



# YEMEN SOCIO-ECONOMIC UPDATE 2020

## The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) In Yemen

Part Two

### SDGs with Social Dimension

Indicators.. Challenges.. Requirements.. Directions

#### EDITORIAL

This issue of the YSEU bulletin comes as a follow up review of sustainable development goals and indicators, and it focuses on goals with social dimension, i.e. one of the most important dimensions and themes related to SDGs. It highlights issues in the area of health, education, equality, WASH, justice and peace, which are closely connected to the current difficult human situation in Yemen. This YSEU issue also presents major challenges and difficulties impeding the achievement of SDGs with economic, social and environmental dimensions, including inputs needed to realize these goals in view of the current situation under specific strategic directions.

As seen in part I, this second part draws a comparison between Yemen's progress across several indicators and some other counterparts at the Arab and world (as medians), including the gap between Yemen's status and SDG target values. It is complemented by two appendices, one covers the national statistics pertaining to certain SDGs and related indicators for the period 2014-2018, while the other sheds some light on indicators whose data are not available, and require extra attention by the competent authorities as part of relevant policies and procedures designed to make the intended progress towards SDGs agenda 2030.

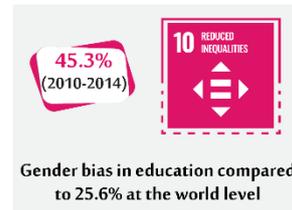
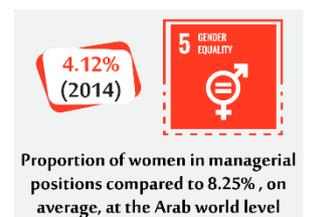
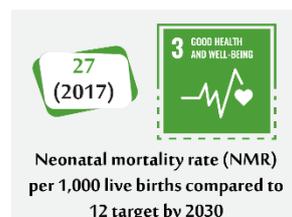
#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



#### IN THIS EDITION

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#### KEY FACTS AND INDICATORS



## I SDGs with Social Dimension (SDGs 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 16)

Social goals and indicators are considered another key dimension for measuring development as they focus more on increasing and maintaining productivity of human resources across successive generations. This requires, leveraging and sustaining such as basic social services such as health, education, together with ensuring social justice in distributing natural resources without depleting them. The social dimension of SDGs comprises a set of goals and indicators that measure the overall progress made and in relation to other economic and environmental dimensions.



### SDG (3): Good health and well-being

This goal seeks to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. It comprises 27 indicators and 13 targets, according to the Global Indicators Framework for Sustainable Development Goals. One of the goals should be achieved by 2020, i.e. Target 3-6: "By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents". Data available for the indicators under this goal are the highest in terms of coverage rate, compared to other goals and related indicators.

Table (1) shows indicators whose Yemen data are available, which suggest that the country is still lagging behind across all targets under SDG 3. This shows the magnitude of difficulties and challenges facing the health sector in Yemen due to: 1) large number of health facilities damaged by the war, 2) shortage of equipment and medicines, 3) poorly delivered health services following the suspension of financial incentives used to be paid to 10,000 health workers<sup>1</sup>, 4) brain drain, in addition to the pressures associated with IDPs and affected population. This resulted in 17.9 million people<sup>2</sup> losing access to basic health services, including pregnant and breastfeeding women as well as children, amid poorly performing health sector. Even before the current difficult humanitarian situation and the semi-paralyzed health system, the average government spending on health did not exceed 3.9% in 2014, compared to 8.3%, on average, at the Arab level, not to mention that size of personal spending on healthcare in Yemen, which is very high, reaching 81% compared to 37.3% in other Arab states<sup>3</sup>. All the above factors combined have impeded Yemen's progress across most health indicators. For example, morbidity rate among children under five increased from 55% in 2014 to 58% during 2019. In the meantime, Yemen has high death rates among people aged 5-24, which increased from 20% in 2014 to 37% in 2019<sup>4</sup>.

Although little data are available about infections and deaths attributed to Covid-19 pandemic, due to the lack of specialized health facilities and modest numbers stated by official reports, but Yemen is still struggling with the health ramifications brought by the novel coronavirus, as quite many people suffer low levels of immunity coupled by dilapidated health sector, as previously mentioned. In addition, low vaccination coverage rates, low levels of immunity and access difficulty to humanitarian and health assistance, including late arrival of vaccines, and the restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic. Meanwhile, a number of new polio cases (15 child cases) were reported in several districts of Sa'ada governorate during the period January-June 2020<sup>5</sup>, while measles cases are on the rise in some other governorates<sup>6</sup>. Despite these difficulties, efforts are underway to contain the cholera epidemic, which helped reducing the caseload of suspected cases by 71%, during the period January - August 2020 (182,500 cases), compared to 624,000 cases in the corresponding period of 2019. Meanwhile, associated deaths decreased from 862 to 52 for the two periods in comparison<sup>7</sup>. Hence, we conclude that regardless of the efforts made by Yemen to eradicate epidemics and diseases such as (Malaria, Cholera and Polio); there are always challenges with adverse health impact on individuals due to the spread of diseases. Moreover, the recent outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic has made the situation even worse amid decreasing official development assistance to the health sector and medical research in Yemen. The volume of such assistance reached US \$ 66,01155 million only in 2016 compared to US \$ 131.5 million and US \$ 77 million for Sudan and Palestine, respectively.

