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**Regional programme document for Arab States
(2022-2025)**

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I. Programme rationale

1. The Arab States region comprises 22 countries,¹ including high, middle-income², and least developed³ (LDC) countries, some of which are conflict-affected. Within this diversity, the Arab States share some similar development challenges as well as social and cultural ties. UNDP presence in most Arab countries, and its trusted relationships with national and regional institutions, place this regional programme in a unique position to add value to UNDP work at country level, by leveraging regional approaches guided by UNDP regionality principles⁴ to address regional and cross-border challenges, while responding to diverse subregional needs.

2. Since 2015, the Arab States have been committed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, increasing their efforts to align national planning priorities to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (the Goals) and establishing integrated national financing frameworks.⁵ Voluntary national reviews⁶ prepared by Arab countries to track progress against the Goals identify challenges around economic diversification, youth empowerment, gender equality, sustainable management of natural resources, climate change, and regional stability. Data quality and coverage remain barriers to monitoring the Goals and mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda into national and subnational strategies and policies.⁷ In 2016, the League of Arab States established a department for sustainable development to foster regional cooperation for the 2030 Agenda.

3. While the Arab States have made advances on the human development index (HDI), significant variations remain, ranging from a score of 0.890 in the United Arab Emirates to 0.470 in Yemen, and conflict-affected countries have seen their HDI dropping.⁸ The region continues to confront multiple inter-related challenges of rising inequalities, social tensions, and climate impacts. The COVID-19 pandemic further increased socioeconomic vulnerabilities, underscoring the urgency to shape more robust development pathways.

Socioeconomic vulnerability: rising poverty and inequalities of opportunities

4. Economic exclusion of vulnerable groups and inequalities in living standards are accompanied by slow economic growth and inadequate social safety-nets in some countries. Prior to the pandemic, 6.7 per cent of the regional population lived below the \$1.90/day international poverty line, which was projected to decrease in most countries by 2030.⁹ In conflict-affected countries, however, poverty has been on the rise since 2010. Additionally, up to 14.3 million people in the Arab States are estimated to have fallen into poverty in 2020 due to the impact of COVID-19, which could be aggravated by unequal access to vaccines.¹⁰

5. Demographic dynamics show the youth population doubled since the 1980s, with 66 per cent younger than 35 in 2019.¹¹ Yet, most Arab economies remain unable to absorb the growing workforce because of weak competitiveness and productivity, insufficient economic diversification, and over-reliance on petroleum, rents, and investment in real estate and services. Unemployment is double the world average and increased from 10.2 per cent in 2019 to 11.5 per cent in 2020, due to COVID-19-related business closures, lockdowns, and losses

¹ As per UNDP regional distribution, the Arab states region includes 20 of the 22 countries belonging to the League of Arab States. Mauritania and Comoros are included in the Regional Bureau for Africa

² World Bank list of economies (June 2020)

³ Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen [LDCs at a Glance | Department of Economic and Social Affairs](#)

⁴ UNDP regionality principles include: (a) promotion of regional public goods (b) management of cross-border externalities and spill overs; (c) dialogue and action on sensitive and/or emerging issues; (d) innovation; and (e) generation and sharing of development knowledge.

⁵ <https://inff.org/country-experiences>

⁶ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), [Voluntary National Reviews](#)

⁷ UNDP, 2020, Inclusive Citizenship and the Data Imperative in Arab Countries, [Arab Human Development Report Research Paper](#)

⁸ UNDP, Human Development Report (HDR) 2020

⁹ UNESCWA, [Arab Sustainable Development Report 2020](#)

¹⁰ UNESCWA, 2020, Impact of COVID-19 on Money Metric Poverty in Arab Countries. Estimates from national poverty lines in 14 countries.

¹¹ UNDESA, [World Population Prospects 2019](#).

in critical sectors.¹² Informal employment ranges from 45 per cent to over 75 per cent of total employment.¹³ Youth unemployment at 26.1 per cent is the highest in the world, and 86 per cent of working youth are in the informal economy.¹⁴ This is due to weak job creation, limited access to finance, and a mismatch between skills demanded by the labour market and those provided by the education system. The differential in labour force participation of young men and women in the Arab States is twice the global average with only 8.3 per cent of young women joining the ranks of those employed.¹⁵

6. Despite remarkable advances in girls' school enrolment and educational achievements,¹⁶ female labour force participation remains at 20.3 per cent, 3.5 times lower than males and less than half the world average. At the same time, female unemployment is 20 per cent, three times the world average.¹⁷ Discriminatory norms and disproportionate engagement in unpaid care work limit women's agency, mobility, and access to economic resources.¹⁸

7. Socioeconomic exclusion also affects low-income migrant workers, who make up 20 per cent of all workers in the region and who suffered job losses and limited access to services during the pandemic.¹⁹ Spatial inequalities persist, with 25.8 per cent of rural populations multidimensionally poor, compared to 5.8 per cent in urban areas.²⁰ While recent social insurance reforms have been enacted in some countries, social protection mechanisms often inadequately cover the most vulnerable such as informal workers, the unemployed, and persons with disabilities.²¹

8. Multiple protracted conflicts in the region have caused destruction of basic infrastructure, disruption of social services, exacerbation of poverty, and increased sexual and gender-based violence,²² affecting 159 million living in conflict-affected countries, including more than 17.8 million internally displaced people, 9.3 million refugees, and their host communities.²³

9. Trade and regional economic integration have the potential to boost inclusive growth and economic diversification, but the share of intra-Arab trade is only 12.2 per cent, compared to 22 per cent in Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries which are better integrated in global markets.²⁴ Limited regional economic cooperation, persistence of conflicts, and exposure to oil price shocks affect business confidence, private sector engagement, and the inflow of investment.²⁵

10. Digital technologies have the potential to facilitate business operational efficiency, innovation, access to markets and finance, and employment opportunities for women and youth.²⁶ However, as of 2019, just over half the population used the Internet, with wide variations between and within countries, including considerable digital gaps related to gender, underserved areas, refugees, internally displaced persons, and persons living with disabilities.²⁷

Sociopolitical vulnerabilities and governance deficits

11. Despite drops in war casualties and deaths from terrorism since 2018,²⁸ the Arab States region continues to face the interlinked socioeconomic vulnerabilities, perceptions of

¹² International Labour Organization (ILO), ILOSTAT 2020.

