

Medium-to Long-Term Socioeconomic Impact of Covid-19 in Arab Countries, 2022

Nevin Wanis^{1,*}, Farouk Shoaib² and Mohamed Naguib²

¹League of Arab state, Social Affairs Sector, Cairo, Egypt

²Department of Biostatistics and Demography, Faculty of Statistical Studies and Research, Cairo University, Cairo, Egypt

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Abstract: COVID-19 pandemic is impacting institutions around the world. Its scope and economic dimensions pinpoint that it poses a major threat to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The main objective of this research is to discuss how the coronavirus pandemic may influence the SDGs and affect their implementation. The methods used entail an analysis of literature, observations and an assessment of current world trends and applied UNDP method to Arab countries. Methodology/approach—the motivation behind this research is to assess the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. To do so, as a first step, we conduct an initial factual analysis to identify the patterns of how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the SDGs and has emphasized the interconnectedness of the SDGs. This target is achieved by conducting the methodology of the United Nations Development Program, with the aid of Pardee Center at the University of Denver by using the impact of three different scenarios of COVID-19 on the Sustainable Development Goals, while capturing the multidimensional impacts of the pandemic over the coming decades. The main finding of this research is showing how governments can make choices today that have the greatest potential to advance progress in the future, within planetary boundaries. This type of analysis can enable governments to turn COVID-19 from a short-term crisis into an opportunity to shift to sustainable development in the long term.

Keyword(s): SDGs Assessment, COVID-19 Pandemic, UN Sustainable Development Goals, Arab Countries.

1 Introduction

From the perspective of sustainable development, the Arab region is a diverse region. In recent decades, we have witnessed impressive success stories that have reached prosperity and stability, but, we also have conflicts and wars. The 22 Arab countries share common bonds in terms of history, language and culture. Arab countries were able to achieve some of the Millennium Development Goals issued in 2000, such as, reducing maternal mortality, improving childcare and universal primary education. However, the chronic problems of unemployment (especially youth unemployment), poverty, discriminatory practices against youth and women, the shrinking of the margin of democracy and participation, the obstruction of the horizon for change and the severe shortcoming in establishing global partnerships aimed at development have prevented the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in some Arab countries. The target date for achieving such goals was by the end of 2015 [1].

The United Nations Member States took up the discussion of goals and targets, especially, the Sustainable Development Goals. More than 150 world leaders attended the Sustainable Development Summit held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York to formally adopt an ambitious new plan for sustainable development in September 2015. The 193 member states of the United Nations adopted the 2030 sustainable development plan entitled “Transforming Our World” comprising 17 goals and 169 targets for sustainable development. Furthermore, the Arab countries have taken upon themselves to achieve these UN goals according to the priorities of each Arab country.

As soon as, the countries of the world began to develop plans and strategies to implement and follow up the goals to reach the targeted plan by 2030, the whole world was shocked by the Coronavirus pandemic (Covid-19) and experts started to believe that the epidemic has begun to spread in China at the end of 2019. Due to the unprecedented impacts as well as the severe health and humanitarian crises caused by the outbreak of the virus, countries began to face enormous economic challenges, including demand for goods and services, unemployment, and economic stagnation.

Regarding the Arab region, it was under other pressures of various kinds, especially in a challenging international context. As a result, social and economic difficulties turned into crises. The economic and social costs of restrictions imposed by Arab governments were very expensive, and societies could not bear them for long [2].

Nevertheless, all these challenges represent opportunities for cooperation, and the perspective of the sustainable development goals can provide a common language and a guiding road map for the Arab countries to confront these challenges. This study is conducted in view of this global crisis facing the world and attempts to provide a future vision of the Arab countries till 2030. It also investigates whether the pandemic had an impact on the path of the Arab countries to achieve SDGS.

2 Material and Methods

The study aims to draw attention to two important points: The Coronavirus pandemic may not have any moral impact on the possibility of Arab countries achieving their priorities in the sustainable development goals by 2030, or national policies or global targets need to be reviewed due to expectations indicating the inability of Arab countries to meet its priority targets in the sustainable development goals.

