



# Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 in North African countries





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## Abbreviations and acronyms

ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
FDI	foreign direct investment
GDP	gross domestic product
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
PASEC	Programme for the Analysis of CONFEMEN Education Systems
PIRLS	Progress in International Reading Literacy Study
PISA	Programme for International Student Assessment
PPP	purchasing power parity
TIMSS	Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

## Executive summary

The present report is an assessment of the performance of North African countries in the implementation of, first, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, and, second, Agenda 2063 of the African Union.

An analysis of overall performance shows that, in terms of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), North African countries achieved an average ranking in comparison to all countries of the world, while, in comparison to other African countries, they occupy the top four places. With respect to Agenda 2063, they performed better than the African average.

North African countries achieved mixed performance across the different SDGs, recording notable performance in terms of SDGs 1, 7, 12 and 13, but lagging far behind in achieving SDGs 2, 5 and 9. Similarly, North African countries also achieved mixed performance in terms of aspirations, priority areas and goals of Agenda 2063.

Future-oriented studies on the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic have raised concerns about significant negative effects on growth and employment in North African countries. The crisis is likely to exacerbate internal and external imbalances and jeopardize the modest progress made in achieving the SDGs.

The targeted analysis of SDGs 4, 8 and 10 from a gender perspective (SDG 5) highlights some gains. However, the delays and challenges identified call for the in-depth reform of education systems and growth models that appear to be non-inclusive and ineffective in generating a sufficient number of decent jobs to contain rising unemployment.

Although the majority of countries succeeded in reducing income inequality, certain countries are still experiencing some resistance to the reduction of inequality, for a number of reasons.



# 1. Introduction

Like all other nations in the world, North Africa undertook to do their utmost to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations, as well as the goals of Agenda 2063, adopted by the African Union. With a decade to go before the target date, it is perfectly justifiable to determine whether these countries are on the right track and whether the advances made in that regard are an encouraging sign that the targets will be met.

The present report forms part of this analysis and seeks to highlight both the successes, in order to reinforce them, and the failures, in order to make the necessary adjustments to correct the current trends.

As with any evaluation exercise, progress and performance are analysed on the basis of indicators common to the international community as a whole, as established by the United Nations system (in the 2030 Agenda) and African Union institutions (in Agenda 2063), in consultation with member countries.

The report is divided into three chapters. The first chapter is a comprehensive assessment of the overall performance of North African countries<sup>1</sup> in implementing the goals of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, using a comparative analysis approach. In chapter 1, the issue of ownership and localization of SDGs by these countries is also examined. The subject of the last section of the chapter is the socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economies of these countries and its likely repercussions on the achievement of SDGs.

The second chapter is devoted to a targeted analysis of the three SDGs that fall within the remit of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), namely SDG 4 (on quality education), SDG 8 (on inclusive growth and decent employment) and SDG 10 (on reducing inequalities). This analysis is conducted from a gender perspective.

The third and final chapter presents the recommendations and conclusion of the report.

A comprehensive literature review of official country and United Nations system reports and documents served as the basis of the study. This review was complemented by targeted face-to-face or remote interviews with country and United Nations country team resource persons involved in the implementation of SDGs.

The data used in the report comes from several sources: official data from the countries concerned, databases of United Nations system entities and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

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<sup>1</sup> The North African region comprises Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania, Sudan and Tunisia.

# Chapter I: Overall performance and trends in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063

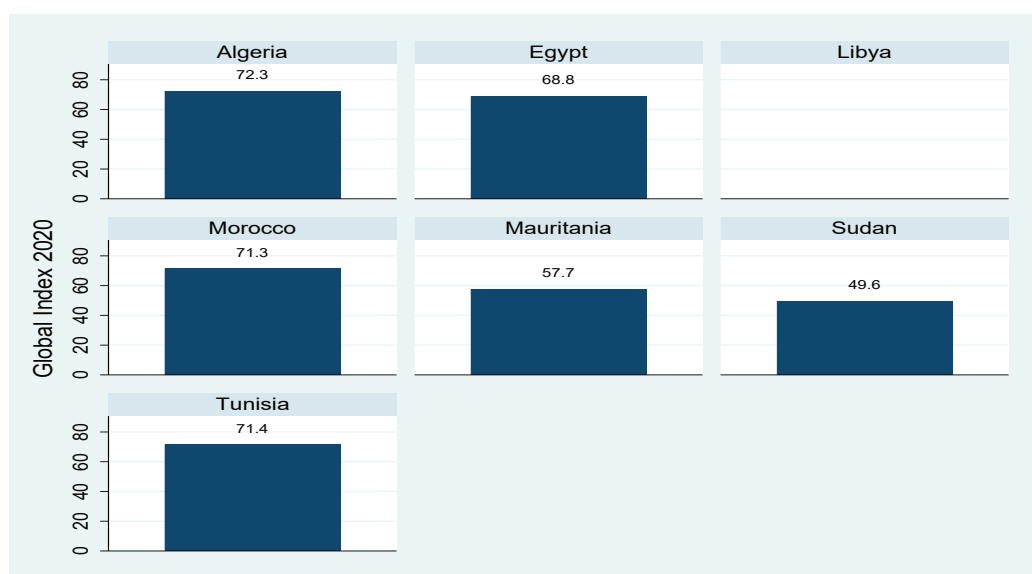
This chapter presents a comparative analysis of the performance and general trends in the implementation and achievement of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 in North African countries (i.e., Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania, the Sudan and Tunisia). For this purpose, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were grouped into three areas: socioeconomic, environmental, and institutions and governance. The achievements relating to Agenda 2063 were analysed in relation to the aspirations, priority areas and goals set out therein. Trends were identified for those indicators for which long time series data were available. An analysis of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 was carried out using information from future-oriented studies from countries or various United Nations institutions.

## I. Performance in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

### 1. Overall performance

Overall, the performance by North African countries in achieving SDGs exceeded the average for African countries and ranked high in rankings of African countries.

Figure 1: Overall index, by country (2020)



Source: Sachs, J., Schmidt-Traub, G., Kroll, C., Lafortune, G., Fuller, G., Woelm, F. 2020. The Sustainable Development Goals and COVID-19. Sustainable Development Report 2020. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

**Table 1: Ranking of North African countries in the implementation of SDGs**

Ranking	Algeria	Egypt	Libya	Morocco	Mauritania	Sudan	Tunisia
World	56	83	-	64	130	159	63
Africa	1	4	-	3	18	41	2

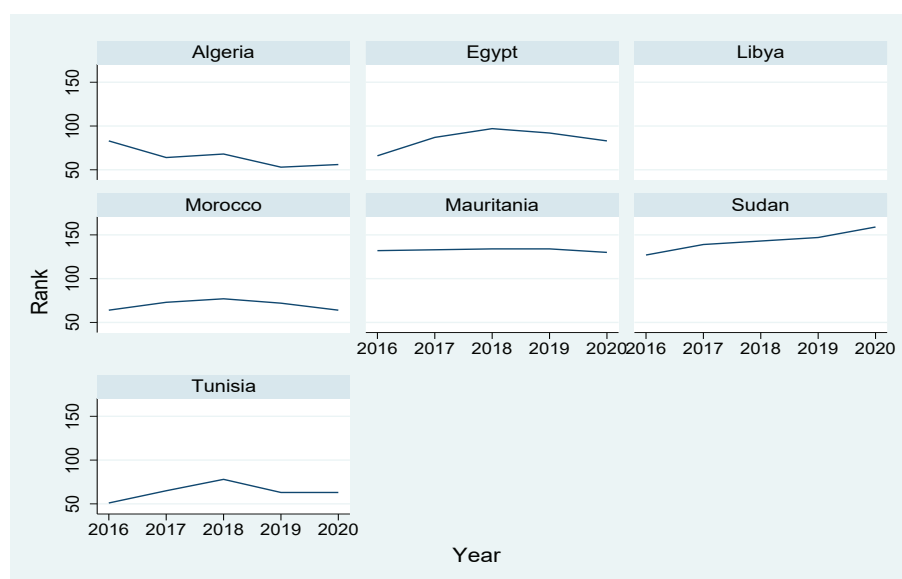
*Source:* Sachs, J. and others. "Sustainable development report 2020: the Sustainable Development Goals and COVID-19". Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020.

With respect to the Sustainable Development Index,<sup>2</sup> four countries achieved satisfactory performance, namely Algeria (72.3), Tunisia (71.4), Morocco (71.3) and Egypt (68.8). Mauritania and the Sudan, however, achieved only average performances, with index values of 57.7 and 49.6, respectively, while the index value for Libya was not calculated owing to a lack of data.

In terms of global ranking, Algeria (56) and Tunisia (63) occupied fairly high positions for performance in terms of SDG implementation among the 193 countries selected for the 2020 report. Morocco (64) and Egypt (83) occupy middle-level positions, while Mauritania (130) and the Sudan (159) were ranked fairly low.

On the African continent, Algeria (first), Tunisia (second), Morocco (third) and Egypt (fourth) proved to be among the best performing countries, while Mauritania and the Sudan occupied eighteenth and forty-first places, respectively.

Looking at how ranking evolved over the period from 2016 to 2020, figure 2 shows that Algeria continuously improved its ranking, moving from eighty-third place in 2016 to fifty-sixth place in 2020. Starting in 2016, the rankings of Tunisia, Morocco and Egypt declined until 2018 when they began to improve. Mauritania largely

**Figure 2: Evolution of the ranking of North African countries based on the overall index**

*Source:* Sachs and others database (2020).

<sup>2</sup> Source: Sachs, J., Schmidt-Traub, G., Kroll, C., Lafortune, G., Fuller, G., Woelm, F. 2020. The Sustainable Development Goals and COVID-19. Sustainable Development Report 2020. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

maintained its position with a relative improvement at the end of the period, while the Sudan experienced a constant decline.

## 2. Average performance by Sustainable Development Goal sphere

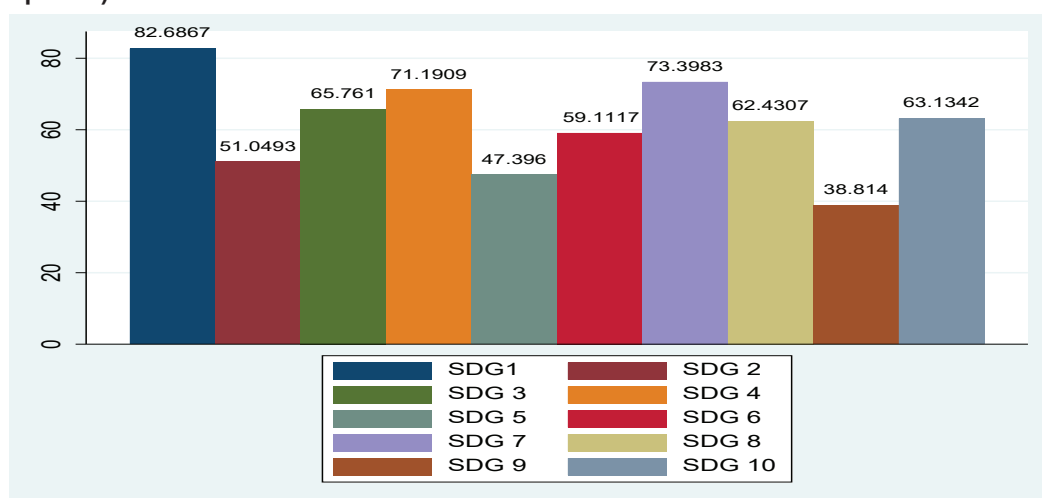
The performance of North African countries in achieving SDGs was analysed in three spheres: socioeconomic, environmental, and institutions and governance. The analysis focused first, on the average performance of these countries,<sup>3</sup> and second, on their individual performance.

### 2.1. Socioeconomic sphere

On average, North African countries were able to achieve reasonable performance for SDG 1 (no poverty), with an average of 82.7 per cent achieving this target, an average of 73.4 per cent for SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy) and an average of 71.2 per cent for SDG 4 (quality education).

However, on average, North African countries achieved only modest performance for SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure) and SDG 5 (gender equality), with average achievement rates of only 38.8 per cent and 47.4 per cent, respectively.

**Figure 3: Average performance of North African countries (socioeconomic sphere)**



Source: Sachs and others.

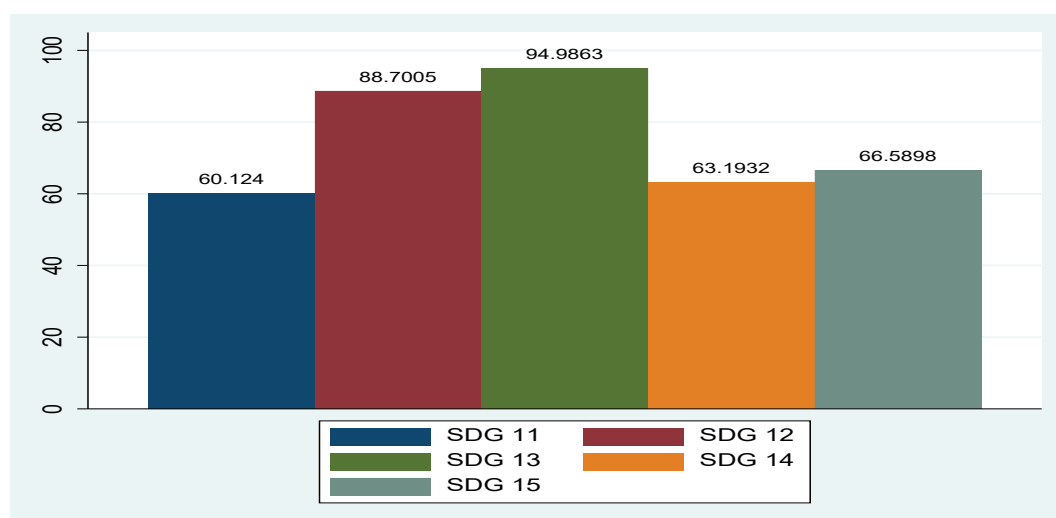
### 2.2. Environmental sphere

In terms of the environment, the performance of North African countries was generally satisfactory, in particular for SDG 13 (climate action) and SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production), with average implementation rates of 95 and 88.7 per cent respectively. On the other hand, the average performance for SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities) and SDG 14 (life below water) remained modest, with implementation rates of 60.1 and 63.2 per cent respectively.

<sup>3</sup> The averages were calculated for only six of the seven countries, as there were no data available for Libya.



**Figure 4: Average performances of North African countries (environmental sphere)**

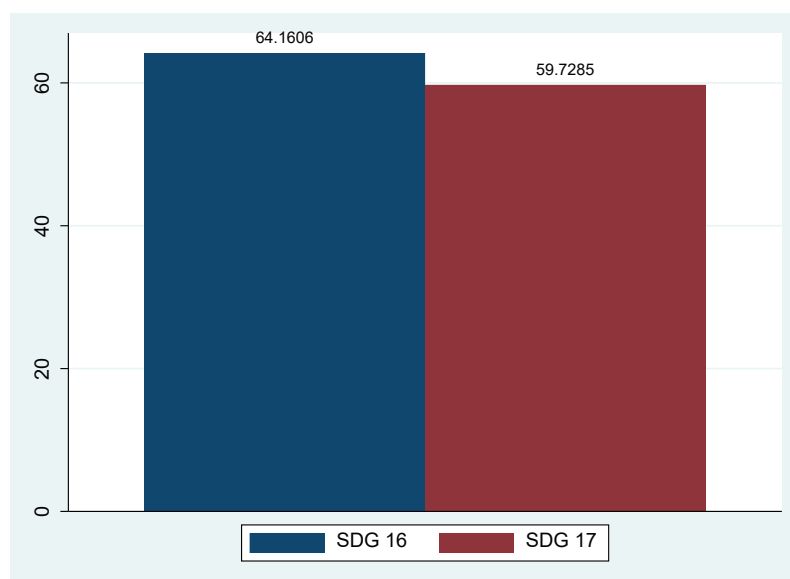


Source: Sachs and others.

### 2.3. Institutional and governance sphere

In terms of governance and institutions, the average performance was relatively modest, achieving no more than 64.2 per cent for SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) and only 59.7 per cent for SDG 17 (partnerships for the Goals).

**Figure 5: Average performance of North African countries (institutions and governance)**



Source: Sachs and others.

## 3. Performance by country<sup>4</sup>

**Algeria** achieved remarkable results in the implementation of SDG 1, with 98 per cent, as well as for SDG 4 (95 per cent), SDG 13 (89.8 per cent), SDG 12 (88.5 per

<sup>4</sup> It was not possible to assess the results achieved by Libya, owing to a lack of data.

cent) and SDG 8 (87.5 per cent). The poorest results were recorded for SDG 17 (44.4 per cent), SDG 14 (50.5 per cent) and SDG 15 (59.5 per cent).

**Egypt** achieved good results for SDG 13 (95.9 per cent), SDG 7 (92.7 per cent), SDG 1 (90.5 per cent) and SDG 4 (84.4 per cent), but lagged behind, however, in the implementation of SDG 10 (37.8 per cent), SDG 9 (43.5 per cent) and SDG 5 (47.2 per cent).

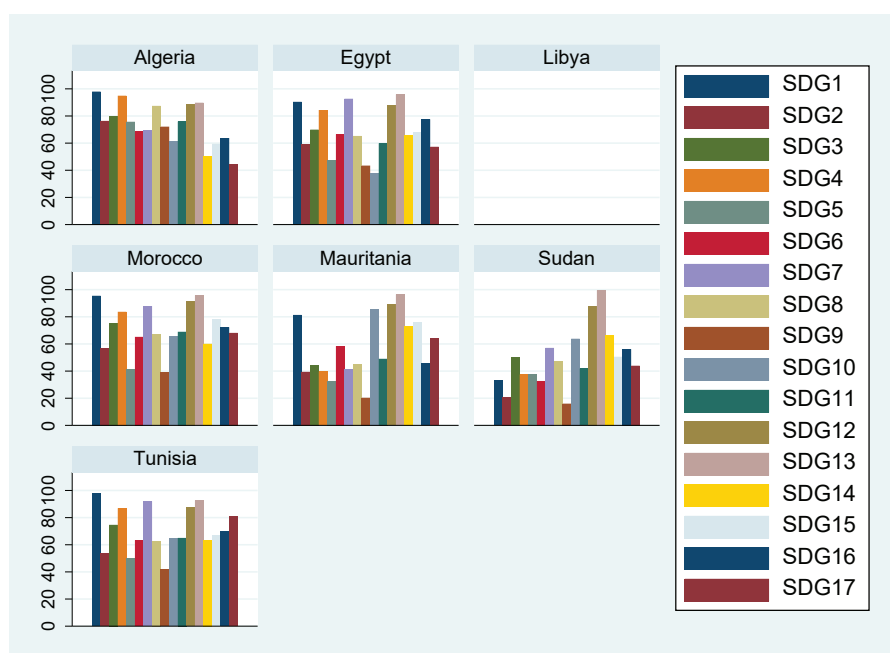
**Mauritania** recorded strong performance for SDG 13 (96.5 per cent), SDG 12 (88 per cent), SDG 10 (85.6 per cent) and SDG 1 (81.4 per cent), but also posted some disappointing results, mainly for SDG 9 (20.4 per cent), SDG 5 (32.5 per cent) and SDG 2 (32.5 per cent).

**Morocco** posted its best results for SDG 13 (95.7 per cent), SDG 1 (95.5 per cent), SDG 12 (91.4 per cent) and SDG 7 (87.9 per cent). However, results were disappointing for SDG 9 (39.1 per cent) and SDG 5 (41.1 per cent).

**The Sudan** recorded noteworthy results, in particular for SDG 13 (99.5 per cent) and SDG 12 (87.8 per cent) and, to a lesser extent, SDG 14 and SDG 10. On the other hand, there were significant delays in the implementation of SDG 9 (16 per cent), SDG 2 (20.8 per cent) and SDG 1 (33 per cent).

**Tunisia** recorded notable results for SDG 1 (97.8 per cent), SDG 13 (92.7 per cent) and SDG 7 (92 per cent), with disappointing results, however, recorded for SDG 9 (41.8 per cent) and SDG 5 (49.9 per cent).

Figure 6: Implementation of SDGs



Source: Sachs and others.

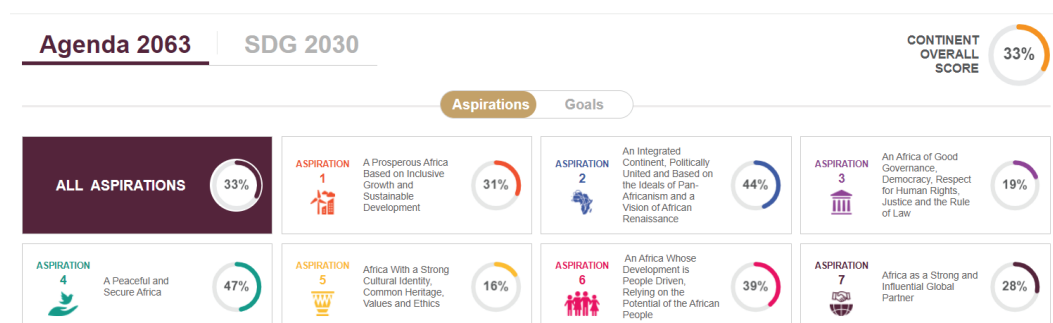
## II. Performance in the implementation of Agenda 2063

### 1. Overall performance concerning aspirations and priority areas

The results achieved by North African countries in the implementation of Agenda 2063 varied from country to country. The figures show that the averages actually concealed marked differences between countries<sup>5</sup>.

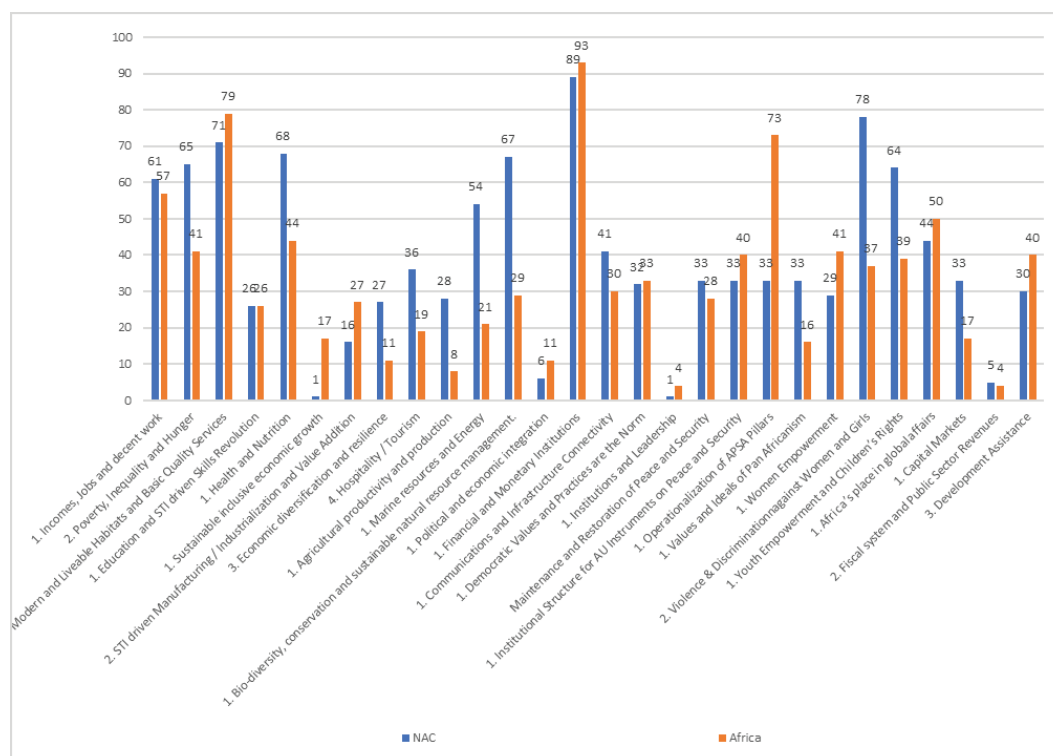
The overall performance of North African countries in terms of implementing Agenda 2063 stood at 39 per cent, a higher score than the score for Africa as a whole,

**Figure 7: Achievements of North African countries concerning Agenda 2063 aspirations**



Source: <https://www.nepad.org/agenda-dashboard>.

**Figure 8: Comparative performance of North African countries and the African continent on priority areas**



Source: New Partnership for Africa's Development.

<sup>5</sup> Data on implementation were available for only four North African countries: Algeria, Egypt, Sudan and Tunisia.

estimated at 33 per cent. The scores of North African countries on aspirations 4 and 6 were well above those of the continent as a whole. For aspirations 1 and 2, the scores of 43 per cent and 45 per cent, respectively, were slightly below the scores for the continent as a whole, estimated at 49 per cent and 46 per cent. But North African countries lagged far behind in achieving aspirations 3, 5 and 7.

With respect to the priority areas, the average performance of North African countries exceeded that of the African continent in the areas of health and nutrition, poverty, inequality and hunger eradication, biodiversity, conservation and sustainable management of natural resources, marine resources and energy, violence and discrimination against women and girls, youth empowerment and children’s rights. On the other hand, North African countries achieved below the African average in areas such as sustainable and inclusive economic growth, the operationalization of the pillars of the African Peace and Security Architecture, the institutional structure of African Union instruments relating to peace and security and development assistance. However, there were no significant performance gaps for the other priority areas.

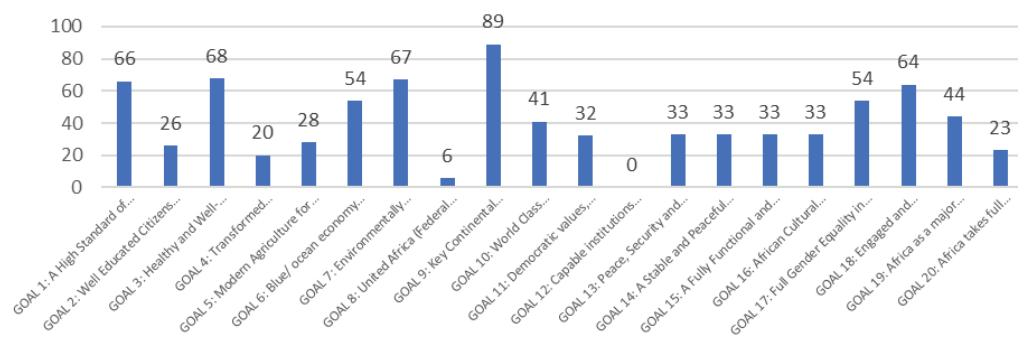
## 2. Global performances concerning the goals of Agenda 2063

With respect to achieving the goals of Agenda 2063, North African countries reached an 89 per cent achievement rate for goal 9 (continental financial and monetary institutions are established and functional) and 68 per cent for goal 3 (healthy and well-nourished citizens), 67 per cent for goal 7 (environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient economies and communities), 66 per cent for goal 1 (a high standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all citizens) and 64 per cent for goal 18 (engaged and empowered youth and children). The lowest levels of performance were for goal 12 (capable institutions and transformative leadership in place) and goal 8 (united Africa [federal or confederate]) with estimated implementation rates of 1 and 6 per cent, respectively. Goals 2, 4, 5 and 20 were characterized by rather low implementation rates, ranging from 20 to 26 per cent. For the remainder of the goals, achievement rates varied between 32 and 54 per cent.

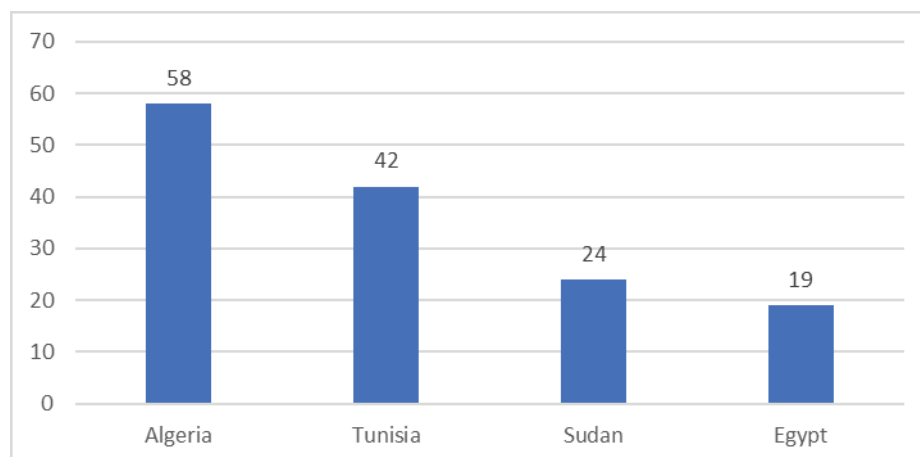
## 3. Performance by country

Implementation data, available for only four North African countries (Algeria, Egypt, the Sudan and Tunisia), show that Algeria managed to implement 58 per cent of the

**Figure 9 (a): Performance of North African countries concerning the goals of Agenda 2063**



Source: New Partnership for Africa’s Development.

**Figure 9 (b): Aspiration implementation rate, by country (percentage)**

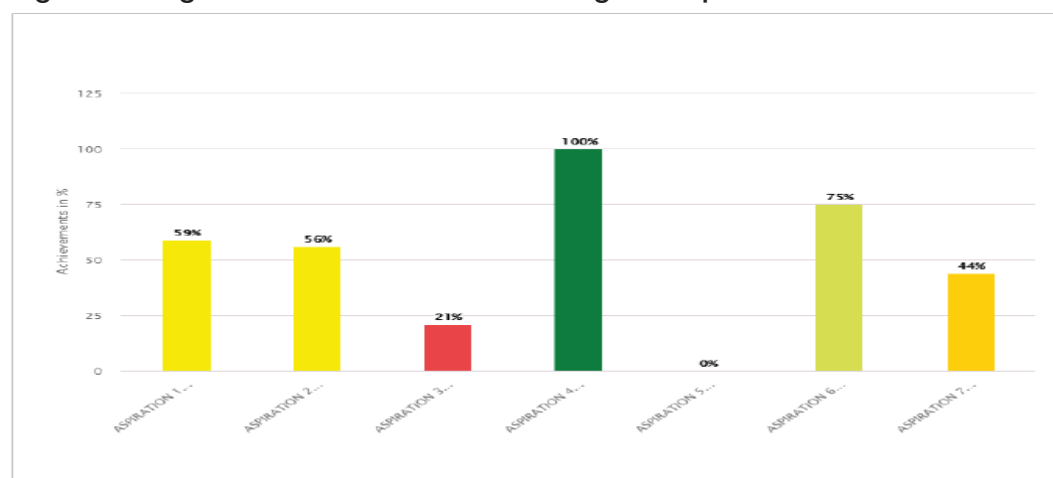
Source: New Partnership for Africa's Development.

aspirations, followed by Tunisia, with an implementation rate of 42 per cent. The Sudan and Egypt achieved 24 per cent and 19 per cent, respectively.

### 3.1. Algeria

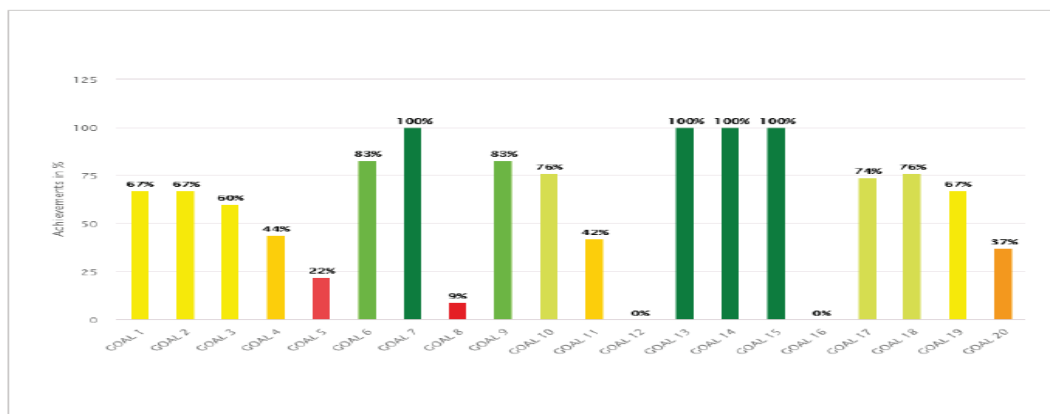
Algeria was successful in fully implementing aspiration 1 (a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development) and 75 per cent of aspiration 6 (an Africa whose development is people-driven, based on the potential of its populations, especially its women and young people, and which cares for its children). On the other hand, with regard to aspirations 5 (an Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, values and ethics) and 3 (an Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law), the country's performance varied between very poor and weak while, with respect to other aspirations, it ranged from 44 per cent to 59 per cent.

With regard to the goals of Agenda 2063, Algeria fully achieved goals 7, 13, 14 and 15 and fulfilled at least 75 per cent of goals 6, 9, 10, 17 and 18. On the other hand, it achieved an implementation rate of only 1 per cent for goals 12 and 16.

**Figure 10: Algeria: achievements concerning the aspirations**

Source: New Partnership for Africa's Development.

**Figure 11: Algeria: performance concerning the goals of Agenda 2063**



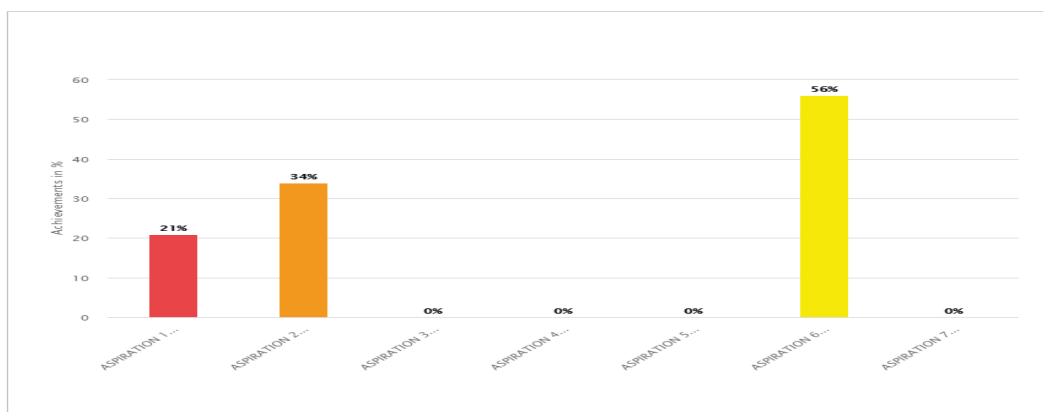
Source: New Partnership for Africa’s Development.

### 3.2. Egypt

The data show that Egypt achieved 56 per cent for aspiration 6, and 21 and 34 per cent for aspirations 1 and 2, respectively. On the other hand, practically nothing was achieved in respect of aspirations 3, 4, 5 and 7.

