arabe pour le développement durable
Reprise et résilience
المنتدى العربي للتنمية المستدامة
التعافي والمنعة
15-17 March 2022 — 2022 آذار/مارس 17-15

Special Session 9

Addressing coordination challenges and contemporary statistical data collection methods and resources to enhance data quality for inclusive recovery and SDG Achievement in the Arab region

Thursday 17 March 2022, 11:45 – 13:15 Beirut time

Background and objective

Monitoring and reporting SDG indicators in Arab countries is paramount to the development, implementation and monitoring of policies that leave no one behind. There remain great challenges such as limited data availability, timely dissemination of data and accessibility to data disaggregation especially those from administrative records and data flow to national statistical offices and policy makers. Moreover, based on recent experiences in PHC taking place during the period where the outbreak of COVID 19 has affected operations across statistical systems while having limited resources available for conducting censuses (notably the need to reduce direct contact with respondents), it has become evident that there is a growing interest in using administrative data sources for producing census information.

This special session, organized by UNESCWA and UNFPA, will assess the SDG indicators gaps with emphasis on coordination of the national statistical systems in the Arab region.

It will be followed by a High-level panel to discuss the progress made in conducting population and housing censuses in Arab countries, with special focus on emerging challenges from the pandemic and difficulties encountered in countries in conflict. The panel will advocate for conducting register-based censuses in the 2020 round and promote the use of civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) in the computation of disaggregated SDG indicators. The session will also showcase best practices in the region in shifting from traditional to non-traditional methods of data collection with the aim to increase and improve the availability of SDG indicators.

Questions to be addressed

1. What are the challenges faced by countries in conducting censuses and promoting the use of civil registration, and alternative plans and methodologies in countries going through difficulties?
2. What potential does the use of modern technology and administrative records have in the development of censuses and civil registers and their role in producing SDG indicators?
3. What role do you envisage for the role of international and regional organizations and countries in building statistical capacities in the field of censuses and civil registers in the coming years?

Section I: Moderator

- Dr. Haidar Fraihat, Leader, Statistics, Information Society and Technology Cluster, UN-ESCWA

Section I: Speakers

- Ms. Neda Jafar, Head, Statistical Policies and Coordination Unit, UN-ESCWA

- Mr. Mohamed Saeed Almohannadi, Director of Statistics Department, Planning and Statistics Authority, Qatar

- Ms. Nabila Maachou, Director of Studies, Algerian Accountability Council, Algeria

Section II: Moderator

- Dr. Nabil M. BenShams, Director General, GCC-STAT, Sultanate of Oman

Section II: Panelists

- Dr. Luay Shabaneh, Regional Director for Arab States in UNFPA, Egypt-Cairo office
- Dr. Haidar Fraihat, Leader, Statistics, Information Society and Technology Cluster, UN-ESCWA
- Ms. Sawsan Dawood AL-Lawatia, Director General of the General Directorate of Information, National Center for Statistics and Information, Sultanate of Oman
- Dr. Dhiaa Awad Khadum, Chairman, Central Statistics Organization, Iraq
- Ms. Irena Vojackova-Sollorano, UN Resident Coordinator in Iraq

This Special Session will be organized as a hybrid event, in person in UNESCWA CR II on B1 level and through ZOOM

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