The significance of this study is also, derived from highlighting the size of the new challenges and difficulties that the Arab countries may face in their path towards achieving the sustainable development goals, as well as offering solutions and alternatives to deal with the method of achieving the sustainable development goals as follows:

Goal 1 - End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

Goal 2 - End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

Goal 3 - Ensure healthy lives and well-being for all at all ages.

Goal 8 - Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

Methodology: It is divided into two parts:

First part: Selection of some indicators regarding goals (1.2.3.8). The selection focuses on the availability of data in all Arab countries and the classification of the United Nations, which is Tier Classification Criteria/Definitions (UNSC, 2021) [3].

(Table 1) Scope of the study

Goal 1 - End poverty in all its forms everywhere	UN classification
1.1.1 Proportion of the population is living below the international poverty line due to sex, age, employment status and geographic location (urban/rural)	Tier I
Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	
2.1.1 Prevalence of undernourishment	Tier I
Goal 3 - Ensure healthy lives and well-being for all at all ages	
3.1.1 Maternal mortality ratio	Tier I
3.2.1 Under-5 mortality rate	Tier I
3.2.2 Neonatal mortality rate	Tier I
Goal 8 - Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	
8.1.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita	Tier I

-Second part

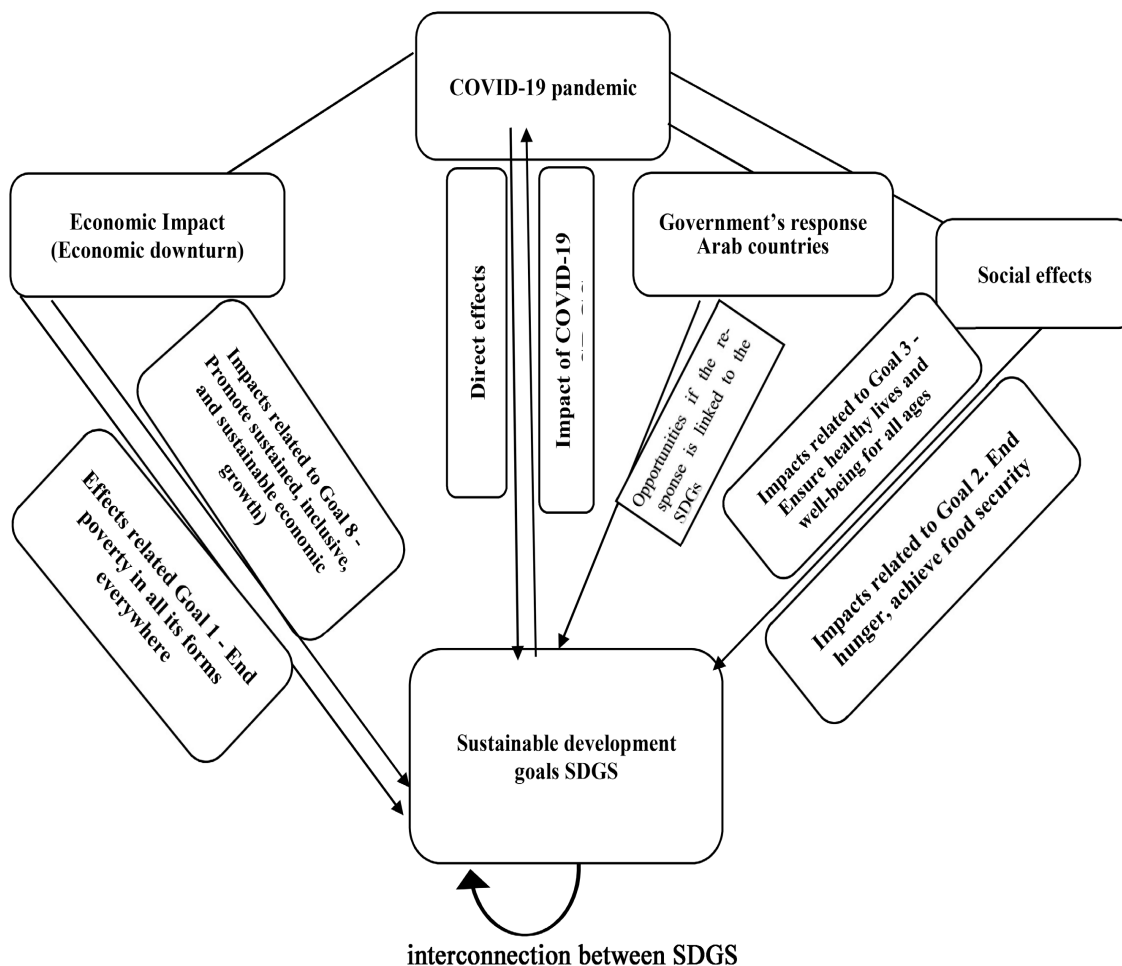
The United Nations Development Program conducted the methodology program with the Pardee Center at the University of Denver by using the impact of three different scenarios for COVID-19 on the Sustainable Development Goals, while capturing the multidimensional impacts of the pandemic over the coming decades. The results show that while COVID-19 can lead to severe long-term impacts, a set of ambitious, feasible and integrated “SDG investments” can help the world move beyond the development path we were on before the pandemic, even when taking the impact of COVID-19 into consideration.