Egypt managed to achieve all or almost all of goals 3 and 9, according to an analysis of performance. Goal 18 was 75 per cent completed and the rates for goals 1 and 17

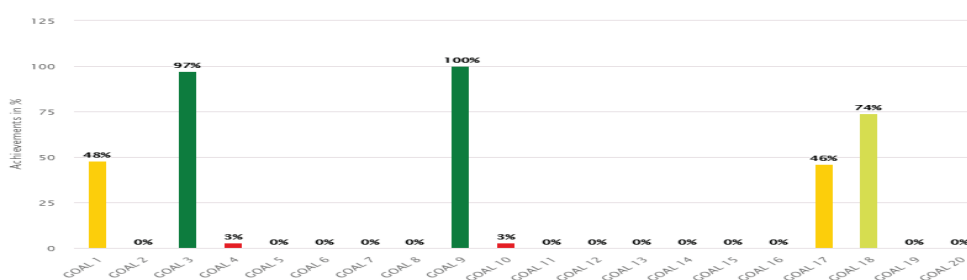
**Figure 12: Egypt: performance concerning the aspirations**



Source: New Partnership for Africa’s Development.

were 48 per cent and 46 per cent respectively. For the other goals, the achievement rates ranged from very low to non-existent.

**Figure 13: Egypt: performance concerning the goals of Agenda 2063**

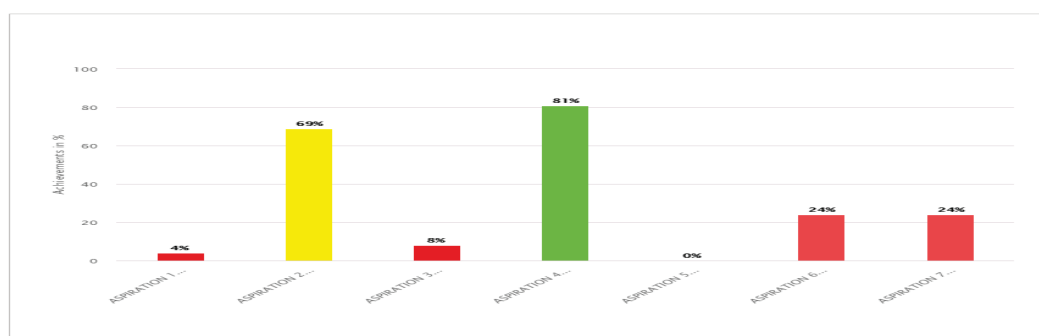


Source: New Partnership for Africa's Development.

### 3.3. The Sudan

The Sudan successfully implemented aspiration 4, at 81 per cent, and aspiration 2, at 69 per cent. Implementation rates for the other aspirations ranged from 4 to 24 per cent, with the exception of aspiration 5, which had a zero implementation rate

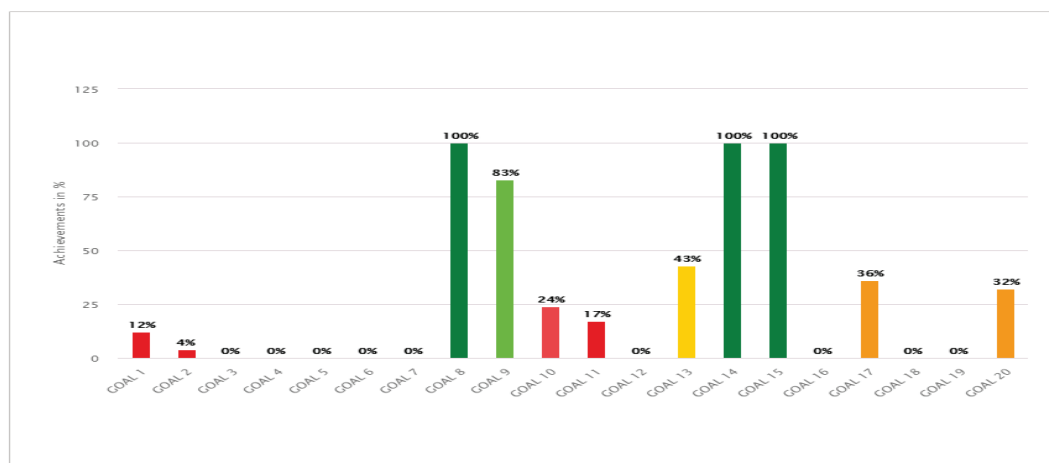
**Figure 14: The Sudan: performance concerning the aspirations**



Source: New Partnership for Africa's Development.

The Sudan had a 100 per cent achievement rate with respect to goals 8, 14 and 15. Goal 9 was 83 per cent achieved, goal 13 was 43 per cent achieved, while the achievement rates for the other goals ranged between 4 and 36 per cent, with the exception of goals 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 16, 18 and 19, where the achievement rates were virtually zero.

**Figure 15: The Sudan: performance concerning the goals of Agenda 2063**



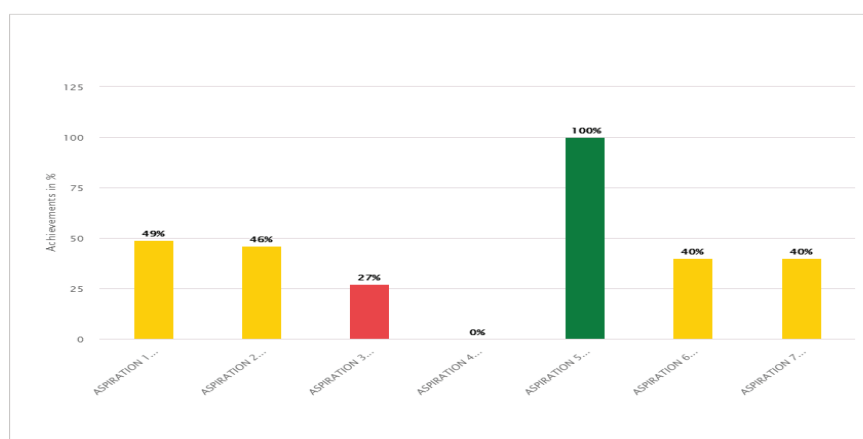
Source: New Partnership for Africa's Development.

### 3.4. Tunisia

The data show that Tunisia managed to fully achieve aspiration 5. The rates of achievement of aspirations 1, 2, 6 and 7 varied between 40 and 49 per cent. Aspiration 3 was 27 per cent implemented. For aspiration 4 (an Africa living in peace and security), Tunisian achievements included the following:

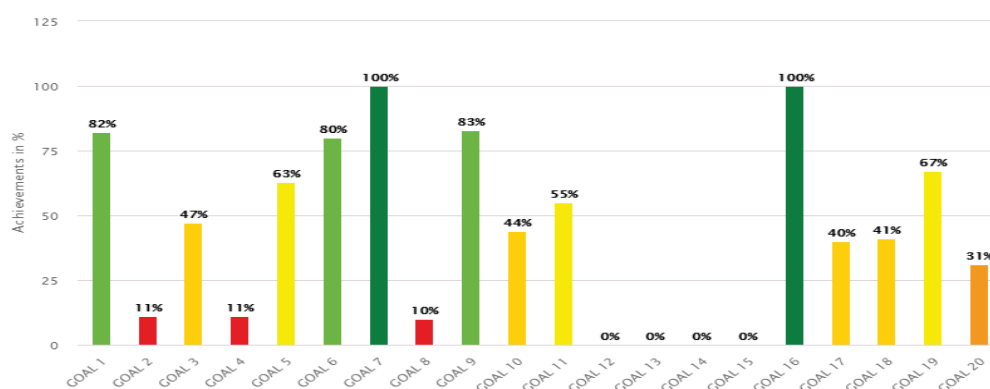
- In 2015, Tunisia received the Nobel Peace Prize, awarded to the Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet comprising the Tunisian General Labour Union, the Tunisian Confederation of Industry, Trade and Handicrafts, the Tunisian Human Rights League and the Tunisian Order of Lawyers, which played a key role in the establishment of a national dialogue after the revolution of 2011.
- A national action plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), coordinated by the Ministry of Women and Family, Children and Seniors, was approved by the Council of Ministers on 8 August 2018. As part of the regional programme “Women, Peace and Security in the Arab States”, the action plan was initiated in 2016 with the financial support of the Finnish Government, and aimed to build on the global normative framework for women, peace and security and to contribute to the creation of an enabling environment for the implementation of commitments to women’s peace and security in accordance with resolution 1325 (2000).
- The governing departments of the Presidency cooperated closely in the use of indicators developed by the National Institute of Statistics in the context of a national survey on citizens’ perceptions of peace, freedoms and local governance, inspired by the governance, peace and security module of the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa.
- Tunisia contributed to peacekeeping operations around the world. It should be noted that the first United Nations peacekeeping operation in which it took part dates back to 1960 in the Congo, with a contingent of a thousand troops.

**Figure 16: Tunisia: performance concerning the aspirations**



Source: New Partnership for Africa’s Development.



**Figure 17: Tunisia: performance concerning the goals of Agenda 2063**

Source: New Partnership for Africa's Development.

In terms of the goals of Agenda 2063, Tunisia achieved goals 7 and 16 and implementation of goals 1, 6 and 9 reached at least 80 per cent. For the other goals, performance was variable and completion rates ranged between 11 and 67 per cent.

### III. Analysis of trends concerning the Sustainable Development Goals

Trends<sup>6</sup> in the implementation of SDGs were analysed using the indicators associated with each SDG and in three spheres: socioeconomic, environmental and climate change, and institutions and governance.

#### 1. Socioeconomic sphere

The socioeconomic indicators relate to SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

##### 1.1. Poverty

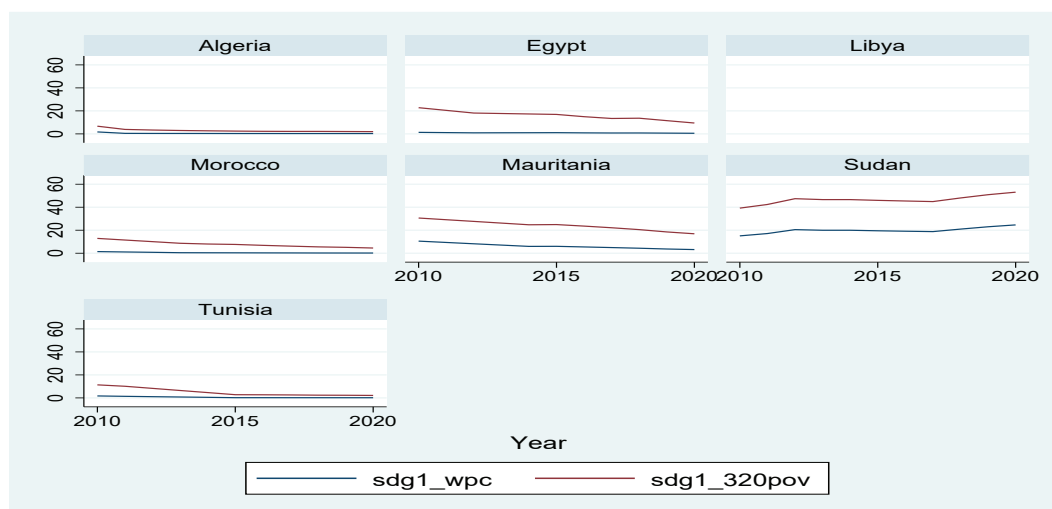
In the fight against poverty and hunger, North African countries generally recorded satisfactory performance. Trends reflected a steady decline, to a greater or lesser extent depending on the country, with the Sudan, the only exception, showing an upward trend in these indicators.

As shown in the graph below, Algeria, with indicators already at low levels at the outset, managed to strengthen its position in the fight against poverty and malnutrition, followed by Tunisia, where the downward trend in these two indicators has been very marked since 2015. Morocco also managed to significantly reduce its poverty and malnutrition indicators.

Egypt and Mauritania, whose initially relatively high poverty and malnutrition rates began to show a downward trend, were able, through targeted programmes and policies, to drastically reduce the proportion of their populations living below the poverty line and suffering from malnutrition problems.

<sup>6</sup> Source: Sachs, J., Schmidt-Traub, G., Kroll, C., Lafortune, G., Fuller, G., Woelm, F. 2020. The Sustainable Development Goals and COVID-19. Sustainable Development Report 2020. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

**Figure 18: Trends in the fight against poverty, by country**



Source: Sachs and others.

Only the Sudan, among the group of North African countries, was not able to reverse the upward trend in these two indicators, now at alarming levels.

**Notes:** sdg1\_wpc: proportion of the population living below the poverty line set at \$1.90 per day (percentage). sdg1\_320pov: proportion of the population living below the poverty line set at \$3.20 per day (percentage).

## 1.2. Malnutrition

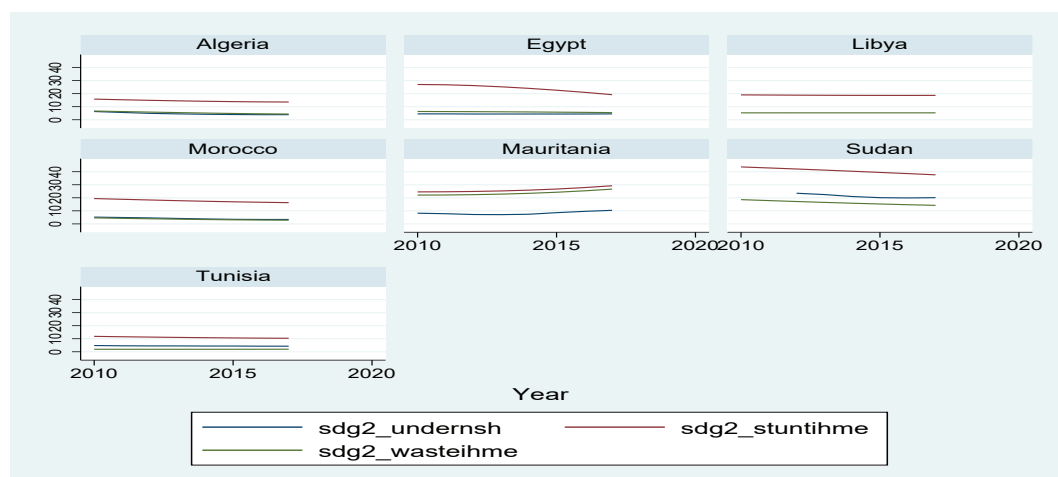
Data on the nutritional situation in North African countries showed a general downward trend in indicators for all countries except Mauritania. The nutritional situation was measured by three indicators: the prevalence of undernourishment (sdg2\_undrnsh), the prevalence of stunting in children under five years of age (sdg2\_stunting) and the prevalence of malnutrition in children under five years of age (sdg2\_wasting).

The indicator relating to the prevalence of undernourishment, measured only for Algeria and Egypt, reflected a clear improvement in the general food situation in these two countries.

The indicator measuring stunting in children indicated a general downward trend for all countries except Mauritania. This indicator remained fairly high in Egypt and the Sudan and moderately high in Algeria.

The prevalence of malnutrition among children under five years of age remained fairly high in the Sudan and Mauritania, while it was relatively low in Algeria, Egypt and Tunisia, and in Morocco, the nutrition of those under five has shown steady improvement. Between 2004 and 2018, the prevalence of underweight was reduced from 10.2 to 2.9 per cent and that of stunting from 18.1 to 15.1 per cent.<sup>7</sup> This indicator recorded a downward trend for all North African countries except Mauritania, where it was on the rise, and Libya, where it remained stable.

<sup>7</sup> Voluntary national review of Morocco, 2020.

**Figure 19: Trends in the prevalence of malnutrition, by country**

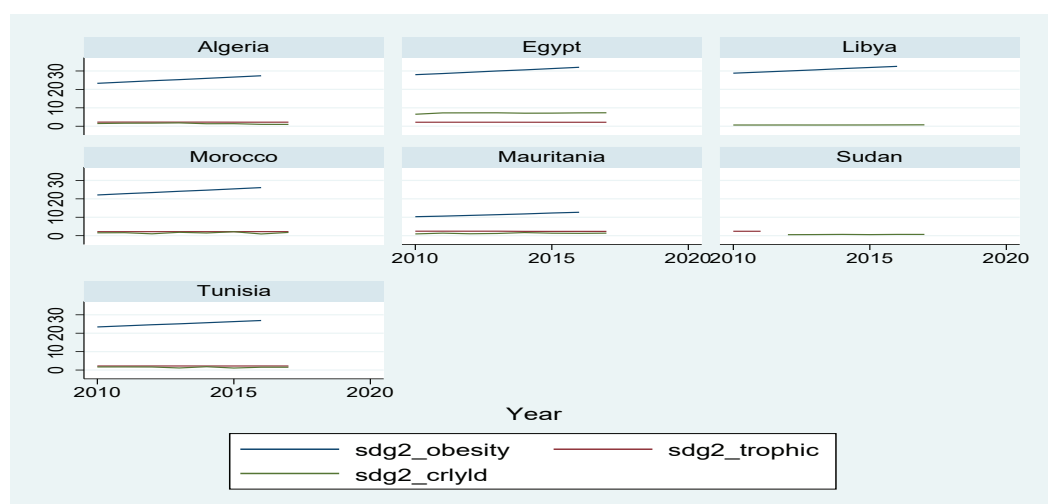
Source: Sachs and others.

Notes: sdg2\_undernsh: prevalence of undernourishment (percentage); sdg2\_stuntihme: prevalence of stunting in children under five years old; sdg2\_wasteihme: prevalence of malnutrition in children under five years old.

### 1.3. Obesity, trophic level and cereal yield

Obesity as a form of nutritional imbalance continued to evolve at an alarming rate in North African countries, with a widespread rise in the prevalence rate of obesity in these countries. It proved to be a continuing scourge, particularly in Egypt and Libya, where the rate exceeded 30 per cent. In Algeria and Tunisia, it was lower but is now rising again. In Morocco, emaciation fell from 9.3 to 2.6 per cent, while overweight is under control at around 10.5 per cent (12.3 per cent for boys compared with 9.2 per cent for girls).<sup>8</sup> In Mauritania, this rate was quite low, but on the rise. This indicator was not available for the Sudan.

The human trophic level, which provides information on the quality of human food, was moderately high, particularly in Mauritania. The situation in Libya and the Sudan

**Figure 20: Obesity, trophic level and cereal yield, by country**

Source: Sachs and others.

Notes: sdg2\_obesity: Prevalence of obesity in the adult population (percentage); sdg2\_trophic: human trophic level (2: good, 3: bad); sdg2\_crlyld: cereal yield (tonnes per hectare of land harvested).

<sup>8</sup> Voluntary national review of Morocco, 2020.

was unclear owing to a lack of data. For the other countries, the situation seemed to be improving, but at a rather slow pace.

Because harvests depend on generally very erratic rainfall, cereal yields were generally low and fluctuated in North African countries, except in Egypt, whose cereal crop is largely irrigated, and was the only North African countries to have obtained fairly high yield levels. The low cereal yields in most North African countries raised the problem of their food security and heavy dependence on cereal imports.

### 1.4. Maternal, newborn and child health

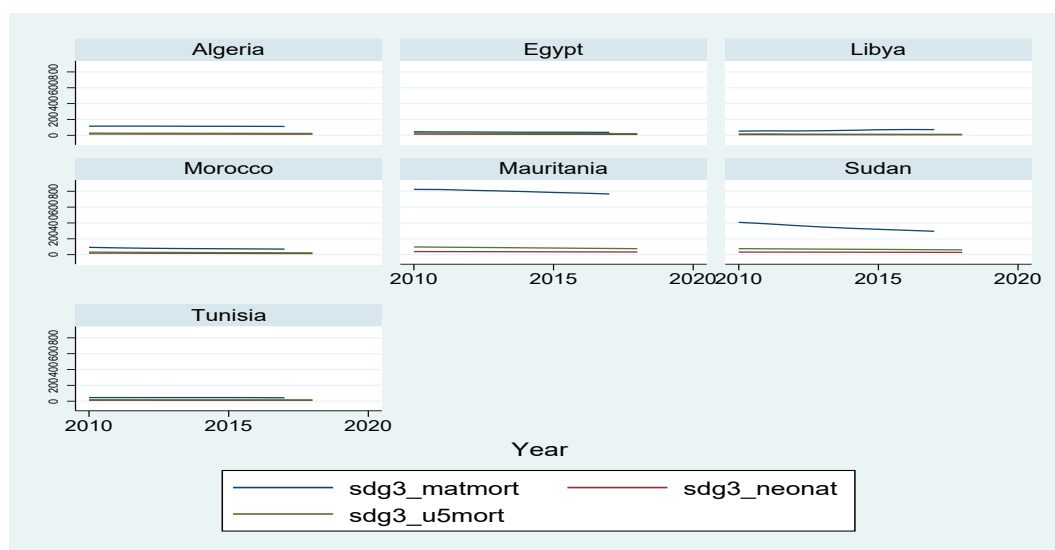
The health system was analysed using indicators relating to maternal and newborn health, as well as the under-five mortality rate.

The maternal mortality rate remained very high in some North African countries, notably in Mauritania and the Sudan, where it reached 766 and 295 per 100,000, respectively, in 2017. This rate was lowest in Egypt (37) and Tunisia (43) (2017) and varied for the other countries between 112 (Algeria) and 70 (Morocco). In general, it reflected a downward trend in all North African countries, except in Libya, where it had been rising in recent years.

The neonatal mortality rate in North African countries was generally relatively low, except in Mauritania, where it reached 33.5 per 1,000, and in the Sudan (28.6) in 2018. In the same year, Libya had the lowest rate (6.4). Generally speaking, this rate was on a downward trend.

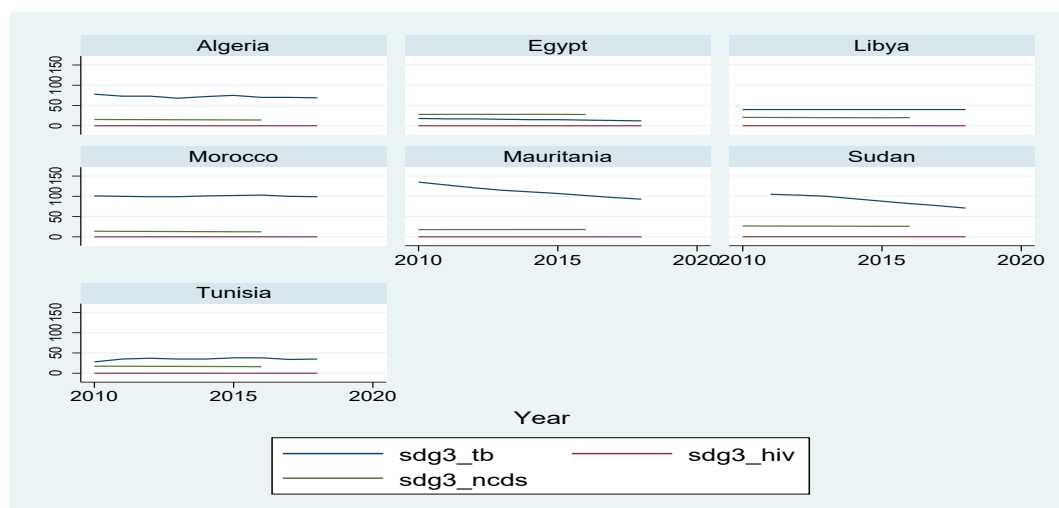
Under-five mortality was following the same trend as maternal mortality, although it was higher, and varied from 12 per 1000 in Libya to 75.7 per 1,000 in Mauritania (2018).

**Figure 21: Maternal and newborn health, by country**



Source: Sachs and others.

Notes: sdg3\_matmort: maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 live births); sdg3\_neonat: neonatal mortality rate (per 1000 live births); sdg3\_u5mort: under-five mortality rate (per 1000 live births).

**Figure 22: Prevalence of contagious or communicable diseases, by country**

**Notes:** sdg3\_tb: tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population; sdg3\_hiv: number of new HIV infections per 1,000 HIV-negative people; sdg3\_ncds: mortality rate due to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory diseases.

### 1.5. Contagious and transmissible diseases

The incidence of tuberculosis remained fairly high in several North African countries, notably in Mauritania and the Sudan and to a lesser extent in Algeria. The rate was fairly low in Egypt and moderately low in Tunisia and Libya.

In Morocco, the annual incidence, all forms combined, decreased between 2015 and 2018 from 101 to 99 cases per 100,000 inhabitants. A national strategic plan for tuberculosis to cover the period from 2018 to 2021 was set up to achieve a 40 per cent reduction in the number of tuberculosis-related deaths by 2021.<sup>9</sup>

The general trend reflected a sharp decline in Mauritania and the Sudan and remained relatively stable in the other countries.

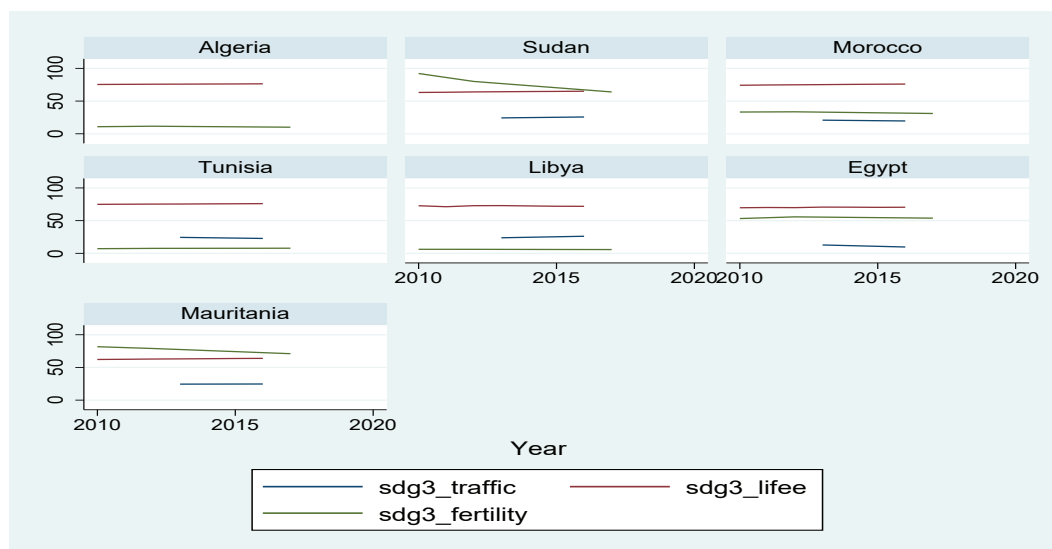
The number of HIV infections was relatively low in all North African countries and inclined to remain stable. Mortality rates due to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory diseases were quite high in the Sudan, Egypt and Libya, and moderately high in the other countries, with a slight downward trend seen in almost all North African countries.

### 1.6. Life expectancy, mortality due to accidents, and fertility

Life expectancy reflects a set of socioeconomic factors related to the health system, nutrition and general health practices. The countries of North Africa can be divided into three groups: the first (Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia) where life expectancy generally was fairly high (around 76 years), the second (Egypt and Libya) where life expectancy varied between 70.5 (Egypt) and 71.9 (Libya) and the third (Mauritania and the Sudan) where life expectancy remained relatively low (63.9 for Mauritania and 65.1 for the Sudan). This indicator showed an overall upward trend.

<sup>9</sup> Voluntary national review of Morocco, 2020.

**Figure 23: Road traffic mortality, life expectancy and fertility among adolescent girls, by country**



Source: Sachs and others.

Notes: sdg3\_traffic: mortality rate linked to road accidents; sdg3\_lifef: life expectancy at birth (number of years); sdg3\_fertility: adolescent fertility rate (number of births per 1,000 girls aged from 15 to 19 years).

Mortality as a result of road accidents generally reflects the state of the road infrastructure as well as the ageing condition of the means of transport. This indicator was relatively high in almost all North African countries, except in Egypt and Morocco, where it was fairly low.

In Morocco, the mortality rate linked to accidents on public roads per 100,000 inhabitants fell from 11 deaths in 2016 to 9.37 deaths in 2019. The Government plans to reduce this rate to 5.6 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants by 2025.<sup>10</sup>

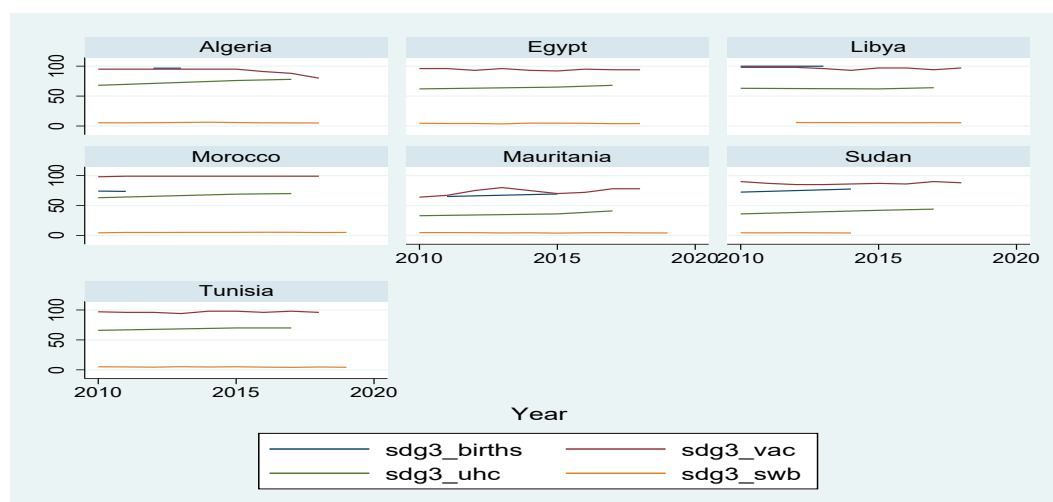
Fertility among adolescent girls remained very high, although declining in three countries, Mauritania, the Sudan and Egypt. It was moderately high in Morocco and quite low in Libya, Tunisia and Algeria. This indicator was on a general downward trend in almost every country.

### 1.7. Basic health

Because only very incomplete data on the proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel were available, no trends could be established, although anecdotal data were available for Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania and the Sudan. Libya and Algeria had the highest proportion of such births, although the data related to the period before 2015, with Libya at almost 100 per cent and Algeria at 96.6 per cent (2013). In the Sudan, it was close to 77.5 per cent (2014) and continuing to rise. In Morocco, it increased between 2011 and 2018, from 73.6 to 86.6 per cent at the national level, from 92.1 to 96.6 per cent in urban areas, and from 55 to 74.2 per cent in rural areas,<sup>11</sup> while Mauritania recorded 69.3 per cent (2015).

<sup>10</sup> Voluntary national review of Morocco, 2020.

<sup>11</sup> Voluntary national review of Morocco, 2020.

**Figure 24: Status of basic health services and perception of well-being, by country**

Source: Sachs and others.

Notes: sdg3\_births: proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel (percentage); sdg3\_vac: survival rate of children having received two WHO-recommended vaccines (percentage); sdg3\_uhc: proportion of the target population with essential health care coverage.

The survival rate of children who had received two vaccines recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO) remained fairly high, particularly in Morocco, where it was stable and verging on 100 per cent. It was also fairly high in Tunisia, where it fluctuated between 94 and 98 per cent depending on the year and also in Libya, fluctuating between 93 and 98 per cent. Egypt and Algeria recorded fairly high rates until the middle of the decade before experiencing a certain decline. In the Sudan, the survival rate was quite variable, fluctuating between 85 per cent in 2013 and 90 per cent in 2017.

The proportion of the target population benefiting from essential health care coverage was highest in Algeria at 78 per cent, according to the latest figures from 2017, with 70 per cent in Morocco and Tunisia (2017), 68 per cent in Egypt and around 64 per cent in Libya. In Mauritania and the Sudan, however, the proportion was at its lowest, barely exceeding 41 per cent and 44 per cent respectively (2017). Nevertheless, this proportion generally continued to rise, the result of the various government efforts to expand basic health services.

The subjective perception of well-being, measured on a scale from 0 (poor) to 10 (excellent), averaged 4.8 for North African countries, but varied according by country: it was highest in Algeria, where it reached 6.4 in 2014 before dropping slightly to 5 in 2018. In Libya, it was relatively high, approaching 5.8 in 2012 before dropping to 5.5 in 2018. It was most stable in Morocco where it stood at 5.1 in 2019. In the remaining countries, it varied from one country to another depending on the year, the lowest proportion being recorded in Egypt in 2013 (3.6) and the highest in Tunisia (5.2) for the same year.

## 1.8. Education system

The analysis of the education system was based on enrolment rates in primary and secondary education. Four countries in the region managed to achieve fairly high primary school enrolment rates: Algeria (97.6 per cent, 2018), Egypt (97 per cent, 2018), Morocco (99.8 per cent, from 2018 to 2019) and Tunisia (99.1 per cent, 2020). In two countries, Mauritania (79.6 per cent, 2018) and the Sudan (60 per cent, 2017), this rate remained low but was on the rise.

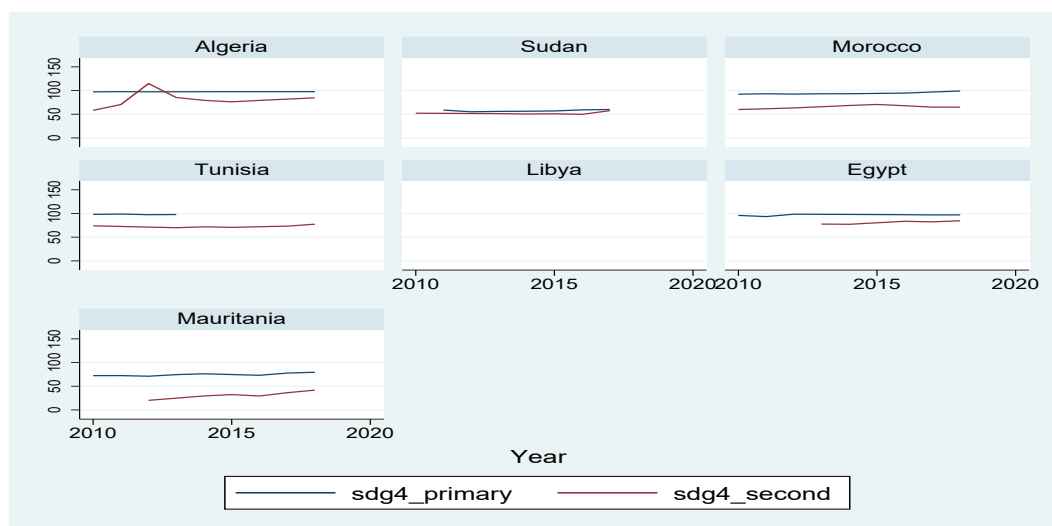
In contrast, secondary school enrolment rates remained low by international standards, averaging just over 64.5 per cent, with a wide disparity between countries. They were highest in Algeria and Egypt (84.6 per cent, 2018). In Tunisia, the enrolment rate in secondary education was 81.9 per cent (2020).

In Morocco, for lower secondary education, the specific enrolment rate for the age group between 12 and 14 reached 91.8 per cent in 2018/19. For upper secondary education, the specific enrolment rate for the age group between 15 and 17 was 66.9 per cent in the same period<sup>12</sup>.

For the Sudan and Mauritania, this rate was low, barely exceeding 57.5 per cent for the former (2017) and 41.9 per cent for the latter (2018). However, the general trend was on the rise, particularly for Mauritania and Egypt.

It should be noted that data on these indicators were not available for Libya.

**Figure 25: Enrolment rates in primary and secondary education, by country**



*Source:* Sachs and others.

*Notes:* sdg4\_primary: primary net enrolment ratio (percentage); sdg4\_secondary: lower secondary completion rate (percentage).