¹³ United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA), 2020, *Arab Sustainable Development Report 2020*.

¹⁴ ILO "Global Employment Trends for Youth 2020: Arab States".

¹⁵ ILO, 2018, "World Youth Report: Youth and the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development".

¹⁶ The World Bank, World Development Indicators.

¹⁷ ILO, ILOSTAT 2020.

¹⁸ UNESCWA, 2020, *Arab Sustainable Development Report 2020*.

¹⁹ ILO, 2021, "Global Estimates on International Migrant Workers – Results and Methodology. 3rd ed.

²⁰ UNDP and Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), 2020, Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2020.

²¹ UNESCWA, 2020, *Arab Sustainable Development Report 2020*.

²² Institute for Economics and Peace, 2020, [Global Peace Index 2020](#).

²³ World Bank, World Development Indicators and Global Internal Displacement Database.

²⁴ The Unified Arab Economic Report, Arab Monetary Fund, 2020 and ASEAN Yearbook, 2020

²⁵ UNESCWA, 2017, "Transport and Connectivity to Global Value Chains: Illustrations from the Arab Region".

²⁶ UNESCWA, 2019, "Digital Technologies for Development".

²⁷ International Telecommunications Union (ITU), 2019, "Measuring Digital Development Facts and Figures".

²⁸ Institute for Economics and Peace, 2019, [Global Terrorism Index](#).

corruption, and inequality of opportunities, which ignited the 2011 uprisings. Violent extremist groups have exploited conflicts, instability, governance failures, and the frustration and marginalization of youth, to radicalize and recruit.

12. A 5 per cent improvement on the Transparency International corruption perception index since 2016 points to some gains in tackling corruption and promoting transparency. Further improvement is needed, as the region scored 34.5 out of 100 in 2020, compared to a global average of 43.6.²⁹ Despite reforms in some Arab States, perception surveys reveal weak trust in public institutions' capacities to deal with political, economic, social, demographic, and environmental pressures.³⁰ Rule of law and electoral participation, essential for renewed social contracts that respond to people's needs, are declining in the region.³¹ Voter turnout declined from 50 per cent in 2012-2014 to 37 per cent in 2019-2021.³²

13. Several countries enacted gender legislation reforms, removing legal provisions that discriminate against women and girls and introducing new laws that provide them greater protections.³³ Measures to foster women's political representation resulted in the proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments to increase to 19.3 per cent, which remains below the global average of 25.6.³⁴ There is some awareness of the differentiated impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on men and women, with almost half the countries implementing measures to address violence against women; however, only 17 per cent of adopted economic and social protection response measures were gender-sensitive.³⁵ Despite advances, in 2019 the region scored second lowest, just better than South Asia on the gender development index (0.856), and second following Sub-Saharan Africa on the gender inequality index (0.518).³⁶

Environmental vulnerability and growing resource insecurity

14. Development challenges are exacerbated by increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, due to climate change, and scarce and fragile natural resources.³⁷ Population growth (1.9 per cent yearly since 2015)³⁸ and urbanization (70 per cent of the population will reside in urban areas by 2050)³⁹ will place additional strain on natural resources, as rising temperatures decrease crop yields, impacting rural livelihoods and increasing dependency on food imports. It is estimated that 1.7 million people in the region were displaced by natural disasters in 2020 alone.⁴⁰

15. Arab States are the worst off in terms of physical water stress, possessing only 1 per cent of the world's total renewable freshwater resources,⁴¹ which have decreased by two thirds during the last 40 years and are expected to further decline by 50 per cent by 2050.⁴² Competition over resources, especially transboundary waters, is a source of tension and the benefits of basin-wide cooperation among riparian countries should be enhanced.⁴³ Opportunities exist to optimize water resources efficiency at the regional level, such as through water-food-energy nexus solutions to improve management of scarce resources.⁴⁴

²⁹ Transparency International, 2020, [Corruption Perception Index](#).

³⁰ [Arab Barometer](#).

³¹ World Justice Project Rule of Law Index for 2021.

³² [International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance](#).

³³ UNDP, 2019, [Gender Justice and Equality before the Law](#)

³⁴ The Interparliamentary Union and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), *Women in Politics 2021*.

³⁵ [UNDP, COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker](#).

³⁶ UNDP, *Human Development Report 2020: The Next Frontier: Human Development and the Anthropocene*.

³⁷ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report, "[Climate Change and Land](#)".

³⁸ United Nations Population Division, 2017.

³⁹ United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), *World Urbanization Prospects, 2018*.

⁴⁰ Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, "[Global Report on Internal Displacement 2021](#)".

⁴¹ World Resource Institute, 2019, [Aqueduct Water Risk Atlas](#).

⁴² The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Near East and North Africa's [Water Scarcity Initiative](#).

⁴³ World Bank and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural organization (UNESCO), 2010, "[Sharing Water, Sharing Benefits: Working towards Effective Transboundary Waters Management](#)".

⁴⁴ United Nations, 2021, "[Solutions and Investments in the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus Solutions: A Synthesis of Experiences in Transboundary Basins](#)".

16. The region has made progress in climate change mitigation and adaptation:⁴⁵ 18 countries have ratified the Paris Agreement⁴⁶ and 19 countries⁴⁷ have submitted their intended nationally determined contributions to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).⁴⁸ However, the pace of progress needs to accelerate to address the mentioned human security risks.

17. Economic and demographic growth have increased energy demand over recent decades.⁴⁹ Thanks to gradual progress in national sustainability policies, solar and wind power production increased ten-fold since 2008. However, fossil fuels still account for 94 per cent, and renewables just 6 per cent, of total electricity production.⁵⁰ The transition to clean energy needs to be stepped up, but for oil producing countries, this implies substantial economic costs, and policies such as the removal of fossil fuel subsidies risk impacting vulnerable communities whose livelihoods might depend on them. Despite progress in universalizing access to electricity, more than 45 million people, mostly concentrated in conflict-affected and rural areas, remain underserved.⁵¹ Inadequate access to energy affects wider socioeconomic progress, limiting universal access to basic services, and opportunities for productive uses of energy.⁵²

Outcome level results and comparative advantage

18. Throughout the regional programme cycle, 2018-2021, UNDP sought to advance the regional agenda on, among other areas, anti-corruption and integrity, climate action for human security, regional economic integration, and women and youth empowerment.