<sup>1</sup> UN OCHA: Humanitarian Update, Issue 6, June 2020

<sup>2</sup> UN OCHA: Humanitarian Update, Issue 9, September 2020

<sup>3</sup> ESCWA : Arab Sustainable Development Report 2020

<sup>4</sup> UNICEF, Levels and Trends in Child Mortality Report 2020

<sup>5</sup> UN OCHA: Humanitarian Update, Issue 9, September 2020

<sup>6</sup> 20 cases were reported in some districts in Sa'ada governorate at the beginning of 2020, 9 cases in Amran, 10 cases in Hajja and 1 case in Al Jawf.

<sup>7</sup> UN OCHA: Humanitarian Update, Issue 9, September 2020.

Table (1): SDG 3: Good health and well-being



Indicator	Data Year	Yemen	Global Target	Median for Arab Countries	World Median
	For Yemen				
<b>3.1 By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births</b>					
3.1.1 Maternal mortality ratio per 100,000 live births	2015	385	70	142	206
3.1.2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	*2015	*%56.9	-	%82.0	%80.7
<b>3.2 By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births</b>					
3.2.1 Under-5 mortality rate					
• Child mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	2017	43.2	25	25	28
• Under-5 infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	2017	55.4	25	32	37
3.2.2 Neonatal mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	2017	27	12	15	17
<b>3.3 By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases</b>					
3.3.2 Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population	*2018	*48	0	50	139
3.3.3 Malaria incidence per 1,000 population at risk	*2017	*63.00	0	9.46	35.25
3.3.4 Hepatitis B incidence per 100,000 population: (Prevalence of Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) (percentage))	2015	%2.5	0	%1.24	%1.02
3.3.5 Number of people requiring interventions against neglected tropical diseases (thousands)	2017	7,342	-	31,800 (Total)	1,560,000 (Total)
<b>3.4 By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment, and promote mental health and wellbeing</b>					
3.4.1 Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease (probability, percentage)	2016	30.6	6	%21.51	%19.27
Suicide mortality rate (number of suicides per 100,000 population)	2016	8.5	-	4.26	10.65
<b>3.5 Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol</b>					
3.5.2 Harmful use of alcohol, defined according to the national context as alcohol per capita consumption (aged 15 years and older) within a calendar year in litres of pure alcohol	2016	0.0662	-	0.62	6.39
<b>3.6 By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents</b>					
3.6.1 Death rate due to road traffic injuries (number of deaths per 100,000 population)	2013	21.5	9	20.89	17.48
<b>3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes</b>					
3.7.1 Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15–49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods	2013	%46.90	-	%64.84	%65.66
3.7.2 Adolescent birth rate (aged 10–14 years; aged 15–19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group	2012	67	-	56.46	49.81
<b>3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all</b>					
3.8.1 Coverage of essential health services (defined as the average coverage of essential services based on tracer interventions that include reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases and service capacity and access, among the general and the most disadvantaged population) (index from 0 to 100)	2015	39	100	61.15	63.51
<b>3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination</b>					
3.9.1 Age-standardized mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution (number of deaths per 100,000 population)	2016	194	-	102	114
3.9.2 - Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene (exposure to unsafe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All) (number of deaths per 100,000 population)	2016	10.2	-	7.4	11.6
3.9.3 Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisonings (number of deaths per 100,000 population)	2016	3.8	-	1.20	1.45
<b>3.a Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate</b>					
3.a.1 Age-standardized prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older	2015	%18.7	-	%21.76	%21.16
<b>3.b Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all</b>					

3.b.1 Proportion of the target population covered by all vaccines included in their national programme					
• Proportion of the target population with access to three doses of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTP3) (percentage)	2016	71%	-	84.29%	85.93%
• Proportion of the target population with access to measles-containing-vaccine second-dose (MCV2) (percentage)	2016	49%	-	83.00%	78.70%
• Proportion of the target population with access to pneumococcal conjugate third dose (PCV3) (percentage)	2016	71%	-	84.57%	74.81%
3.b.2 Total official development assistance to medical research and basic health sectors (net disbursements, in millions of constant 2016 United States dollars)	2016	66.01155	-	512 total	7,241 total
3.c Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States					
3.c.1 Health worker density and distribution					
• Dentists (per 1,000 population)	2017*	0.02*	-	0.29	0.28
• Nurses (per 1,000 population)	2017*	0.49*	-	2.02	3.20
• Pharmacists (per 1,000 population)	2014	0.104	-	0.48	0.46
• Physicians (per 1,000 population)	2017*	0.24*	-	1.14	1.50
3.d Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks					
3.d.1 Average of 13 International Health Regulations (IHR) core capacities (percentage)	2017	%48.32332	-	%70.44	%72.03
Source: ESCWA : Arab Sustainable Development Report 2020					
* Central Statistical Organization: Sustainable Development Goals Indicator Report for Yemen 2016-2018.					

## SDG (4) Quality education

This goal seeks to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. It comprises 11 indicators and 10 targets, according to the Global Indicator Framework for Sustainable Development Goals. One of these goals is supposed to be achieved by 2020, i.e. Target 4-b: "Substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries".



