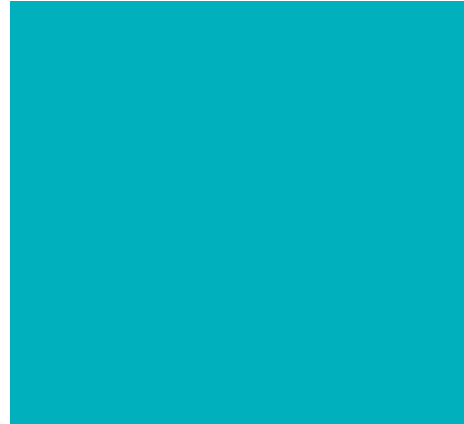


The Arab Millennium Development Goals Report



Facing challenges and looking beyond 2015



United Nations



League of Arab States



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This report is a response to a request by the United Nations General Assembly for a periodic assessment of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It was jointly prepared by the League of Arab States, the United Nations organizations members of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) and the Regional United Nations Development Group for the Arab States, and coordinated by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). The members of the thematic working group on MDGs within RCM are listed below. A number of outside expert advisors and focal points in the ministries of social affairs of the 22 Arab countries also contributed to the report. This publication is based on a set of data compiled by ESCWA in consultation with the member countries of the League of Arab States. Data are drawn from both national and international sources, mainly the United Nations Statistics Division Millennium Development Goals Indicators database.

For a relevant analysis of MDGs, the League of Arab States and the United Nations have agreed on the following regional classification of Arab countries: *the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC)*: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates; *the Least Developed Countries (LDCs)*: the Comoros, Djibouti, Mauritania, Somalia, the Sudan and Yemen; *Maghreb*: Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia; *Mashreq*: Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and the Syrian Arab Republic.

LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES (Social Sector)

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INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

JOINT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

UNITED NATIONS ENTITY FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

The Thematic Working Group gratefully acknowledges the reviews and feedback of Ali Abdel Gader (Research Professor, Doha Institute), Heba El Laithy (Professor, Cairo University) and Ghaith Fariz (Director of the Arab Knowledge Report, United Nations Development Programme) on an earlier draft of this report. The report and related documents including country-level data and the national MDG reports are available from <http://web.escwa.un.org/sites/arabmdg13/>.

Foreword

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – a strong global commitment to human development made by Heads of State and Government in the year 2000 – envisaged a fifteen-year timeframe to achieve ambitious development targets to improve the lives of all. Arab countries reaffirmed their commitment to these goals in resolutions adopted at the Arab developmental summits (Kuwait 2009, Sharm Al-Sheikh 2011 and Riyadh 2013), and through efforts made by the Arab Social Affairs Council and other Arab specialized ministerial councils and organizations.

Today, we are rapidly approaching the MDG endpoint of 2015. Countries in all regions have made great strides towards achieving the goals. In the Arab region, much has been achieved, especially in access to education and health services, but much remains to be done.

The Fourth Arab Report on the Millennium Development Goals 2013 highlights the progress made by Arab countries in achieving MDGs since 1990 and underlines ongoing development challenges which should be addressed in any post-2015 development framework. The report also suggests a new development paradigm beyond 2015.

Development in the Arab region cannot be addressed separately from regional realities. With the continued Israeli occupation of Palestine, the region is suffering from the only remaining occupation in modern history. Conflict and instability in the Arab region also continue to take their toll on economic, social and political life.

This report was prepared during a period marked with significant political and social change. A post-2015 development agenda will only be meaningful if it echoes the rallying calls of millions of Arabs for freedom, dignity and social justice. Notwithstanding the daunting challenges, there are ample reasons for hope. The region has resources and potential, not least of which is the tremendous wealth of youth and will that was recently manifested in the streets. If harnessed properly, this force can be an engine for change to build sound economies and resilient societies and nations.

An inclusive and sustainable post-2015 development agenda should address specific subregional and subnational inequalities. Arab countries have a strong incentive to work towards integration. Less vulnerability to external factors can only be realized through intraregional joint action to face collective challenges. This should be grounded in a strong political will to share both strengths and weaknesses, to minimize burdens and maximize opportunities, to turn contradictions into areas of complementarity and effective integration potentials.

To achieve equitable human development, there must be an inclusive and balanced approach addressing economic, social, environmental and political dimensions. Furthermore, as highlighted by the global United Nations report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, policies and actions have to serve not only the quantitative acceleration of development progress, but also the enhancement of its quality. Any regional post-2015 development agenda must also pay attention to the special needs and circumstances of Arab LDCs.

This report contains detailed information on where the Arab region stands today in terms of achieving MDGs. It is our sincere hope that it will be a useful reference as we look for a better future for all in the Arab region.



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预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

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