19. The programme developed the capabilities of regional, national, and local actors, as well as youth and women, to take part in development debates through platforms for knowledge-sharing and peer-learning. Some progress in identifying policy and legislative gaps that fostered opacity and impunity spurred new or revised anti-corruption and transparency measures.⁵³

20. While overall gains in intraregional trade have been modest, the programme strengthened capacities for the Pan-Arab Free Trade Area and the Arab Agreement in Trade in Services. Support was also provided for digitalization of countries' customs administrations for trade facilitation, reducing time and costs of clearance procedures.

21. UNDP has engaged with and supported cross-country networks, amplified advocacy, and facilitated South-South and triangular cooperation and knowledge sharing for the achievement of the Goals. Recognizing the connection between responsive policymaking and data availability, UNDP fostered research and dialogue on topics such as inclusion, gender equality, human development, and violent extremism and polarization as drivers of conflict.

22. Independent evaluations⁵⁴ recognized the regional programme's comparative advantage in complementing UNDP country programmes and increasing country offices' capacity to expand into new programmatic areas and raise additional resources. The findings highlight the regional programme's ability to bring expertise and evidence-based thinking and research into the policy discourse, and its credibility to convene stakeholders on platforms where countries can work together on shared challenges and multidimensional risks. They also emphasized the crucial partnership built with the League of Arab States, which provides

⁴⁵ UNDP, 2020, "20 Insights on Nationally Determined Contributions in 2020".

⁴⁶ Libya and Yemen have signed but not ratified the Paris Agreement.

⁴⁷ Except for Libya.

⁴⁸ UNFCCC, [Nationally Determined Contributions Registry](#).

⁴⁹ UNESCWA, 2019, [Energy Vulnerability in the Arab Region](#).

⁵⁰ Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE) and UNDP, 2019, Arab Future Energy Index 2019.

⁵¹ World Bank, World Development Indicators.

⁵² Center for Strategic and International Studies, 2021, "Sustainable States: Environment, Governance, and the Future of the Middle East".

⁵³ [Regional Project on Anti-Corruption and Integrity in the Arab Countries](#).

⁵⁴ Regional Programme, 2018-2021, "Outcome 2 Evaluation", "Arab Knowledge Project (2016-2019) Evaluation", "Impact Evaluation of the Regional Electoral Support for Middle East North Africa (2014-2021)".

political space to engage with Governments on sensitive issues, and the well-received support to national statistical offices in operationalizing Sustainable Development Goals monitoring.

23. The evaluations call for greater efforts to: (a) enhance the strategic ‘whole-of-development’ engagement with the League of Arab States, and create synergies among sectoral interventions; (b) develop an analytical framework for a digitalization strategy that prioritizes impact on the poor and marginalized; (c) in collaboration with other United Nations entities, support capacity of regional institutions to promote gender issues; and (d) expand collaboration with United Nations entities, in particular with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (UNESCWA) on data and Sustainable Development Goals monitoring. The evaluation of UNDP youth work by the Independent Evaluation Office recommends integrating capacity development for youth with upstream policy work and private sector engagement to scale up opportunities for youth.⁵⁵

24. The new regional programme is based on a forward-looking consultative design that has involved UNDP experts, regional institutions, donors, academia, civil society representatives, including youth and persons living with disabilities from the region, and United Nations entities.⁵⁶ New proposed initiatives consider evolving dynamics in the region, the need to address persistent challenges, and opportunities from innovative solutions to replace interventions that have yielded limited results. UNDP will use its convening power to support regional networks to facilitate policy dialogues and new partnerships, offering evidence-based solutions at scale. The programme will rely on the UNDP global knowledge architecture, featuring cross-sectoral capacities and systems, with a strong emphasis on green and digital transformation, innovation, and finance.

25. Regional efforts elevate shared issues, enabling dialogue on complex challenges that can be better addressed through regional cooperation, partnerships, and knowledge exchanges. This scale of action promotes a regional perspective to advance green and inclusive structural transformation, enhance resilience to future shocks, and leave no one behind. Integrated approaches will connect poverty reduction to sustainable resource management and promote regional economic cooperation, stabilization, and peacebuilding. As a whole-of-society approach is necessary for integrated responses to persistent and cross-cutting challenges, engaging civil society and the private sector will be crucial to fostering investment and improved business practices for the achievement of the Goals.

II. Programme priorities and partnerships

26. Responding to the complexity of the challenges outlined above, the regional programme is aligned with the UNDP Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, and its six signature solutions: poverty and inequality; governance; resilience; energy; environment; and gender. The identified priorities inform four outcomes on: poverty and inequality; governance and resilience; water, energy, and environment; and gender and youth empowerment. The three enablers of the UNDP Strategic Plan – innovation, digital transformation, and financing – will be cross-cutting elements.

A. Poverty and inequality reduced through enhanced regional cooperation

27. UNDP will assist partners in advancing regional cooperation and policy dialogue on pro-poor, inclusive and sustainable growth. This will require system-wide transformation, linking regional economic integration, knowledge-based economy, and digital transformation for sustainable livelihoods and inclusive employment opportunities. UNDP, in collaboration with UNESCWA, will support the capacity of regional, national, and local stakeholders to track progress on and plan for the Goals, including through social expenditure allocations, integrated national financing frameworks, and Sustainable Development Goals finance opportunities.

⁵⁵ UNDP Independent Evaluation Office, “Evaluation of UNDP Support to Youth Economic Empowerment”, October 2021.

⁵⁶ The process included a theory of change exercise, a series of online regional consultations, and a discussion forum on Sparkblue (June-August 2021).

28. To help address vulnerabilities exacerbated by protracted crises and COVID-19, in partnership with, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Labour Organization (ILO), UNESCWA and others, UNDP will strengthen platforms aimed at transforming social protection systems and social safety nets, and ensuring gender sensitivity and coverage for those within the informal economy (**Goals 1 and 10**).

29. The pandemic demonstrated that digital skills and tools are key enablers to increase access to information, services, finance, markets, and networks. UNDP will therefore support regional and national institutions' collaboration with the private sector to create an enabling environment for digital entrepreneurship and finance, reducing the digital divide and gender divide and closing skills gaps in 'advanced capabilities'.

