Use of SDMX for Reporting on SDGs

Experience of the Arab Region

UNITED NATIONS
الاسكوا
ESCWA

Shared Prosperity Dignified Life

9th SDMX Global Conference

Manama – Bahrain

Rabih El Habta / Economist & Data Analyst / UN ESCWA

October 31, 2023

Introduction

- ESCWA established and developed National Reporting Platforms (NRP) dedicated to tracking progress towards the SDGs at the national levels (7th Executive Committee – Recommendation B), in 2020.

- Monitoring the progress towards the 2030 Agenda, requires having access to:
  - Up to date data at the time of its dissemination → increase data availability
  - Comparable data that uses the same standard metadata → improve data quality

Improving Data Availability

- To improve the data availability in the Arab region, ESCWA established:
  - National SDG Teams
    - Each team includes at least one SDG expert statistician and at least one Information Technology Officer
    - 16 Teams are established from: Algeria, Bahrain, Iraq, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Kuwait, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen

Main Challenges and ESCWA Strategy

- Main Challenges:
  - ➢ Different levels of SDMX knowledge
  - ➢ Lack of resources (in terms of training & applied exercises for SDGs) and mechanism to exchange data with ESCWA immediately.
- To address these challenges, ESCWA's strategy emphasizes the importance of data quality assurance, including data validation, metadata management, and data archiving.
- ESCWA Strategy is based on 3 pillars, providing:
  - ➢ Capacity Building
  - ➢ Technical Assistance
  - ➢ Data Exchange Mechanisms

To bridge the knowledge gap

Pillars of ESCWA Strategy

Regional Trainings Capacity building

Providing Regional SDMX workshops since June 2020.

Holding at least 1-2 regional workshops every year.

The workshops covered basic and advanced SDMX topics and applications.

Technical Assistance – customized trainings

Providing customized training upon countries' request

Providing resources, and applied exercises by level of SDMX knowledge

Delivered customized trainings and crash courses for Palestine, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, and Yemen.

Data Exchange Mechanism

ESCWA developed its SDMX Converter to facilitate the exchange and the update of the NRP.

The Converter is always up to date with the latest release of SDG DSD.

The converter can be used for non-SDG data as well, completed in Dec. 2022.

Focus and Outcomes of ESCWA Strategy

The strategy focuses on:

- Strengthening national statistical systems (NSS)
- Promoting data innovation and enhancing data dissemination