Notwithstanding the notable vertical expansion of education in Yemen, i.e. KG, basic and secondary cycles and higher/university education, including technical/vocational training and literacy programs, it still suffers multiple forms of deficiencies such as the perpetuated inequality in education due to differences in the quality of private and formal education. Meanwhile, the Gender Parity Index (GPI) in organized education, i.e. one year prior to official entry age to primary education, stands at only 0.812 (Table 2). Moreover, poor quality education and curricula in general are not useful enough to fathom the realm of knowledge and innovation. Overall, the quality of both education inputs and outputs is still below expectations due to multiple institutional factors that strike at the heart of the education system. Moreover, the current exceptional circumstances and conditions triggered by the conflict and war have aggravated the situation, due to wide-scale damage and destruction inflicted by many education facilities, occupation of schools by IDPs for sheltering, not to mention the suspension of salaries for teachers, high dropout rates due to access difficulty and affordability on the one hand, especially for IDP students, and the soaring poverty rates on the other. To mitigate the impact, a number of donors, particularly World Bank, have geared up financial support programs for education, which are being implemented through some international organizations, mainly UNICEF, to alleviate these impacts, including through financial incentives to teachers and in-kind aid to children, to help them continue their education. Cash transfers are also distributed to families to encourage them send their children to school.

According to the UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report 2020<sup>8</sup> entitled "Inclusive Education for All: All Means All", the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic has further exposed the inequalities and vulnerabilities across societies, especially the poor and conflict-affected including Yemen, in terms of access to education by all. Besides, the full closure of schools and other education institutions in the first months after the outbreak of the pandemic (March-August 2020), lack of distance learning alternatives due to poor technology and Internet. The report underlined that among the poorest 20% of households in Yemen, only 10% of them have television as a low-tech tool to continue education. In addition, the proportion of secondary schools with electricity accounts for only 60.87% in 2016, compared to 95.14%, on average, in other Arab countries (Table 2). Moreover, total official development flows of

<sup>8</sup> UNESCO: Global Education Monitoring Report 2020.

official scholarships have declined to US \$ 23.83 million (at constant rates for 2017), i.e. second to Morocco (US \$ 24.08 million), at the Arab level.

Table (2): SDG 4: Quality education



Indicator	Data Year	Yemen	Global Target	Median for Arab Countries	World Median
	For Yemen				
4.2 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre- primary education so that they are ready for primary education					
4.2.2 Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age) (percentage)	*2017	4.4	100	47.16	70.42
4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations					
4.5.1 Parity indices (female/ male, rural/urban, bottom/top wealth quintile and others such as disability status, indigenous peoples and conflict-affected, as data become available) for all education indicators on this list that can be disaggregated					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gender disparity index for participation in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age)</li> </ul>	2013	0.872	1	1.09	1.03
4.a Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all					
4.a.1 Proportion of schools with access to (a) electricity; (b) the Internet for pedagogical purposes; (c) computers for pedagogical purposes; (d) adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities; (e) basic drinking water; (f) single-sex basic sanitation facilities; and (g) basic handwashing facilities (as per the WASH indicator definitions)					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of schools with access to electricity in the upper secondary (percentage)</li> </ul>	2016	60.87	100	95.14	98.28
4.b By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries					
4.b.1 Volume of official development assistance flows for scholarships by sector and type of study (total official flows for scholarships, by recipient countries (millions of constant 2017 United States dollars))	2017	23.83	-	158.16 (Total)	753.63 (Total)
4.c By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States					
4.c.1 Proportion of teachers in: (a) pre-primary; (b) primary; (c) lower secondary; and (d) upper secondary education who have received at least the minimum organized teacher training (e.g. pedagogical training) pre-service or in-service required for teaching at the relevant level in a given country					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secondary education</li> </ul>	2013	94.55	-	83	87
Source: ESCWA : Arab Sustainable Development Report 2020					
* Central Statistical Organization: Sustainable Development Goals Indicator Report for Yemen 2016-2018.					



## SDG (5): Gender equality

This goal seeks to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, ensure the right of women to access healthcare and education services and full participation in the political and economic spheres. It includes 14 indicators and 10 targets, according to the Global Indicator Framework for Sustainable Development Goals.

Overall, Yemen is a state party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. Yet, economic participation by women remain relatively low and no different to that in other Arab countries. This is largely due to the well-established social norms and traditions in the Yemeni and Arab society, including early marriage and restrictions to join the labor market. Yemen ranked 153 and last in the Global Gender Gap Index for 2020 compared to 115 rank in 2006, which shows a declining gender equality despite the vigorous efforts and support programs in this aspect. Yemen also ranks low when it comes to economic and political inclusion, school attainment, health and survival.

On the other hand, and given the current difficult circumstances on the ground and the ramifications and negative effects of the war, particularly on women, the role of women has become more evident in the economic activity,

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particularly SMEs, benefitting from the facilities provided by MFIs to business startup, temporary tax exemptions on the one hand, and women support initiatives because they shoulder the most burden in life, on the other.

Table (3) sheds light on the results made Yemen regarding some indicators under SDG 5, which are quite limited not only at the national level, but also across the entire Arab region.

Table (3): SDG 5: Gender equality



Indicator	Data Year	Yemen	Global Target	Median for Arab Countries	World Median
	For Yemen				
<b>5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM)</b>					
5.3.1 Proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18					
• Proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married before age 18 (percentage)	2018*	32.0%*	0.0%	19.3%	27.4%
• Proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 (percentage)	2018*	9.0%*	0.0%	4.5%	6.9%
<b>5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life</b>					
5.5.1 - Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (percentage of total number of seats)	*2018	*0.33	-	19.38	23.37
5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions (percentage)	2014	%4.12	-	%8.25	%27.58
Source: ESCWA : Arab Sustainable Development Report 2020					
* Central Statistical Organization Sustainable Development Goals Indicator Report for Yemen 2016-2018.					