30. Development finance will enable countries to align their finance strategies, policies and budgets to the Goals and the Paris Agreement, and mobilize domestic and international, public, and private resources via innovative finance instruments and tax policies leveraging capital. The programme will support Governments and the private sector to work better together and enable country exchanges to scale up innovative financing instruments. Models for local economic development involving unlocking public and private financing to transition out of poverty will be explored with United Nations Capital Development Fund and others.

31. Modern trade instruments and infrastructure can foster integration in global value chains, economic diversification, and more inclusive and sustainable economic opportunities. The regional programme will promote regional economic integration through trade (**Goals 1, 9 and 17**), supporting national, regional, and subregional institutions to modernize policies, processes, and practices. In collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the World Customs Organization (WCO), ESCWA, the League of Arab States, the Union for the Mediterranean, and the private sector, UNDP will foster access to markets, cross-border trade corridors, and integrated value chains to generate inclusive economic opportunities in the formal sector. Cross-border opportunities to generate viable livelihoods through sustainable, inclusive, and resilient food systems and services will also be explored.

B. Governance accountability increased to foster more resilient communities

32. The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that whole-of-society approaches are crucial to build resilience and responsive governance is needed to protect the vulnerable in times of crisis and build forward better. The programme will promote accountable institutions for inclusive governance by strengthening capacities to respond to protracted crises, curb poverty and inequality, and sustainably manage natural resources.

33. Accountability mechanisms, and transparent and responsible institutions can close the gap between policy and implementation, thus helping to increase accountability. The regional programme will introduce a forward-looking perspective on how governmental institutions and non-governmental actors at regional, national, and local levels can cooperate to counteract fragilities by responding to citizens' needs and aspirations. UNDP will support the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, helping public administrations be more inclusive and capable of efficiently delivering equitable services, through corruption prevention and risk management solutions that open opportunities for all (**Goal 16**). UNDP will build on past cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Bank, and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to expand the circle of anti-corruption stakeholders, engaging businesses around sector-specific interventions for initiatives at scale.

34. UNDP will support regional youth, women, and civil society networks in fostering participatory governance, enhancing exchange of information between institutions and citizens, and creating platforms to involve the public in debates about necessary reforms, thus enhancing trust in institutions (**Goals 5, 10 and 16**). The cross-fertilization of experiences from within Arab countries and other regions will help stakeholders to develop Sustainable Development Goals solutions tailored to local needs. This will be facilitated by digital

solutions that foster citizens' inclusion in civic space and enhance national e-governance capacities for institutions to work with advanced technologies, and promote digital access for all, while ensuring cyber security and respect for citizens' privacy.

35. Fair and inclusive elections are also vital for accountable state authorities and to ensure the voice of all citizens is heard and represented. In collaboration with the United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA), the regional programme will promote the sharing of good practices in electoral management and develop the capacities of stakeholders such as national human rights institutions to monitor elections and guarantee the inclusiveness of reform processes.

36. The impact of forced displacement on both sending and receiving communities is a major legacy of crisis affecting the region. Regional partnerships will foster an approach to human mobility that responds to the development drivers and consequences of migration and displacement. The regional implications of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees will be considered.

37. Promoting inclusive governance will help to rebuild social cohesion where trust in institutions has been weakened, and it will complement regional humanitarian-development-peace nexus initiatives. In this context, UNDP will tackle key drivers of conflict by strengthening the resilience of communities with a gender-sensitive lens through infrastructure rehabilitation, improved social safety nets, and climate-resilient livelihood opportunities, including for displaced and their host communities. This will tap the consolidated partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other humanitarian and development actors under the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan.

38. To keep abreast of the impact of regional and global volatility, UNDP will strengthen early warning and early action, collaborating with the United Nations Development Coordination Office (DCO), DPPA and UNESCWA on conflict monitoring and conflict sensitivity. A regional approach to conflict prevention, peacebuilding and insider mediation will be implemented, in collaboration with national stakeholders. Mindful of subregional and cross-border contexts, the programme will cooperate across regional boundaries to expand capacities to tackle spillovers of violent extremism (**Goals 10, 11, 16**).

C. Impact of climate change reduced, sound water management promoted, and access to sustainable energy improved

39. Given the role of climate change in exacerbating development challenges and risks, UNDP will work on the interface between climate change, the Goals, and crises through transformative green solutions (**Goals 1, 6, 13, 14 and 15**). Applying a portfolio approach that builds synergies with vertical funds' initiatives implemented in and across the region, UNDP will spearhead sustainable solutions by leveraging policy engagement and multi-stakeholder partnerships to enable Arab States to access public and private climate financing, transition to climate resilient, sustainable energy pathways, and cooperate for the sound management of ecosystems and scarce water resources.

40. The established regional cooperation with civil society and national partners on biodiversity conservation will be expanded to support ecosystem restoration and food security. Building on ongoing regional cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Food and Agriculture Organization for the United Nations (FAO) and others, UNDP will develop regional capacities for transboundary water resources management and promote dialogue to prevent conflict and greater sharing of benefits (**Goals 2, 6, 14, 15**). The water-food-energy nexus issues will be explored to address interconnected problems of water and food security as well as energy needs.

41. The established partnership with the League of Arab States, the Arab Water Council (AWC), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Finance Initiative, the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat), WFP and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) will progressively expand to other stakeholders, including the engagement of the private sector. The focus will be on mainstreaming local, national, and

transboundary action on climate resilience. This will help countries to uplift development and recovery initiatives with green and climate-resilient models that prioritize the mitigation of risks for the poorest populations, including rural women, refugees, and the displaced.

42. A related priority will be to support transition to low-carbon, sustainable energy solutions (**Goals 7, 11 and 13**). UNDP, in partnership with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE), and through United Nations Energy and Sustainable Energy for All will scale up efforts towards a green recovery that empowers those most in need, including the implementation of the Arab Sustainable Energy Strategy, 2020-2030, enacted by the League of Arab States and goals under the affiliated Pan-Arab Clean Energy Initiative. The focus will be on de-risking small to medium sustainable energy investments in collaboration with Development Financial Institutions to close the energy gap faced by poor and displaced communities, while advancing women's empowerment through decentralized sustainable energy solutions.