## 1.9. Gender equality

Gender equality was analysed on the basis of four indicators: first, the demand for modern family planning methods for women between 15 and 49 years of age and the ratio of girls to boys in terms of average years of education received (sdg5\_fplmodel

<sup>12</sup> Voluntary national review of Morocco, 2020.

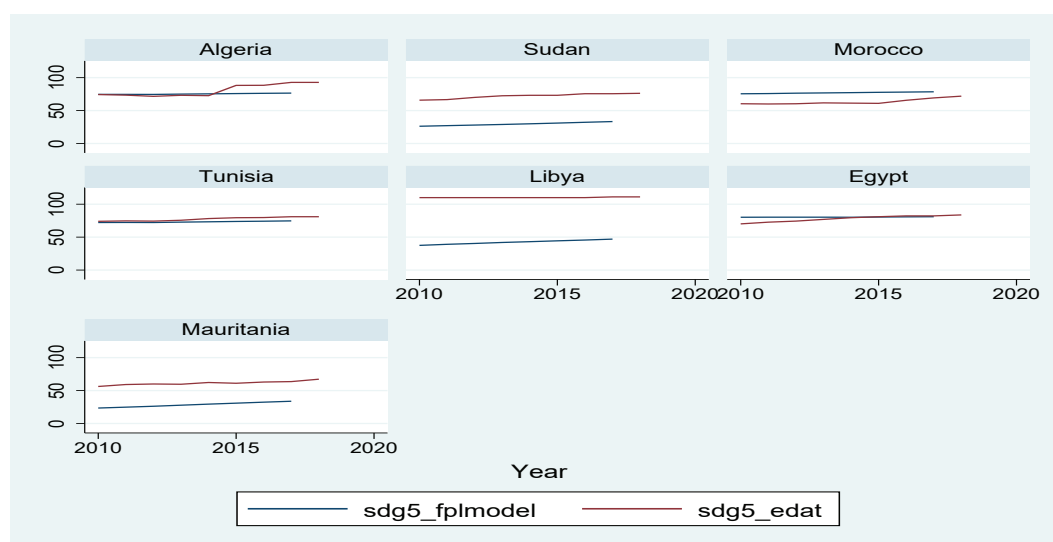


and *sdg5\_lfpr* in figure 26 below); second, the ratio of women to men in terms of their participation rate in the workforce and the proportion of seats held by women in the national parliament (*sdg5\_lfpr* and *sdg5\_parl*, figure 27 below).

Women's access to modern family planning methods was highest in Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia, with rates of 81, 78.5 and 74.7 per cent, respectively (2017); in Algeria, this rate was clearly increasing and stood at 76.5 per cent (2017). For the other countries and for the same year, this rate remained low and barely exceeded 47 per cent for Libya, 33.8 per cent for Mauritania and 33.3 per cent for the Sudan. However, with the exception of Tunisia, where the rate was relatively stable, all the other countries showed a generally significant upward trend.

The ratio of girls to boys in terms of years of schooling as an indicator of educational parity stood at less than 100 in all North African countries, indicating a gender gap to the detriment of girls. While this gap was continuing to close in almost all countries, it remained significant, particularly in Mauritania (33.8 per cent in 2017), the Sudan (33.3 per cent in 2017) and Libya (47 per cent in 2017).

**Figure 26: Gender equality in relation to accessing modern family planning methods and education, by country**



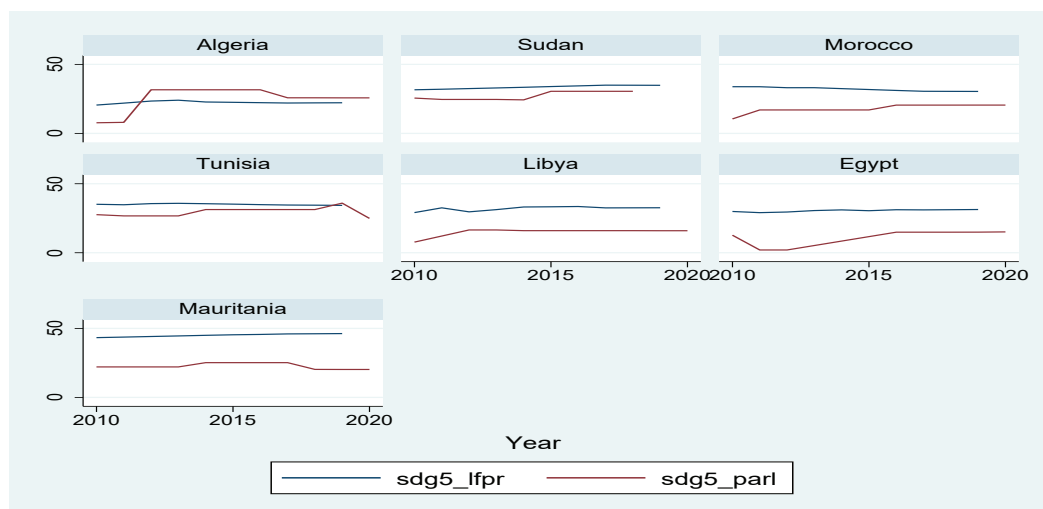
Source: Sachs and others.

Notes: *sdg5\_fplmodel*: demand for modern family planning methods (percentage of women aged 15–49); *sdg5\_edat*: ratio of girls to boys in average years of education received.

Women's participation in the workforce, as measured by the ratio of women to men, remained low, with an average of around 33 per cent for all North African countries over the last decade. This ratio was lowest in Algeria, where it barely exceeded 22.2 per cent (2019) and was highest in Mauritania, where it was over 46 per cent (2019). As a trend and structural parameter, this ratio was slowly increasing, except in Tunisia, where a slight downward trend could be observed.

The participation of women in politics is reflected in the proportion of seats held by women in parliament. This proportion depends on the legislature and varies from country to country. The average proportion in North African countries over the period 2010–20 was 21.7 per cent, highest in Tunisia (35.9 per cent in 2019), the

**Figure 27: Participation of women in the workforce and in parliament, by country**

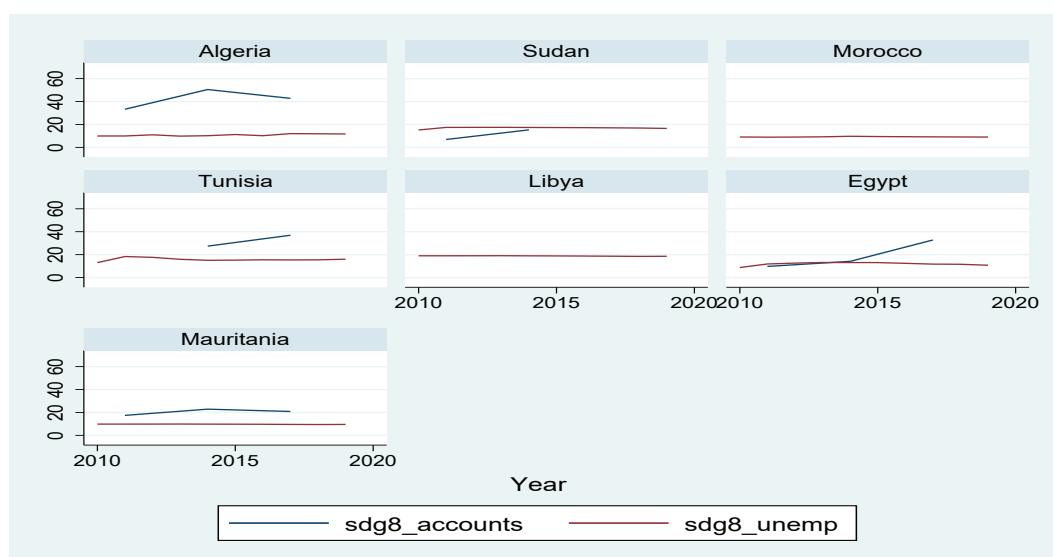


**Notes:** sdg5\_lfpr: female/male ratio in terms of workforce participation rate (percentage); sdg5\_parl: proportion of seats held by women in the national parliament (percentage).

Sudan (30.5 per cent in 2018) and Algeria (25.8 per cent in 2020), moderately high in Morocco (20.5 per cent in 2016) and Mauritania (20.3 per cent in 2020), and remaining relatively low in Egypt (15.1 per cent in 2020) and Libya (16 per cent in 2020).

The majority of North African countries had a fairly high structural unemployment rate. The countries with the lowest rate in 2019 were Morocco (9 per cent), Mauritania (9.5 per cent), Egypt (10.8 per cent) and Algeria (11.7 per cent). The remaining countries, on the other hand, had high unemployment rates, ranging from 18.6 per cent in Libya to 16.5 per cent in the Sudan and 15.3 per cent in Tunisia, a situation likely to worsen in the future as a result of the crisis linked to the COVID pandemic.

**Figure 28: Access to banking services and unemployment by country**



**Notes:** sdg8\_accounts: proportion of adults (aged 15 or over) with an account in a bank or other financial institution or using financial services; sdg8\_unemp: unemployment rate (percentage of total labour force).

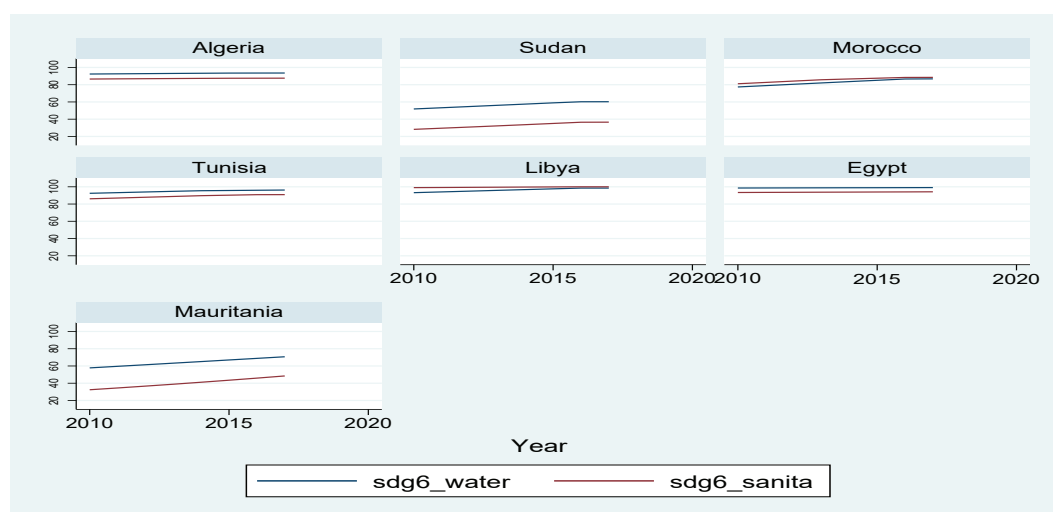
On the other hand, the population's access to financial services was remarkably low in North African countries, where the proportion of adults with a bank account was around 40 per cent, except in Algeria and Libya, where this proportion was 42.8 and 65.7 per cent, respectively, in 2017.

## 2. Basic infrastructure, information and communications technologies, and research and development

### 2.1 Electricity, safe drinking water and sanitation

In terms of safe drinking water supply, North African countries can be divided into two groups: those for which the rate was sufficiently high and those for which a significant proportion of the population still did not have access to an adequate supply of drinking water. The drinking water supply rate was 93.6 per cent in Algeria, 99.1 per cent in Egypt, 98.5 per cent in Libya and 96.3 per cent in Tunisia (2017), while in Morocco, access to drinking water was available in all urban areas and over 97 per cent in rural areas (2019)<sup>13</sup> For the Sudan and Mauritania, these rates were 60.3 per cent and 70.7 per cent, respectively, with a clear upward trend. The same pattern applied to sanitation services, although at lower rates, particularly for Mauritania and the Sudan, where only 48.4 and 36.6 per cent of their respective populations were connected to a sanitation network

**Figure 29: Access to safe drinking water and sanitation, by country**



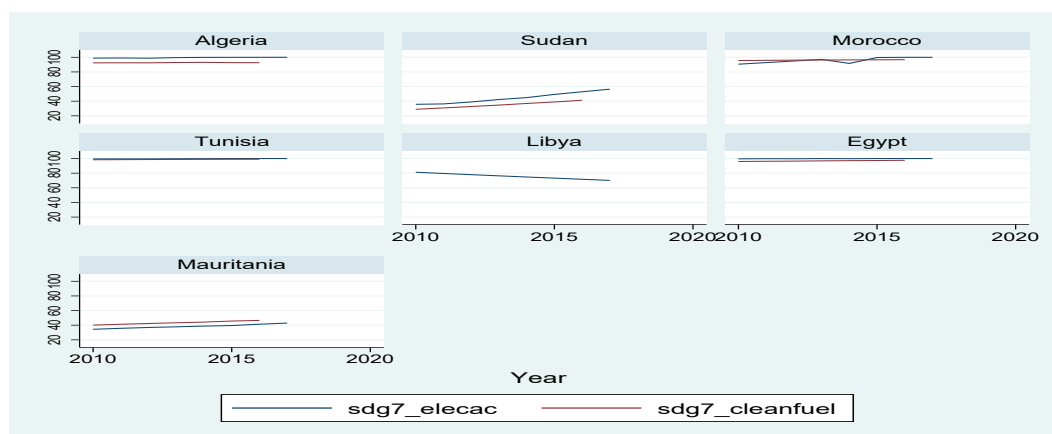
**Notes:** sdg6\_water: Proportion of the population with access to at least basic safe drinking water services; sdg6\_sanita: proportion of the population at least able to use basic sanitation services.

The rate for access to electricity and clean energy sources was close to 100 per cent in Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia. In 2017, this rate was 42.9 and 56.5 per cent, respectively, in Mauritania and the Sudan. For Libya, it stood at 70.1 per cent, but had been falling sharply since 2010.

The proportion of the population with access to clean fuels and technologies for cooking followed roughly the same trend as electricity, albeit at a slightly lower level (figure 30).

<sup>13</sup> Voluntary national review of Morocco, 2020.

**Figure 30: Access to electricity and clean energy, by country**

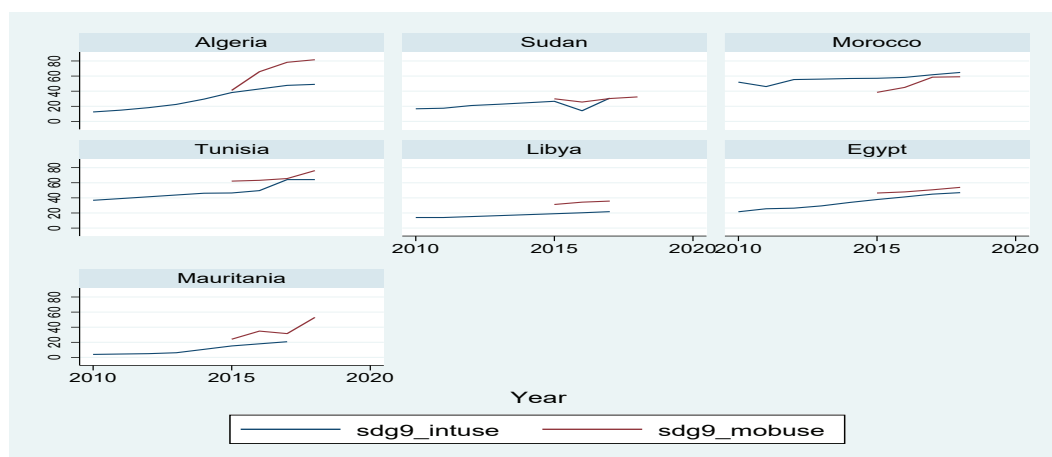


**Notes:** sdg7\_elecac: proportion of the population with access to electricity (percentage), sdg7\_cleanfuel: proportion of the population with access to clean fuels and technologies for cooking (percentage).

## 2.2 Information and communication technologies and research and development

With respect to the population’s access to information and communication technologies (ICT), most North African countries were making significant progress. Internet connection rates were increasing significantly, as was the use of mobile telephone networks. In Morocco, according to data reported as part of the latest voluntary national review, the Internet subscriber base in 2019 stood at 25.28 million subscribers, a penetration rate of 71.33 per cent. This rate stood at over 64 per cent in Tunisia and at 47.9 and 49 per cent in Egypt and Algeria, respectively (2018). In the Sudan, it was 30.9 per cent, and only 21.8 per cent and 20.8 per cent in Libya and Mauritania, respectively (2017).

**Figure 31: Internet and mobile network connections, by country**



**Notes:** sdg9\_intuse: percentage of the population using the Internet; sdg9\_mobuse: number of subscriptions to a mobile telephone network (per 100 inhabitants).

The number of subscriptions to mobile telephone networks<sup>14</sup> has been increasing steadily in all North African countries and particularly in Morocco, where it is estimated that 95 per cent of the population between 12 and 65 years of age owned a mobile phone in 2016. In Algeria and Tunisia, the subscription rates reached 81.7 and 76.1 per cent, respectively, in 2018. It exceeds 50 per cent

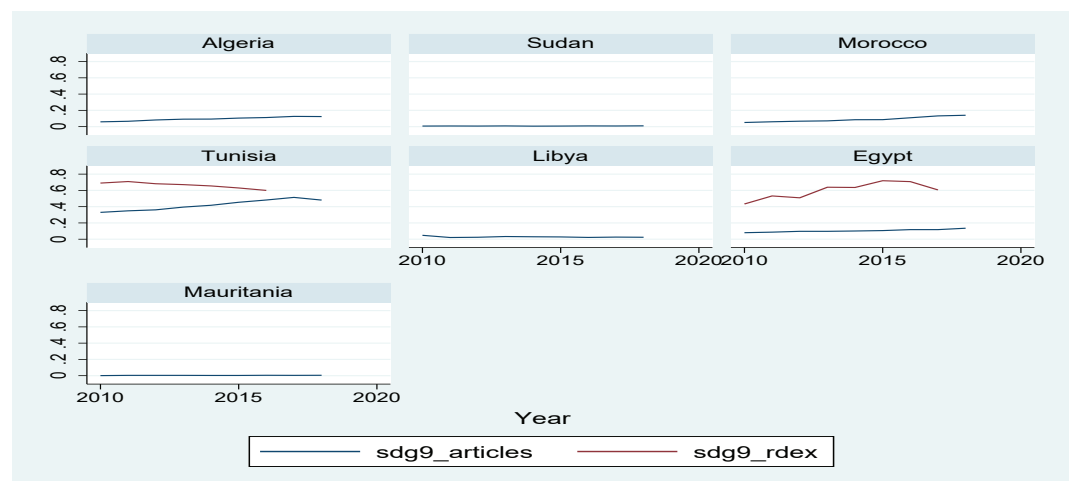
<sup>14</sup> Voluntary national review of Morocco, 2020.

in Egypt and Mauritania. On the other hand, it remains quite low in Libya (35.8 per cent in 2017) and the Sudan (32.4 per cent in 2018).

The available data on research and development expenditure showed that in the case of Egypt and Tunisia, which both recorded an upward trend during the preceding first decade, the share of GDP in Egypt devoted to research and development activities fell drastically, from 0.72 per cent in 2015 to only 0.61 per cent in 2017. In Tunisia, there was a sharp decline from 0.71 per cent in 2011 to only 0.6 per cent in 2016. In Morocco, the budget allocated to research and development in 2018 represented 0.8 per cent of GDP.<sup>15</sup>

There was an increase in the number of articles published in scientific and technical journals (per 1,000 inhabitants) as products of R and D activities in Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia. The latter country saw a notable increase in the publication of scientific and technical articles, with 51 articles per 1,000 inhabitants in 2017, giving it by far the highest ranking among North African countries. In other countries such as Libya, Mauritania and the Sudan, this rate remains low.

**Figure 32: Research and development input and output, by country**



**Notes:** sdg9\_articles: number of articles published in scientific and technical journals (per 1,000 inhabitants); sdg9\_rdex: research and development expenditure (percentage of GDP).

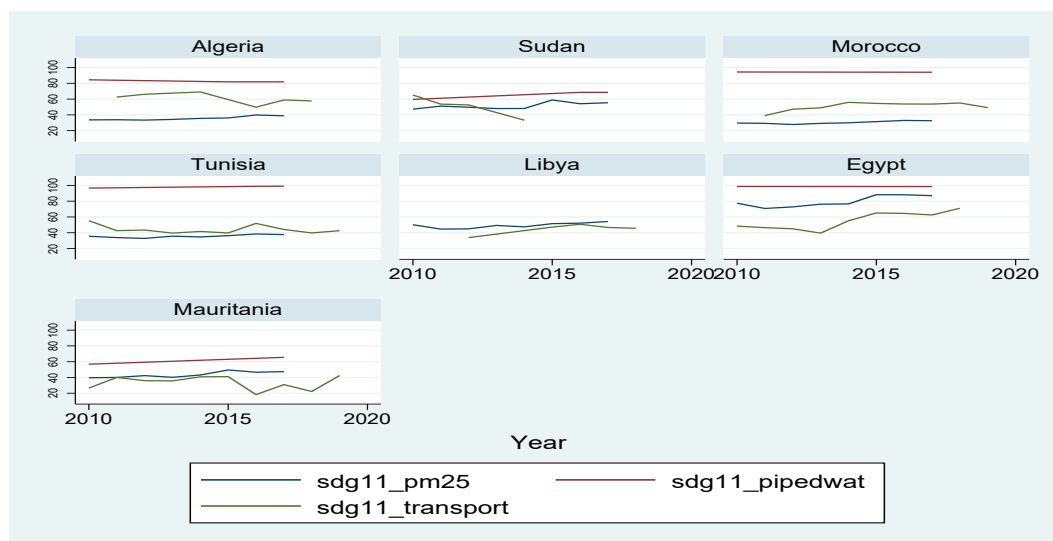
### 3. Environment and the fight against climate change

#### 3.1 Air pollution and CO2 emissions

Air quality in cities, as measured by the annual average level of fine particles, weighted by the number of inhabitants, was generally variable in North African countries. While this level remained relatively tolerable in countries such as Algeria, Morocco or Tunisia, and did not exceed the threshold of 25 per cent considered critical by international bodies, in the other countries it reached alarming levels, particularly in Egypt (87 per cent in 2017) and in Libya, where it was close to 55 per cent.

<sup>15</sup> Voluntary national review of Morocco, 2020.

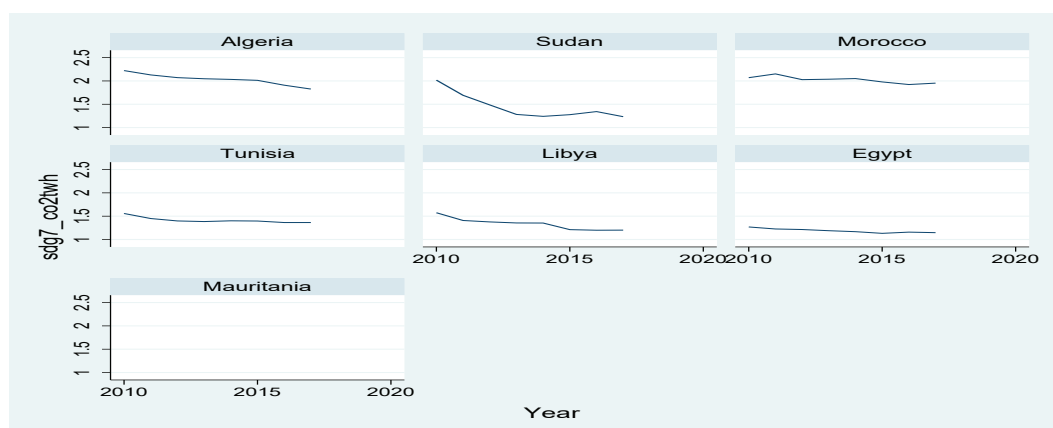
**Figure 33: Environment and basic infrastructures, by country**



**Notes:** sdg11\_pm25: annual average level of fine particles (e.g. PM 2.5 and PM 10) in cities, weighted according to the number of inhabitants; sdg11\_pipedwat: access to an improved piped water source (percentage of urban population); sdg11\_transport: satisfaction rate of public transport (percentage).

As a proportion of total electricity production, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the combustion of fuel oil used to produce electricity and heating, although particularly high in countries such as Morocco (1.9), Algeria (1.8) or Libya (1.2), continued nevertheless to decline. In the other countries, this indicator remained below the critical threshold estimated at 1.5, especially since a clear downward trend was also observed, notably in the Sudan, where the rate fell from 2 in 2010 to 1.2 in 2017, a drop of 40 per cent over the entire period.

**Figure 34: CO<sub>2</sub> emission linked to energy production, by country**



**Notes:** sdg7\_co2twh: CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the combustion of fuel oil used to produce electricity and heating as a proportion of total electricity production.

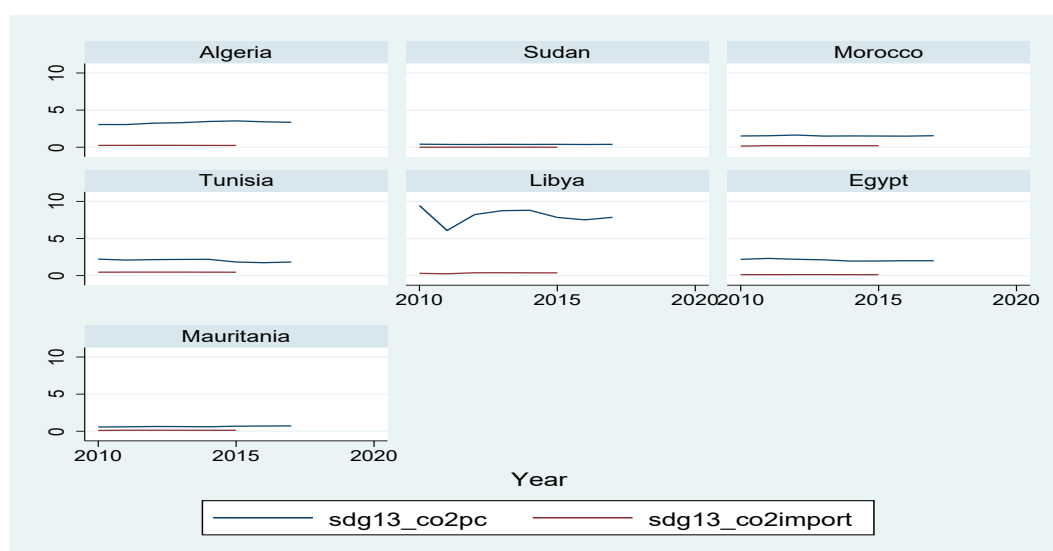
In countries such as Libya and to a lesser extent Algeria, two countries whose economies are based on the production of hydrocarbons, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions linked to energy production were particularly high. The levels reached in these two countries were in the order of 7.9 in Libya and 3.4 in Algeria for a critical threshold of 4. For the other countries, this level varied from 0.4 for the Sudan to 2 for Egypt.

Emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> contained in imports expressed in tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per capita were relatively low in North African countries, as each country had a significantly lower level than the critical threshold of 1. The best performing country was the Sudan (0) and the least successful was Tunisia, with a rate that stood at about 0.5 in 2015.

### 3.2 Protection of the marine environment and exploitation of marine resources

The proportion of protected areas in marine sites critical to biodiversity is an indicator of the importance that countries attach to biodiversity conservation. The critical threshold for this indicator is 10, below which the biodiversity of marine sites is threatened. This rate was above the critical threshold for all North African countries except Libya. The rate was highest in the Sudan (87.5 per cent), followed by Egypt (66.2 per cent) and Mauritania (64.4 per cent). The situation in Algeria and Tunisia requires particular attention.

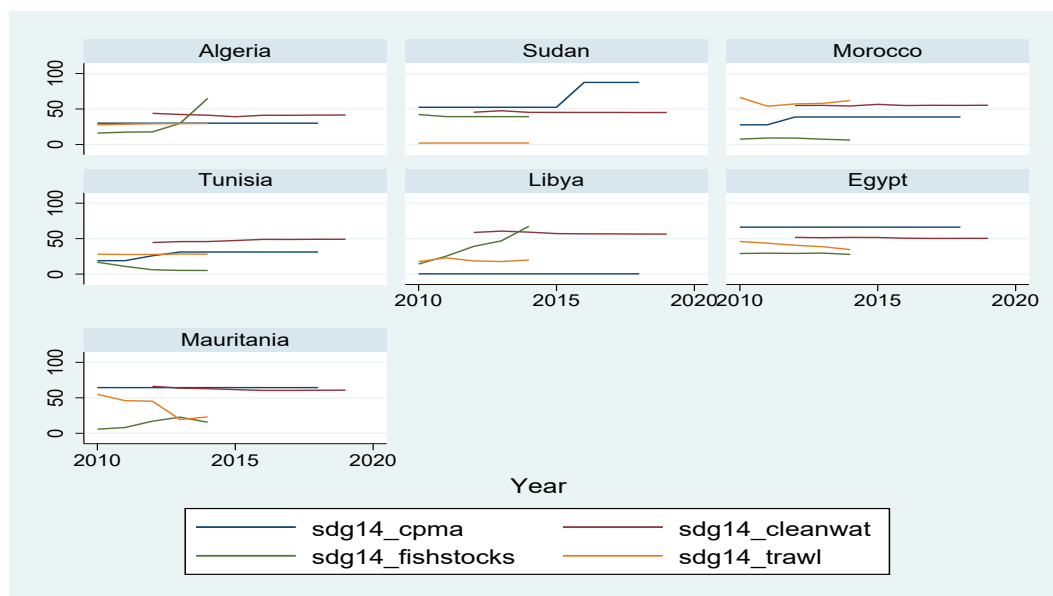
**Figure 35: Emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> linked to energy production and to imports, by country**



**Notes:** sdg13\_co2pc: energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (tCO<sub>2</sub>/ per inhabitant); sdg13\_co2import: CO<sub>2</sub> emissions contained in imports (tCO<sub>2</sub>/ per inhabitant).

The ocean health index measures the degree of cleanliness of seawater, varying between 0 (poor) and 100 (very clean). For North African countries, in 2019 this index ranged from 41.4 for Algeria to 60.8 for Mauritania. The general trend indicated a slight deterioration or at best a stagnation of this indicator for all the countries.

**Figure 36: Protection of marine environments and exploitation of marine resources by country**

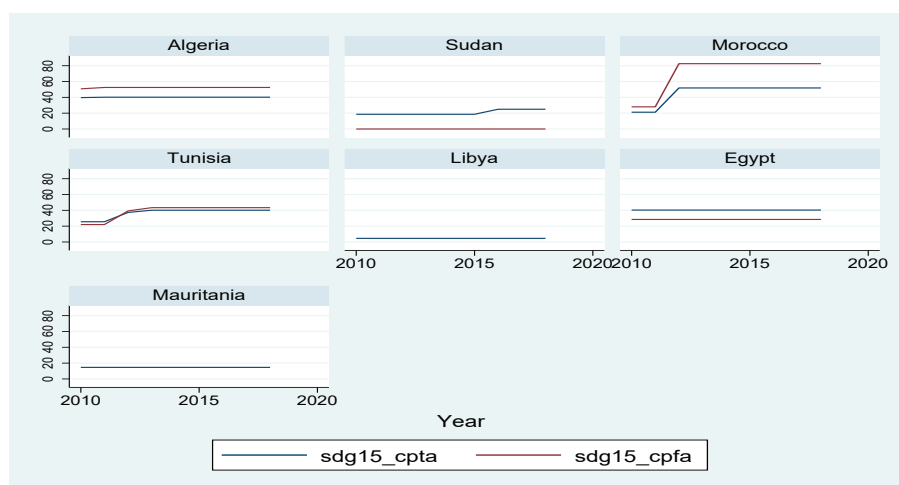


**Notes:** sdg14\_cpma: average area protected in marine sites important for biodiversity (percentage); sdg14\_cleanwat: ocean health index – clean water score (0 = poor, 100 = excellent); sdg14\_fishstocks: quantity of fish caught from overexploited areas or where stocks are depleted (percentage of total quantities fished); sdg14\_trawl: quantity of fish caught by trawling (percentage).

### 3.3 Biodiversity and protection of land environments

Morocco stands out among the countries of North Africa for its commendable effort to protect land environments critical to biodiversity, having managed to increase this rate from 21.2 per cent in 2010 to 51.9 per cent in 2018. Three countries were notable for fairly low protection rates: Libya (4.6 per cent), Mauritania (14.6 per cent) and the Sudan (25 per cent). For the other countries, the rate was close to 40 per cent. Morocco also had the most effective protection of freshwater sites, with a rate of 82.6 per cent in 2019, compared with 28.2 per cent in 2010. The protection rate of freshwater sites was also fairly high in Algeria (52.5 per cent) and Tunisia (43.4 per

**Figure 37: Biodiversity and protection of land environments, by country**



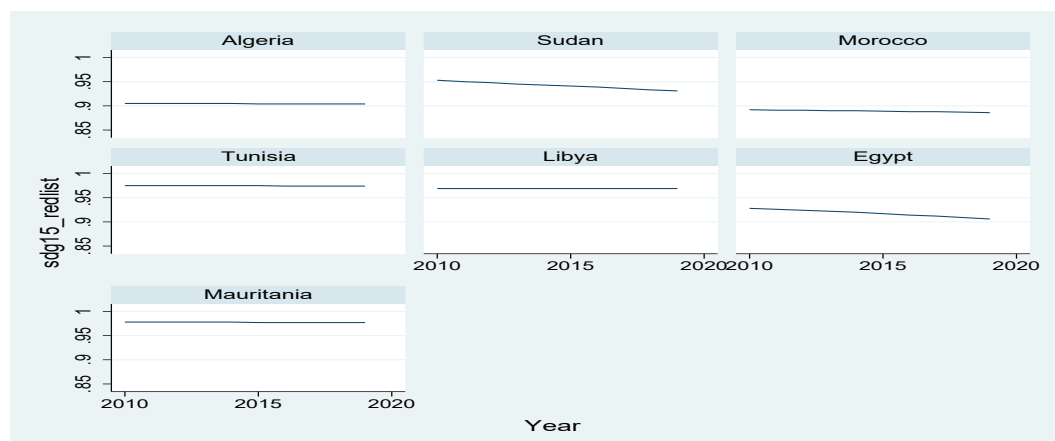
**Notes:** sdg15\_cpta: average area protected in land sites important for biodiversity (percentage); sdg15\_cpfa: average area protected in freshwater sites important for biodiversity (percentage).



cent), moderately high in Egypt (28.5 per cent) and practically non-existent in the Sudan.

The protection of endangered species was generally quite significant in North African countries, although there was a slight downward trend in this indicator, particularly in Egypt and the Sudan.