## SDG (6): Clean water and sanitation

This goal seeks to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. It comprises 11 indicators and 8 targets, in accordance with the Global Indicator Framework for Sustainable Development Goals. One of these goals is scheduled to be achieved by 2020, i.e. Target 6-6 "protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes".

Yemen is one of the water-poorest countries in the world in terms of per capita water share, i.e. much lower than the internationally defined water scarcity line at 1,000 M<sup>3</sup> per capita/year. In addition, the war and conflict that have destroyed water networks, making access to safe and clean water further difficult, as only 22% of rural population and 46% of the urban population are connected to public water networks, some of which partially functioning. Meanwhile, less than 55 percent of the population have access to safe drinking water<sup>9</sup>. It is expected that per capita water share in Yemen will drop during the coming period to below 60 cubic meters in 2025<sup>10</sup>, due to scarce water resources and poor feeding of groundwater reserves, on the one hand, and the high population growth rate, on the other.



Table (4): SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation



Indicator	Data Year	Yemen	Global Target	Median for Arab Countries	World Median
	For Yemen				
<b>6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations</b>					
6.2.1 Proportion of population using (a) safely managed sanitation services and (b) a hand-washing facility with soap and water					
• Proportion of population practicing open defecation (percentage)	2017	19.57%	-	5.77%	8.73%
• Proportion of population with basic hand-washing facilities on premises (percentage)	2017	49.54%	100%	70.2%	55.2%
<b>6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate</b>					
6.5.1 "Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0–100) (Percentage)	2017	%39	%100	%48.3	%47.9

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.ye.undp.org/content/yemen/ar/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-6-clean-water-and-sanitation.html>

<sup>10</sup> Central Statistical Organization Sustainable Development Goals Indicator Report for Yemen 2016-2018.

6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes

6.6.1 - Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time (Water body extent (permanent and maybe permanent), (percentage of total land area))	2016	%0.174	-	%13	%633
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6.a By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies

6.a.1 - Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance that is part of a government-coordinated spending plan (total official development assistance (gross disbursement) for water supply and sanitation, by recipient countries millions of constant 2017 United States dollars)	2017	35.31	-	1,577 (total)	8,253 (total)
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6.b Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management

6.b.1 - Proportion of local administrative units with established and operational policies and procedures for participation of local communities in water and sanitation management. (Countries with procedures in law or policy for participation by service users/communities in planning programme) (10 = Clearly defined; 5 = Not clearly defined; 0 = NA)	2014	10	-	9.91	9.90
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Source: ESCWA : Arab Sustainable Development Report 2020

Table (4) presents indicators related to SDG 6. Based on the available data, Yemen is still lagging behind when it comes to achieving this goal. Besides, the war and conflict have significantly pushed the number of people in need of WASH services to unprecedented levels reaching about 17.8 million people in 2019, i.e. over 50% of population needing this service<sup>11</sup>. Meanwhile, the proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services accounted for only 39.71% compared to 28.56% for safely managed sanitation services in 2018<sup>12</sup>.

Several challenges and difficulties stand in the way of achieving this goal, including the war-related material damage sustained by water supply and sanitation networks, high rehabilitation costs, and because most water networks in vulnerable areas rely heavily on humanitarian assistance to secure fuel and other services. Moreover, difficult access to improved water sources forced people in an increasingly pace to resort to unimproved sources, amid shortage sanitation facilities. It worth to be mentioned, however, that the amount of official development assistance for Yemen with relation to water and sanitation is very low, only US \$ 35.31 million in 2017, compared to US \$ 522.18 million for Jordan, US \$ 208.9 million for Iraq and US \$ 102.9 million for Palestine<sup>13</sup>.

## SDG (10): Reduced inequalities

This goal seeks to reduce inequality within and among countries. It comprises 11 indicators and 10 targets, in accordance with the Global Indicator Framework for Sustainable Development Goals. Disparity in income levels, access to services, inclusion in political life and differences between internal groups, increase amid high poverty rates and intensification of the conflict, as in the case of Yemen. Inequality in national income is among the highest 10% and the lowest 50% at the distribution scale. For example, it ranges between 57% and 11% in Lebanon, compared to 50% and 14% in Yemen.



Inequality related differences are more evident in the rural areas of Yemen, where rural girls are more at risk of dropping out of school, getting married and giving birth at early age, due to unequal development opportunities between urban and rural areas, in addition to deep-rooted cultural norms and traditions. Bias against Yemeni women in the political and economic spheres exceeds 87%, and can go up to 81% for work and physical safety. However, bias in education borders on 45.3%, i.e. about double the current global average (25.6%)<sup>14</sup>. This, of course, has affected access to health services; education and decent work, given the fact that differences exist within social and demographic groups are high. For example, the proportion of elderly people receiving pension benefits in Sudan, Palestine and Yemen, remains below 10%<sup>15</sup>.