D. Women and youth empowered for a more inclusive and sustainable future

43. The 'leave no one behind' principle will be applied across the four regional outcomes and pursued through dedicated interventions. To this end, the programme will include gender analysis across the outcomes and focus targeted initiatives on women, given the significant gender gap in the region. In addition, in line with the United Nations Strategy for Youth – Youth 2030: Working with and for Young People – youth will be key partners in ensuring the inclusion of the youth population in the achievement of Goals. UNDP will also work with organizations representing persons living with disabilities to help embed their perspectives in development initiatives.

44. In partnership with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), UNFPA and UNESCWA, UNDP will maintain its focus on advancing gender justice through promoting and enforcing women's civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights (**Goal 5**). While advocating for women's increased participation in decision-making at all levels and in all relevant sectors, collaboration with regional and country level initiatives and other United Nations entities will be leveraged. Women's economic empowerment will be promoted with opportunities for increasing access to economic assets, services, business opportunities, employment, and finance, while addressing unpaid care work (**Goals 5, 8, and 10**).

45. UNDP will work on integrated approaches to: strengthen enabling regulatory environments for green job-rich growth; promote youth access to finance and entrepreneurship, including social entrepreneurship; and develop twenty-first century skills through new collaborations between Governments, educational institutions, and the private sector (**Goals 4, 8, and 9**). UNDP will help in addressing the mismatch between labour supply and demand to help youth access decent livelihood opportunities and green jobs in productive and sustainable sectors outside the exploitative dynamics of the informal economy, contributing to enhanced capacities of women and youth-owned micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). This will include targeted strategies for young women's economic empowerment. In partnership with ILO and UNICEF, UNDP will contribute to enhancing education systems and tackling challenges in digital delivery and alternative learning to engage the hardest to reach.

An ambition commensurate to resources

46. These development achievements need robust partnerships and adequate resources. Besides the partners identified to deliver each initiative, the programme will leverage United Nations joint collaborative platforms at the regional level through engagement in issues-based coalitions, promoting cooperation and complementarity with other United Nations entities. Regional and subregional initiatives will link with UNDP and partners' work in other regions. The interconnectedness of the Arab States region with wider regional groupings such as the African Union and the Union for the Mediterranean offers opportunities for wider collaboration. Similarly, experiences in middle-income countries and post-conflict settings provide common areas of interest with Latin America and Asia and the Pacific.

47. UNDP will strengthen and diversify its engagement with regional funding partners, including bilateral traditional and emerging donors, Arab institutions, and the private sector. New models for resourcing, including Islamic finance, will be explored together ensuring complementarity and avoiding competing with country offices.

III. Programme and risk management

48. This regional programme document outlines the UNDP contribution to regional results and serves as the primary unit of accountability to the Executive Board for results alignment and use of resources. Accountabilities at the country, regional and headquarters levels with respect to regional programmes are prescribed in the organization's programme and operations policies and procedures and the internal control framework.

49. The Director of the Regional Bureau for Arab States will exercise oversight and accountability for the implementation of the regional programme, in line with its organizational structure. A Regional Hub Advisory Board, consisting of resident representatives from the region and senior management from central bureaux, will provide overall guidance and quality assurance to the regional programme and help monitoring risks. Regional appraisal committees and project boards will oversee project design and implementation, while quality assurance will be conducted through UNDP corporate tools. A dedicated management team, integrated within the regional hub and relying on its policy teams, will ensure programme management and oversight.

50. The regional programme will be implemented through regional projects under the direct implementation modality, and will contribute to global or country initiatives where a regional dimension can add value. Projects will be designed and implemented leveraging the expertise of the UNDP Global Policy Network, in cooperation with regional institutions, UNDP country offices, and donors. Projects will be increasingly aligned within portfolios comprising short, medium, and long-term efforts and leverage linkages across global, regional, and country interventions. Communication efforts will expand data literacy among the public, leverage multi-media platforms to reach broader audiences, and raise awareness on issues related to the achievement of the Goals, including through regional and international events for targeted outreach.

51. Should resource mobilization efforts fall short, or unexpected events jeopardize planned delivery, UNDP will review and reprioritize the activities of the regional programme. Allocated core funding will be prioritized for innovation and rapid responses when needed.

52. Identified programmatic risks are related to potential political disruptions at the national level and in cross-country cooperation, also linked to the effects of protracted conflicts, which might jeopardize medium to longer-term engagement. Unforeseen global or regional shocks, as experienced with the COVID-19 pandemic, might affect the financing environment and require sudden adaptation of working modalities and delivery tools. Evolving dynamics may result in changes in global, regional, and national priorities and gradual shifts in cultural norms, with implications for the human rights of vulnerable groups, women's political and economic empowerment, and efforts to keep the needed pace for climate action. Without a shift to regenerating approaches, the depletion of natural resources further undermines the creation of viable livelihoods. Risks will be monitored through dedicated analytical tools and corrective action will be undertaken whenever necessary to maintain programmatic responsiveness and impact. The theory of change will be adjusted as risks morph into actual threats or opportunities. To minimize risk exposure for communities and the environment, the regional programme will apply UNDP social and environmental screening procedures.

53. The harmonized approach to cash transfers will be used to manage financial risks when involving responsible parties in the implementation of regional projects. In accordance with Executive Board decision 2013/32 all cost definitions and classifications for programme and development effectiveness will be charged to the concerned projects.

IV. Monitoring and evaluation

54. The Regional Bureau for Arab States will ensure that projects and initiatives under the regional programme have a sound monitoring and evaluation system in place, according to the programming arrangements set out in the guidelines of the UNDP programme and operations policies and procedures. A Management Support Unit will provide technical guidance and support in monitoring and evaluation, including tracking progress against outcome and output indicators in the results framework, and quality assurance of annual results planning, monitoring, and reporting to ensure coherence, corporate compliance, and accountability to donors and partners.

55. The evaluation plan for the four-year period is guided by the revised edition of the evaluation guidelines of June 2021. It will include one mid-term review and one final programme evaluation that will assess contributions towards the four outcomes. Regional projects will be evaluated as agreed with partners and donors in the project documents to ensure accountability and derive knowledge and lessons learned that can inform the entire programme cycle. Adequate funding will be dedicated to evaluations, as per the attached costed evaluation plan.

56. The regional programme will use the UNDP gender marker to improve gender-sensitive planning, as well as monitor results and expenditures for achieving greater accountability. Gender analysis will inform all projects and interventions to ensure positive contributions to gender equality.