**Figure 38: Protection of endangered species, by country**



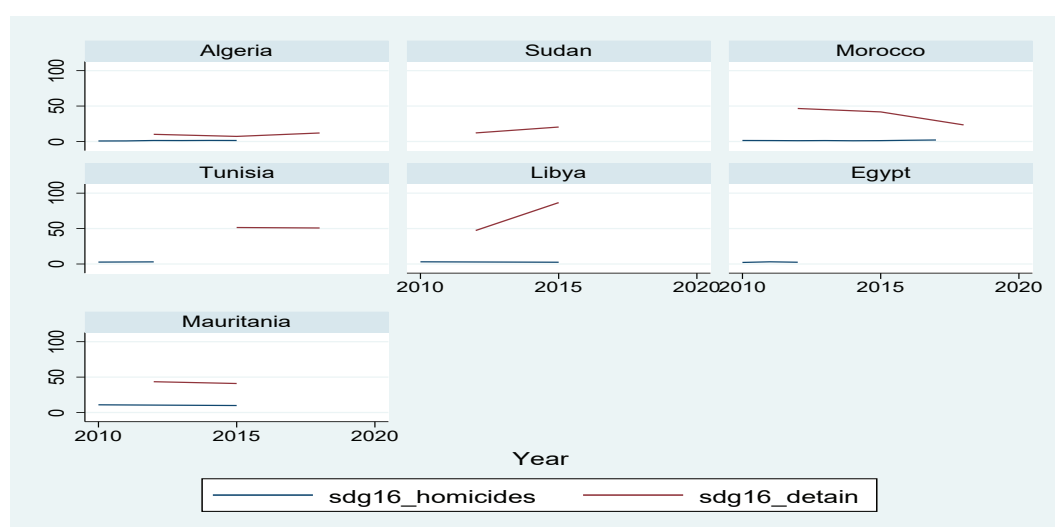
Notes: sdg15\_redlist: red list index of protected species (0 = bad, 1 = excellent).

## 4. Institutions and governance

### 4.1 Criminality and efficiency of the judicial system

Measured by the number of homicides per 100,000 inhabitants, the crime rate was generally low compared to the critical threshold of 4, except in Mauritania, where the rate was around 10. However, reliable trends cannot be identified from the inconsistent data on this indicator.

**Figure 39: Criminality and efficiency of the judicial system, by country**



Notes: sdg16\_homicides: homicides (per 100,000 inhabitants); sdg16\_detain: persons awaiting trial (percentage of total number of persons in prison).

The indicator reflecting the efficiency of the judicial systems, measured by the number of detainees awaiting trial as a proportion of the total number of detainees, exceeded the critical threshold set at 50 for some countries; this was notably the case in Libya, where the figure was alarming, exceeding the threshold by a large margin, to reach 86.7 per cent in 2015, and in Tunisia, where the indicator slightly exceeded the threshold. In Morocco, this indicator recorded a sharp drop in 2018, to around 23.4 per cent, after rising to 46.6 per cent in 2012.

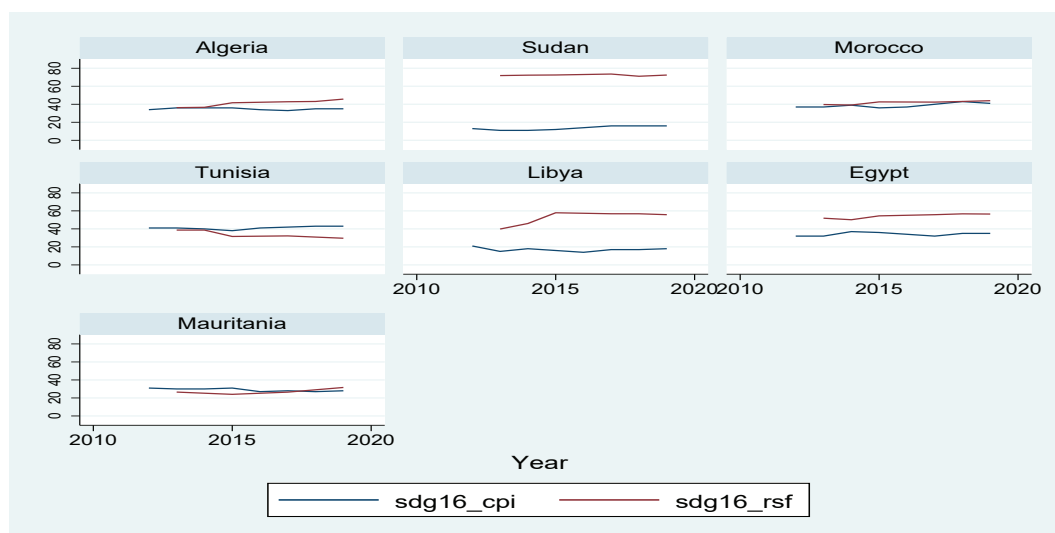
## 4.2 Perception of corruption and freedom of the press

The perception of corruption measured by an index between 0 (strong perception) and 100 (zero perception) situated North African countries in a median position, except in the Sudan, Libya and Mauritania, where the perception was quite strong. For the other countries, the indicator varied from 35 (Algeria) to 43 (Tunisia).

Freedom of the press was reported to be generally low to moderate, depending on the country. It was regarded as consistently fairly high overall in Libya, the Sudan and Egypt, average in Algeria and Morocco, and relatively low in Mauritania.

In 2018, Tunisia occupied ninety-seventh place in terms of press freedom (score 30.91) and gained 25 places in 2019 to reach seventy-second place (score 29.61) and occupy the number one position among North African countries in this field. In 2020, Tunisia remained in the same place (seventy-second) with a score of 29.45, reflecting a slight improvement (upward trend).<sup>16</sup>

**Figure 40: Perception of corruption and freedom of the press, by country**

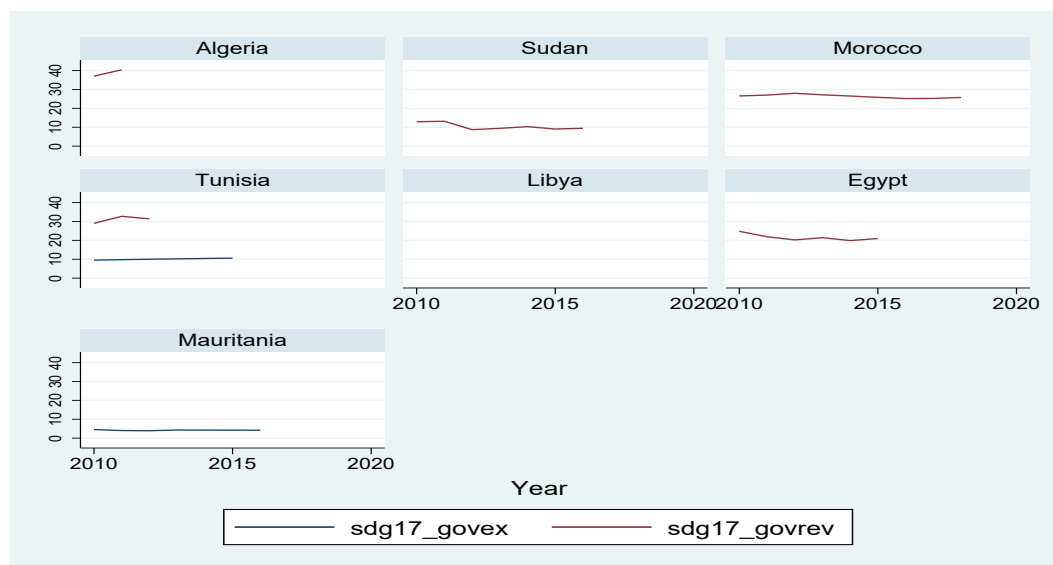


**Notes:** sdg16\_cpi: corruption perception index (0 = bad, 100 = excellent); sdg16\_rsf: press freedom index (0 = bad, 100 = excellent).

## 4.3 Governance of public finance

Two indicators were used to analyse the governance of public finance: public spending on health and education as a percentage of GDP and sources of income from other countries, excluding grants. Data for the first indicator were available only for Tunisia and Mauritania and indicated a low but stable share, ranging from around 10 per cent

<sup>16</sup> Ministry of Development and International Cooperation and Reporters Without Borders.

**Figure 41: Origins and uses of budgetary resources, by country**

**Notes:** sgd17\_govex: public expenditure on health and education (percentage of GDP); sgd17\_govrev: other countries: government revenue excluding grants (percentage of GDP).

to 6 per cent, respectively. These levels are considered relatively low and reflect State disengagement from these two key social sectors. Revenues from other countries were relatively high in Morocco and Egypt, but relatively low in the Sudan.

## IV. Ownership and localization of the institutional framework to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063

In this section, we propose to review the efforts made by North African countries to translate the 2030 Agenda (and its SDGs) and Agenda 2063 (and its aspirations) into national development strategies and plans. This assessment will draw on national reports, including voluntary national reviews and the various United Nations country team documents relating to the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and common country assessments. The present document review-based analysis will be complemented by information gathered from interviews with country officials and United Nations country team members.

Particular attention will be paid to the efforts made by the countries, first, in terms of ownership and localization of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, and, second, with regard to institutional governance and monitoring of the implementation process.

### 1. Algeria<sup>17</sup>

Algeria showed its commitment to the implementation of SDGs with the adoption in 2016 of constitutional provisions making explicit reference to the concept of sustainable development and its key principles.

<sup>17</sup> The information in this subsection is largely drawn from the 2019 voluntary national review of Algeria.

To give practical expression to this commitment, Algeria established an inter-ministerial committee responsible for monitoring the implementation of SDGs. That committee, which meets regularly under the aegis of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, includes the focal points and their deputies representing all ministerial departments. The two chambers of parliament, the National Economic and Social Council, the National Statistics Office, the National Observatory for the Environment and Sustainable Development, the Algerian Space Agency, and the National Institute of Cartography and Remote Sensing are also represented.

Sectoral committees have also been set up within various ministries that have been tasked with monitoring the implementation of SDGs by their respective departments and providing the interministerial committee on SDGs with information on progress made and challenges encountered in this area.

State ownership of SDGs is reflected in the strong mobilization of all the ministerial departments grouped together within the intersectoral committee responsible for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It takes the form of the increasingly active involvement of State institutions in the process of adopting and localizing SDGs through:

- The progressive integration of Goals into national public policies;
- The preparation of the voluntary national review;
- The mobilization of the National Statistical Office and the National Observatory for the Environment and Sustainable Development to set up a statistical information system on sustainable development;
- The organization of awareness-raising and capacity-building activities with respect to SDGs.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in its capacity as chair of the committee, signed a joint support project with the United Nations system to coordinate the implementation of SDGs, which aims to accompany and support the inter-ministerial committee in its missions to identify the challenges to be taken up in implementing SDGs, monitoring and evaluation, and awareness-raising among all stakeholders.

Ownership of SDGs requires their integration into public policies, which is gradually being carried out, resulting in:

- The inclusion of SDGs in the Government's 2017 development plan (the commitment to sustainable development is reiterated in the various government action plans);
- The inclusion of SDGs in various sectoral strategies/plans that have been formulated. The most cross-cutting strategy that covers almost all SDGs is the National Strategy for the Environment and Sustainable Development for the period 2019–2035 and its action plan for the period 2019–2022.

**Box 1**

Algeria was designated in 2016 as one of eight African countries to represent the African continent in the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators. It is represented by the National Statistical Office, which is very actively involved in identifying indicators for each target, establishing methodologies, classifying and reclassifying these indicators under the “third party” system, as well as developing an SDG data flow process from countries to regions and at the global level.

**Box 2**

The national statistical information system of Algeria faces the following two challenges:

- To strengthen statistical production focused on SDGs, in terms of volume and quality. With this in mind, Algeria has set itself the target of covering almost all tier 1 indicators by the time of its next voluntary national review;
- To set up a national statistical platform for SDGs that will provide a one-stop shop for statistical information on sustainable development.
- To this end, national data production related to sustainable development is being conducted in several complementary areas:
- To produce the data needed for the coverage of international indicators to contribute to the development of the global indicator framework for monitoring SDGs;
- To develop controlled national or “proxy” indicators that are as close as possible to the international indicators when not every aspect of the latter can be covered by existing data or when their method of calculation is still being developed;
- To develop, where appropriate, national or “complementary” indicators that supplement the international indicators by being better adapted to the national context and national policies and strategies for sustainable development;
- To improve in each of these cases, the frequency of publication of the selected indicators;
- To disaggregate sustainable development indicators in terms of location and other variables in order to better account for and tackle the development gaps between population groups and between territories, which will ensure the relevance of Algeria’s sustainable development strategy, the cardinal principle of which is to leave no person or territory behind.

This national indicator framework is necessarily intended to be proactive and will therefore adapt to the way that national sustainable development policies evolve, as well as to the revisions of the global indicator framework that will be introduced by the United Nations, particularly in 2025.

There is a clear need for cooperation between Algeria and the United Nations agencies responsible for the SDG indicators in order to establish a national statistical framework for monitoring the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

This cooperation has taken the form of the following actions:

- The conclusion of an agreement with the United Nations system on coordinating the monitoring of SDG implementation;
- The contribution of the United Nations agencies, each within the scope of its mandate, to clarifying the basic methodology for the construction of certain indicators;
- Support from United Nations agencies in the calculation and monitoring of selected indicators, using methodologies developed by them.

*Source:* Voluntary national review of Algeria, 2019.

All civil society actors are being mobilized to consolidate the Government’s commitment in a process initiated by numerous information and awareness-raising activities organized by the various institutions and their management.

In addition, Algeria adopted a strategic framework specifying objectives, targets and performance indicators to facilitate the evaluation and monitoring of SDG implementation. This framework offers the possibility of updating, at each reporting period, the projected performance trends up to 2030.

Aware of the importance of an efficient statistical system in the process of monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, Algeria is working to put in place an integrated national framework of indicators to monitor the SDGs, which can help to guide public action to manage the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The national statistical information system comprises the National Statistical Office, the observatories, agencies, research centres and statistical services of the ministries, as well as their regional departments.

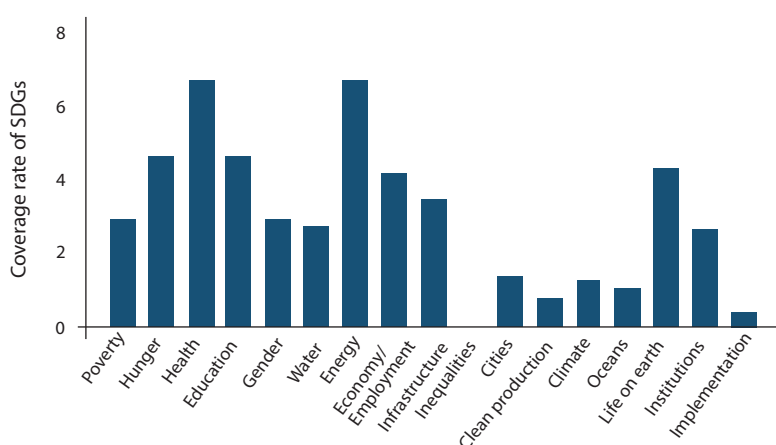
The responsibilities of the National Statistical Office include producing and localizing SDG indicators and supporting all institutions in the production and harmonization of statistical information.

Evaluation of indicator production performance based on the three criteria (coverage, frequency of production, and level of disaggregation) and its comparison at the international level produced the following results:

- **Coverage**

Data from the end of 2018 show that 71 indicators were produced from national sources of a total of 232 indicators adopted as part of the 2030 Agenda, representing a coverage rate of 30 per cent. Of course, this rate varies from one SDG to another, as shown in the figure below.

**Figure 42: Algeria: Coverage rate of SDGs based on national-source indicators**

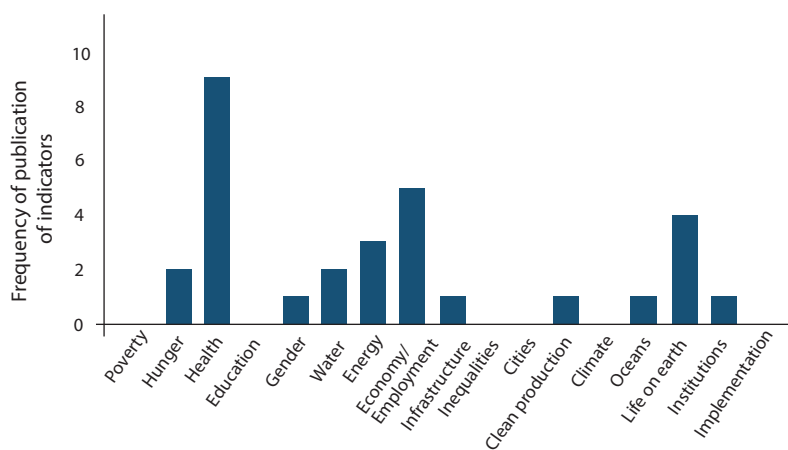


Source: Voluntary national review of Algeria, 2019.

● **Frequency**

The availability over time of indicators from national sources varies quite significantly from one SDG to another. Thus, SDGs 3, 8 and 16 represent the highest frequency in descending order, while other SDGs (e.g., 1.a, 4, 11 and 13) do not include sufficiently frequent indicators.

**Figure 43: Algeria: Frequency of publication of indicators from national sources, by SDG**

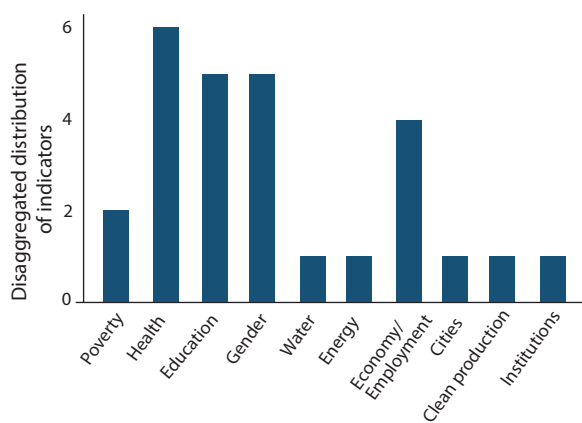


Source: Voluntary national review of Algeria, 2019.

● **Disaggregation**

With regard to disaggregation, 27 of the 71 indicators from national sources are disaggregated, a rate of 38 per cent. Disaggregation focuses on gender (17 indicators), environment (4) and level of education.

**Figure 44: Algeria: Distribution of indicators from national sources, disaggregated by SDG**



Source: Voluntary national review of Algeria, 2019.

**2. Egypt**

In 2016, Egypt published its Sustainable Development Strategy “Egypt Vision 2030”. The drafting of the strategy during 2014 and 2015 was based on the commitment of many stakeholders (representatives of the public sector, the private sector, civil

society and international organizations). In addition, a large number of experts and academics participated in more than 150 workshops, consultation meetings and community dialogues organized by the Ministry of Planning and Development. These stakeholders also contributed to the process of updating “Egypt Vision 2030”.

In 2018, Egypt decided to review its strategy to ensure a more rigorous alignment of national objectives with SDGs, as well as to ensure greater complementarity between the three pillars of sustainable development, recognizing that they cannot be separated. Accordingly, as Egypt aspires to genuine transformational change, the government moved from developing a strategy to developing a more comprehensive and holistic national agenda. This adjustment gave it room for manoeuvre to better align its programmes with international and continental agendas, and enabled the various stakeholders to play a more effective role in the country’s development. This allowed the country to adapt to changing national circumstances, such as the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The updated version of the strategy, the “Sustainable Development Agenda”, was broken down into eight national strategic objectives, with 47 sub-objectives strictly aligned with both the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

The first version of the Sustainable Development Agenda helped the country to identify four main challenges it faced, including governance and data gaps. Between 2016 and 2018, an effort was made to resolve these challenges, leading to a transition to results-based programming and budgeting and the formulation of a government programme for the period 2018/2019–2021/2022.

The government programme for the period 2018/2019–2021/2022 for a national action plan was designed to achieve five goals through 25 main programmes and 195 sub-programmes.

The government placed considerable emphasis on: localizing SDGs and the national agenda at the governorate level, through workshops, public consultations, initiatives and cooperation with different stakeholders, in order to leave no one behind; to adjust the goals to suit the circumstances of the governorates; and to benefit from the comparative advantage of each governorate, which would stimulate the achievement of sustainable development. The Ministry of Planning and Economic Development worked to localize the SDGs and their objectives at governorate level as part of the implementation of a mainstreaming, acceleration and policy-support strategy, with the support of United Nations institutions and the Egyptian Centre for Public Opinion Research.

Although the 2030 Agenda is integrated with Agenda 2063, the latter focuses on issues specific to the nature and context of the African continent with 2013 as its baseline year. The Ministry of Planning and Economic Development is working with the African Peer Review Mechanism to improve reporting on progress under Agenda 2063. For example, Egypt participated in the survey of the African Peer Review Mechanism on the status of implementation of SDGs in Africa.



### Box 3

Cooperation with non-governmental organizations within the framework of the Protocol for Sustainable Development and Cooperation (between the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development and the Ministry of State for Migration and Egyptian Affairs Abroad) aims: to promote community and urban development to provide opportunities for rehabilitation, training and entrepreneurship; to raise awareness among community groups, especially young people, of both the Sustainable Development Goals; and to discourage illegal migration and to promote safe migration. In its first phase, 4,000 people benefited from the project's training activities, and 1,100 beneficiaries were given vocational training, resulting in more than 25 per cent of them entering the workforce, in cooperation with non-governmental organizations in several Egyptian provinces. The project's activities also raised awareness of the concepts of sustainable development, the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, as well as Egypt Vision 2030. This included the training of young trainers by representatives of the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development in several villages and provinces, including Qena and Luxor. The training was aimed at all sectors of society (women, young people and people with disabilities), and several training sessions were held in sign language, assisted a specialized interpreter for persons who are deaf-mute, as well as sessions for persons living with intellectual and physical disabilities. The Ministry of Planning and Economic Development organized awareness-raising workshops on Down Syndrome, deafness and mutism, in collaboration with civil society associations, to raise awareness about Egypt Vision 2030 and the concept of sustainable development, as well as to clarify what was included in the Egypt Vision 2030 concerning the rights and responsibilities of persons living with disabilities. These actions sought to mark the State's interest in social equality and inclusion, and were part of an effort to demonstrate the effective role of all sectors of society in achieving and implementing the goals of Egypt Vision 2030.

The National Monitoring Committee for the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, created by ministerial decree, is expected to play a key role in assessing SDG implementation. Attached to the Office of the Prime Minister, it comprises representatives from 17 different ministries and government entities.

A Sustainable Development Unit sustainable development unit was formed within Ministry of Planning and Development, to be responsible for the formulation of Egypt Vision 2030 and its implementation process. This was followed by the creation of sustainable development units and the formation of specialized working groups in each ministry and government entity to prepare sectoral working documents with a global vision. Currently, Ministry of Planning and Development is also cooperating with the governorates to set up local sustainable development units. The central sustainable development unit formed within Ministry of Planning and Development has helped to train those local units and working groups on sustainable development through workshops and other types of training. In addition, it has provided technical support to those units and working groups, particularly in linking the government programme and its objectives to SDGs, as well as in integrating the concept of sustainable development into the plans, programmes and projects of various government entities.

The Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics, which reports to Ministry of Planning and Development, plays a central role in the SDG and Egypt Vision 2030 monitoring process through its Sustainable Development Unit; one of the unit's most important missions is the production of a periodic national statistical report on SDGs.

The Ministry is currently working with the governorates on local voluntary review reports to improve the process of reporting on SDGs and the national agenda.

In addition, Egypt is currently working with ECA to incorporate its data into the Integrated Planning and Repair Toolkit and be in a position to use this tool to further improve its reporting mechanisms. The tool was developed to assist African countries in adopting and simultaneously integrating the two agendas, the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, into their national development efforts and to enable them to report on their progress in a harmonized manner. In addition, it helps African countries to view their data and follow up on the areas of divergence, on which they need to focus their actions.

Egypt, represented by the Ministry of Planning and Development, developed two electronic platforms to improve its monitoring tools. The first is an electronic system for monitoring the implementation of the government programme for the period 2018/2019–2021/2022, which enables the alignment of objectives with SDGs. The second is an electronic monitoring and evaluation platform, which links investment plan projects with the national strategic objectives of Egypt Vision 2030 and the government programme for the period 2018/2019–2021/2022, which will lead to the construction of the information infrastructure needed to facilitate the planning, monitoring and evaluation of these projects and to measure the consistency of the investment plan with the objectives of the Sustainable Development Agenda, the government programme for the period 2018/2019–2021/2022 and SDGs.

Finally, the Parliamentary Planning and Budget Committee formed a sub-committee to oversee the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and of results-based programming and budgeting.

According to the 2020 SDG index report, the percentage of missing values in Egypt is zero, meaning that most data are available and adequately track the country's performance. However, data availability alone is not enough given that some challenges remain, including the following:

- The collection of data, specifically data disaggregated by governorate, age, gender, etc.;
- The provision of a precise calculation methodology and consistency in the definitions of the indicators;
- The critical need to adopt big data technology, given that the data collection process in Egypt is time consuming and requires considerable effort.

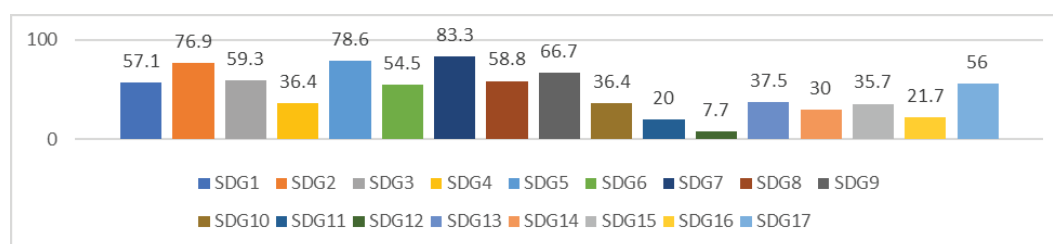
The Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics is the country's official statistical authority that plays a central role in the SDG monitoring process through its sustainable development unit. The entity launched the first national statistical report on SDG indicators in May 2018, while the latest report was published in December 2019.

The sustainable development unit of the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics works closely with the sustainable development unit of the Ministry of Planning and Development to improve the data collection and reporting process.

In addition, the sustainable development unit of the Ministry of Planning and Development reviews the SDG reports of the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics to ensure the accuracy of the data reported. As a result of the review, 11 indicators were removed from the 2018 SDG report and 33 indicators were added, some of which were updated, allowing for more indicators to be reported on and providing a clearer picture of the Egyptian situation.

The Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics also provides support to all ministries and government agencies to help consolidate data and support ministries in the data collection and calculation processes. Currently, the Ministry of Planning and Development is working with the World Food Programme (WFP), and in this context plays the role of national coordinator with the various government agencies, while WFP acts as international coordinator with the United Nations entities. The aim of this cooperation is to prepare the third voluntary national review that the country plans to submit to the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2021. The above-mentioned bodies are improving data collection and the calculation of the various key indicators (tier 1 and tier 2 indicators).

**Figure 45: Egypt: SDG indicators coverage rate**



**Source:** Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics, "National statistical monitoring report of the 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals indicators in Egypt", December 2019.

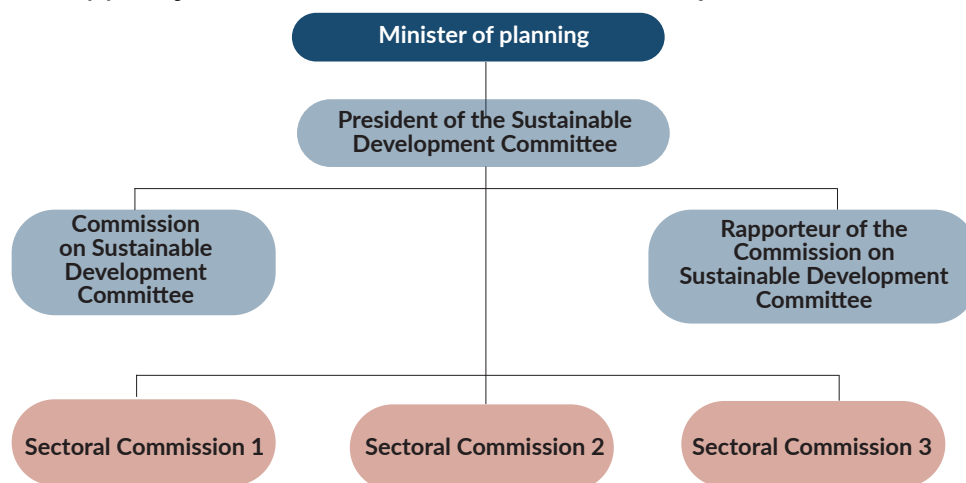
**Note:** Average: 47.5 per cent.

### 3. Libya

In Libya, the Ministry of Planning is responsible for the implementation of national development policies and plans, and in this context, it has set up an adequate institutional framework for monitoring SDG implementation through the creation of the Sustainable Development Committee. This committee brings together a number of experts and specialists from the sectors and entities concerned and is responsible for the following tasks in particular:

- To achieve the alignment of SDGs and their integration into national development strategies and plans in consultation with the various sectors;
- To monitor progress in SDG implementation and in the preparation of voluntary reviews and feedback;
- To disseminate the culture of sustainable development in order to strengthen the implementation of its objectives;
- To support international capacity-building cooperation programmes and the upgrading of national institutions to fulfil SDG requirements.

**Figure 46 (a): Libya: structure of the Sustainable Development Committee**



Source: Voluntary national review of Libya, 2020.

Libya also launched the Libyan Sustainable Development Forum, a platform for dialogue, exchange of experiences and a means of coordinating the efforts of all stakeholders involved in the implementation of SDGs and strengthening the partnership among the public sector, the private sector and civil society.

Recently, the Ministry of Planning undertook the preparation and launch of a number of national strategies and plans in different areas to strengthen SDG implementation within the framework of a national vision incorporating the objectives of the 2030 Agenda.

At the same time, this vision cannot be expected to achieve a high level of alignment given the environment surrounding the current planning framework and the lack of mechanisms requiring the public sector and relevant ministerial departments to take account of the links between these strategies and plans and the achievement of SDGs, on the one hand, and the lack of data and indicators needed to measure progress towards these objectives, on the other hand.

Libya, as a member of several international agreements and conventions on sustainable development, adopted a number of legal texts on environmental protection, including regional planning, strengthening of renewable energy and disaster prevention. These undertakings were translated into practical actions through the establishment of institutions, bodies and programmes with financial mechanisms to ensure the implementation of SDGs, such as the General Environment Authority, the Renewable Energy Executive Body, the Solar Energy Research Centre, the Industrial Development Bank, the Agricultural Bank, the Economic and Social Development Fund, the Libyan Investment Corporation, the Domestic Investment Fund, the Sustainable Development Project Support Programme within the National Petroleum Company and the Southern Development Projects Programme.

In order to ensure that all stakeholders adopted SDGs, the Ministry of Planning put in place a comprehensive participatory framework to ensure the participation and mobilization of all elements of society in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Under the aegis of the Ministry of Planning, the Libyan Sustainable Development

Forum serves as a platform for dialogue, interaction, exchange of experiences and coordination of efforts through a number of seminars and workshops.

At the same time, the Statistics and Census Service and the General Data Authority provide the data and indicators in their possession for use in the measurement and evaluation of SDGs.

Given that the implementation of SDGs means that they must be integrated into public policies, the Ministry of Planning, as part of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, recommended a three-year development plan (for the period 2020–2022) covering all sectors and ensuring the integration of SDGs and the commitment of all government entities to include them in their sectoral plans.

#### **4. Morocco**

The localization of SDGs in Morocco is an ongoing process launched in 2016 when the first national consultation on SDGs was held, which led to the adoption of six guidelines<sup>18</sup> intended to create a supportive framework for their implementation. In June 2019, a second national consultation was held to review the status of SDGs and prepare for the country's participation in the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2020.

The reforms introduced subsequently at the institutional, economic and social levels, along with the cross-cutting, sectoral and categorical strategies adopted, have enabled significant progress to be made in terms of the ownership of SDGs, the alignment of public policies with these objectives, and the strengthening of the institutional and technical monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems.

The construction of a new development model in Morocco, coinciding with the decade of accelerated achievements towards sustainable development, provides a catalyst and may serve as an appropriate framework for accelerating SDG implementation.

On the recommendation of the Court of Auditors, Morocco set up the National Commission for Sustainable Development in July 2019, chaired by the Head of Government. Under the decree establishing this commission, the task of preparing annual reports on SDG implementation was entrusted to the Office of the High Commissioner for Planning, an independent national institution in charge of statistics. The review and reporting on SDGs are now conducted annually, and a committee to monitor and support SDGs has been set up within the commission, chaired by the Office of the Head of Government.

A diagnostic study assessing the level of alignment of sectoral strategies with SDGs was carried out and made it possible: (1) to compile an initial mapping of priorities and an overall assessment of the level of integration of the targets in these strategies; and (2) to determine the accelerator targets and a correlation between SDGs and the National Strategy for Sustainable Development.

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<sup>18</sup> They are: (1) expanding the process of adopting SDGs; (2) aligning SDGs with national priorities; (3) managing the coordination of public policies; (4) adapting the statistical information system; (5) monitoring and evaluating the implementation of SDGs; and (6) developing appropriate financing arrangements.

In order to address the integrated and indivisible nature of Goals, Morocco adopted a number of integrated strategies that covered the three dimensions of sustainable development:

- A national initiative for human development, which aims to combat poverty and exclusion, promote the provision of health and education services, develop income-generating activities for poor populations and develop disadvantaged areas;
- A national sustainable development strategy, which integrates the majority of the targets into its objectives and core areas of focus.

Morocco also developed technical tools to analyse the consistency of public policies and the interactions between SDGs. In this context, a statistical platform dedicated to SDGs was developed and a computable general equilibrium model was developed to monitor and evaluate SDGs on a regular basis. Likewise, analytical approaches to cross-cutting themes were adopted to deal with the integrated nature of SDGs, including issues related to human development, social protection, gender equality, growth and employment, inequality, and integrated natural resource management.

An assessment of the capacity of the national statistical system to produce SDG indicators shows that the system provides 102 indicators out of 244, an overall estimated capacity of about 42 per cent. This rate stands at 56.5 per cent for tier I indicators, 37 per cent for tier II indicators and 9 per cent for tier III indicators. In the light of the preparation of the second voluntary national review, to take place in 2020, a final diagnosis of the national statistical system shows that Morocco currently reports on more than 60 per cent of the statistical and non-statistical indicators, fully or partially compliant with United Nations metadata or proxy indicators. This proportion varies from one SDG to another and reaches over 90 per cent for SDG 9, while it remains quite low for SDGs relating to the environment and inequalities.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Planning carried out a series of actions, including the following:

- i. Three regional consultations held between 2017 and 2019, in collaboration with the wilayas and regional councils and in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund, with a view to extending these initiatives to the remainder of the regions of Morocco, the purpose being to raise awareness among regional stakeholders about the localization of SDGs and the need to set up regional statistical databases.
- ii. The launch of an SDG platform and a dedicated SDG website on its institutional website, containing the SDG numerical indicators, their metadata as defined by the United Nations, and other related work carried out by the Moroccan High Commission for Planning, as well as a regional statistical database.

- iii. A national household survey in 2016 on their perception of the main SDG aspects and targets, which helped to raise awareness of the 2030 Agenda among Moroccans and to obtain a better understanding of their concerns regarding the main aspects of sustainable development.
- iv. A broadened scope of statistical information production through, first, the reform of statistical surveys in terms of their content, territorial, thematic and gender coverage, and the improvement of data collection and processing methods, and second, the conduct of new surveys. The review mainly focused on the national employment survey and business surveys, and included a survey on violence against women (with the significant new aspect of collecting the data needed to assess the economic and social cost of the problem), a new survey on household living standards, and the launch of a think-tank on a new methodological approach for the next general population and housing census in 2024.
- v. In January 2019, Morocco, through the Office of the High Commissioner for Planning, signed a partnership agreement with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and 10 United Nations agencies in Morocco to support the monitoring and reporting on SDGs in the country.