Meanwhile, data obtained from the Household Budget Survey 2014<sup>16</sup> (HBS) show that proportion of population living on less than 50% of the average income, disaggregated by gender, age and place of residence, stands at about 21%. Realizing this goal is challenged by the fact that a host of difficulties are still exist, including insufficient state's national policies, namely the public sector and weak economic structures that respond to social justice. Moreover, Yemen's economy is a revenue-generating one characterized by activities with low added value, where a significant

<sup>11</sup> UN OCHA, Humanitarian Response Plan (extension) June - December 2020.

<sup>12</sup> Central Statistical Organization: Sustainable Development Goals Indicator Report for Yemen 2016-2018.

<sup>13</sup> ESCWA: Arab Sustainable Development Report 2020.

<sup>14</sup> UNDP, Gender Social Norms Index (GSNI), 2020.

<sup>15</sup> ESCWA: Arab Sustainable Development Report 2020

<sup>16</sup> Central Statistical Organization, BHS 2014.

portion of people are excluded. A set of well-established cultural norms do also affect decisions about gender equality and justice, while violent conflicts and war economy greatly influence access to basic services and rights.

Table (5): SDG 10: Reduced inequalities

Indicator	Data Year	Yemen	Global Target	Median for Arab Countries	World Median
	For Yemen				
10.6 Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions					
10.6.1 Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations					
• Membership of developing countries in the international organization (0-1 dummy variable)	-	-	-	0.682	0.56
• Membership in the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations	2017	0	-	-	-
• Membership in the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development	2017	1	-	-	-
• Membership in the International Finance Corporation	2017	1	-	-	-
• Membership in the International Monetary Fund	2017	1	-	-	-
• Membership in the United Nations General Assembly	2017	1	-	-	-
• Membership in the United Nations Security Council	2017	0	-	-	-
• Membership in the World Trade Organization	2017	1	-	-	-
• Proportion of voting rights for developing countries in the international organization (percentage)	-	-	-	0.36%	0.40%
• Proportion of voting rights in the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations	2017	0.0%	-	-	-
• Proportion of voting rights in the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development	2017	0.123%	-	-	-
• Proportion of voting rights in the International Finance Corporation	2017	0.06%	-	-	-
• Proportion of voting rights in the United Nations General Assembly	2017	0.52%	-	-	-
• Proportion of voting rights in the United Nations Security Council	2017	0%	-	-	-
• Proportion of voting rights in the World Trade Organization	2017	0.61%	-	-	-
• Proportion of voting rights in the International Monetary Fund	2017	0.13%	-	-	-
10.b Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes					
10.b.1 - Total resource flows for development, by recipient and donor countries and type of flow (e.g. official development assistance, foreign direct investment and other flows) Total assistance for development, by recipient (millions of current United States dollars)	2016	1660.94	-	42,439	266,938
10.c By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent					
10.c.1 Remittance costs as a proportion of the amount remitted	2017	%5.39	%3	%6.80	%8.09

Source: ESCWA : Arab Sustainable Development Report 2020

## SDG (16): Peace, justice and strong institutions

This goal seeks to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. It comprises 23 indicators and 12 targets. Many Arab countries, including Yemen, have been witnessing widespread popular protests (change revolution) since 2011 amid difficulties to shift to a more stable situation. These turmoil created additional bottlenecks and crises and significantly imperiled the state's ability to achieve social justice, the rule of law and good governance. The outcome was widespread corruption (Yemen ranks 177 out of 180 countries in the world in the Corruption Perceptions Report 2019)<sup>17</sup>, due to weak and fragile national institutions, retrogressed public freedoms and governance. They also compromised job opportunities and social justice. Meanwhile, the ongoing war in the country has triggered massive displacement (Globally, Yemen ranks 4 out



<sup>17</sup> Corruption Perceptions Index 2019

of 11 countries in terms of IDPs and refugees), whose number is estimated at about 3.6 million people<sup>18</sup>. This has, in turn, triggered a state of social instability, including social crimes and violence in all its forms has increased. For example, more than 7,522 children were either killed or injured since the beginning of the war (March 2015 - March 2019)<sup>19</sup>.

Like many Arab countries, Yemen is crippled by deep structural challenges, i.e. corruption, weak rule of law, ineffective institutions and limited accountability, all of which need to be addressed in the context of achieving targets under this SDG. More specifically, reaching immediate and sustainable peace and ensure sound governance, including effective rule of law, participation, accountability, quality of regulations, government effectiveness and fighting corruption.

Table (6): SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions



Indicator	Data Year	Yemen	Global Target	Median for Arab Countries	World Median
	For Yemen				
<b>16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere</b>					
16.1.1 Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age	*2018	*21.7	-	3.30	5.36
<b>16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children</b>					
16.2.1 Proportion of children aged 1–17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/ or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month	*2018	*%79.00	%0	%82.80	%77.93
<b>16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms</b>					
16.5.2 Proportion of businesses that had at least one contact with a public official and that paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials during the previous 12 months	2013	%64.3	-	%23.70	%17.89
<b>16.8 Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance</b>					
16.8.1 Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations					
• Membership of developing countries in the international organization (0-1 dummy variable)	-	-	-	0.682	0.56
• Membership in the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations	2017	0	-	-	-
• Membership in the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development	2017	1	-	-	-
• Membership in the International Finance Corporation	2017	1	-	-	-
• Membership in the International Monetary Fund	2017	1	-	-	-
• Membership in the United Nations General Assembly	2017	1	-	-	-
• Membership in the World Trade Organization	2017	1	-	-	-
• Proportion of voting rights for developing countries in the international organization (percentage)	-	-	-	0.36%	0.40%
• Proportion of voting rights in the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations	2017	0.0%	-	-	-
• Proportion of voting rights in the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development	2017	0.12%	-	-	-
• Proportion of voting rights in the International Finance Corporation	2017	0.06%	-	-	-
• Proportion of voting rights in the United Nations General Assembly	2017	0.52%	-	-	-
• Proportion of voting rights in the United Nations Security Council	2017	0%	-	-	-
• Proportion of voting rights in the World Trade Organization	2017	0%	-	-	-
• Proportion of voting rights in the International Monetary Fund	2017	0.13%	-	-	-
<b>16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration</b>					
16.9.1 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age	*2017	*%14.9	%100	%87	%72
<b>16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements</b>					
16.10.2 Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information	2018	1	1	0.23	0.47