57. The results and resources framework is linked to the UNDP Strategic Plan, 2022-2025, integrated results and resources framework to capture the contributions of the regional programme in a clear and systematized manner. A corporate SDG tracking tool also links programme results to Sustainable Development Goals targets and indicators to track contributions to achievements of the Goals. Considering the gaps in official data sources from the region, a focus on research and data collection will be important for monitoring development trends, tracking Sustainable Development Goals progress, and identifying needs and priorities. Whenever possible, to ensure quality and comparability, internationally standardized data sources will be used to monitor results and resources framework outcome indicators and related Sustainable Development Goals indicators, also liaising with UNESCWA, while project teams will be responsible for collecting data for output indicators. Regular monitoring of indicators will enable stakeholders to identify intervention-related successes and gaps and make corrective actions that are evidence-based.

Annex. Results and resources framework

Related Sustainable Development Goals: 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 16, 17.				
REGIONAL PROGRAMME OUTCOME 1: Poverty and inequality reduced through enhanced regional cooperation.				
RELATED STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME 1: Structural transformation accelerated, particularly green, inclusive, and digital transitions. OUTCOME 2: No one left behind, equitable access to opportunities and a rights-based approach to human agency and human development.				
Outcome indicator(s), baselines, target(s)	Data source and frequency of data collection, and responsibilities	Indicative regional programme outputs (baselines 2021, targets 2025)	Major partners/partnerships frameworks	Indicative resources by outcome (United States dollars)
<p>Indicator: Number of countries that have national statistical legislation that complies with the fundamental principles of official statistics (Goal 17.18.2) Baseline (2020): 13</p> <p>Indicator: Human development index (HDI) Baseline (2019): 0.705</p> <p>Indicator: Percentage of Arab trade that is intra-regional Baseline: 12.2 (2019)</p>	<p>Data source: Global Sustainable Development Goals indicators database <i>Frequency:</i> Annual <i>Responsibilities:</i> PARIS21</p> <p>Data source: UNDP Human Development Report Office (HDRO) <i>Frequency:</i> Annual <i>Responsibilities:</i> UNDP</p> <p>Data source: Arab Monetary Fund, Joint Economic Report <i>Frequency:</i> Annual <i>Responsibilities:</i> AMF</p>	<p>1.1. The 2030 Agenda and other intergovernmentally agreed frameworks integrated in national and local development plans, measures to accelerate progress put in place, and budgets and progress assessed using data-driven solutions (Strategic Plan 1.1)</p> <p>1.1.1. Number of Arab countries with data collection and/or analysis mechanisms providing disaggregated data to monitor progress towards the Goals (Strategic Plan 1.1.3) Baseline: 2 Target: 4 <i>Source:</i> Progress reports, statistical authorities and planning ministries <i>Frequency:</i> Annual</p> <p>1.2. Capacities developed for progressive expansion of inclusive regional economic integration (regional specific)</p> <p>1.2.1. Number of policies and measures expanding access to regional and global markets including for SMEs (region specific)</p>	<p>Statistical institutions, UNESCWA, UNICEF, UNFPA, ILO, AITRS, Arab Coordination Group</p> <p>League of Arab States, Line ministries (trade/finance/planning/local development), private sector/small and medium enterprises, local governments, UNCTAD, UNIDO, WTO, WCO, ITC, Union for the Mediterranean</p>	<p>Regular: 3,725,000 Other: 21,200,000</p>

<p>Indicator: Proportion of the population covered by at least one social protection benefit (excluding health) (SDG 1.3.1) Baseline: 30% (2020)</p>	<p>Data source: ILO World Social Protection Database <i>Frequency:</i> Annual <i>Responsibilities:</i> ILO</p>	<p><i>Baseline:</i> 1 <i>Target:</i> TBD <i>Source:</i> Progress reports, evaluation, and ministries of trade <i>Frequency:</i> Annual</p> <p>1.3. Social protection services and systems strengthened across sectors with increased investment (Strategic Plan 1.2)</p> <p>1.3.1. Number of countries with policy measures and institutional capacities in place to increase access to social protection schemes targeting: (Strategic Plan 1.2.1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • women • urban poor • rural poor • person with disabilities • informal sector workers <p><i>Baseline:</i> 1 <i>Target:</i> TBD <i>Source:</i> TDB <i>Frequency:</i> TBD</p> <p>1.4. Public and private financing for the achievement of the Goals expanded at regional, and national levels (Strategic Plan E3)</p> <p>1.4.1. Number of multi-stakeholder mechanisms to strengthen public sector agility, collaboration, and the co-design, public and private financing and delivery of solutions for sustainable development at (Strategic Plan 2.1.3):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regional level • national level • subnational level policies • regulatory frameworks • institutional frameworks 	<p>ILO, UNICEF, WFP</p>	
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<p>Indicator: Strategic Plan outcome 1, indicator 2 Proportion of individuals using the Internet: <i>Baseline</i> (2019): a) Total: 54.6 b) Female: 47.3 c) Male: 61.3</p>	<p>Data source: ITU World Telecommunication <i>Frequency:</i> Annual <i>Responsibilities:</i> ITU</p>	<p><i>Baseline:</i> TBD <i>Target:</i> TBD <i>Source:</i> TDB <i>Frequency:</i> TBD</p> <p>1.5. Access to basic services and financial and non-financial assets and services improved to support productive capacities for sustainable livelihoods and jobs to achieve prosperity (Strategic Plan 1.3)</p> <p>1.5.1. Number of people accessing financial services: (Strategic Plan 1.3.2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • female • male • poor (income measure) • informal sector workers • youth • persons with disabilities • displaced populations • ethnic minorities <p><i>Baseline:</i> TBD <i>Target:</i> TBD <i>Source:</i> TDB</p> <p>1.6. Innovation capabilities built to promote knowledge-based economies and expand policy options at regional, national and sub-national levels (Strategic Plan E.2)</p> <p>1.6.1 Number of innovative solutions adopted by programme partners, which expanded policy and development options, including on economic growth and development: (Strategic Plan E.2.2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • artificial Intelligence • foresight • new and emerging data • knowledge platforms 	<p>Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation, Academia/research centres, Private sector, Digital companies</p>	
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Related Sustainable Development Goals: 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 16, 17.				
REGIONAL PROGRAMME OUTCOME 2: Governance accountability increased to foster more resilient communities.				
RELATED STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME 2: No one left behind, centring on equitable access to opportunities and a rights-based approach to human agency and human development.				
OUTCOME 3: Resilience built to respond to systemic uncertainty and risk.				
Indicator: Corruption perception index <i>Baseline (2020):</i> 34.48	Proxy for proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public (Goal 16.5.1) Data source: Transparency International <i>Frequency:</i> Annual <i>Responsibilities:</i> Transparency International	2.1. Open, agile, accountable, and future-ready governance systems in place to co-create and deliver solutions to accelerate Sustainable Development Goals achievement (Strategic Plan 2.1) 2.1.1. Number of measures to strengthen accountability, prevent and mitigate corruption risks, and integrate anti-corruption in the management of public funds, service delivery and other sectors (Strategic Plan 2.1.1) <i>Baseline:</i> 18 <i>Target:</i> 40 <i>Source:</i> Countries' laws/regulations/decisions/sectoral strategies, ACINET ministerial statements; project reports/evaluation <i>Frequency:</i> Annual	Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network, Anti-Corruption Agencies, Financial and Administrative Oversight Bodies, Justice institutions, Line ministries, CSOs, universities, UNODC, OECD, WCO, UNESCO, WHO	Regular: 3,725,000 Other: 22,300,000
Indicator: Number of battle-related deaths per 100,000 population <i>Baseline (2020):</i> 2.5	Proxy for number of conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population by sex, age (Goal 16.1.2)	2.2. Capacities for conflict prevention, resilience and peacebuilding strengthened at regional, national, and subnational	UNHCR, IOM, UN-Women, UNICEF, UNDPPA, UNDCO, UNOCT, UNESCWA, CSOs, League of Arab States, AWO, IGAD, Horn of Africa Special	