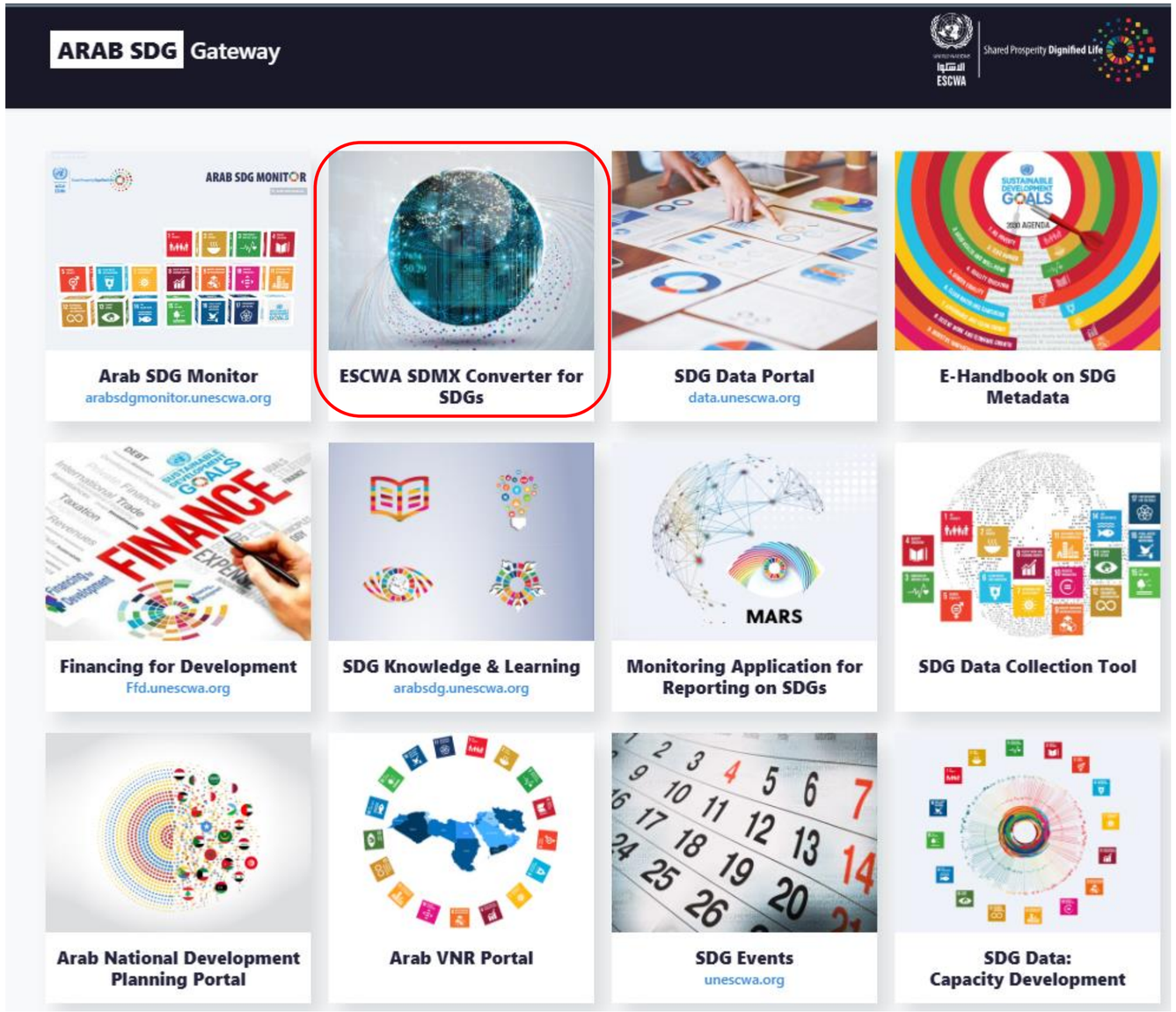
By doing so, ESCWA ensured that quality data is available for monitoring progress towards the SDGs:

- Direct result, 15 Arab countries have successfully used the ESCWA SDMX converter to exchange and update data directly into the National Reporting Platforms
- Ensure that the data used for SDG monitoring is accurate, reliable, and comparable

Upcoming plans

- Establish National teams for all Arab countries
- 6 more Arab countries will use the ESCWA SDMX Converter to update their NRP
- Upcoming Advanced workshops
- Upcoming SDMX guidelines and manual
- Enhance the features and coverage of the ESCWA SDMX Converter:
  - VTL for SDG Data Sources Validation
  - APIs
  - Upgrade to SDMX 3.0
  - Exchange of Regional Averages with Custodian Agencies

ESCWA SDMX Converter for SDGs



https://arabsdggateway.unescwa.org/

https://datacatalog.unescwa.org/sdmx/converter

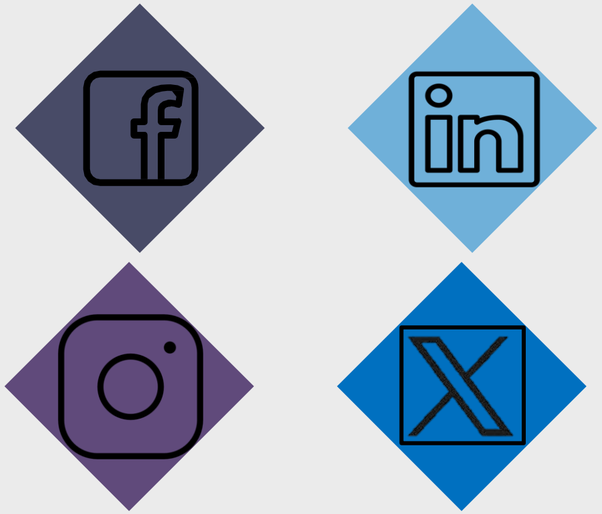
Conclusion

- ESCWA's strategy for strengthening national SDG data teams is a critical step towards achieving the SDGs.

- By enhancing data availability and quality, countries will be better equipped to monitor progress, identify gaps, and make evidence-based decisions to accelerate SDG implementation.

UNITED NATIONS
الاسكوا
ESCWA

Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



https://www.unescwa.org/

https://arabsdggateway.unescwa.org/

Thank you for your attention!

Questions?

شكراً لكم على إهتمامكم

أسئلة؟