<sup>18</sup> Global Report on Food Crisis 2020

<sup>19</sup> UNICEF, Child Protection Programme in Yemen, 2019

**16.a Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime**

16.a.1 Countries with independent national human rights institutions in compliance (fully or partially) with the Paris Principles	2017	0	1	0.55	0.43
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Source: ESCWA : Arab Sustainable Development Report 2020

\* Central Statistical Organization: Sustainable Development Goals Indicator Report for Yemen 2016-2018.

**II Challenges impeding the realization of SDGs in Yemen**

Yemen is beleaguered by mammoth challenges and difficulties at the economic, social, political and security levels which inhibited moves to achieve sustainable development and contributed to widening the gap pertaining to SDGs agenda 2030. In addition, Yemen's ability to articulate national indicators and align them to the goals, adopt policies and programs to realize SDGs, provide regular annual reporting, or monitor progress or regression in vis-à-vis SDGs, has degenerated. Meanwhile, the impact of war has eclipsed the social, economic and environmental spheres, and underpinned the development drive as a whole. A study entitled "The impact of War on SDGs 2019" has shown that one child dies every 11 minutes and 54 seconds, 17% of the population living with malnutrition, 14% of children suffer malnutrition, 36% of children of children without access to schools, 40% of the population live in extreme poverty. Additionally, the total economic losses have amounted to US\$ 89 billion<sup>20</sup>. Key challenges can be addressed as follows:

**At the political and security spheres**

For a decade long since 2010, Yemen has been suffering volatile security and political conditions that impacted on widened the gap relating to sustainable development in Yemen. In the meantime, external support has dropped, infrastructure sustained wide scale damage due to the war and conflict, and institutional capacities have debilitated. These challenges are further complicated by the lack of political signals for potential sustainable solutions to reach peace and end the war. Without reaching a permanent solution and bringing matters back to normal, no measures or policies seem likely to have a long-term impact or hold back the rapidly declining sustainable development in Yemen.

**At the economic sphere**

There exist a host of economic challenges and difficulties that have been contributing, directly or indirectly, to exacerbating the current situation in Yemen and complicating the achievement of SDGs agenda 2030, most remarkably the following: -

1. Contracting economic activity, slow pace of economic development, economic plunge in all parts and components of the economy, as well as rising poverty and unemployment rates.
2. Severe worsening food insecurity and malnutrition levels in Yemen, which threatens the lives of millions of Yemenis as food prices continue to rise. This situation forced many households to opt for negative coping strategies in a bid to secure food amid eroding household resilience, and eventually undermined progress towards achieving the SDG 2 in the 2030 Agenda.
3. Difficulties surrounding the various sectors of the economy, due to persistent fuel crises, access difficulty to and unaffordability of clean energy alternatives, in addition to high costs of transportation and raw materials. For example, the cost of irrigation becoming out of the reach of rural farmers, while merchants have to bear the increasing cost of transportation, which is passed on to consumers. Meanwhile, the rising business operating costs have negatively affected the household income. Meanwhile, providing public electricity to 90% of the population is getting more difficult.
4. Declining foreign currency reserves, downsized direct external support, scaled down humanitarian funding, and the excessive printing of new banknotes in the midst depreciated local currency, have had a negative impact on the already volatile currency exchange market, and have worsened the financial situation and compromised confidence in the banking sector.
5. Mounting economic losses due to severe economic dive, which exceeded US \$ 89 billion - as previously indicated and lacking job and income opportunities have depleted the people's savings. Besides, with the population exposed to successive shocks, including high exchange rate and soaring prices of food, medicine, fuel and water, and eventually widened the poverty cycle and malnutrition.
6. Spiraling costs and difficulties to repair infrastructural damages sustained by basic sectors, including electricity and water, as well as inadequate industrial and commercial business promotion policies, as Yemen ranks low in terms of doing business index.

<sup>20</sup> UNDP-Yemen, Assessing the Impact of War in Yemen on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, 2019.