	<p>Data source: WDI <i>Frequency:</i> Annual <i>Responsibilities:</i> Uppsala Conflict Data Programme</p>	<p>levels and across borders (Strategic Plan 3.2)</p> <p>2.2.1. Number of cross-border, regional, national, and subnational platforms, policies, strategies, and plans for conflict prevention, peace and resilience building: (Strategic Plan 3.2.1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prevention of violent extremism • social cohesion and reconciliation • reintegration • resilience, including risk-informed climate adaptation and mitigation, and environmental security <p><i>Baseline:</i> 10 <i>Target:</i> 37 <i>Source:</i> mapping of activities on insider mediators; evaluations; Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) websites; progress reports; The Sub-Regional Response Facility for the Syria Crisis <i>Frequency:</i> Annual</p> <p>2.2.2. Number of institutions, systems, or stakeholders with capacities to support fulfilment of nationally and internationally ratified human rights obligations: (Strategic Plan 2.2.1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rule of law and justice • human rights • private sector, including publicly owned companies <p><i>Baseline:</i> 0 <i>Target:</i> 15 <i>Source:</i> mapping of activities and progress reports <i>Frequency:</i> Annual</p>	<p>Envoy Office, African Union, UNICEF, WFP, FAO, World Bank, IDB, private sector, CSOs, academia, research institutions, AWC, UNDRR, UN-HABITAT</p>	
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<p>Indicator: Proportions of positions in national and local institutions, including: (a) legislatures (sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups) (Strategic Plan outcome 1)</p> <p><i>Baseline:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments: 19.5 (2020) • Proportion of youth in parliament (age 45 and below), lower chamber or unicameral: 30 (2021) 	<p>Data source: WDI and Global Sustainable Development Goals Indicators Database</p> <p><i>Frequency:</i> Annual</p> <p><i>Responsibilities:</i> UNDP, IPU</p>	<p>2.3. Democratic institutions and processes strengthened for an inclusive and open public sphere with expanded public engagement (Strategic Plan 2.4)</p> <p>2.3.1. Number of countries with electoral management bodies with special measures to enhance the participation of vulnerable groups (i.e., women, youth and the disabled) (Strategic Plan 2.4.1)</p> <p><i>Baseline:</i> 3</p> <p><i>Target:</i> 5</p> <p><i>Source:</i> Arab electoral management bodies' recommendations; project reports and evaluations</p> <p><i>Frequency:</i> Annual</p> <p>2.3.2. Number of regional, national, and subnational initiatives, policies, and strategies to protect and promote: (Strategic Plan 2.4.5):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • civil society to function in the public sphere and contribute to sustainable development • inclusive spaces, mechanisms, and capacities for public dialogue • access to reliable information on issues of public concern <p><i>Baseline:</i> 0</p> <p><i>Target:</i> 15</p> <p><i>Source:</i> progress reports and evaluation</p> <p><i>Frequency:</i> annual</p> <p>2.4. Institutions equipped with strengthened digital capabilities to contribute to and benefit from inclusive digital societies (Strategic Plan E.1)</p>	<p>Electoral management bodies, CSOs, Youth networks</p> <p>League of Arab States, digital transformation institutions, Estonia eGovernance Academy, ITU, OECD, DCO, private sector, NGOs, Microsoft, Digital Opportunity Trust</p>	
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<p>Indicator: Refugee population by country or territory of asylum and internally displaced persons <i>Baseline (2020):</i> 9.3 million refugees and 17.8 internally displaced persons</p>	<p>Proxy for number of forcibly displaced people Data source: WDI and Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) <i>Frequency:</i> Annual <i>Responsibilities:</i> UNHCR, UNRWA and IDMC</p>	<p>2.4.1. Number of policies, strategies and laws that promote enabling and regulated digital ecosystems that are affordable, accessible, trusted and secure (Strategic Plan E.1.1) <i>Baseline:</i> 0 <i>Target:</i> 8 <i>Source:</i> progress reports, evaluations; public and private institutions <i>Frequency:</i> Annual</p> <p>2.4.2. Number of public and private institutions that leverage digital technologies in ways that improves people’s lives at: (Strategic Plan E.1.2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regional • national • subnational <p><i>Baseline:</i> 2 <i>Target:</i> 9 <i>Source:</i> progress report, evaluations; public and private institutions <i>Frequency:</i> Annual</p> <p>2.5. Integrated development solutions implemented to address the drivers of irregular and forced migration, enhance the resilience of migrants, forcibly displaced and host communities, and expand the benefits of human mobility (Strategic Plan 3.4)</p> <p>2.5.1. Number of institutions that have measures to address drivers of human mobility: (adapted from Strategic Plan 3.4.1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cross-border institutions • regional institutions • national Governments 	<p>IOM, UNHCR</p>	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • subnational governments • private sector <p><i>Baseline:</i> TBD <i>Target:</i> TBD <i>Source:</i> TDB <i>Frequency:</i> TBD</p>		
Related Sustainable Development Goals: 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 16, 17.				
REGIONAL PROGRAMME OUTCOME 3: Impact of climate change reduced, sound water management promoted, and access to sustainable energy improved.				
RELATED STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME 1: Structural transformation accelerated, particularly green, inclusive, and digital transitions. OUTCOME 3: Resilience built to respond to systemic uncertainty and risk.				
<p>Indicator: Financial flows to developing countries in support of clean energy research and development and renewable energy production, including in hybrid systems (Goal 7.a.1) (Strategic Plan Outcome 1) <i>Baseline</i> (2018): \$1193.28 million constant</p>	<p>Data source: Global SDG Indicators Database <i>Frequency:</i> Annual <i>Responsibilities:</i> OECD, IRENA</p>	<p>3.1. Public and private investment mechanisms mobilized for biodiversity, water, oceans, and climate solutions (Strategic Plan 4.2)</p> <p>3.1.1. Number of people directly benefitting from mechanisms for biodiversity, water, oceans, and climate solutions funded by public and/or private sector resources: (Strategic Plan 4.2.1) <i>Baseline:</i> 0 <i>Target:</i> 6,500</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • public sector resources • female: 3,200 • male: 3,300 <p><i>Source:</i> Project reports/evaluation <i>Frequency:</i> Annual</p> <p>3.2. Energy gap reduced (Strategic Plan 5.1)</p> <p>3.2.1. Number of people, who benefitted from services from clean, affordable and sustainable energy (in million): (Strategic Plan 5.1.2) <i>Baseline:</i> 0.5</p>	<p>Global Environment Facility, ESCWA, World Bank, Water Convention, UNEP, FAO, WFP, Islamic Development Bank, International Union for Conservation of nature, CEWAS</p> <p>League of Arab States, UNHCR, Sustainability for All, Clean Energy Business Council, IRENA, Regional centre for Renewable Energy and Efficiency</p>	<p>Regular: 3,725,000 Other: 20,300,000</p>