Parliament took an active part by helping to organize seminars on SDGs and by putting pressure on the government to integrate these objectives into its overall policy and sectoral strategies.

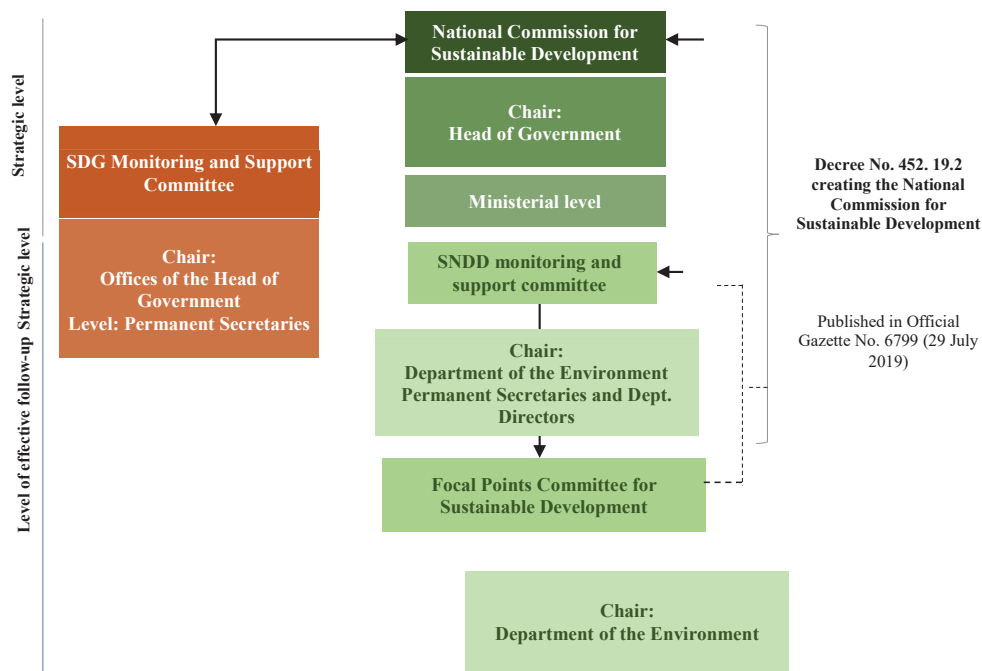
#### **Box 4**

To implement the National Strategy for Sustainable Development, adopted in 2017, a governance framework was set up under Decree No. 655.17.2, published in Official Gazette No. 6660, dated 29 March 2018, establishing two committees: (a) a strategic committee for sustainable development; and (b) a steering committee.

However, to ensure the alignment of the new development programme and its 17 sustainable development goals with the national strategic objectives, the governance framework was subsequently broadened by Decree No. 452.19.2, dated 29 July 2019. The resulting new framework (see figure below) is based on three committees: the National Commission for Sustainable Development, whose task was to define strategic guidelines to lay the foundations for sustainable development; the National Strategy for Sustainable Development Monitoring and Support Committee, which aimed to identify the methods for monitoring and steering the implementation of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development; and finally the Monitoring and Support Committee for the Sustainable Development Goals, tasked specifically with the monitoring of SDG implementation.

Decree No. 452.19.2 also included the private sector as a permanent member of the National Commission for Sustainable Development.

**Figure 46(b): Morocco: governance framework for the implementation of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development**



## 5. Mauritania

Mauritania embarked on a process of drawing up a new development strategy for the period 2016–2030 called the Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Shared Prosperity (SCAPP). The process of formulating this strategy, initiated in 2016, fostered the full ownership and integration of SDGs. Indeed, during the development of this strategy, a special effort was made to integrate the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda and the aspirations of Agenda 2063 into the definition of national priorities. This strategy is being implemented through five-year action plans, of which the first is scheduled to end in 2020.

In the course of this year, as part of its strategic planning, Mauritania will undertake a series of action plans, including the second SCAPP action plan, the 10-year action plan for the education sector, the five-year action plan for the health sector, and the revision of the national social and child-protection strategies and the sectoral water and sanitation policy.

The voluntary national review conducted in 2019 provided an opportunity to take stock of the relevance and effectiveness of the strategies pursued to achieve SDGs, particularly those contained in SCAPP 2016–2030. The findings of this review contributed to national planning processes and ensured better integration of SDGs into national policies.

The responsibilities of the Coordination and Monitoring Committee and the sectoral development committees include monitoring specific achievements in attaining the objectives of both SCAPP and SDGs and compiling the SCAPP monitoring and impact indicators, as well as the SDG indicators relating to the various sectors concerned.



**Table 2: Mauritania: alignment of SCAPP and SDGs**

LINKS BETWEEN SDGs AND SCAPP LEVERS	Strategic Lever 1: Promotion of strong, inclusive and sustainable growth	Strategic Lever 2: Development of human capital and access to basic services	Strategic Lever 3: Strengthening of governance in all its aspects
SDG 1 – Poverty		X	X
SDG 2 – Hunger	X		
SDG 3 – Health		X	X
SDG 4 – Education		X	X
SDG 5 – Gender		X	X
SDG 6 – Clean water	X	X	
SDG 7 – Energy	X	X	
SDG 8 – Growth/ Employment	X	X	X
SDG 9 – Infrastructure/ Industry	X		X
SDG 10 – Inequalities		X	
SDG 11 – Housing	X		X
SDG 12 – Sustainable consumption	X	X	
SDG 13 – Climate change			X
SDG 14 – Marine environment	X		X
SDG 15 – Land ecosystems			X
SDG 16 – Governance, peace and justice			X
SDG 17 – Partnership/ Development	X		X

*Source:* Voluntary national review of the Sustainable Development Goals, 2019.

In designing SCAPP, Mauritania took into account the principle of alignment by integrating the objectives of the 2030 Agenda and also taking into consideration Agenda 2063.

## 6. The Sudan

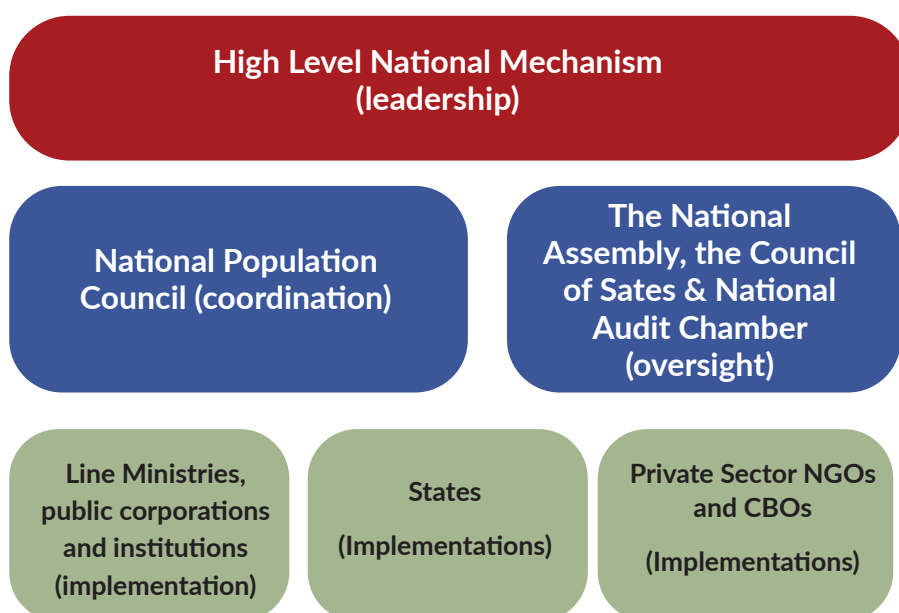
The institutional framework for implementing SDGs in the Sudan covers leadership, coordination, monitoring bodies and implementation structures. The institutional structures related to coordination, monitoring and implementation are already in place and have integrated the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs into their terms of reference and functions.

## Leadership

The high-level national mechanism, a body established in 2016 under the Prime Minister, provides leadership and overall guidance for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs in the Sudan.

In addition to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Security and Social Development as Chair and Co-Chair, respectively, the high-level national mechanism comprises 15 eminent and high-level members at the rank of Minister, Minister of State or Undersecretary. Further members include the Director General of the Central Bureau of Statistics, the Director General of the National Council for Strategic Planning, and the Director General of the National Population Council, who also acts as the Secretary of the mechanism.

**Figure 47: The Sudan: SDG institutional framework**



*Source:* Voluntary national review of the Sudan, 2018.

The mission of high-level national mechanism includes the following activities:

- To monitor the development and implementation of a national sustainable development programme;
- To ensure that the principles and dimensions of sustainable development are integrated into the five-year plans at the sectoral and State levels, as well as into all development projects;
- To oversee the localization of SDG objectives and indicators at all levels of governance;

- To ensure the availability of timely and accurate data and information to measure achievements and progress in achieving SDGs;
- To provide financial and technical resources for the coordination of implementation activities;
- To raise awareness and engage in advocacy at the federal and State levels, as well as at the local and community levels.

### **Coordination**

The National Population Council has been assigned the roles of coordinating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs and acting as the secretariat for high-level national mechanism. Coordination is absolutely key, as the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs are multidimensional and involve a wide range of State and non-State development partner actors. Consequently, coordination is necessary to achieve synergy in implementation activities, to ensure integration of sustainable development issues and principles, to share best practices and experiences, to identify gaps and suggest possible responses, to avoid duplication, to use and manage resources more efficiently and to comprehensively review progress in the implementation of SDGs.

### **Monitoring**

The National Assembly, the Council of States and the National Audit Chamber are institutional bodies that play an important oversight role in the implementation of national development plans, strategies and recommendations. All three bodies incorporate the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs into implementation and monitoring activities in the Sudan.

### **Implementation structures**

Structures for the implementation of national development plans and strategies and SDGs include ministries, public corporations and institutions, national governments and ministries, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations. All these entities adopt various implementation processes with the involvement of stakeholders and with the technical and financial support of development partners.

### **Integration of Sustainable Development Goals into national planning frameworks**

The Sudan is currently implementing its third planning cycle (2017–2021) within the overall Quarter Century Strategy 2007–2031. This third cycle coincides with preparations for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda undertakings and of SDGs in the Sudan. The integration of SDGs into the national planning framework was designed within the framework of the National Programme for Sustainable Development 2016–2030.

## 7. Tunisia

In Tunisia, the institutional framework for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda includes the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is responsible for the diplomatic component, and the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Investment Support (formerly the Ministry of Development, Investment and International Cooperation), which is responsible for technical steering and coordination.

The ownership of SDGs by government institutions made it possible to capitalize on the good practices and experience accumulated over several decades in the formulation and implementation of national development plans. With the support of the United Nations system, the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Investment Support has made strenuous awareness-raising and advocacy efforts to ensure that stakeholders embrace the 2030 Agenda and are mobilized for the implementation of SDGs.

Several workshops were held with the primary purpose of engaging and involving line ministries. These workshops made it possible to distribute responsibilities according to targets and indicators among the different ministerial departments, each according to its area of competence. In addition to the national focal point in the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Investment Support), focal points have been designated in each of the line ministries to coordinate their activities with those of the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Investment Support and to drive the implementation of SDGs in their respective ministries.

### Box 5

The National Programme for Sustainable Development 2016–2030 was formulated under the auspices of high-level national mechanism. It was developed through national consultation workshops involving key government officials, ministries, community and private-sector organizations, strategic planning experts, universities and centres of excellence. Consultations were conducted with government officials during their annual meetings under the auspices of the National Planning Committee, which organized meetings with senior government officials for two United Nations inter-agency missions undertaken in 2016 and 2017, as well as two national workshops. Consultation activities focused on advocacy and awareness-raising about the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs, the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to SDGs, the links between the aspects of sustainable development in the Sudan and tools for mainstreaming sustainable development into national development frameworks, particularly in the Quarter Century Strategy 2007–2031 and sectoral plans (2017–2021). The National Programme for Sustainable Development consists of a general framework for the integration of SDGs and their principles into national planning frameworks, the alignment of national policies, plans and institutions, the preparation of data to measure indicators, and the mobilization of means and tools for implementation. The priorities of the National Programme for Sustainable Development for the short period 2016–2020 are as follows:

1. To complete the unfinished Millennium Development Goal agenda, particularly the goals related to poverty, health and education;
2. To establish the list of SDGs to be achieved by 2020;
3. To tackle social and income inequalities in the country, in particular reducing disparities between States;
4. To mobilize means and implementation tools, in particular financial resources, for capacity-building and collection of data and information for SDG indicators.

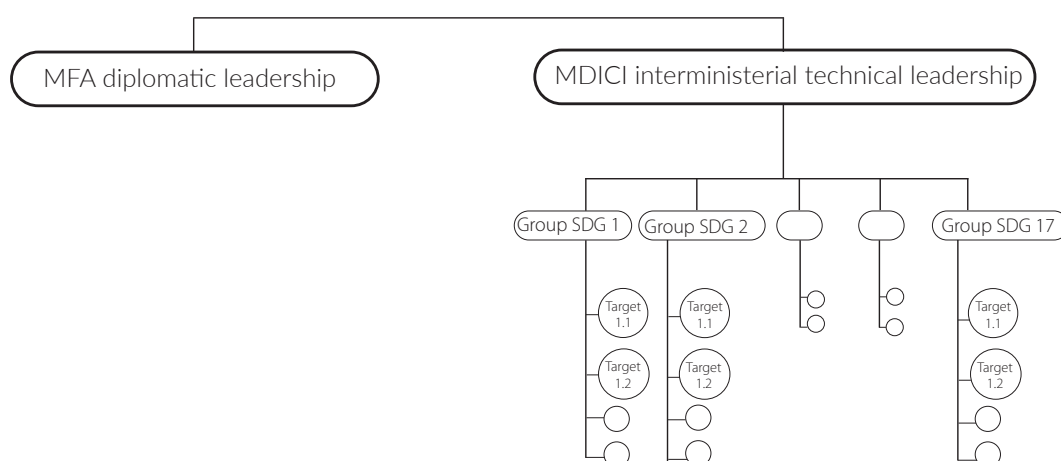
With respect to other non-governmental stakeholders, awareness-raising work carried out with the support of the United Nations system-targeted parliamentarians, civil society, regions and young people.

In order to ensure the alignment of SDGs with its strategies, plans and programmes, Tunisia adopted an approach to mainstreaming, acceleration and policy support, which is embodied in the joint SDG programme signed between the Government and the United Nations country system, to enhance integration and establish a monitoring, evaluation and reporting mechanism for SDGs. The programme resulted in four analytical and diagnostic studies of the SDG implementation framework in Tunisia, which led to the following recommendations for strengthening the programme:

- i. An SDG data gap analysis
- ii. A rapid integrated assessment of the Five-Year Development Plan (2016–2020) and national development strategies
- iii. A rapid integrated assessment of the constitution and conventions ratified by Tunisia to promote human rights
- iv. An assessment of the alignment and integration of SDGs in the sectors of governance (SDG 16), sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11), energy (SDG 7), the fight against climate change (SDG 13) and employment (SDG 8) in December 2018. The same exercise was repeated for the other 12 SDGs.

These studies were conducted over the period between December 2017 and December 2018.

**Figure 48: Tunisia: Institutional framework for the implementation of SDGs**



Source: Voluntary national review of the implementation of SDGs in Tunisia, July 2019.

The integration of SDGs is evaluated on two levels:

- With respect to the 2014 Constitution and the conventions ratified by Tunisia, studies showed that a target alignment rate of 91 per cent was achieved for the “People” pillar, but only 36 per cent for the “Planet” pillar.
- With respect to the Five-Year Development Plan and national strategies, studies showed that, from the 105 targets selected, 48 were covered totally or partially by the plan objectives and actions. However, the analysis of the alignment between the strategic objectives and priority actions of both the Five-Year Development Plan and the SDG targets showed that the issues raised by the latter were only partially covered by the Five-Year Development Plan.

This realization prompted the Government to pledge to address the identified gaps when preparing the next development plan, so that its objectives and actions would be better aligned with SDG targets.

#### **Box 6: Integration of SDGs at the local level**

Within the framework of the Five-Year Development Plan for the period 2016–2020, the Governorate of Médenine, in common with all the other governorates, drew up its five-year regional development plan using a participatory approach involving more than 600 representatives of the public sector, civil society, the private sector, academics and professional organizations in the region. To capitalize on this process, the complementary work of participatory discussions about the localization of SDGs was conducted with the support of the UNDP Local Development Support Programme. This first initiative in Tunisia made it possible to list specific targets and indicators for monitoring and implementing SDGs at the regional level, and at the same time maintain their connection with national priorities. The work of territorial actors on SDGs facilitated a cross-cutting discussion between groups belonging to different sectors, thereby fostering an integrated vision of regional development.

## **V. Anticipated impact of COVID-19 on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063**

Like the rest of the world, the North African countries were hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic at a time when they had not yet fully recovered from the consequences of the 2008 crisis and, for some,<sup>19</sup> from the economic and social repercussions of the “Arab Spring”.

In addition to its direct impact on health (morbidity and mortality), the pandemic severely disrupted the economies of North African countries by reducing economic activity in virtually every sector as a result of lockdown measures, restrictions on movement and border closures.

Apart from the effects linked to the decline in activity, North African countries were impacted in two ways, as follows:

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<sup>19</sup> Especially Tunisia, Libya and Egypt.

- For the oil exporting countries,<sup>20</sup> the fall in oil prices resulting from the drop in demand has had a crippling effect on economies through the drastic reduction in export revenues.
- Countries such as Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt, in addition to the decline in activity due to the fall in global demand for their products and the disruption of global value chains, also suffered a drop in revenue from tourism and services, which constitute a significant part of their income.

The combined effects of these supply and demand shocks resulted in a recession that generated:

- A sharp decline in economic growth;
- Significant job losses affecting all sectors, particularly the informal sector, with its corollary of rising unemployment;
- Dual pressure on public finances as a result, first, of the drop in tax revenues and, second, of the increase in expenditure to assist affected businesses and the most vulnerable sectors of the population.

The crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic is expected to undermine the efforts made by North African countries to implement the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 by reducing their flexibility and re-allocating scarce resources to other priorities.

The purpose of the present section is, first, to try to identify and quantify the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic on countries, and second, to assess the likely impact of the crisis on the fulfilment of SDGs and Agenda 2063.

## **1. Assessment of the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19**

In recent months, a number of studies on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on North African countries have been carried out, either at the instigation of the Governments of the countries themselves, with or without the collaboration of United Nations agencies,<sup>21</sup> or at the initiative of the latter.

We will review the key studies, although their findings, as yet preliminary, must be treated with the utmost caution as they are based on various assumptions and hypothetical scenarios.

According to a report prepared by the ECA Subregional Office for North Africa,<sup>22</sup> it was anticipated that in 2020 the economies of North Africa would experience, depending on their different circumstances, weak growth of 0.3 per cent of their GDP in the best-case scenario and a contraction of 5.4 per cent in the worst-case scenario.

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20 Algeria and Libya.

21 Principally, UNDP, ILO, IMF and the World Bank.

22 COVID-19 Crisis in North Africa: the impact and mitigation responses, May 2020.

In light of the structure of these economies, the impact of COVID-19 can be analysed through two modes of impact: the reduction of economic activity as a direct consequence of the lockdown measures decided by the countries themselves; and, indirectly, the effect of the restrictions on the movement of goods and people resulting from the closure of the borders of almost every country in the world.

Country-specific studies were also conducted to estimate the expected socioeconomic impact of the pandemic. These studies covered Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Egypt, with a study on the Sudan currently being prepared. It should be noted that the methodologies adopted differed from one study to another and that their results are therefore not directly comparable.

### 1.1. Mauritania

According to a preliminary study prepared by the World Bank,<sup>23</sup> the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic in Mauritania was assessed using a baseline scenario and a downward scenario. In terms of the external environment, each scenario was prepared on the basis of assumptions concerning changes in oil prices, and growth in China and in the Eurozone. Domestically, the assumptions related to changes in private consumption and the duration of the lockdown period.

The results are presented in the following table:

**Table 3: Mauritania: estimate of the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19**

Variable	Unit	Projections (baseline scenario)			Projections (downward scenario)		
		2020p	2021p	2022p	2020p	2021p	2022p
Real GDP growth	%	- 1.6	4.3	4.7	- 5.9	3.1	3.2
Budget balance	% GDP	- 3.2	- 0.4	- 0.2	- 4.4	- 0.9	- 0.7
Public debt	% GDP	80.6	80.6	78.1	84.9	84.9	82.2
Current account balance	% GDP	- 16.5	- 16.0	- 12.7	- 19.1	- 18.7	- 16.2
International poverty rate	%	6.0	5.8	5.5	6.3	6.2	5.9
Poverty rate (lower bracket)	%	24.1	23.5	22.7	25.2	24.8	24.1

Source: World Bank.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.



Under the baseline scenario, GDP growth was expected to fall from 5.9 per cent in 2019 to -1.6 per cent in 2020. The decline in growth was much larger in the downward scenario, as the forecast growth rate was -5.9 per cent.

A deterioration in the country's external position was expected to result from declining exports of fish products and iron ore as a result of falling demand from its trade partners. The current account balance was expected to record a widening of the deficit in 2020, reaching -16.5 per cent in the baseline scenario and -19.1 per cent in the downward scenario.

The pressures on the country's budget were set to increase, and the budget balance, which was in surplus in 2018 and 2019, was projected to show a deficit in 2020 that would vary from -3.2 per cent of GDP (baseline scenario) to -4.4 per cent (downward scenario). Both scenarios forecast a recovery of the Mauritanian economy in 2021, but at a slower pace in the downward scenario.

Several measures were taken by the Government to mitigate the effects of the pandemic, including the following:

- Easing of budgetary policy through the creation of an emergency fund to purchase medicines and medical equipment, provide assistance to needy families and support consumers and businesses;
- In terms of monetary policy, the Central Bank has taken measures to allow banks to increase their liquidity and to facilitate access to credit by reducing the key rate by one and a half percentage points.

The social impact of COVID-19 is no less significant and is expected to result in increased poverty and vulnerability. The increase in poverty would result from three factors: job losses and lower labour income, especially in urban areas; lower incomes of migrants and thus reduced transfers to their families; and higher food prices due to the disruption of supply chains caused by restricted mobility. In addition, the lack of universal health insurance is expected to mean that households will have to meet additional health care costs.

The vulnerability of urban households is set to increase owing to a lack of resilience and greater exposure to risk factors. The households whose incomes are derived from work in the informal sector will be most affected. Overall, the poverty rate, measured against the international poverty threshold of \$1.9 in 2011 in purchasing power parity (PPP), is estimated to increase from 5.5 per cent in 2019 to 6 per cent in 2020 under the baseline scenario, and to 6.3 per cent under the downward scenario.

Furthermore, women are expected to be more vulnerable to the effects of the pandemic as a result of factors including increased caring obligations, lower educational attainment, and as victims exposed to gender-based violence.

The pandemic also had an impact on food security, given the country's dependence on imports of a number of food products, including cereal products, milk and its

derivatives, sugar, vegetable oil. Value chains that provide inputs for many agrifood activities, such as livestock, forestry and fisheries, also experienced disruption.

## 1.2. Morocco

The study on the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 in Morocco<sup>24</sup> reports significant economic and social repercussions of the pandemic, similar to those in Mauritania, but with more severe consequences given the high degree of openness of the Moroccan economy and its integration into the world economy. Morocco is expected to face enormous challenges arising from the economic slowdown and its economic and social effects, amplified by the sharp drop in demand for its products by its European partners and the disruption of its input supply value chains of its industries.

In addition, the Government was forced to mobilize the resources needed by the health sector to cope with the pandemic and to assist struggling businesses and the most vulnerable segments of the population. At the same time, it had to manage the crisis by seeking to strike the right balance between restrictive measures to contain the spread of the pandemic and the need to ensure an adequate level of economic activity.

According to another study,<sup>25</sup> throughout 2020 the Moroccan economy was expected to experience a recession, the first for more than two decades, under the combined effect of drought and the pandemic. Indeed, according to annual forecasts of the High Commission for Planning, GDP was expected to contract by 5.8 per cent, accompanied by a worsening of the budget deficit to 7.4 per cent of GDP.

The tourism sector is among the most affected industries. The National Confederation of Tourism anticipated difficulties for operators in this sector until the end of 2020, with a slow and gradual recovery beginning in April 2021. The foreign exchange losses associated with the decline in activity in the tourism sector were estimated at about 138 billion Moroccan dirhams. The crisis affecting this sector will have repercussions on related activities and result in income and job losses that will affect the informal sector in particular.

The motor vehicle and textile industries will also be strongly impacted by the crisis, under the double shock of supply and demand resulting from the disruption of value chains in Asian countries for the supply of parts, and the drop in demand from trade partners, especially in Europe. The agricultural sector, already facing adverse climatic conditions, will also suffer the consequences of lockdowns, which will disrupt marketing and input supply channels.

The informal sector will be affected by the decline in demand caused by restrictions on movement and the loss of purchasing power among the most vulnerable sections of the population, who constitute the majority of its customers. At the same time,

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<sup>24</sup> "Social and economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis on Morocco: a preliminary analysis report", Drafted by United Nations Country Team Social and Economic Impact Task Force, May 2020.

<sup>25</sup> "Policy note: social and economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis in Morocco".

public finances will come under strong pressure from the combined effect of falling tax revenues and rising costs. The study predicts a deterioration in the overall deficit of around 6 per cent of GDP, the consequence of which would be an increase in public debt estimated for 2020 at 73 per cent of GDP.

External balances will also be negatively affected. It was expected that the current account deficit would amount to around 7 per cent of GDP in 2020 under the combined effect of the sharp fall in exports, tourism receipts and migrant workers' remittances. These revenue losses will only be slightly offset by the reduction of the energy bill resulting from the fall in oil prices.

Challenges are expected to arise in the financing of the balance of payments deficit, especially given the potential decline in FDI and the tightening of borrowing conditions on international financial markets resulting from the increased needs of countries and the rise in rates associated with premium risk.

### **Box 7**

In this context, a new fund called the "COVID-19 Fund" was created. The purpose of the fund, with an amount of approximately \$3.3 billion as of 3 April 2020, was to address the economic and social impact of the pandemic through increased allocation of resources to the health sector and accompanying measures targeting households and private enterprises.

At the same time, monetary measures were taken to stem the risk of bankruptcy of a large number of enterprises, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, and to avoid the loss of thousands of jobs.

In addition, the crisis could lead to delays in the implementation of sectoral, structural and financial reforms, which could negatively affect potential recovery and jeopardize macroeconomic stability.

The framework for analysis and impact assessment, put forward jointly by the United Nations system, the World Bank and other partners, should focus on the possibility for Morocco to pursue a realistic but ambitious plan of structural and financial reforms that would take into account the current context and the resulting medium-term challenges.

The social impact of COVID-19 could be very significant, although it is difficult to measure precisely. Indeed, since the early 2010s, Morocco had succeeded in reducing poverty significantly. Forecasts based on per capita GDP indicate that the rate would rise and about 300,000 people would fall below the poverty line. The volatility that characterizes the economy is likely to have a negative impact on the well-being of people whose consumer spending would be just above the poverty threshold, so that a small negative shock could push this group back into poverty. Special attention is to be paid to studying the impact of the crisis on multidimensional poverty.

The percentage of the vulnerable population likely to fall below the poverty threshold varies according to the household expenditure threshold selected. At a household expenditure threshold of \$5.5 PPP, the number of poor and non-poor, but vulnerable and likely to slip back into poverty, appears to be very high; this figure was around 25 per cent of the population in 2019 and had the potential to rise to 27 per cent by 2020. Thus, as a result of the COVID-19 crisis, nearly 10 million Moroccans are at risk of slipping into poverty.

## Box 8

The official Moroccan national response to the COVID-19 crisis includes several actions and measures implemented by the Government to minimize its socioeconomic impact.

1. The establishment of the Economic Monitoring Committee: this committee, which reports to the Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Administrative Reform, is responsible for monitoring the development of the economic situation and identifying appropriate measures to assist the sectors affected by the crisis.
2. Measures for employees: all employees declared to the National Social Security Fund in February 2020 who are employed by companies in difficulty that have ceased operations will receive a net monthly allowance of 2,000 dirhams and a family allowance. This assistance is provided by the special fund for the management of the coronavirus pandemic. These employees will also benefit from the deferral of payment of bank loans due until 30 June 2020.
3. Measures for the benefit of businesses, particularly micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and the liberal professions in difficulty have been decided, relating in particular to the following points:
  - Suspension of the payment of social security charges until 30 June 2020;
  - Introduction of a moratorium on the payment of overdue bank credits and leasing charges until 30 June without late penalties;
  - Activation of an additional line of credit provided by the banks and guaranteed by CCG;
  - Acceleration of payments to companies, especially micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, to reduce cash flow pressures and enable them to meet their obligations;
  - Exemption of companies under contract with the State from payment of penalties for late completion of projects outside their control.
4. Decisions were also taken on tax and governance measures, including:
  - Companies whose turnover in 2019 was less than 20 million dirhams, will be permitted, if they so wish, to defer payment of taxes until 30 June 2020;
  - The suspension of tax adjustment measures until 30 June 2020;
  - The implementation of guarantee schemes to support the cash flow of companies in difficulty, namely: "Damane Oxygen", "Damane Relance" and "Relance PME";
  - The implementation of a COVID-19 guarantee for self-employed entrepreneurs.
5. Measures to assist the informal sector have been implemented, especially:
  - In the first phase, Ramed card-holding households in the informal sector who have lost their incomes as a result of the lockdown can benefit from income support from the Coronavirus Fund;
  - In the second phase, non-Ramed card holder households who are in the same situation as above will be eligible for the same assistance. A dedicated online platform for the submission of aid applications was launched on 10 April 2020.

An economic and employment recovery pact was launched on 6 August 2020, reflecting the commitment made by stakeholders (i.e., the State, private sector, and banking sector) to revive the economy, safeguard employment and promote good governance.

## 1.3. Algeria

The analysis of the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 in Algeria is based on the study carried out by the United Nations system in the country in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa. This study is based on a macroeconometric model developed specifically for the Algerian economy to assess the impact of the pandemic based on assumptions about the evolution of three variables: the price of

oil (Brent), public expenditure and public and private consumption, assuming stable correlations and a fixed exchange rate for the current year.

According to this model, economic growth in Algeria should be between -4.48 per cent and 5.70 per cent, depending on the scenarios selected for the forecast values set for these three variables.

**Table 4: Algeria: projected GDP growth rate in 2020**

Brent	Public investment		
	-10%	-20%	-30%
\$35	-4.48%	-5.00%	-5.60%
\$30	-4.55%	-5.10%	-5.70%

*Source:* An assessment of the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 on Algeria and recommendations for a more sustainable and resilient recovery, United Nations, Algeria, May 2020.

The selected model does not provide for forecasts beyond 2020, but according to IMF estimates, recovery is expected in 2021, with a GDP growth rate of up to 6.2 per cent, growth driven by a strong recovery of the hydrocarbons sector, which reflects the strong dependence of the Algerian economy on the barrel price. However, despite the strong recovery in this sector, overall growth in 2021 will hardly exceed 1 per cent and, if demographic growth is taken into account, this will result in a negative growth rate of real GDP per capita.

Moreover, the model forecasts a trade balance deficit contained in a range between 13.33 and 19.02 per cent of GDP, depending on the variation of the Algerian dinar and the United States dollar exchange rate in a range between 130 and 145, fluctuations in the oil price and public investment behaviour.

**Table 5: Trade balance projections for 2020**

Brent		Public investment		
		-10%	-20%	-30%
Exchange rate 130	\$35	-13.33%	-13.40%	-13.49%
	\$30	-15.47%	-15.56%	-15.66%
Exchange rate 145	\$35	-16.19%	-16.28%	-16.39%
	\$30	-18.79%	-18.90%	-19.02%

*Source:* An assessment of the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 on Algeria and recommendations for a more sustainable resilient recovery, United Nations, Algeria, May 2020.

The resulting budget deficit will vary from 6.0 to 9.1 per cent of GDP depending on the price per barrel and the evolution of public investment. Tax revenues are expected to fall by 21 per cent in 2020 and export revenues by 51 per cent. Foreign exchange reserves, estimated at \$62 billion in 2019, are expected to fall to \$24 billion by the end of 2020 if no action is taken. At the same time, public debt is expected to increase sharply, from the current 46 per cent of GDP to 61 per cent in 2022, according to IMF estimates.

Lockdown measures are impacting all sectors, but to varying degrees. Companies, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, are seeing their solvency threatened. The impact on employment is all the more significant as these businesses employ a large proportion of the workforce who are exposed to the loss of jobs and incomes. This impact is most keenly felt by the unprotected and vulnerable in the informal sector, which is estimated to account for around 50 per cent of the Algerian economy. The final number of annual job losses in 2020 will depend on the evolution of the pandemic and the measures taken to limit its impact. The unemployment rate would rise to around 15 per cent in all scenarios.

The social impact of COVID-19 is no less profound and will affect all social sectors, albeit with varying intensity. The health and education sectors will be the most affected, with a tendency for poverty indices to rise. The impact will be hardest felt by the most vulnerable categories of the population.

The COVID-19 crisis is expected to increase the number of people affected by multidimensional poverty, with an impact on children's health, nutrition and education. Similarly, the social isolation associated with lockdown measures will make women and children more vulnerable to psychological and physical violence.

Undocumented migrants and asylum seekers will also be hit hard by the impact of COVID-19 through the loss of their insecure jobs and their inability to access basic services and fulfil basic housing and food requirements.

#### **1.4. Tunisia**

A study of the impact of COVID-19 on the Tunisian economy was prepared by the UNDP office in Tunis in conjunction with the Government of Tunisia.<sup>26</sup> This macroeconomic study used a computable general equilibrium modelling framework to estimate the macroeconomic and microeconomic impacts of COVID-19, with a focus on micro and small enterprises. Particular attention was paid to the impact on micro- and small enterprises, depending on their vulnerability, and on households in relation to the worsening of income poverty and spending on food, education and health, as well as income inequality.

The study considered two scenarios: a pre-COVID-19 baseline scenario and a post-COVID-19 scenario created using assumptions about a decline in business supply, a decline in household demand<sup>27</sup> and a decline in public and private investments.

The study outcomes showed a drop in economic growth from the 2.7 per cent initially forecast in the 2020 budget to -4.4 per cent. This drop was due to two concomitant shocks: a supply shock, with a direct and negative impact on the activity of several sectors, and a shock to domestic demand, owing to falling

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<sup>26</sup> "Economic impact of COVID-19 in Tunisia: analysis of the vulnerability of households and micro and very small enterprises", UNDP - Tunis and Ministry of Development and International Cooperation, 2020.

<sup>27</sup> With the exception of food and hygiene products.

**Table 6: Tunisia: evolution of the principal macroeconomic variables (percentage)**

Variable	Baseline scenario	COVID-19 crisis scenario
GDP	2.7	-4.4
GFCF	2.9	-4.9
Household consumption	1.9	-8.0
Exports	5.8	-8.0
Imports	3.8	-9.6
Inflation rate (CPI)	6.7	7.0
Unemployment rate	15.0	21.6
Indirect taxation	11.3	1.5
Personal income tax	9.5	1.4
Corporate tax	4.6	-6.0

*Source:* "Economic impact of COVID-19 in Tunisia", UNDP and Ministry of Economic Development and Cooperation.

consumer and external demand, as a result of the fall in export demand from the country's main trading partners, notably the euro zone.