### At the environmental sphere

Yemen is one of the countries prone to climate change related impact with all its dimensions, and this is evidenced by the unprecedented weather conditions witnessed by the country, including:

1. The exacerbated climate change crisis poses a serious threat to Yemen's economic prospects. According to the World Bank forecasts, Yemen's economy will contract by up to 24% in the medium term (by 2050) due to climate change, which would, in turn, affect the livelihoods of people, exacerbate the food and food security crisis and increase epidemics and diseases with their pressure on the already lingering health situation.
2. Most climate changes foretell a more severe and unpredictable weather conditions in Yemen, to the extent that would possibly cause harm to Yemen amid high water scarcity levels and acid rain resulting from environmental pollution, with its impact on agriculture and groundwater reserves. Considering these major issues, additional support for Yemen's efforts to address the effects of climate change cannot be overemphasized.
3. Poor management of natural resources, mainly water resources and fisheries wealth.
4. Poor urban planning and growing desertification, at the expense of arable land.
5. Natural disasters prompted by climate changes, including heavy floods and rains will aggravate considering the weak infrastructure.
6. Lack of policies that promote clean energy alternatives and reduce pollution, as well as high costs.



### At the social sphere

Deterioration of basic social services, including health care, water and education, scant operating expenses, and suspension of salaries for public servant, have negatively affected the continuity and quality of basic social services. These factors also contributed to the spread of diseases and epidemics and put the health of children and women at risk, together with to the following challenges:-

1. The health system is crumbling and faces enormous difficulties and challenges due to fragile sectoral infrastructure, wide scale damage sustained by a large number of health facilities, shortage of equipment and medicines, lack of financial incentives for medical personnel and brain drain. In addition, the growing number of IDPs and affected population causes more pressure on the sector. Meanwhile, Covid-19 pandemic and its impact compromised the flow of humanitarian funding.
2. The deteriorated education sector in Yemen and poor education indicators across the various dimensions, i.e. coverage, quality or availability of infrastructure, damaged education facilities or using them as military barracks, have deprived lots of children from going to school, threatened the educational process for future generations due to unaffordability of schooling fees or involvement of young people in the conflict.



### At the policy, data and indicators level

1. Weak partnership with civil society and the private sector.
2. Poor coordination among competent authorities mandated with achieving SDGs, including international organizations that support these goals.
3. Nonalignment between development indicators and available national indicators through which progress can be measured, and have to be integrated into national policies.
4. Lack of an appropriate selection mechanism for goals and indicators that are compatible with Yemen situation and based on the available data.
5. Lacking awareness about SDGs, the preservation and rational utilization of natural resources.
6. Fragmented efforts to integrate SDGs into national agendas.
7. Lack of M&E mechanisms to measure Yemen's progress vis-à-vis SDGs.
8. Lacking access to data and periodical indicators using sound statistical methods and tools.
9. Lack of or low funding and support necessary to integrate SDGs into national plans, strategies and policies.
10. Lack of trained and specialized staff in the area of sustainable development goals.

### III Requirements to achieve SDGs in Yemen

In order to achieve sustainable development, additional efforts must be put in place across the political, social, economic and environmental spheres with support by the international community, is crucial to guarantee and support SDGs. In addition, appropriate mechanism shall be introduced for regular follow up of progress towards the goals, including the inception report, which serves as a reference framework for post-war development plans and strategies, together with donor support mobilization. It helps also in identifying the indicator values for 2016, is baseline year, and an input for stakeholders when discussing possible ways and means to help Yemen healing from the impact and damages of the war and pave the way for the reconstruction process.



#### At the political level

1. Backing international efforts to reach a sustainable peace that would normalize life in the country, end the current conflict, restore security, stability and social peace.
2. Directing international efforts to strengthen the capacities of relevant institutions so they can stand up to the current and future challenges.
3. Channeling financial support for development and recovery plans, especially those related to achieving SDGs, while humanitarian support to be shifted towards livelihood activities, job creation and productive energy.



#### At the economic front

1. Develop foreign currency reserves from all potential sources to stop the continued rapid depreciation of the national currency, and facilitate the importation foodstuffs and fuel.
2. Double up regional and international efforts regarding reconstruction, recovery and rehabilitation of infrastructure, and provide support to the productive sectors (agriculture, industry, trade and tourism), through additional technical and physical assistance.
3. Contribute to creating a conducive environment to attract investments in the various sectors.
4. Promote the role of economic management within national institutions and ministries, including through capacity building.
5. Support action plans and national programs designed to alleviate poverty, increase per capita income and promote the role of women.
6. Build the capacities and empower youth, focusing more on technical education and vocational training, as well as efficient management of human resources.



#### At the ecological front

1. Support efforts to protect the environment and natural resources against all pollutants and respond to the current and future needs ecologically and in a sustainable manner and raise awareness on the biological diversity, the dangers of land degradation and deforestation, including investments to expand protected areas, especially the biologically-diverse ones.
2. Draft a contingency plan to confront natural disasters and reduce their impacts.
3. Push for the adoption of eco-friendly technology in various fields, i.e. agriculture and industry, and encouraging safe and clean production mechanisms and technologies.
4. Contribute to laying sound foundations for urban planning and optimal use of natural resources to avert the environment further damage.
5. Support plans designed to reduce air and water pollution as well as soil contamination by introducing the necessary measures to reduce industrial pollution and from other sources.

6. Protect the marine environment and ensure safe disposal of solid waste, in addition to expand sanitation networks and repair the existing ones.
7. Manage and develop water resources better now and in the future, and support efforts to promote renewable and non-renewable water sources, including new technologies on rainwater harvesting and wastewater reuse.
8. Establish marine protected areas, strengthen institutional capacity to protect coastal waters and integrate marine life protection and preservation into the national development plans and urban planning strategies in coastal areas. Additional protection for marine areas, reducing pressures on the marine environment, and regularly monitoring the fish and marine stocks is also needed to ensure sustainability once the necessary resources are made available.
9. Invest in broader and inclusive data collection, particularly at the sub-national level, provide the required resources and make the necessary preparations for data analysis and development of policies for easy and evidence-informed accountability.