		<p><i>Target: 2.5</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • female: 1.0 • male: 1.0 • in urban area: 1.5 • in rural area: 0.5 <p><i>Source: Project reports/evaluation</i> <i>Frequency: Annual</i></p> <p>3.3. Transition to renewable energy accelerated capitalizing on technological gains, clean energy innovations and new financing mechanisms to support green recovery (Strategic Plan 5.2)</p> <p>3.3.1. Volume of investment leveraged to support green recovery (in millions of United States dollars) (Strategic Plan 5.2.3)</p> <p><i>Baseline: 2</i> <i>Target: 55</i> <i>Source: Project reports/evaluation</i> <i>Frequency: Annual</i></p>		
Related Sustainable Development Goals: 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 16, 17.				
REGIONAL PROGRAMME OUTCOME 4: Women and youth empowered for a more inclusive and sustainable future.				
RELATED STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME 2: No one left behind, centring on equitable access to opportunities and a rights-based approach to human agency and human development.				
<p>Indicator: Percentage of achievement of legal frameworks in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) penal code b) constitution, CEDAW, c) labour law d) nationality law, personal status/family law 	<p>Proxy for percentage of achievement of legal frameworks in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) violence against women b) overarching legal frameworks and public life 	<p>4.1. Women’s leadership and participation advanced through strengthening institutions and civil society and addressing structural barriers, to advance gender equality, including in crisis contexts (Strategic Plan 6.2)</p> <p>4.1.1. Number of regional partnerships with women-led civil society organizations and other bodies and</p>	<p>Regional women networks and machineries, security institutions, line ministries, UN-Women</p>	<p>Regular: 3,725,000</p> <p>Other: 22,000,000</p>

<p><i>Baseline (2019):</i></p> <p>a) 29 b) 50 c) 47 d) 8</p> <p>Indicator: Proportion of informal employment, by sector and sex (Goal 8.3.1) (Strategic Plan outcome 2) <i>Baseline (2018):</i></p> <p>a) total: 65.2 b) men: 66.9 c) women: 58.5</p> <p>Indicator: Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment or training (Goal 8.6.1) (Strategic Plan outcome 2) <i>Baseline: 29.7 (2019)</i></p>	<p>c) employment and economic benefits, marriage and family (Goal 5.1.1) (Strategic Plan outcome 1) Data source: UNDP, Gender justice and equality before the law report <i>Frequency:</i> Biannual <i>Responsibilities:</i> UNDP</p> <p>Data source: ILO, “Women and Men in the Informal Economy: A Statistical Picture” <i>Frequency:</i> Non-annual <i>Responsibilities:</i> ILO</p> <p>Data source: ILOSTAT <i>Frequency:</i> Annual <i>Responsibilities:</i> ILO</p>	<p>networks to advance women’s leadership and participation and gender equality (Strategic Plan 6.2.2) <i>Baseline:</i> 1 <i>Target:</i> 3 <i>Source:</i> Arab electoral management bodies’ recommendations; progress reports/evaluation; national electoral project reports. <i>Frequency:</i> Annual</p> <p>4.2. Regional and national capacities and policies strengthened to advance women’s economic empowerment (Regional specific output)</p> <p>4.2.1. Number of measures implemented to: (inspired by Strategic Plan 6.1.1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eliminate gender-based discrimination and segregation in labour market • promote adoption of care policies • increase women’s access to and use of digital technologies, digital finance, e-commerce and digital value chains • ensure women’s economic security and empowerment, including through economic recovery plans in crisis contexts <p><i>Baseline:</i> 1 <i>Target:</i> 7 <i>Source:</i> progress reports/evaluation <i>Frequency:</i> Annual</p> <p>4.3. Access to financial and non-financial assets and services improved to support productive capacities for sustainable livelihoods and jobs for youth (Strategic Plan 1.3)</p>	<p>UNESCWA, UNFPA, UN-Women, ILO, Women’s national machineries and NGOs and line ministries, private sector</p> <p>ILO, youth networks, Big Heart Foundation, Arab Youth Centre, national youth-serving organizations, Coursera, Microsoft, PwC, UN-Women, UNHCR</p>	
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