From the standpoint of added value, the business sectors most affected by the crisis were non-manufacturing industries (-29.4 per cent), tourism (-15.8 per cent), transport (-14.1 per cent) and textiles (-14.5 per cent). Other sectors were also impacted, but to a lesser extent.

In terms of public finances, the anticipated economic downturn would result in lower tax revenues compared to the baseline scenario, which would risk exacerbating the already very large budget deficit, especially as public spending was expected to increase substantially to meet the needs of the health sector and to support ailing businesses and the most vulnerable sections of the population.

The decline in economic activity would lead to an increase in unemployment from 15 per cent (baseline scenario) to 21.6 per cent, resulting in some 274,500 new unemployed.

With regard to the impact on poverty, the study reported that the COVID-19 crisis could lead to a significant increase in both monetary and multidimensional poverty and also have a negative impact on inequality, particularly gender inequality.

**Table 7: Tunisia: evolution of income poverty rates and extreme poverty rates**

Indicator	Pre-shock			Post-shock		
	Men	Women	Together	Men	Women	Together
Income poverty rate*	14.8	15.5	15.2	18.71	19.77	19.2
Extreme poverty rate**	-	-	2.87	-	-	3.99

*Source:* "Economic impact of COVID-19 in Tunisia", UNDP and MDCI.

\* Ratio of the poor population living on less than \$4.6 per day (PPP 2015).

\*\* Ratio of the poor population living on less than \$2.4 per day (PPP 2015).

The simulations of the model showed that, without mitigation measures taken by the State, the income poverty rate was likely to rise from 15.2 per cent before the crisis to 19.2 per cent, driving some 457,500 individuals into poverty. Two factors contributed to this worsening situation: decreased consumer spending and rising prices of basic foodstuffs.

## 1.5. Egypt

Apart from its health consequences, the COVID-19 pandemic could have a considerable negative socioeconomic impact in Egypt. According to the study prepared by the United Nations country system in conjunction with development partners,<sup>28</sup> several sectors could be affected by a decline in activity and loss of jobs. The study cited sectors such as tourism, the informal sector (micro, small and medium-sized construction enterprises), trade and supply chains, industry, agriculture, food and food security. The impact was also likely to be significant with regard to migrant remittances and investments.

Social services in the areas of education and health would also be under enormous pressure, with social consequences as a result of disruptions to livelihoods and access to social services.

Based on a computable general equilibrium model developed by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the study used three scenarios determined by the duration of the shocks and compared them to a baseline situation: a low scenario (a shock lasting 3 months in length), a median scenario (a shock lasting 6 months) and a high scenario (a shock lasting between 9 and 12 months). There might be significant potential and cumulative effects on key sectors of the Egyptian economy. Indeed, real GDP could experience a decline in annual growth rate estimated at between 2.4 and 10.4 per cent, which would result in an increase in unemployment of 0.4 to 9.3 per cent above the rate of the baseline situation, depending on the scenarios. In the same context, the inflation rate would increase between 1.48 per cent and 9.53 per cent, depending on the scenarios.

**Table 8: Egypt: anticipated impact of COVID-19 on the main socioeconomic variables**

Variable	Baseline scenario	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3
GDP growth rate (%)	5.9	3.41	0.14	-4.0
Inflation rate (CPI)	11.4	12.88	16.82	16.73
Unemployment rate	8.0	18.49	11.55	16.88
Poverty rate	27.6	-	31.9	-

*Source:* United Nations study - Egypt.

The poverty rate<sup>29</sup> would increase by 4 per cent by 2021, from 27.6 per cent in the non-COVID-19 projection to 31.9 per cent, with the additional number

<sup>28</sup> "Leaving no one behind in the time of COVID-19: preliminary mapping of potential socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 and guidance for policy responses in Egypt through a vulnerability lens", United Nations, Egypt, 5 April 2020.

<sup>29</sup> Rate calculated based on the national poverty threshold (\$3.10 PPP per day) and without additional intervention from the Government.



of people falling below the poverty line estimated at around 4 million in the median scenario.

Egypt made it a priority to assess the impact of the crisis on the lives of Egyptians and has identified priority actions. On 20 June 2020, the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics announced the results of its survey on the implications of the pandemic on Egyptian families. The survey showed that, since February 2020:

- 26.2 per cent of workers had lost their jobs;
- 18.1 per cent had joined the casual workforce after losing their permanent jobs;
- 73.5 per cent of families had been suffering from a reduction in income (including 35 per cent because the breadwinner had lost his or her job).

Furthermore, it was predicted that 48.2 per cent of families would experience a reduction in income in the following 3 months if the pandemic control measures were continued.

In the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, and particularly in the first half of the 2020/2021 fiscal year, Egypt redoubled its efforts to continue making progress towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, and, at the very least, to maintain the progress made before the pandemic.

Through initiatives already implemented before the COVID-19 pandemic, resilience to the crisis has been strengthened. The Ministry of Planning and Economic Development prepared a report that identified these initiatives not only in respect of SDGs, but also in respect of the national strategic objectives of the National Sustainable Development Programme, in order to identify and monitor efforts in line with national development objectives.

In addition, Egypt intensified its efforts and proactively took a number of necessary measures<sup>30</sup> to mitigate the negative impact of the pandemic on hard-hit groups and sectors, support economic activity and stimulate domestic demand. To achieve these objectives, three broad sets of measures were adopted:

- First, a comprehensive fiscal stimulus package (100 billion Egyptian pounds, equivalent to 2 per cent of GDP) was deployed to tackle the crisis;
- Second, with respect to monetary policy, measures included lowering interest rates and facilitating access to credit;

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<sup>30</sup> Some 311 measures and policies were adopted between 24 February and 1 July 2020.

- Third, support was provided to socioeconomic sectors negatively impacted by the crisis such as health, small and medium-sized enterprises, industry and tourism.

It is worth mentioning that the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development developed a policy monitoring tool to centralize all initiatives and procedures on a single platform.<sup>31</sup>

As well as supporting the economy to cope with the recession caused by the COVID-19 crisis, Egypt concentrated its efforts on combating the social impact of the pandemic through initiatives that focus on supporting the most vulnerable groups. These response and recovery actions and initiatives included the following objectives:

- To expand social protection and ensure the continued provision of basic services;
- To protect and support the most vulnerable categories (women, young people and casual workers).

The following are some examples of initiatives aimed at cushioning the social impact of the pandemic:

- Sanitation of shantytowns to ensure decent housing for all - This initiative also contributed to reducing the negative impact of overcrowding and the spread of the pandemic by providing adequate housing for slum dwellers, in addition to narrowing the development gap between urban governorates. It should be noted that this initiative contributed to the implementation of SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 3 (good health and well-being), SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities) and SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities). With regard to Agenda 2063, it contributed to the implementation of aspiration 1 (a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development) and aspiration 6 (a Africa whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children).
- Decent living - This initiative helped to mitigate the negative effects of COVID-19 by improving the standard of living of the poorest groups, while providing employment opportunities in support of small and medium-sized enterprises. The initiative contributed to the implementation of SDGs 1, 3, 4, 6, 10 and 11, and for Agenda 2063, it contributed to the implementation of Aspiration 1.
- Support for casual workers - First, approximately 1.6 million casual workers received financial assistance through coordinated efforts; second, the

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<sup>31</sup> Platform hosted on the Ministry's website: [www.mped.gov.eg](http://www.mped.gov.eg).

establishment of a database would also support ongoing efforts to integrate the informal sector into the formal sector. The initiative contributed to the implementation of SDGs 1 and 10. With regard to Agenda 2063, it contributed to the implementation of Aspiration 1.

- Conditional and unconditional cash transfer scheme - This scheme was set up to eradicate poverty and prevent more people from falling below the national poverty threshold. Women already represent 88 per cent of the beneficiaries of the scheme, which also supports the financial inclusion initiative through the payment of monthly transfers by smart card, thereby helping to integrate financially and economically vulnerable people. As a result of COVID-19, 60,000 recipient households were added to the scheme, on top of the 3 million families already benefiting. There were plans to add a further 100,000 families as part of a second phase. The programme contributed to the implementation of SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 10, and for Agenda 2063, it contributed to the implementation of aspirations 1 and 6.
- Moreover, Egypt prioritized the main sectors affected, namely:
  - The health sector, which was set to benefit from a 42 per cent increase in total public investment and a 100 per cent increase in the annual budget of the Ministry of Health in the fiscal year 2020/2021;
  - Digitalization, for which public investment would increase by 300 per cent in the 2020/2021 fiscal year compared to the previous year.

## **2. Anticipated impact of COVID-19 on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063**

This subsection attempts to provide a qualitative description of the anticipated impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 in the North African countries. The chosen analytical approach is based on international studies on the topic to decide on the mechanisms and modes of transmission of the effects to the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. At the same time, the socioeconomic impact assessment carried out in the previous subsection will guide the analysis in terms of the significance and intensity of the impact for the countries, with due regard for their specific individual circumstances.

It is clear that the pandemic will have a disruptive effect on countries' efforts to make progress on the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. As progress towards implementing SDGs is already considered insufficient and will not be fully achieved in the decade leading up to the critical 2030 deadline, the onset and persistence of the pandemic threatens to set the world back perhaps even more and wipe out the progress made in some areas.

The challenge facing many countries is therefore how to minimize the impact of COVID-19 on the achievement of SDGs. How can the gains made be consolidated and ensure that the current crisis provides countries with an opportunity to recover

on a more solid basis through more inclusive and environmentally friendly growth, thus giving real meaning to the slogan “leaving no one behind”?

The economic effects of the crisis are equally distressing. The world is now facing the worst recession in generations. Even the most advanced and developed countries are struggling to cope with the health, social and economic fallout of the pandemic, not to mention that the poorest and most disadvantaged countries will inevitably be the hardest hit. It is estimated that world trade will plunge from 13 to 32 per cent, foreign direct investment flows will decline by up to 40 per cent and remittances to low- and middle-income countries were likely to fall by 20 per cent by 2020. Many poor countries are already experiencing severe food insecurity. All these external shocks, along with job losses, vulnerable health care systems, inadequate basic services and limited coverage of social welfare systems, will increase the vulnerability of the poor. Without the support of the international community, the crisis could destabilize the economies of already poor countries.

## 2.1. Poverty and the fight against hunger

Global projections indicate that the pandemic could plunge some 71 million people into extreme poverty in 2020, leading to an increase in global poverty for the first time since 1998. Many of those affected will be in the informal economy, where incomes fell by 60 per cent in the first month of the crisis.

The crisis triggered by COVID-19 is expected to increase the vulnerability of an estimated one billion slum dwellers already suffering from poor housing conditions and limited or no access to basic infrastructure.

The elderly, persons living with disabilities, migrants and refugees are the people most exposed to the effects of COVID-19, given their precarious socioeconomic and health conditions.

**Table 9: Trends in the income poverty rate in North African countries before and after Covid-19**

Country	Baseline year	COVID-19 crisis scenario <sup>1</sup>
Algeria*	5.5	n/a
Egypt*	27.6	31.9
Libya	n/a	n/a
Morocco*	4.8	6.6
Mauritania	5.5	6
Sudan*	36.1	n/a
Tunisia	15.2	19.2

\* Algeria: last known figures; Egypt: projection for 2021 without government intervention; the Sudan, Morocco (2014), the poverty threshold varies according to country.

**Abbreviation:** n/a, not available.

<sup>1</sup> According to the baseline scenario and the national poverty threshold.

Over the past decade, North African countries made significant progress in the fight against poverty and the eradication of hunger. Nevertheless, all future-oriented studies on the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 agree that the poverty threshold, in terms of both income and multidimensional poverty, will worsen.

From a food point of view, all North African countries depend on food imports, particularly cereals, to varying degrees. The disruption of international trade following the closure of borders and the rise in world commodity prices could have a negative impact on the supply of sufficient quantities of basic foodstuffs to the population, in addition to declining incomes of vulnerable groups resulting from job losses and disruption of national distribution channels as a result of containment. All these factors are likely to have a negative impact on the population's diet and increase the already high malnutrition rate in some countries of the region.

**Table 10: North African countries: cereal import dependency ratio**

Country	Dependency ratio (%)
Algeria	72.2
Egypt	42.1
Libya	n/a
Morocco	42.1
Mauritania	87.1
Sudan	18.3
Tunisia	59.7

*Source:* "COVID-19 crisis in North Africa: Impact and mitigation responses", ECA Subregional Office for North Africa, May 2020.

*Abbreviation:* n/a, not available.

## 2.2. Health and education

As is the case around the world, the health sector in North African countries has come under enormous pressure as a result of the pandemic. Material and human resources, already quite limited, have been mobilized as a priority to tackle the health crisis of COVID-19. Under these circumstances, basic health services have had to take a back seat. Children and women are the first victims of this situation as vaccination campaigns for children have been disrupted or even cancelled. Basic services provided to women such as prenatal check-ups and distribution of family planning materials have been reduced.

As a result, the pandemic will particularly affect children and women, for whom access to healthcare is becoming more difficult, thus increasing the mortality rate among children under five years of age, as well as maternal mortality. Unwanted pregnancies are expected as tens of millions of women are unable to access family planning services.

When it comes to education in the region, as in other parts of the world, COVID-19 has prevented pupils and students from attending school. Prolonged disruption of schooling risks lowering school attendance and completion rates, and therefore learning outcomes.

The crisis will also have a negative impact on the social and behavioural development of children and young people. With many families condemned to slide into extreme poverty, children living in poor and disadvantaged communities will be more exposed to the risk of child labour, early marriage and child trafficking. As a result, the gains made by North African countries in reducing child labour will be at risk and a setback can be expected.

### **2.3. Gender**

There is a risk that the modest advances made by North African countries on gender equality will be wiped out by the COVID-19 crisis. Indeed, women are experiencing many adverse effects both at home and in the workplace. As a result of lockdown, the burden of unpaid care work is increasing sharply because of increased household burdens and long-term care of children, the elderly and persons living with disabilities. In the workplace, the majority of women work in insecure jobs in the informal sector and will be the first victims of redundancies and loss of income.

Furthermore, the lockdown imposed on the population exposes women and children to various forms of domestic, mental, physical and sexual violence. Their isolation and inability to seek protection by authorities gives a feeling of impunity to their abusers.

### **2.4. Decent work and economic growth**

The COVID-19 pandemic has plunged the region's economies into a downturn cycle even more severe than the 2008 crisis. Forecasts agree that economic growth in these countries is expected to decline sharply. Public finances will come under severe pressure as a result of a sharp decline in tax revenues caused by the severe reduction in economic activity and increased spending to cope with the effects of the crisis. As a result, the budget deficit, already quite high for some countries, will increase further, driving public debt to unsustainable levels.

In terms of the impact of the crisis on employment, it is expected that unemployment will rise, primarily affecting insecure employment, especially work in the informal sector. The decline in public and private investment and the sharp drop in FDI is expected to exacerbate unemployment, which, as it affects principally young people and women, is likely to pose a real threat to the stability of countries if drastic measures are not taken to limit the sense of marginalization and neglect among the most vulnerable segments of the population.

## **Chapter II: Comparative analysis of the achievement of selected Sustainable Development Goals in North African countries**

The present chapter presents a focused analysis of the achievements of North African countries in relation to three SDGs that fall within the areas of specialization of the ECA Subregional Office for North Africa. These are SDGs 4, 8 and 10. SDG 5 will be incorporated horizontally into the analysis, with gender being one of the analytical criteria common to the other three SDGs. The first section will be devoted to a comparative analysis of the achievements of North African countries in relation to SDG 4, while SDG 8 will be covered in the second section and SDG 10 in the third section. For each of these Goals, the analysis will focus on the gender aspect of policies and measures, as well as on the relevance of the national indicators related to each SDG and their alignment with similar indicators used at the international level.

The analysis will be based on reports from the States of the region and the United Nations country teams, including official data from the countries concerned and databases of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Bank and ECA.

### **I. Comparative analysis of achievements with respect to Sustainable Development Goal 4**

After a brief overview of the comparative achievements of North African countries in terms of SDG 4 (quality education) indicators, the analysis will focus on the capacity of each country's education system to equip young people with the technical and vocational skills required for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship. In fact, some studies have shown that, in addition to low economic growth that does not generate enough jobs, all the countries of the region suffer, first, from a mismatch between training and job market needs and, second, from inefficient public employment policies that result in an inefficient job market. The result is an excessively high unemployment rate among young graduates, especially young women, and an increase in the number of insecure jobs in the informal sector.

Quality education for all is a fundamental goal reflected in both the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. Education is therefore a prerequisite for all strategies aimed at ensuring sustainable and harmonious development in the long term, whether in developed countries or, even more so, in developing countries. Indeed, SDG 4 of the 2030 Agenda is to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all". Goal 2 of aspiration 1 of Agenda 2063 is to foster the development of "well-educated citizens and skills revolutions underpinned by science, technology and innovation".

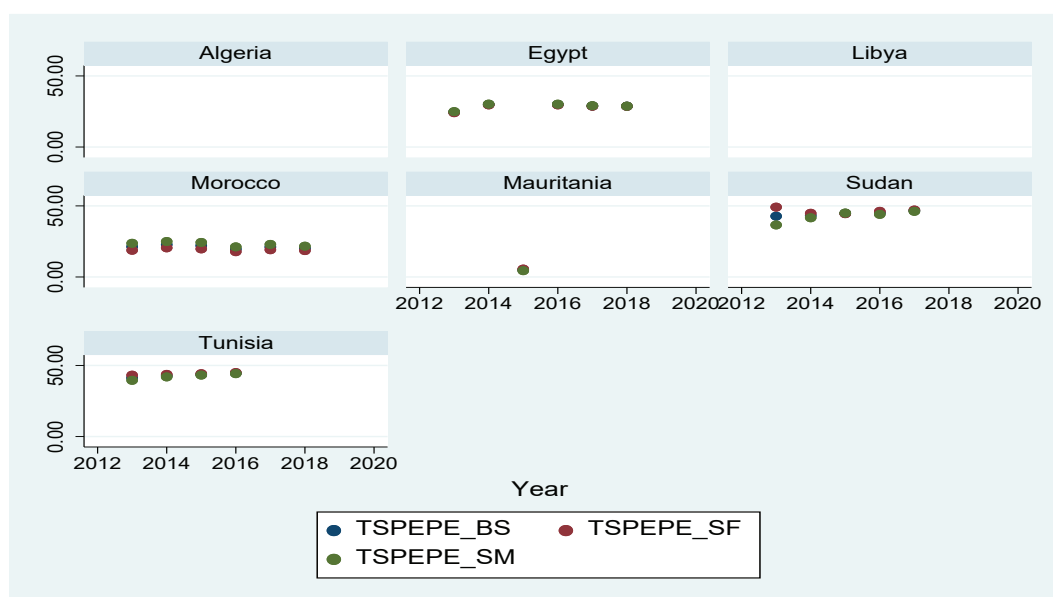
Given that SDGs are necessarily indivisible and interrelated, SDG 4 appears to be the goal with the strongest connections to all the other goals. Education is therefore at the heart of the process of sustainable development on a global scale and it is the foundation that is the basis of virtually all action that is designed to achieve the inclusive development paradigm that “leaves no one behind”. Gender equality in education is central to achieving sustainable and inclusive development, which is why UNESCO has made it a priority.<sup>32</sup>

On this basis, the following analysis will attempt to highlight the achievements and challenges faced by North African countries in the field of education, focusing on the policies and measures adopted by these countries to equip young people and adults with appropriate skills for decent work and entrepreneurship, with due consideration of the gender dimension.

### 1. Achievements in school enrolment and gender equality rates

SDG 4 is monitored through seven targets and 12 indicators. Most of those indicators are disaggregated on the basis of age, gender, background, persons living with disabilities, etc. Data to monitor those indicators are not always available with the levels of disaggregation of time periodicity needed to identify trends. This part of the analysis will rely on three main data sources: the UNESCO database<sup>33</sup> and the United Nations database on Goals,<sup>34</sup> which will be supplemented by data from national official sources.<sup>35</sup>

Figure 49: Enrolment rate trends, by country



Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics.

Enrolment rates in North African countries increased significantly over the past decades at all levels of education (pre-primary, primary, secondary and tertiary). Nevertheless, this virtually universal trend conceals some nuances and specific

32 Global Education Monitoring Report 2019, Gender Report: Building Bridges for Gender Equality, UNESCO.

33 <http://data.uis.unesco.org/>.

34 <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/>.

35 For the sake of consistency and comparability, data from both databases will be used.

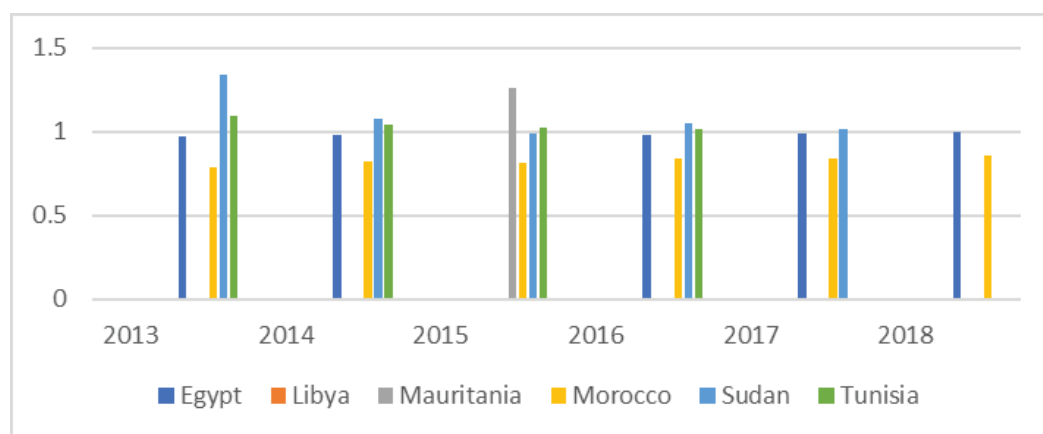


characteristics linked to the level of development, the efficiency of the education system and the effectiveness of each country's education policies.

The most notable achievement of North African countries in education was the advance in pre-primary enrolment; it was particularly high in the Sudan and Tunisia, exceeding 40 per cent, while it was moderately high in Egypt and Morocco and remained low in Mauritania (5 per cent in 2015).

The Gender Parity Index, close to or above 1 in the majority of North African countries,<sup>36</sup> showed that, in comparison with boys, girls had the same or even greater access to kindergarten and preparatory classes, except in Morocco, where the Gender Parity Index indicated a value of 0.86 (2018), which attested to a certain gender inequality in favour of boys.

**Figure 50: Pre-primary gross enrolment ratio, (Gender Parity Index)**



Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics.

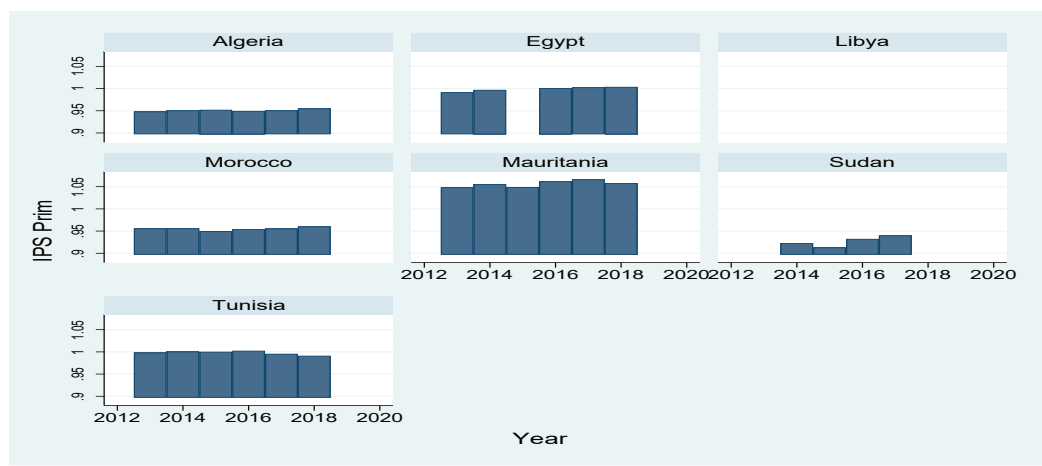
**Figure 51: Trends in the enrolment rate in primary education, by country**



Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics.

<sup>36</sup> These data were not available for Algeria or Libya.

**Figure 52: Evolution of the Gender Parity Index**

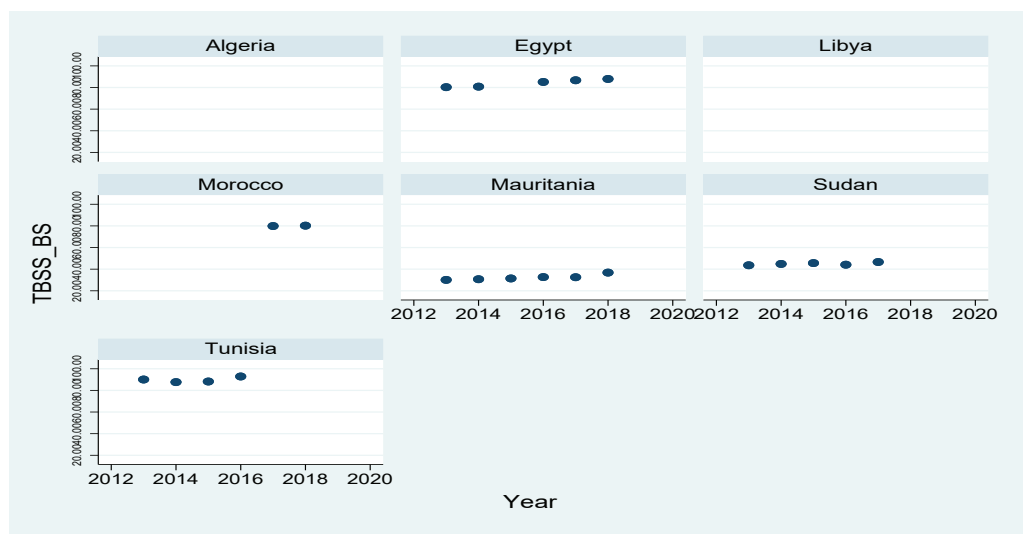


Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics.

In primary education, the gross enrolment rate exceeded 100 per cent in Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia. In Mauritania, it showed an upward trend until 2015 before recording a decline. On the other hand, in the Sudan, it remained low (76.8 per cent, 2017) with, however, a trend that was on the rise at the end of the period.

The Gender Parity Index showed that equal opportunities for girls and boys in primary education were provided in Mauritania, Egypt and Tunisia; while in Algeria, the Sudan and Morocco, the index pointed to the persistence of a certain inequality to the detriment of girls.

**Figure 53: Evolution of the gross enrolment rate in secondary education**

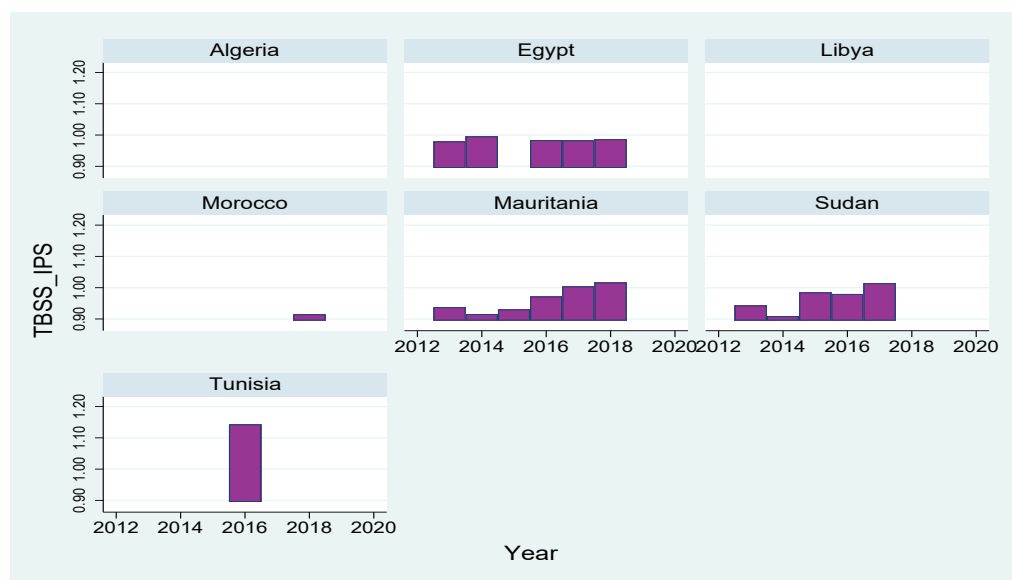


Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics.

In secondary education, the gross enrolment ratio was on an upward trend in almost every country. Egypt and Tunisia were the best performers, with rates reaching 81.9 per cent in Tunisia (2020) and 76.6 per cent in Egypt (2018), followed by Morocco with a rate of 62.5 per cent (2018). In the Sudan and Mauritania, this rate remained low and stood at 38.6 per cent (2017) and 28.4 per cent (2018), respectively.

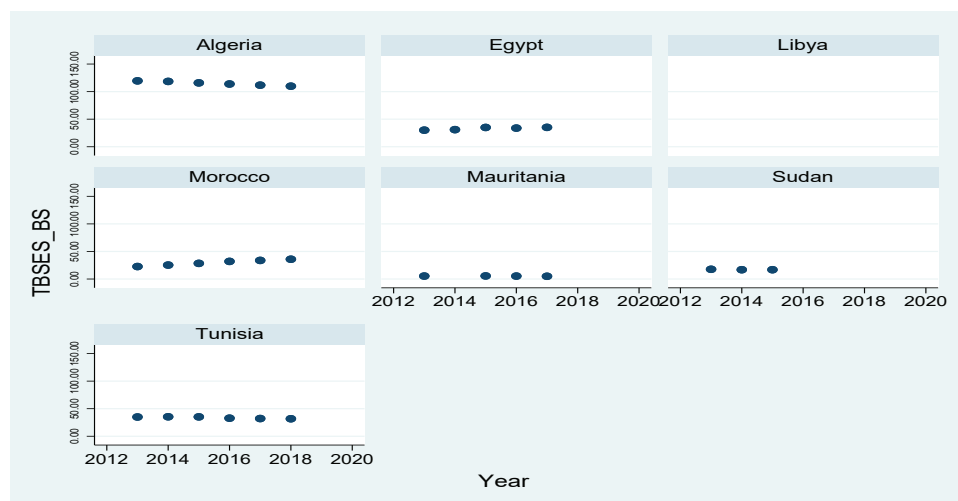
The Gender Parity Index showed that Egypt and Morocco<sup>37</sup> had not yet achieved parity in secondary school enrolment despite a narrowing of the gap to the disadvantage of girls. In Mauritania and the Sudan, parity had been achieved, while in Tunisia there was inequality to the disadvantage of boys, with a Gender Parity Index of 1.3 in 2016.

**Figure 54: Evolution of the Gender Parity Index in secondary education**



Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics.

**Figure 55: Evolution of the gross enrolment rate in higher education**



Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics.

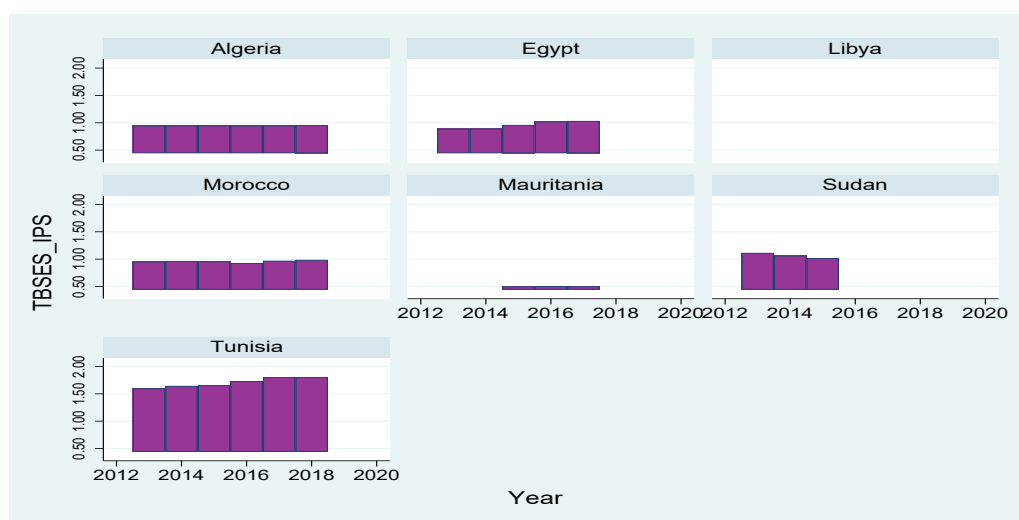
In tertiary education, North African countries can be divided into three groups: the first, where enrolment rates in tertiary education were very high, consisted of Algeria alone, which achieved a rate exceeding 100 per cent over the full 2013–2018 period, with a decline at the end of the period, however, from 119.5 per cent in 2013 to 109.9 per cent in 2018. The second group, comprising Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia, was characterized by an average gross enrolment rate in higher education of around

<sup>37</sup> For lower secondary education, the Gender Parity Index reached 1.08.

30 per cent, with an upward trend in Egypt and Morocco<sup>38</sup> and a downward trend in Tunisia. The third group with a rather low enrolment rate consisted of the Sudan where the rate was 16.9 per cent (2015) and Mauritania, with a rate of no more than 5 per cent in 2017.

In the sphere of gender equality, the majority of North African countries achieved or were close to achieving parity. Tunisia stands out with a figure well above 1 on the Gender Parity Index, which indicated an inequality to the detriment of boys, with an upward trend. Indeed, in this country, in 2018 there were about 18 girls for every 10 boys enrolled in the various levels of higher education. The feminization of higher education in Tunisia may partly explain the rise in unemployment among higher education graduates in general and among young women in particular.

**Figure 56: Evolution of the Gender Parity Index in higher education**



Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics.

## 2. Achievements concerning the quality of the education system

For a better assessment of the performance of the education system in North African countries, it is important to look beyond quantitative data to examine quality, in line with SDG 4 which seeks to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”. In this subsection, analysis will focus on the capacity of countries’ respective education systems to equip young people with the skills needed for entry into the workforce, taking into account the needs of the job market and the skills dynamics required in a rapidly changing environment resulting from globalization.

The quality of education is assessed through a series of indicators that reflect some of the following set of characteristics:

- Extent to which pupils have acquired certain basic skills such as mathematics and reading;

<sup>38</sup> In Morocco, the total number of students increased by 28.5 per cent between 2015 and 2019, and the enrolment rate for the age group of 18 to 24 years improved by 10 percentage points, from 28.8 per cent to 38.4 per cent. (Source: Voluntary national review of Morocco, 2020).

- Participation in a learning activity before the legal school enrolment age;
- Proficiency in ICT;
- Providing schools with basic health services, infrastructure and equipment adapted to people with disabilities;
- Equipping schools with digital teaching aids, etc.

The data used in the evaluation of these aspects were taken from the United Nations SDG database.<sup>39</sup>

## 2.1. Acquisition of basic skills

Only three of the seven North African countries (Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia) supplied data measuring the extent to which young pupils had acquired basic skills in mathematics and reading.