The analysis focuses on Arab countries, according to the 2020 Human Development Index (HDI) until 2030.

This study was developed by the Fredrick S. Pardee Center at the University of Denver to understand the potential implications of three scenarios of COVID:

- The first scenario shows the “baseline scenario for covid-19“. It indicates that the pandemic period witnesses increase in poverty and hunger and significant long-term negative consequences;
- The huge damage scenario describes a future in which economic damage is worse and recovery is delayed;
- Advancing the Sustainable Development Goals” scenario illustrates the impact of targeted policy interventions that can accelerate progress toward a more equitable future.

3 Conceptual Framework



(Figure 1) Covid-19 and interconnection between SDGS indicators

Proposed by the researcher

COVID-19 will have an economic and social impact and will also, affect the response of Arab governments so, the economic impact of Covid-19, we select the first indicator of SDGS related to poverty, in addition to the eighth indicator related to employment, and the social impact of COVID-19, we select the second and third indicator of SDGS related to health. There is an interconnection between SDGS indicators.

The study conducted The United Nations Global Database of Sustainable Development Goals Indicators maintained by the United Nations Statistics Division is the primary source of data. The database provides access to harmonized and validated data, collected through the United Nations system. The calculation of all regional averages of the indices is based on this database. Sources also include:

- WHO data;
- Statistics for Arab countries;
- The Ministry of Planning;
- Arab League data;

- Arab Labor Organization data;
 - Egyptian Knowledge Bank;
 - United Nation Development Program.
- **The previous studies and reports illustrate the situation of pandemic and its impact on sustainable development goal and the conclusion of some studies:**

Prioritizing SDG targets: assessing baselines, gaps and interlink age 2018[4]. The study offers a significant contribution to filling this knowledge gap, adopting a novel integrated assessment approach to support the prioritization of SDG targets through a case study composed of 22 countries in the Arab region. The research adopts a multi-criteria analysis decision framework which assesses and prioritizes SDG targets based upon their ‘level of urgency’, ‘systemic impact’, and ‘policy gap’. A range of complementary evidence- and science-based approaches are applied within the assessment framework, including baseline assessment and benchmarking of indicators and systems, network analysis of target interlink ages, and mapping of policy alignment and gaps.