### At the social front

1. Focusing more on strengthening the institutional capacities in the area of social development, activating the role of NGOs and the private sector, strengthening of the civil registration systems and vital statistics necessary to measure public health indicators (by sex and age), and determine the healthcare requirements and other legal entitlements.
2. Providing financial support to the health, educational and social institutions so they can serve the local communities and carry out their functions properly. Investing in a comprehensive reform of the education system in terms of curricula, teacher qualification and access to technology, paying health staff salaries, promoting primary and preventive healthcare, improving the quality of healthcare at affordable costs, and expanding the scope and coverage of health services shall be ensured too.
3. Advocating for policies and directions to reduce WASH problems.
4. Promoting livelihoods to prevent the social conditions from getting worse.
5. Supporting the transfer and localization of appropriate technology, developing scientific research capabilities, and utilizing the technical support by international institutions and organizations involved in social services.
6. Promoting linkages with international institutions, funding agencies and the United Nations institutions with social development mandate.
7. Providing the necessary financial and human resources to schools, improving the education quality assessments, and guaranteeing the right to quality and equitable education for all.
8. Promoting women participation in economy, women economic independence, and facilitating access to economic resources. Data and statistics that illustrate the reality of women and girls, disaggregated by sex, should also be improved.

## IV Strategic directions to achieve SDGs in Yemen

Sustainable development in Yemen necessitates urgent practical measures because it involves ambitious goals and targets, including concerted national partnerships, provision of national data and information, funding and support needed for the 2030 Agenda, as well as harnessing science and technology, by focusing on the following directions:



### Policies and institutions

1. Outlining sustainable development goals according to priority ladder, significance and cross-effect. Only goals and indicators that can be achieved and monitored, using available data, shall be selected aligned to the humanitarian situation.
2. Identifying the corresponding main bottlenecks for achieving the goals, being the major impediment, using experiences and lessons learned from the Millennium Development Goals.
3. Bringing forward and prioritizing policies and interventions that respond to the main bottlenecks based on the previous sectoral plans, because they would have direct impact on achieving the intended goals. Interventions the help in mainstreaming SDGs into national development plans as well as coherent and guided strategies shall be explored, with the private sector and civil society to be involved.

4. Preparing detailed and time-bound implementation plans for each goal, including the monitoring and evaluation mechanism.
5. Launching a national project to integrate the goals and targets, and measure progress levels in a holistic manner based on indicators approved by the United Nations and the necessary practical mechanisms.
6. Carrying out awareness campaigns in support of national efforts to achieve sustainable development in favor of all segments of the society, including women, youth, people with disabilities and the most vulnerable groups.
7. Devising plans that support coherence, integration and social cohesion, including relevant supportive support programs at the national level.
8. Encouraging community initiatives and providing the necessary financial and technical support.
9. Strengthening and advocating for efforts intended to raise awareness about SDGs.
10. Raising the necessary financial resources for efficient implementation of SDGs agenda, and taking advantage of international best practices on transparency and efficacy pertaining to the use of resources and promote confidence of donors who support sustainable development.
11. Establishing effective partnerships with the civil society, the private sector and the donor community, with commitments to assist poor countries in the area of capacity building, at the local and central levels.

### Data

1. Pushing for an overhaul of efforts intending to integrate, build and monitor indicators as part of the methods and mechanisms used in data collection, compilation, analysis and sharing, including in-depth analysis of gaps.
2. Strengthening the national statistical capacities to generate high-quality and reliable data, disaggregated by sex, age group, geographical location, income level, disability, or other characteristics of importance in national contexts.
3. Providing up-to-date and non-conventional data sources, including optimal use of administrative records and broader classifications that allow the detection of disparities, and optimizing efforts by international organizations to develop the national capabilities related to building highly reliable measurement indicators.
4. Encouraging national partnerships that engage the relevant authorities and establishing an inclusive platform for innovation networks in the area of data.

### Mobilizing financial resources

1. Introducing national strategies to finance sustainable development actions from all sources and ensuring continuous dialogue between governments and relevant parties in the civil society and the private sector to channel all funding modalities towards sustainable development.
2. Capitalizing on the important supportive role by the United Nations system for Yemen's efforts to implement SDGs, and raise the efficiency of development cooperation, based on the core principles of national responsibility.
3. Emphasizing the role and commitment by donors regarding official development assistance, including developed countries, to reach the internationally agreed GNI percentage in Yemen as a developing country. This includes development assistance to Yemen, as well as victims of the war and conflict.

### Monitoring and evaluation

1. Putting in place a national framework for monitoring and evaluation led by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC), in coordination with the relevant authorities, including the private sector and civil society.
2. Supporting regular participation in the follow-up process and efforts made to implement the 2030 Agenda, including the necessary arrangements to ensure regular follow-up and review of activities at various levels.
3. It is important to monitor the real progress vis-a-vis annual progress reports related to goals and targets, including means of implementation in Yemen, taking into account the various dimensions of sustainable development.

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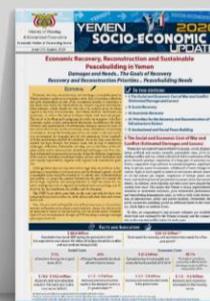
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