These data came from internationally conducted tests, each on one or more areas of competence, known by the acronyms PASEC, PIRLS, PISA and TIMSS.<sup>40</sup> The participation of the three countries concerned was not regular, resulting in a few benchmarks that provided only a very partial assessment of the acquisition of skills by students.

The level of proficiency of students in mathematics and reading skills varied by country and by grade.

Thus, for grades 2 and 3, ability measured by the proportion of children and young people reaching a minimum level of proficiency in mathematics showed that this proportion reached 14.1 per cent in Algeria (TIMSS, 2007), 15.7 per cent in Morocco<sup>41</sup> (TIMSS, 2015) and 11.3 per cent in Tunisia (TIMSS, 2011).

The rates by gender showed a slight advantage for girls over boys in Algeria (14.9 against 13.2 per cent) and near-equality in Morocco (15.7 against 15.6 per cent). On the other hand, for Tunisia, boys had the edge (10.8 against 11.8 per cent).

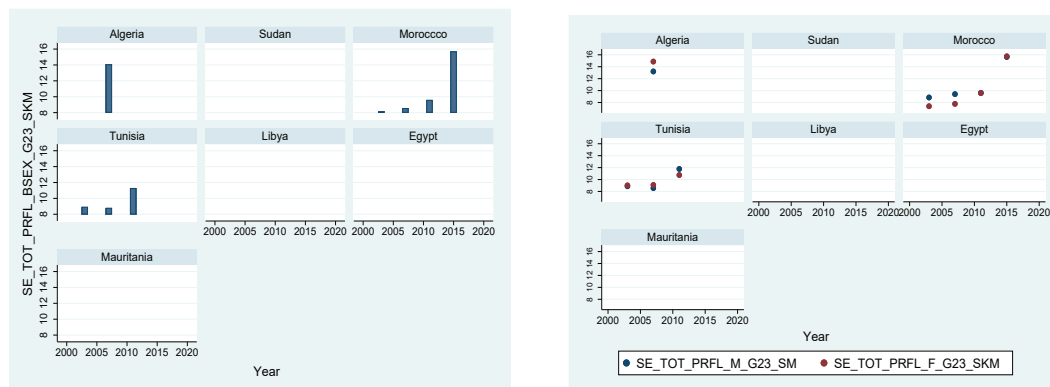
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<sup>39</sup> <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/>.

<sup>40</sup> PASEC: Programme for the Analysis of CONFEMEN Education Systems; PIRLS: Progress in International Reading Literacy Study; PISA: Programme for International Student Assessment; TIMSS: Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study.

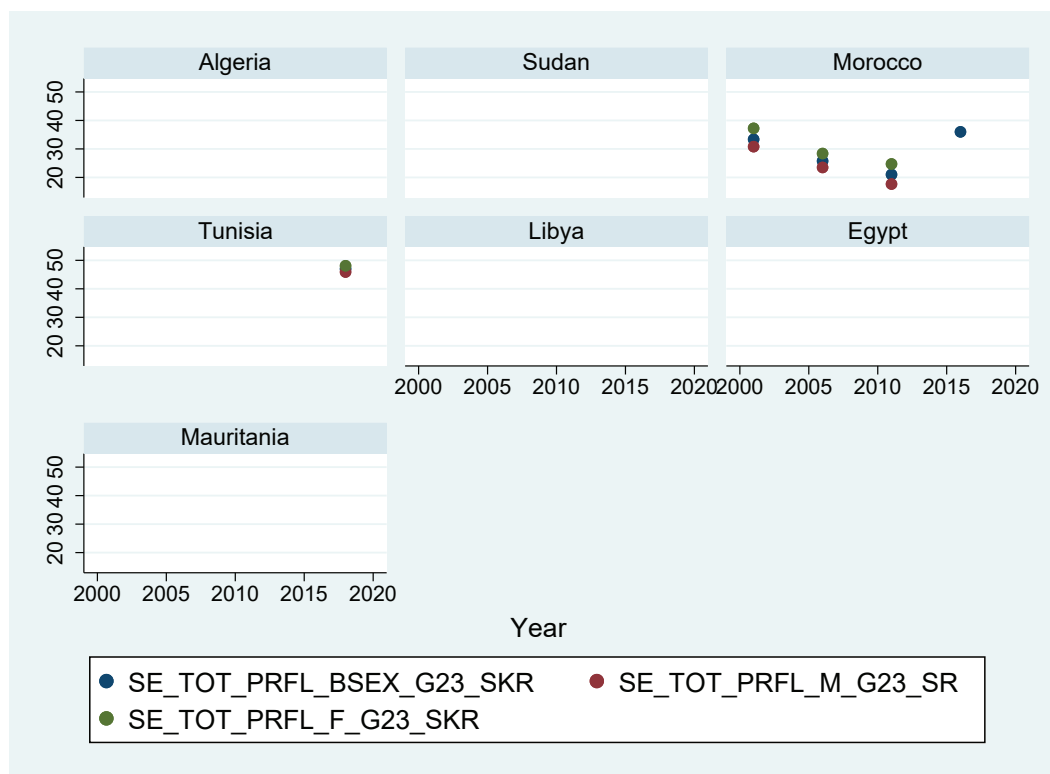
<sup>41</sup> In the voluntary national review of Morocco conducted in 2020, it was determined that the proportions of children and young people in elementary school who had at least mastered the minimum skill standards in mathematics and reading were 40.6 and 36 per cent, respectively, in 2016.

**Figure 57: Overall and gender-based evolution in the share of students in grades 2 and 3 with the minimum level of proficiency in mathematics**



Source: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database>.

**Figure 58: Overall and gender-based evolution in the share of students in grades 2 and 3 with the minimum level of proficiency in reading**

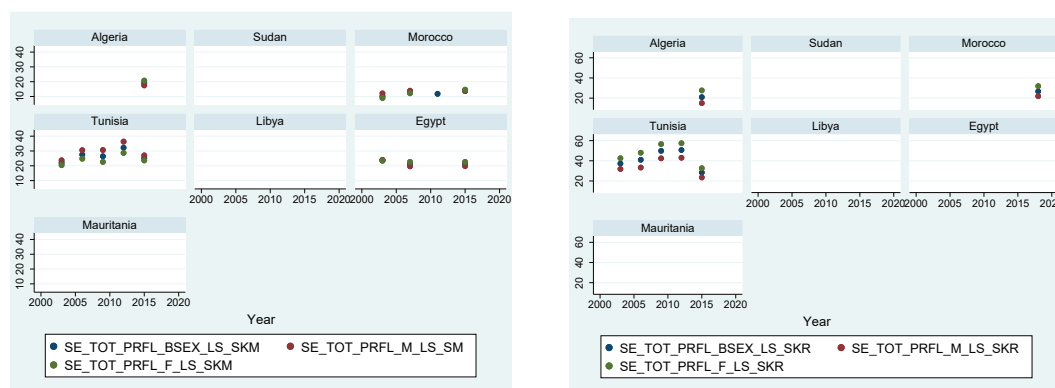


Source: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database>.

Only Morocco and Tunisia provided data for reading at this level: 36 per cent for Morocco (PIRLS, 2016) while in the case of Tunisia, 66 per cent of children between 7 and 14 years of age had basic reading skills and 28 per cent had basic numeracy skills (MICS, 2018). In both countries, girls scored better than boys in reading.

Turning to lower secondary education, the proportion of children and young people achieving a minimum level of proficiency in mathematics was 19 per cent in Algeria (PISA, 2015), 21.3 per cent in Egypt (TIMSS, 2015) and 25.2 per cent in Tunisia

**Figure 59: Evolution in the proportion of lower secondary students with the minimum level of proficiency in mathematics and reading, overall and by sex**



Source: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database>.

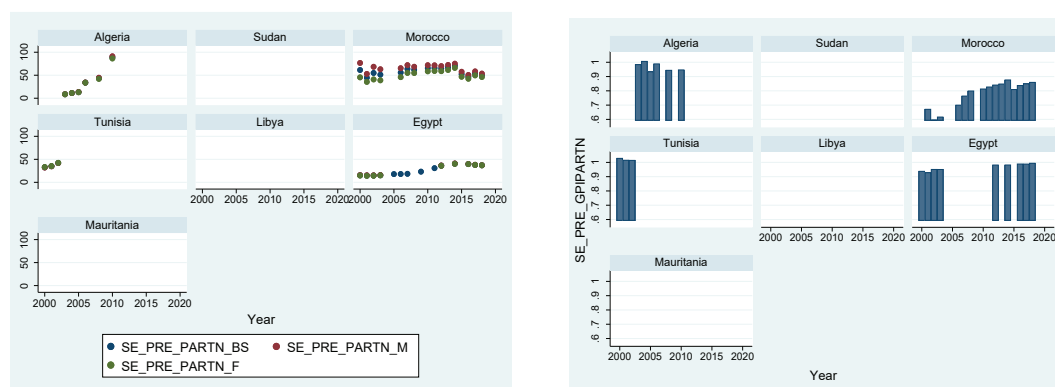
(PISA 2015). In Morocco this proportion was low, at 14.1 per cent (TIMSS, 2015). In Tunisia, the relative proportion for each sex showed that boys appeared to have greater competence in mathematics than girls, since their scores was consistently higher than those of girls. For the other countries, the opposite was true.

With regard to literacy levels, Morocco and Algeria achieved rather low scores, estimated at 26.7 per cent (2018) and 21 per cent (2015), respectively. The reading scores of girls were higher than those of boys in both countries.

## 2.2. Early childhood learning

The early learning acquired by children from a young age is an important factor in their successful integration when they enter primary school. This indicator is measured by the participation rate in a learning activity provided one year before the legal primary school entry age.

**Figure 60: Participation in early childhood learning activities, overall and by sex**



Source: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database>.

The available data showed that, from 2010 onwards, Algeria succeeded in involving almost 89 per cent of children in these activities. Data from Morocco showed an upward trend in this indicator until 2014 (70.7 per cent), then a decrease to 50 per cent in 2018. In Egypt, this rate increased from 15.2 per cent in 2000 to 37.1

per cent in 2018. In Tunisia, 51 per cent of children (aged 3 to 5 years) benefited from early childhood education programmes (Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys, 2018). The gender-specific rates showed near-equality for Algeria, Egypt and Tunisia. In Morocco, on the other hand, the rate was much higher for boys (53.6 per cent) compared with 46.1 per cent for girls.

### 2.3. Proficiency in information and communications technologies among young people and adults

Computer literacy has become a necessity for both young people and adults in a world where ICT has permeated every sphere of activity, including the field of knowledge and lifelong learning. One aspect of the quality of the education system therefore relates to its ability to make this technology as widely available as possible to learners, trainers and educators alike. This aspect of quality will be examined using a set of indicators which measure, for each type of skill, from the simplest to the most complex, the proportion of young people and adults who are proficient in it. The selected skills are:

- Using the copy and paste tool to duplicate or move information in a document;
- Sending e-mails with attachments;
- Using a basic arithmetic formula in a spreadsheet;
- Writing a computer program using a specialized programming language;
- Finding, downloading, installing and configuring software.

Looking at the most basic ICT skills, such as the ability to copy or move a file or folder, use the copy and paste tool to duplicate or move information in a document, or send e-mails with attached files, the figures showed that the proportion of young people and adults who were proficient in these techniques remained low in some countries in the region. For example, only 35.6 per cent of young people and adults in Egypt (2019) had mastered sending e-mails with attachments, although this was considered to be the highest proportion in North African countries. In Morocco, it was 33.6 per cent (2018) and 18.5 per cent (2018) in Tunisia. In Algeria, it was only 16.1 per cent in 2018, while in the Sudan, it stood at only 2.4 per cent in 2016.

The proportion of those who could manage arithmetic formulas in a spreadsheet was 9.4 per cent in Algeria (2018), 13.7 per cent in Egypt (2018), 22.4 per cent in Morocco, 15.9 per cent in Tunisia (2018) and 1.8 per cent in the Sudan (2016). The proportion of young people and adults who were proficient in the tasks of searching, downloading, installing and configuring software was only 15.5 per cent in Algeria, 38.5 per cent in Egypt, 34.9 per cent in Morocco, 15.3 per cent in Tunisia and 2.4 per cent in the Sudan.

Moving up the scale of complexity, the figures became alarming. For example, the proportion of those capable of writing a computer program using a specialized



**Figure 61: Proportion of young people and adults proficient in ICT, by level of complexity**



Source: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database>.

programming language was only 6.9 per cent in Algeria, 8.8 per cent in Egypt, 6.8 per cent in Morocco, 14.7 per cent in Tunisia and 1.6 per cent in the Sudan.<sup>42</sup>

These rates reflect the extent of the digital divide that persists in some countries despite the progress made by others such as Egypt and Morocco. In some countries, the education system was still not succeeding in significantly reducing this divide.

<sup>42</sup> All figures refer to 2018 except in the case of the Sudan, for which the figures refer to 2016.

The divide was twofold, both between and within countries. The latter was reflected in digital inequalities linked to gender and place of residence. In fact, it is clear that the specific rates for girls and women<sup>43</sup> were generally lower than those for men. Similarly, the data by area<sup>44</sup> show that people from rural areas were lagging behind those from urban areas.

## 2.4. Provision of basic equipment to primary, lower and upper secondary schools

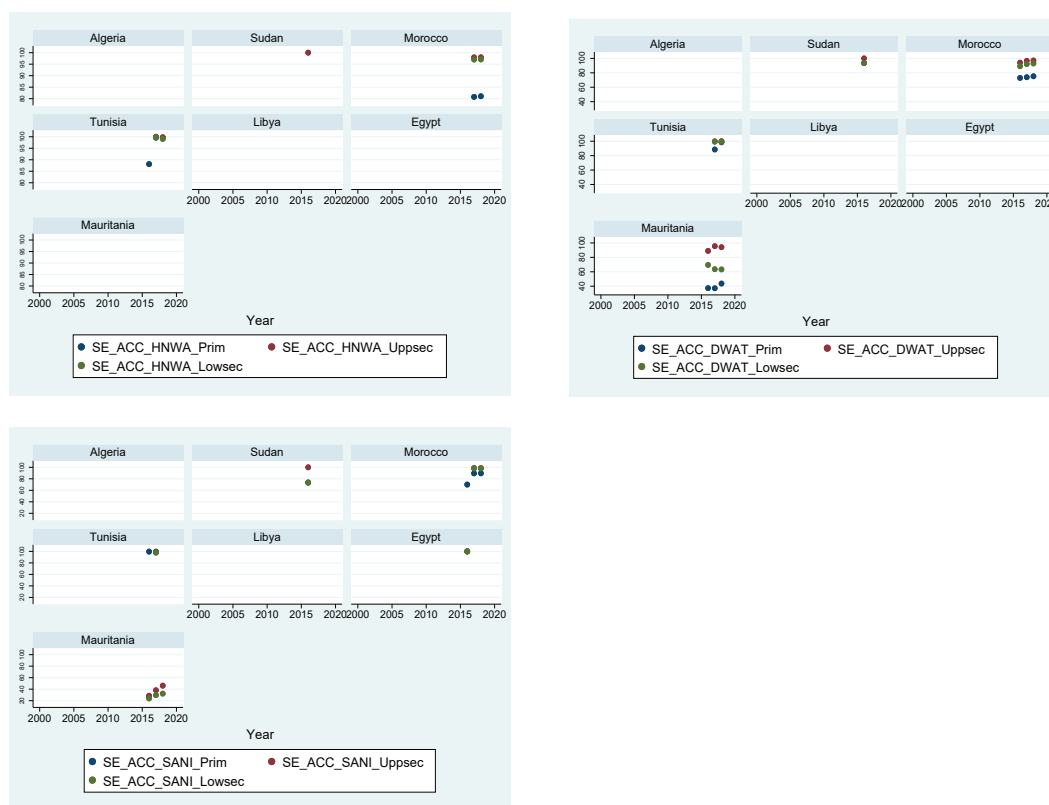
The environment in which learners develop has an effect on their ability to assimilate knowledge and acquire skills.

In terms of basic infrastructure and equipment, primary, lower and upper secondary schools do not always have the minimum requirements, which has a negative impact on the ability to learn and the quality of education.

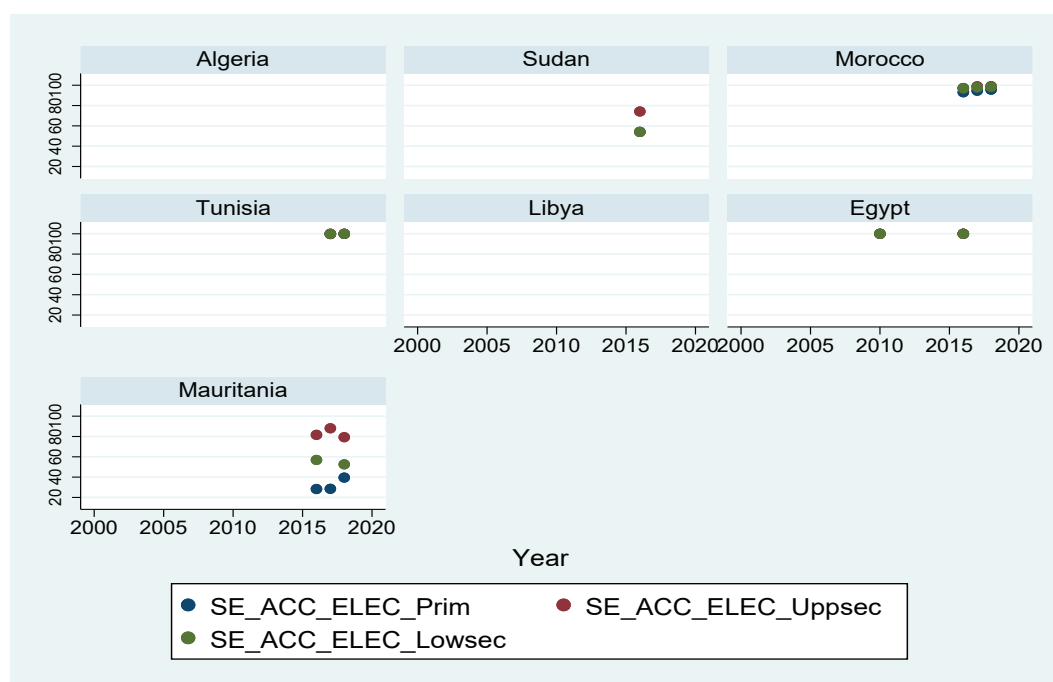
Although data in this respect are rather scarce, the few indicators available allow an assessment, albeit partial, of this aspect of quality.

In Morocco, the proportion of schools equipped with drinking fountains and washbasins for hand washing was 81 per cent in primary schools, 97.1 per cent in lower secondary schools and 98 per cent in upper secondary schools (2018). In Tunisia, these figures reached almost 100 per cent in 2018. In the Sudan, the figure was 100 per cent for secondary schools (2016).

**Figure 62: Proportion of schools with drinking water fountains and separate toilet facilities, by education level**



Source: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database>.

**Figure 63: Rate of electrification of schools, by education level**

Source: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database>.

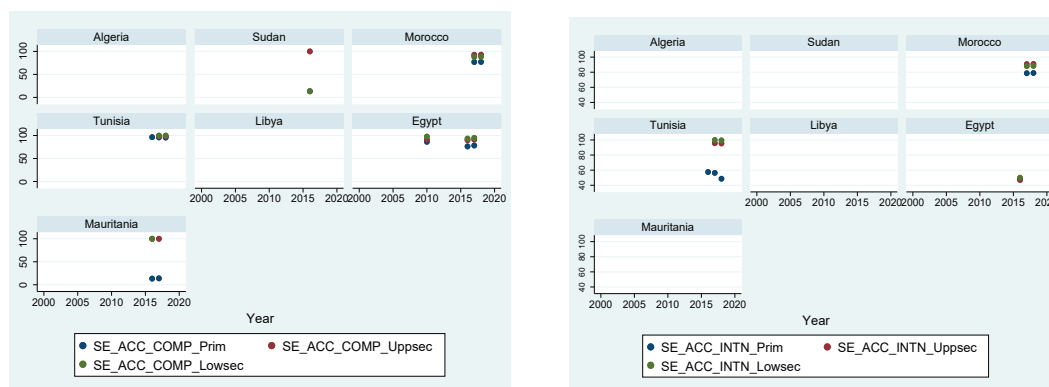
In Morocco, the proportion of schools with drinking water was 75.2 per cent for primary schools, and 93 and 97.1 per cent, respectively, for lower and upper secondary schools (2018). In Mauritania, the figures were 43.7 per cent, 63.3 per cent and 94.1 per cent, respectively (2018), while in Tunisia, in 2018, they reached 98.5 per cent, 99.4 per cent and 100 per cent.

Gender-segregated basic toilet facilities were available in all schools in Egypt (2016); in Tunisia, over 98 per cent of schools were equipped with them (2017), while in Morocco, the proportion varied from 89.6 per cent in primary schools to 98.6 per cent in secondary schools (2018). In the Sudan, according to 2016 figures, it was 100 per cent for secondary schools and 73.5 per cent for primary and lower secondary schools.

In Egypt and Tunisia, 100 per cent of primary, lower secondary and upper secondary schools had electricity by 2016 and by 2018, respectively. In Morocco, the respective figures had reach 95.6 t, 98.4 and 99 per cent in 2018. In 2018, Mauritania recorded the following rates: 39.6 per cent for primary schools, 52.6 per cent for lower secondary schools and 79.3 per cent for upper secondary schools. In the Sudan, the electrification rate reached 54.1 per cent in primary and lower secondary schools and 74.2 per cent in high schools (2016).

Access to computers for educational purposes was available in 78.3 per cent of primary schools, 94.8 per cent of lower secondary schools and 91.2 per cent of upper secondary schools in Egypt (2017). In Morocco, these rates were 77.2, 88.4 and 92.8 per cent, respectively (2018). In Mauritania, the rate was 14 per cent in primary schools and 100 per cent in secondary schools (2017), while in the Sudan it was 13.4 per cent in primary and lower secondary schools and 100 per cent in upper

**Figure 64: Proportion of institutions with access to a computer and the Internet for educational use, by education level**



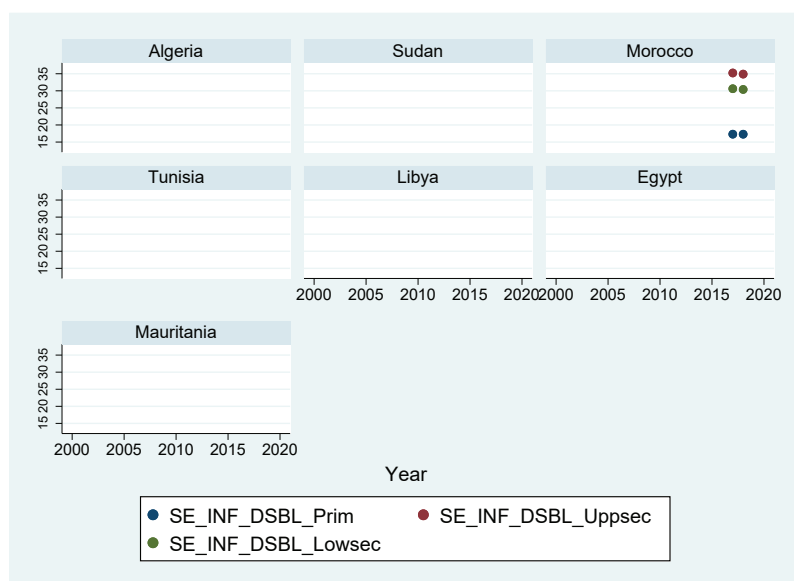
Source: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database>.

secondary schools (2016). In Tunisia, the rates were 95.6, 99.8 and 98.4 per cent respectively (2018).

In Egypt, the rate of connection of schools to the Internet was about 47 per cent in primary and lower secondary schools and 50.1 per cent in upper secondary schools (2016). In Morocco, 79 per cent of primary schools were connected to the Internet, compared with 88.4 per cent and 91 per cent for lower and upper secondary schools, respectively (2018). In Tunisia, these rates were 48.7, 99.5 and 95.4 per cent, respectively (2018).

In terms of the provision of equipment and infrastructure adapted to students living with a disability, only Morocco supplied data, where the proportion of schools with such equipment was 17.3 per cent for primary schools, and 30.4 and 34.9 per cent in lower and upper secondary schools, respectively (2018).

**Figure 65: Proportion of schools with facilities suitable for persons living with a disability**



Source: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database>.

## II. Comparative analysis of achievements with respect to Sustainable Development Goal 8

SDG 8 aims to promote sustained, shared and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. This subsection assesses the achievements of North African countries in terms of growth, the extent to which this growth is sustained and sustainable and whether it benefits all social groups, and the extent to which it ensures full employment and decent work. The analysis will focus, first, on the indicators associated with this SDG and, second, on the policies and measures taken by the Governments of these countries to achieve it. Throughout the analysis, the gender dimension will be taken into account.

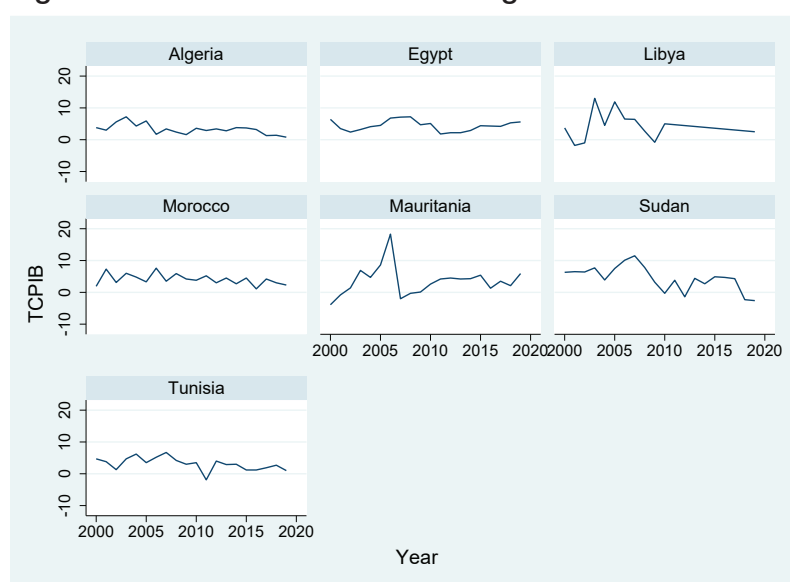
### 1. Analysis based on indicators

The performance of North African countries in terms of their progress towards achieving SDG 4 will be analysed using the associated indicators. The analysis is based on data from three databases: those of the United Nations,<sup>45</sup> the World Bank<sup>46</sup> and ILO.<sup>47</sup>

#### 1.1. Sustained and sustainable economic growth

In general, North African countries achieved fairly low and erratic economic growth over the past two decades. The long-term trends in this growth that emerged were at best stagnant, if not negative. Per capita GDP was affected by population growth, resulting in a generally static standard of living for the population. Consequently, this economic growth was far from being sustainable; moreover, not all social categories benefited equally from it. Inequalities persisted and insecurity spread, leading to the emergence of an ever-growing informal sector.

**Figure 66: Evolution of the real GDP growth rate**



Source: <https://data.worldbank.org/>, compilation of the author.

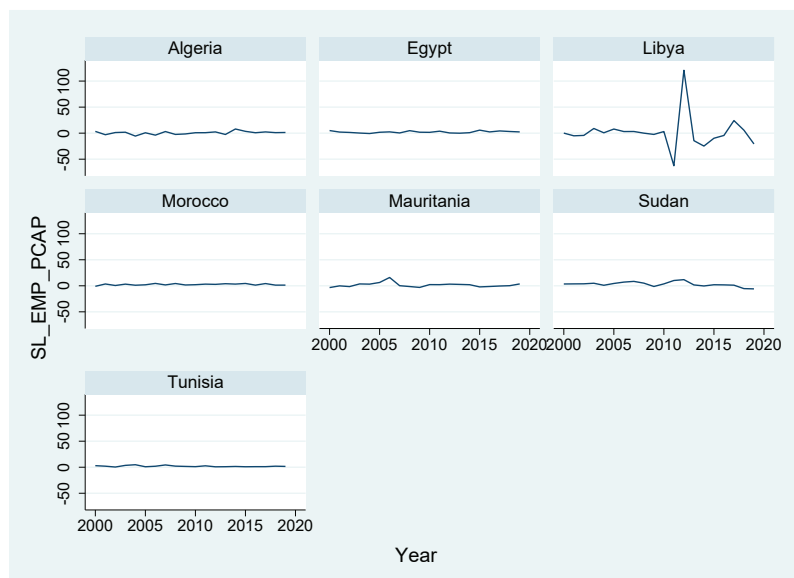
45 <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database>.

46 <https://data.worldbank.org/>.

47 Ibid.

Productivity, one of the most important sources of growth, was at a standstill and a sign of economic inefficiency. Economic growth was based either on the export of natural resources (Algeria, Libya, Mauritania), or on labour-intensive industries with low-added value whose products were mainly intended for export.

**Figure 67: Evolution of the per-employee real GDP growth rate**



Source: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database>.

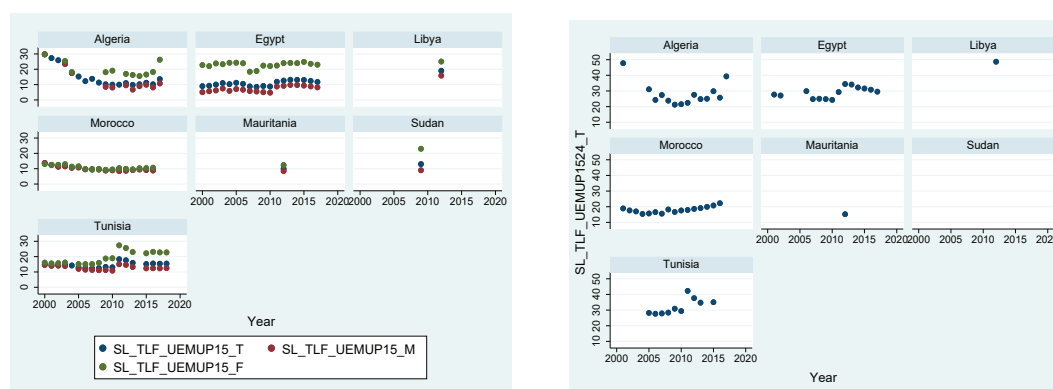
## 1.2. Employment and decent work

Weak economic growth was not conducive to the creation of jobs in sufficient number and quality, hence the rise in unemployment, especially among young people and particularly young graduates.

There was an upward trend in the unemployment rate in North African countries, except in Morocco and Algeria, although the latter country has experienced a further increase in unemployment in recent years. In Tunisia, the unemployment rate has risen sharply because of the failure of the economic transition, despite a democratic transition that nurtured the hopes of young people for a better future. In 2018, it reached 15.5 per cent overall (12.5 per cent for men and 22.8 per cent for women). Among young people from 15 to 24 years of age, it was 35 per cent (2015). In 2017, Egypt recorded an estimated national unemployment rate of 11.7 per cent (8.2 per cent for men and 23 per cent for women). Since 2013, this rate has been on a downward trend. Among young people from 15 to 24 years of age, it reached 29.6 per cent in 2017. In that year, Algeria recorded a national unemployment rate of 13.6 per cent (10.8 per cent for men and 26.2 per cent for women). Among young people from 15 to 24 years of age, the unemployment rate hit 39.3 per cent. Morocco had the lowest unemployment rate of all North African countries, with an overall unemployment rate of only 9.3 per cent in 2016.

The informal sector plays an important role in North African countries; it provides casual employment to a sector of the population that does not enjoy social protection or rights that regulate working hours and conditions. It is a sector of last resort for those who have not been able to find employment in the formal sector. The informal sector

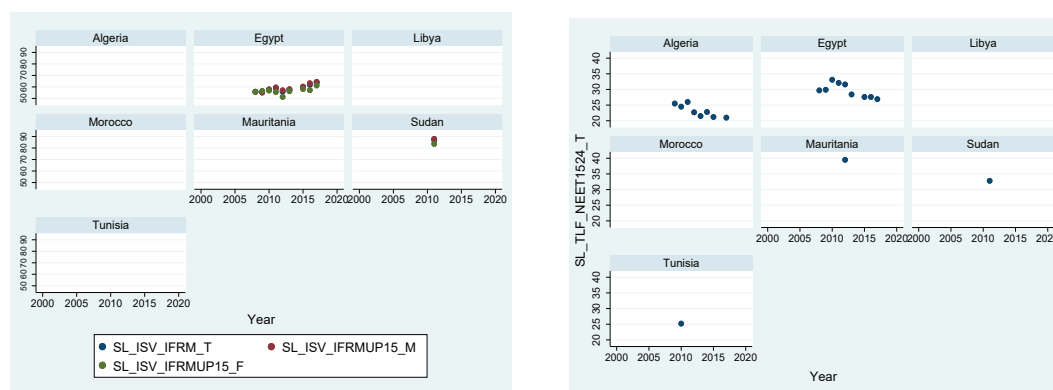
**Figure 68: Trends in the overall unemployment rate and that of young people (15–24 years of age)**



Source: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database>.

is growing steadily in every country in the region. It is estimated to contribute over 40 per cent to GDP and employs a significant proportion of the workforce. Although there are no data available on this sector in most North African countries, the figures for Egypt reflect the scale of the sector, which, according to ILO estimates, accounted for about 63.8 per cent of employment in the country<sup>48</sup> in 2017. According to the same estimates, the informal sector in the Sudan provided about 87 per cent of employment in 2011. In Tunisia, the share of the informal sector in total employment was estimated at 33 per cent in 2018.<sup>49</sup>

**Figure 69: Overall evolution of the proportion of informal employment, by age and sex**

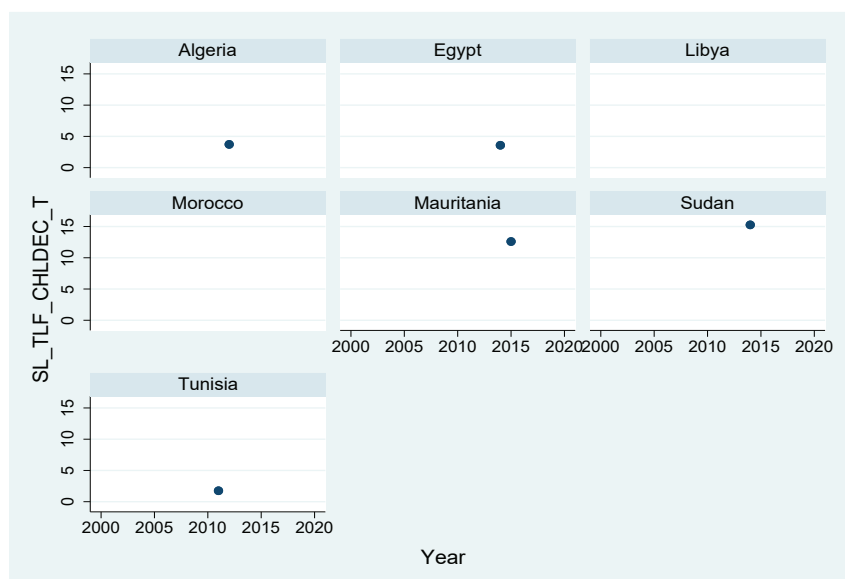


Source: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database>.

One aspect of the failure of training and employment policies in the majority of North African countries was the proportion of young people between 15 and 24 years of age who were neither in education, employment or training. Indeed, the data showed that this proportion was estimated at 21 per cent in Algeria in 2017 after a peak of 26 per cent in 2011. In Egypt, this proportion was 26.9 per cent in 2017, reaching 39.5 per cent in Mauritania (2012) and 32.8 per cent in the Sudan (2011). In Tunisia, it was around 25.2 per cent in 2010.

<sup>48</sup> According to ILO estimates.

<sup>49</sup> Voluntary national review of Tunisia, 2019.

**Figure 70: Proportion of children engaged in economic or domestic activities**

Source: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database>.

Child labour is another equally important aspect of the limitations of child protection policies in North African countries. In some countries of the region, the rate of children engaged in economic activities in violation of national laws and international conventions prohibiting child labour has become alarmingly high, reaching 3.7 per cent in Algeria (2012), 3.6 per cent in Egypt (2014), 12.6 per cent in Mauritania (2015), 15.3 per cent in the Sudan (2014) and 1.8 per cent in Tunisia (2011).

## 2. Review of several policies and programmes aimed at inclusive growth and decent work

### A. Algeria

In Algeria, economic growth is heavily dependent on hydrocarbons, whose contribution to GDP in 2017 accounted for 20 per cent of GDP, 30 per cent of budget revenues and 95 per cent of exports.<sup>50</sup> In order to reduce the economy's dependence on this sector and to limit the effect of exogenous shocks to the economy caused by fluctuating oil prices, the Government of Algeria undertook structural reforms aimed at laying the foundations for a diversified economy and sustainable growth. Thanks to massive public investment and a policy to actively support employment, Algeria succeeded in creating jobs at an accelerated pace, thus reducing the unemployment rate to moderate levels after the record levels reached at the beginning of the 2000s. Despite these efforts, Algeria continues to face challenges in terms of unemployment in general, and youth unemployment in particular.

The reforms undertaken by the Government in this field are in line with the 2030 Agenda and are structured around the following key points:

- Promoting a diversified economy and steady and sustainable growth;

<sup>50</sup> Voluntary national review of Algeria, 2019.



- Promoting a productive and technologically modern economy;
- Creating enough jobs to reduce unemployment and spread the benefits of growth more evenly;
- Protecting and consolidating workers' rights in the light of Algeria's international commitments.

### **Box 8: Legal and organizational framework**

The main policy guidelines for growth and employment are enshrined in various laws:

- The framework law on the development of small and medium enterprises
- The law on the promotion of investment
- The framework law on scientific research and technological development
- The labour relations law

Advisory and consultative bodies have been set up, including:

- A national consultative council for the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, which is responsible for promoting dialogue and consultation between the professional associations representing said enterprises and the institutions involved in the creation and development of those enterprises
- A national council for science and technology research, which is responsible for the strategic evaluation and monitoring of the national policy on science and technology research and development. The Government has also set up bodies responsible for the implementation and monitoring of its action programme, including:
  - A national agency for the development of investment
  - An agency to promote innovation and the development of small and medium-sized enterprises-
  - A national agency for the application of research results and technological developments
  - A national employment agency

*Source* : Rapport National Volontaire, Algérie, 2019.

In addition to the policy of major public investment in basic infrastructure to encourage private investment and attract FDI, the Government multiplied the incentives and advantages awarded to growth-generating productive investment as part of a strategy based on several key areas:

- Granting tax incentives to project promoters;
- Lifting customs barriers for new investments;
- Granting tax benefits to investments, depending on the location of the investment (investments in less developed regions benefit from maximum advantages);

- The formulation by the Government, as part of economic diversification, of policies aimed at the rehabilitation of investment in several sectors such as industry, agriculture, ICT, renewable energies and tourism, within the framework of a long-term vision “Algeria Horizon 2035”;
- Offering tax incentives to export projects (in respect of taxes on value added and profits, and customs duties on inputs).

In the context of target 8.2 under SDG 8 (on improving productivity), measures to encourage technological modernization and innovation focused on encouraging technological control and dissemination, support for research and development, and the upgrading of production.

Particular attention was devoted to targets 8.3 and 8.10 to encourage entrepreneurship and small and medium-sized enterprises through the development of new industrial parks and the rehabilitation of industrial estates. In addition to these measures, investment funds, subsidiaries of banks specializing in investment financing and credit guarantees for small and medium-sized enterprises were set up (i.e., a national investment fund and a credit guarantee fund). Two support schemes for the creation of micro-businesses were also set up: one managed by the national youth employment support agency and dedicated to supporting young promoters; and the other by the national unemployment insurance fund that was intended to support unemployed individuals wanting to implement a business idea.

Measures were also adopted in relation to targets 8.4, 8.5 and 8.6, to achieve sustainable growth and create sufficient jobs.

For example, under target 8.4, an action plan dealing with sustainable modes of consumption and production over the period 2016–2030, was implemented as one of the cross-cutting strategic focuses of the national strategy for the environment and sustainable development.

A package of measures relating to targets 8.5 and 8.6 was adopted, including:

- A rehabilitation programme under the national employment agency;
- The professional integration of young people;
- The training and employment of young people;
- The provision of support for self-employment.

With respect to workers' rights (targets 8.7 and 8.8), the main measures focused on:

- The fight against child labour;
- Labour relations and prevention of occupational risks.

## B. Morocco

The Moroccan approach to the implementation of SDGs was based on the promotion of inclusive and sustainable economic growth, conducive to the creation of a sufficient number of jobs and the fight against inequality and poverty.

In this context, a number of reforms were undertaken, aimed at developing the productive sectors, improving infrastructure and providing the country with high-quality human capital.

- To boost economic growth, the Government of Morocco adopted a number of sectoral strategies including:
  - The agricultural sector development strategy known as “Generation Green 2020–2030”, launched in February 2020 and designed to boost the agricultural sector through the emergence of a new generation of young entrepreneurs from the farming middle class;
  - The Industrial Acceleration Plan 2014–2020 intended to consolidate the achievements of the former Emergence Plan and the National Pact for Industrial Emergence;
  - The 2020 vision for the tourism sector, which is an extension of the 2010 vision and designed to make tourism one of the drivers of economic, social and cultural development.
- In order to promote job creation and decent work, Morocco put in place a series of strategies and plans which, first, aimed to create more jobs and focus on the development of human capital and, second, helped to increase the effectiveness of the job market as an intermediary between labour supply and demand. A number of measures were adopted as part of the National Employment Promotion Plan, covering the period 2018–2021, which aimed to create 1.2 million jobs by 2021.

## C. Mauritania

In recent years, the Government of Mauritania undertook a series of reforms to help diversify the economy and improve the business climate, with the ultimate goal of making the economy less vulnerable to exogenous shocks and promoting sustainable growth. Apart from the fact that these reforms provided the country with a modern infrastructure, the improvement of the business climate enabled Mauritania to move up 28 places in the “Doing Business” ranking between 2015 and 2018.

The reforms were accompanied by the adoption of a number of laws and measures relating in particular to the code of real rights, dispute resolution, the abolition of registration fees for small and medium-sized enterprises and small and medium-sized industries, the adoption of the new customs code and the reform of the banking law.

To reduce unemployment and combat child labour, a national employment strategy for the period 2019–2030 was adopted by the Government.

Reforms also focused on the banking sector, with the aim of increasing banking coverage and increasing the financing of the economy while ensuring better coverage of the territory.

#### D. Tunisia

In Tunisia, the country with the highest unemployment rate among North African countries in recent years, the main priorities under SDG 8 are focused on job creation through the revival of economic growth and providing support to economic operators, businesses and entrepreneurs, which create jobs.

The following table summarizes the measures to promote and support employment in Tunisia.

**Table 11: Tunisia: measures to promote and support employment**

Strategies and programmes	Incentives for creation of businesses	Pro-active policies on employment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National employment strategy</li> <li>Decent Work Country Programme in Tunisia 2017–2022</li> <li>Social contract</li> <li>National Council for Social Dialogue</li> <li>National Entrepreneurship Strategy, 2019</li> <li>Social and Cooperative Economic Strategy</li> <li>National Action Plan to Combat Child Labour in Tunisia</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Innajim”: Awareness campaign on corporate culture</li> <li>PACPE: Support programme for creators of small enterprises</li> <li>Project to create microenterprises in two governorates in southern Tunisia</li> <li>A “green jobs platform” project: creation of 50 projects in the Bizerte region</li> <li>CEFE: Training in business creation and training of entrepreneurs</li> <li>GERME: Training for working entrepreneurs to develop their business management skills and improve their competitiveness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SIVP: Introductory course to professional life</li> <li>CIDES: Employment contract for higher education graduates.</li> <li>CAIP: Contract for professional induction and vocational integration</li> <li>CRVA: Contract for professional re-integration</li> <li>SCV: Voluntary civil service</li> <li>“Dignity contract” programme</li> <li>Various business creation initiatives were launched, under which 160, 217 work contracts signed and implemented</li> <li>JEMP-FOURSATI: 1,069 jobseekers have benefited from this programme</li> <li>Employability improvement voucher</li> </ul>

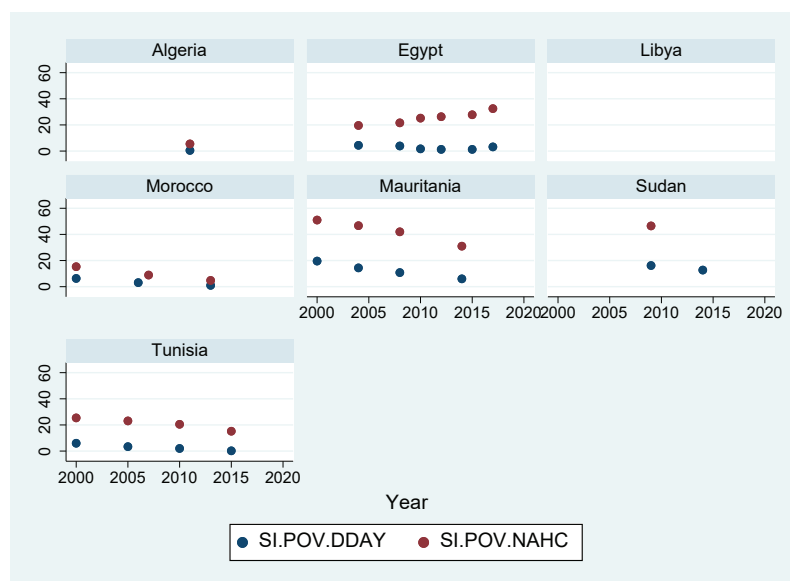
Source: Voluntary national review on the implementation of SDGs in Tunisia, July 2019.

### III. Comparative analysis of achievements with respect to Sustainable Development Goal 10

#### 1. Analysis based on indicators

Before analysing the performance of North African countries in terms of income redistribution and the fight against inequality, it is worth looking at the prevalence of poverty in these countries. After all, poverty and inequality are two closely related phenomena and it is often difficult to understand one without the other.

**Figure 71: Evolution of the poverty rate at international and national thresholds**

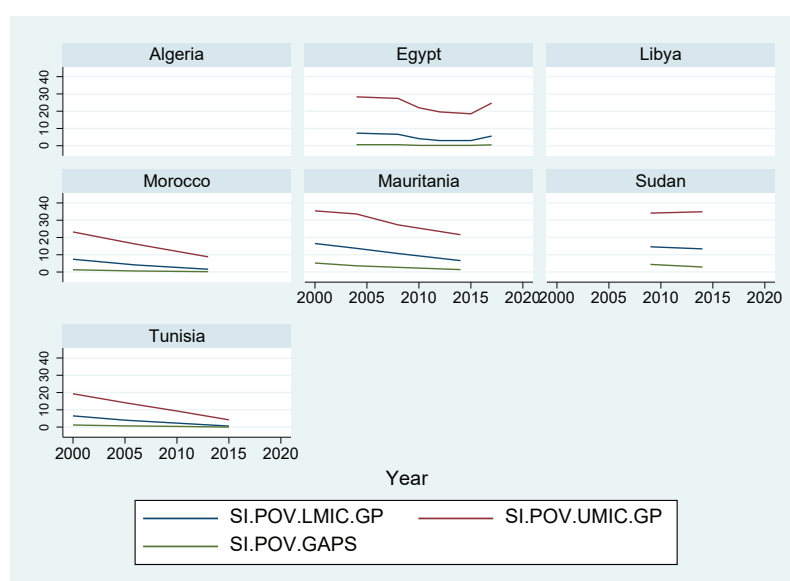


Source: World Bank.

Poverty is generally declining in North African countries,<sup>51</sup> except in Egypt, where the poverty rate measured according to the national poverty threshold (SI.POV.NAHC in the figure below) is on the rise, from 19.4 per cent in 2004 to 32.5 per cent in 2017. The most remarkable change is in Mauritania, where this rate, measured against the national threshold, which was 51 per cent in 2000, fell by 20 percentage points in 14 years to 31 per cent in 2014.

The poverty gap is another measure that reflects both the extent of poverty and its incidence. Measured against thresholds of \$1.90, \$3.20 and \$5.50 (2011 PPP) per

**Figure 72: Evolution of the poverty gap at the \$1.90, \$3.20 and \$5.50 thresholds (2011 PPP)**



Source: World Bank.

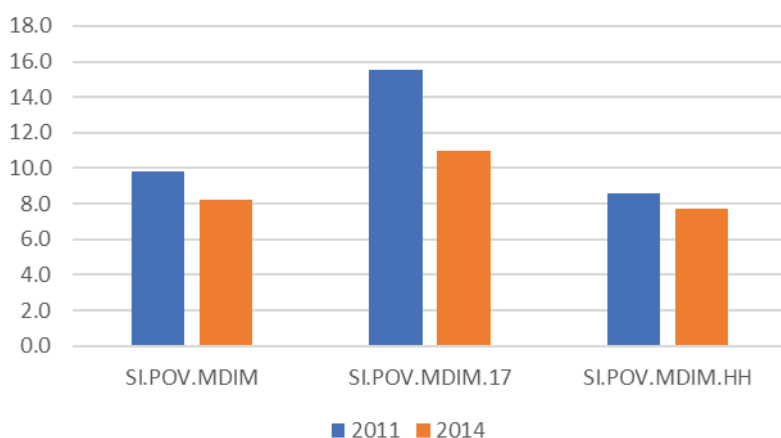
<sup>51</sup> This refers to income poverty measured against a national or international poverty threshold (\$1.90 per day, 2011 PPP).

day, the poverty gap showed a very marked downward trend in Tunisia, Morocco and Mauritania, whatever the threshold, with a less marked trend in the Sudan and Egypt. For the latter country, the trend was even reversed at the end of the period, reflecting an increase in poverty and a more marked incidence.

Income poverty alone cannot adequately reflect this phenomenon. Consequently, it is important to complement the analysis with an examination of multidimensional poverty that better reflects the ability of different sections of the population to access basic services such as health or education. Unfortunately, data on this aspect of poverty was lacking in most North African countries, and only Morocco supplied two sets of observations, for 2011 and 2014.

In Morocco, the overall multidimensional poverty rate calculated for individuals fell from 9.8 per cent of the population in 2011 to 8.2 per cent in 2014. For young people between 0 and 17 years of age, the rate was 15.5 per cent in 2011 and dropped to 11 per cent in 2014. Calculated at the household level, it was estimated at 8.6 per cent in 2011, compared with 7.7 per cent in 2014. Clearly, multidimensional poverty affected young people more than adults; gender-specific data were not available.

**Figure 73: Morocco: Overall evolution of the multidimensional poverty rate among young people (from 0 to 17 years of age), compared to households**



Source: World Bank.

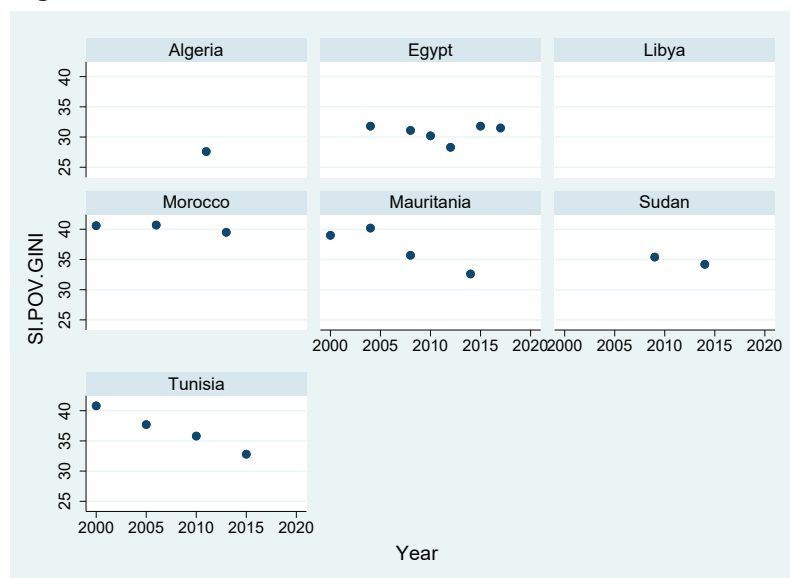
Notes: SI.POV.MDIM: multidimensional poverty rate calculated per individual and in relation to the total population (percentage); SI.POV.MDIM.17: multidimensional poverty rate for young people (0–17); SI.POV.MDIM.HH: multidimensional poverty rate calculated per household and as a proportion of the total population (percentage).

Inequalities in income distribution in North African countries, as measured by the Gini index,<sup>52, 53</sup> were generally declining, although their level varied from country to country. In Algeria, where only one observation was available, this index was 27.6 (2011) and indicated that this country had the most egalitarian distribution among North African countries. Egypt, after a sharp decline in inequality between 2004 and 2012, recorded a worsening of inequality, with a Gini index rising from 28.3 in 2012 to 31.5 in 2017. Morocco was notable for having the highest Gini index in

52 The Gini index expresses the extent to which income distribution (or in some cases consumer spending) among individuals or households in an economy deviates from a totally equal distribution. This index takes values from 0 to 100, with 0 corresponding to complete equality and 100 to absolute inequality.

53 According to World Bank estimates.

**Figure 74: Evolution of the Gini index**

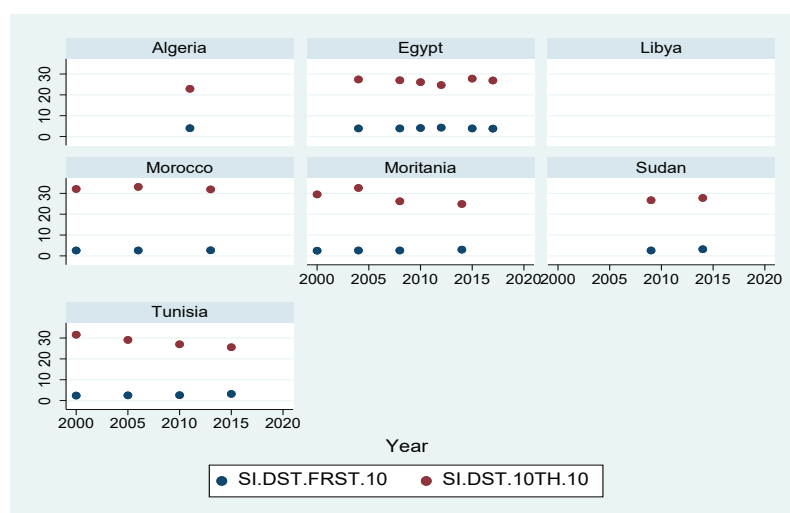


Source: World Bank.

the sample, albeit declining slightly, from 40.6 in 2001 to 39.5 in 2014. Mauritania, which at the beginning of the period had an index almost as high as its Moroccan neighbour, managed to reduce income distribution inequality quite remarkably, from 40.2 in 2004 to 32.6 in 2014. In the Sudan, income distribution inequality, which were moderately high, slightly decreased between 2009 and 2014, from 35.4 to 34.2, respectively. In Tunisia, income distribution, which was highly unequal in 2000 with a Gini index of 40.8, followed a clear downward trend and reached a value of 32.8 in 2015.

Looking at another indicator of income distribution, which compares the share of income that goes to the richest 10 per cent of individuals of the population (households) with that of the poorest 10 per cent of the population (households), the

**Figure 75: Evolution of the income shares held by the poorest and richest deciles of the population**



Source: World Bank.

gap is narrowing in Tunisia and Mauritania, is almost constant in Morocco and Egypt, and is widening in the Sudan.

## 2. Review of selected policies and programmes

As can be seen, although North African countries have succeeded in considerably reducing poverty in its income aspect, inequalities in income distribution persist and can have considerable economic, social and political consequences. The “Arab Spring” protest movements in several countries of the region are an illustration of this. Virtually all the Governments of these countries have adopted policies and programmes aimed at eradicating poverty and reducing inequality.

### A. Morocco

Morocco adopted a set of strategies and programmes aimed at combating poverty and reducing inequality among population groups and among regions, including:

- The National Initiative for Human Development, launched in 2005, which was designed to reduce socioeconomic gaps and promote the economic integration of the most disadvantaged through the implementation of development projects. In its third phase (2019–2023), the goals of the programme are to develop infrastructure and basic social services in the most disadvantaged regions, support people in vulnerable situations, increase income, increase the economic inclusion of young people, and provide an adequate level of human capital for future generations;
- Strategies and programmes for the sustainable development of areas with special needs, which cover almost half of the national territory;
- A green growth and territorial development strategy;
- A programme for the reduction of social and territorial disparities in rural areas for the period 2017–2023;
- A national programme for the integrated development of emerging rural centres;
- The National Strategy for Moroccans living abroad (MRE);
- The National Strategy for Immigration and Asylum (SNIA).

Several other programmes and initiatives focused on areas such as health, education, social protection and agriculture, with the common objective of reducing inequality through their inclusive nature.

### B. Mauritania

The Government of Mauritania stepped up initiatives to mitigate the effects of extreme poverty, reduce inequality and eradicate the legacy of slavery. In this context, the following can be mentioned:



- The National Social Security Strategy (2012–2030), focused on reducing the vulnerability of disadvantaged groups and empowering people to protect themselves against the most common risks of life;
- The Government developed, in collaboration with the United Nations, a road map to eradicate the legacy of slavery through socioeconomic programmes introduced through the creation of the national agency to combat the legacy of slavery, integration and the fight against poverty, known as “Tadamoun”;
- The establishment of a national social safety net system with two key instruments: a social register to target the most needy and vulnerable poor for social aid and assistance programmes, and the establishment by the national health insurance fund of a new voluntary insurance scheme open to people not covered by the compulsory insurance scheme;
- The national social transfer programme, known as “Tekavoul”, which is a cash transfer programme that encourages the poorest populations to participate in awareness-raising sessions on hygiene, health and children’s education.

### C. Egypt

As social justice and equality are two principles enshrined in the Constitution of Egypt, reducing inequality among population groups and among regions are top priorities for the Government, which made it one of the pillars of its sustainable development strategy. This pillar was broken down into programmes designed to establish, through the amendment of laws, an equitable economy and equal social and political rights and opportunities in order to enshrine social justice and institutionalize the partnership between the Government and civil society.

Within this framework, the Government adopted several programmes designed to assist vulnerable groups and the most disadvantaged regions, in particular a local development programme for Upper Egypt targeting the governorates of Sohaq and Qena (2016–2021).

### D. Tunisia

There are two main strands to the Tunisian approach to reducing inequality within the meaning of SDG 10:

- Reducing disparities by ensuring that the incomes of the poorest 40 per cent of the population grew at a higher rate than the average national income;
- Ensuring equal opportunities and reducing inequality.

The Tunisian experience in reducing inequality goes back a long way, with many diverse programmes to combat poverty:

- National support programme for needy families (1986);

- National solidarity fund “26–26” (1992) to improve basic infrastructure in disadvantaged areas;
- National employment fund “21–21” (2000) to promote employment opportunities;
- A regional development programme dedicated to the country’s 24 governorates for the implementation of actions and projects contributing: (i) to improving the standard of living of disadvantaged populations; (ii) to creating and consolidating jobs; (iii) to reducing unemployment and poverty; and (iv) to boosting private investment. After the revolution, there was a significant increase in annual budget allocations to the programme, granted to the 16 least developed governorates, which include 50 per cent of the Tunisian population;
- An integrated development programme that emphasizes the economic and social development of disadvantaged zones in rural and urban areas through the promotion of public investment. The focus is on three specific objectives: (i) to boost local economies through the development of activities linked to local conditions; (ii) to consolidate job creation efforts in the regions through the promotion of local employment and self-employment and the acceleration of the pace of enterprise start-up; and (iii) to improve the quality of life of citizens and protect the environment through the construction of community facilities and the consolidation of basic infrastructure.

## E. Algeria

The strategies of the Government of Algeria to stem any increase in inequality are based on the principle that less inequality is good for everyone, and that inequality is a brake on both long-term economic growth and individual fulfilment and social cohesion.

The following guidelines govern its strategy in this field:

- Continuing the fight against inequality;
- Promoting the autonomy and inclusion of vulnerable persons;
- Respecting the principle of non-discrimination and social protection for all.

The results of these strategies can be seen in the figures, which show that Algeria is one of the countries with the least inequality, not only in the region, but also on a global scale. Indeed, the data showed that Algeria was among the group of 10 countries with the lowest Gini coefficient in the world for the period 2011–2012. Furthermore, in dynamic terms, Algeria was also one of the top five countries in the world to achieve the most sustained rate of inequality reduction during the period 1995–2011.

This performance was the result of a consistent social policy anchored in government action, which was broken down into several schemes in the following areas:

- Empowerment of women through economic, social and political inclusion - In order to ensure respect for these constitutional principles and to honour its international commitments, the Government enacted several specific legal provisions aimed at promoting women and their social inclusion. These provisions included enacting in January 2012 the organic law on the means of improving women's access to representation in elected assemblies. At the institutional level, the Government created the Ministry of National Solidarity, Family and Advancement of Women, a national council for the family and women, and a research, documentation and information centre on women, family and children.
- Empowerment of persons living with disabilities - Several measures in favour of the inclusion of this section of the population were adopted, covering income maintenance for persons living with disabilities, education and vocational training, employment and social protection.
- In order to provide social protection and inclusive growth, Algeria opted for social insurance based on the principles of solidarity and distribution, uniform coverage for all beneficiaries and uniform rules on the rights and obligations of beneficiaries, irrespective of their status.

## Chapter III: General recommendations and conclusion

### I. General recommendations

The purpose of the present report is to assess overall performance and trends in the implementation by North African countries of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. The analysis has identified successes and strengths that need to be reinforced and consolidated, as well as gaps and weaknesses that need to be remedied. In the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, North African countries also face challenges arising from the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which may jeopardize some of the advances already made. The following recommendations seek to help these countries consolidate their achievements in implementing the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 and to propose general guidelines and possible avenues for improvement that each country can use, adapted to its own circumstances, to move forward and “leave no one behind”.

The recommendations will cover the various aspects analysed in the report on the basis of available information.

#### **Figure 76: Achievement rate of SDGs, by country**

*Source:* Sachs, J., Schmidt-Traub, G., Kroll, C., Lafortune, G., Fuller, G., Woelm, F. 2020. The Sustainable Development Goals and COVID-19. Sustainable Development Report 2020. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

## **1. Coverage of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063**

Given that SDGs are indivisible and interlinked and that their three dimensions - economic, social and environmental - reinforce each other, North African countries must strive to ensure that their policies and programmes are able to target all the SDGs to create a synergy that can promote harmonious and sustainable development. The study has shown that North African countries are lagging behind in achieving some of the SDGs such as SDGs 2, 5 and 9.

In anticipation of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, North African countries need to rethink their policies to eradicate poverty and tackle inequality through more effective targeting of vulnerable populations. They also need to rebuild their health and education systems and invest more in infrastructure, innovation and research and development. Similarly, they must improve their governance systems to increase the efficiency of their institutional frameworks.

## **2. Financing of the Sustainable Development Goals**

In North African countries in general, the financing of programmes and actions related to SDGs comes from public funds, but these resources will become increasingly scarce because of the COVID-19 crisis. Alternative sources of funding need to be mobilized at the multilateral, bilateral and national levels. Specialized funds, particularly in the environmental field, such as the Green Fund, can be mobilized at the multilateral level. At the national level, the private sector should be encouraged to contribute to the financing of SDGs in the name of social solidarity.

## **3. Monitoring, evaluation, and reporting**

Monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems suffer from a glaring lack of data that are useful for measuring and monitoring indicators in North African countries. Several factors contribute to this failure: the inadequate human and material capacities that characterize the information system, and a lack of coordination at the stakeholder level in collecting and disseminating information. To overcome these shortcomings, it is essential to take action at several levels, including:

- Capacity-building;
- Ensuring that the information system is equipped with sufficient material and human resources. A platform dedicated to SDG monitoring, accessible to all, will be needed to facilitate public access to information and thus ensure public support.

## **4. Localization and alignment of the Sustainable Development Goals with national plans and programmes**

The low level of integration and alignment of SDGs with national plans and programmes calls for an overhaul of strategic planning methods to ensure that plans, programmes and projects are linked to SDGs. National plans should also be prioritized to ensure that they are aligned with the SDGs. In this regard, North African countries need to

become more aware of the value of adopting the Integrated Planning and Reporting Toolkit developed by ECA.

## 5. Ownership, awareness and advocacy

The implementation of SDGs requires the participation of all stakeholders: Government, the private sector, civil society, academia and the media. The support of the entire population, and first and foremost of young people and women, is an important factor in success. Further awareness-raising and advocacy efforts need to be made by the North African countries at all levels to ensure ownership of SDGs by the broadest sections of the population at the national, regional and local levels.

## Conclusion

In the present report, the comprehensive assessment of the achievements of North African countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 has highlighted the progress made and the delays experienced by these countries. The approach used to conduct this performance analysis is based on the available data which meet the criteria of: (i) comparability of data among countries; (ii) disaggregation to allow for gender-specific analysis; and (iii) regularity to enable trends to be identified. In the absence of national data that meet these criteria, data published by the United Nations system were used, including data drawn from the databases of the Sustainable Development Solution Network,<sup>54</sup> the Global SDG Database of the United Nations,<sup>55</sup> the New Partnership for Africa's Development,<sup>56</sup> UNESCO,<sup>57</sup> the World Bank,<sup>58</sup> and ILO.<sup>59</sup>

The review of the policies and programmes, in terms of the alignment of their goals with the two agendas, ownership and localization of SDGs by the countries studied, was carried out on the basis of a literature review and relied mainly on voluntary national reviews of those countries, supplemented by targeted interviews with resource persons.

A number of findings emerged from the evaluation, which are worth highlighting by way of conclusion.

- The analysis of overall performance showed that the achievements of North African countries with respect to SDGs place them midway in the global ranking system, with the exception of the Sudan and Mauritania, which are relatively highly ranked. In terms of momentum, all countries managed to consolidate their rankings from one year to the next, except the Sudan, whose ranking is improving, and Libya, which does not appear in the world ranking owing to a lack of data.

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54 Sachs, J., Schmidt-Traub, G., Kroll, C., Lafortune, G., Fuller, G., Woelm, F. 2020. The Sustainable Development Goals and COVID-19, Sustainable Development Report 2020. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

55 <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database>.

56 <https://www.nepad.org/fr/agenda-dashboard>.

57 <http://data.uis.unesco.org/>.

58 <https://data.worldbank.org/>.

59 <https://www.ilo.org/global/statistics-and-databases/>.

- The North African countries are outperforming other African countries in the implementation of SDGs and score above the average for this group of countries. Indeed, the first four places in the global SDG ranking are occupied by North African countries and the average score achieved by these countries in the implementation of Agenda 2063, estimated at 39 per cent, exceeds that achieved for the continent as a whole (33 per cent).
- On average, the best performance concerning SDGs achieved by North African countries relate to SDGs 13, 12, 1 and 7. Nevertheless, these countries are lagging behind in the implementation of SDGs 9, 5 and 2.
- Taken individually, the performance of the North African countries varies according to SDG. Only Algeria has managed to make concurrent progress in the implementation of almost every SDG, albeit with some variation. This observation also applies to Agenda 2063.
- A discrepancy was also noted with regard to the trends in the evolution of indicators in each country, which reflect the fact that national priorities are not the same, and that the effectiveness of policies varies from one country to another.

A review of the institutional framework for the implementation of SDGs shows that, while every country has created structures to implement SDGs, these have varying degrees of responsibility and authority. Some have placed these bodies at the highest level of the system hierarchy (primacy) and have vested them with extensive powers through legal texts with the force of law. Others have placed them at the level of line ministries with no real power and no clear legal framework.

In terms of ownership, localization and alignment of national plans and programmes with SDGs, it emerged from the analysis that, with few exceptions, North African countries have not succeeded in integrating SDGs into their development policy, and much remains to be done at that level.

An analysis of data availability on indicators shows that the gaps remain significant. Indeed, the coverage rate of the indicators by national sources remains low and, moreover, the indicators provided are, in most cases, not compliant with international standards and do not meet the criteria for periodicity, disaggregation and accessibility.

The section of the report devoted to the socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic highlights the extreme vulnerability of the economies of North African countries in the face of the crisis. All impact studies predict a slowdown in economic growth and rising unemployment. This crisis is expected to affect all economic sectors. Its social impact is expected to be significant and felt especially by the most vulnerable sectors of the population. The crisis will put pressure on the public finances of these countries, such that both internal and external balances could become nearly unsustainable. Budget deficits are expected to widen in most countries and social services will suffer from the resulting budget cuts.

Most countries have put in place an emergency response to the crisis by setting up special funds to help struggling businesses and the poorest groups of the population. In addition, most countries have adopted fiscal and monetary measures. It is feared that the crisis may have a negative impact on the efforts of these countries to implement SDGs by shifting the scale of priorities and, in doing so, inevitably calling into question some of the progress they have made in this regard.

The analysis of SDGs 4, 8 and 10, conducted from a gender perspective, led to some conclusions that can be summarized as follows:

- Achievements in North African countries relating to SDG 4 are generally modest from the point of view of educational quality, although there has been notable progress in terms of quantity. In-depth reforms of the education systems in almost all countries would be necessary to bring them up to standard, increase retention rates and equip learners with the skills necessary to facilitate their integration into the workforce and prevent them from inflating graduate unemployment, which has become a scourge threatening social harmony in these countries.
- Inclusive growth and decent employment as advocated by SDG 8 are something of a pipe dream in North African countries. Not only is economic growth weak in most countries, but it is also growth without development, as it does not create enough jobs and reduce the ever-increasing unemployment rate, which the COVID-19 crisis is likely to further aggravate. Moreover, employment in the informal sector accounts for a significant share of total employment. By their very nature, these jobs are insecure and offer no social protection. In a number of countries, it is mostly women and children who are employed in these insecure jobs.
- With regard to SDG 10 on reducing inequality, the figures show that North African countries have generally succeeded in reducing income inequality to varying degrees. Algeria appears to be the most egalitarian country. Tunisia and Mauritania, where inequality was historically quite marked, have managed to reduce it drastically. After a period of reduction, inequality in Egypt, however, has deepened in recent years. In the Sudan, a modest reduction in inequality has been recorded, whereas in Morocco, despite the Government's efforts, the already quite marked inequality continues to resist reduction.



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