Assessing progress towards sustainable development over space and time 2020 [5]. This study proposes that spatio-temporal dynamics of progress towards SDGs need to be traced both globally and nationally. The study conducted Methodology: Six interrelated steps are employed for the calculation and comparison of SDG scores. Step 1 involves indicator selection and data sources, while step 2 includes bound selection. To Mack comparability across different SDGs, the indicator values for each SDG were normalized to a standard scale ranging from 0 (worst-performing indicator value towards achieving SDGs, or worst performance) to 100 (best-performing indicator value towards achieving SDGs, or best performance). ‘Performance’ refers to the progress of a national or subnational unit towards achieving a single SDG or all 17 SDGs, measured in terms of SDG indicator values. In step 3, normalization of indicator values is conducted. After establishing the lower and upper bound for each indicator, we use the following formula to normalize SDG indicator values on a scale of 0 to 100 .Step 4 offers the calculation of SDG Index scores. SDG Index scores are calculated at the national and provincial levels using arithmetic means, while step 5 involves calculation of SDG Index scores and individual SDG score over time and between organization levels. Step 6 offers a comparison of SDG Index scores between developing and developed regions.

The relation of COVID-19 to the UN sustainable development goals: Implications for sustainability accounting, management and policy re-search 2020 [6]. This paper offers a discussion of how COVID-19 pandemic is related to sustainable development, especially the UN sustainable development goals (SDGs). Hence, the author pinpoints how research on sustainability accounting, management and policy (SAMP) can aid in building a more sustainable post-COVID-19 era. Regarding the design, methodology and approach of this research, this research was motivated by the desire to allow SAMP research to learn from the COVID-19 pandemic. For this to be achieved, the author initially conducts a factual analysis for identification of pat-terns of COVID-19 pandemic impact on and interconnectedness of the SDGs. Based on this, a research agenda for SAMP-research was developed. Concerning the find-ings of this research, an argument is presented by the author that COVID-19 crisis is not only related to SDGs but is also part of the sustainable development field of re-search itself. It was revealed that this pandemic has severely threatened achieving SDGs. Nevertheless, some opportunities regarding some selected SDGs are still available. Hence, patterns regarding the types of SDGs opportunities or threats are identified. The practical implications of this study are that the patterns used to detect the impact of COVID-19 pandemic highlight the additional efforts needed to achieve the respective SDGs.

The social implications are that the analysis emphasizes that multiple SDGS can aid in the alleviation of the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic and future potential pandemics. The originality or value of this study stems from the fact that it is the first to offer analysis of the threats and opportunities of COVID-19 pandemic on the achievement of the SDGs. This study is also the first that examines direct effects and acknowledges the interconnectedness of the nature of SDGs considering the COVID-19 pandemic.

In this regard, four goals only (outcomes) are presented. SDG1 represents (No poverty). No increase in global poverty has been recorded over the last three decades. However, there is a decrease in the number of people living since 1990. A substantial setback to this development is likely to occur due to COVID-19 because it is estimated that the pandemic can lead to the poverty of around half billion persons, with 70 million suffering from extreme poverty. SDG2 refers to (zero hunger). It is likely to have severe consequences, especially on food security. The number of people facing acute food shortage is expected to double. SDG3 represents (good health and well-being). More than 1.6 million deaths (since December 2020) have occurred due to COVID-19 in the pandemic’s first months. Hence, disease prevention pro-grams are also, directly and negatively affected. Social distancing hinders healthcare reaching the ill. Moreover, 116 million people are predicted to be treated inadequately, including newborns and their mothers. SDG8 indicates (decent work

and economic growth). COVID-19 caused a global depression that is expected to lead to contraction in the world economy by at least 5% and increase in the levels of unemployment nationally.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2021 includes the SDG Index and Dashboards2021 [7]. Shows that every government's top priority must be to continually suppress the pandemic via non-pharmaceutical interventions and global access to vaccines while the pandemic is rampant, no sustainable development or economic recovery is possible. The fiscal space for financing emergency response and investment recovery plans as-signed for SDGS is lacking in low-income developing countries (LIDCs). LIDCs limited capacity to tap market financing has been highlighted by COVID-19. As a response to the pandemic, there has been a heavy borrowing on the part of the governments of high-income countries. However, due to the lower market creditworthiness, LIDCs lacked the ability to do so. Such difference in fiscal space between high-income and low-income countries has had a short-term impact represented in the likely ability of rich countries to recover from the pandemic quicker than poor countries. Four main ways can be used for the increase of fiscal space in LIDCs. The first is improvement of global monetary management, more specifically the improvement of liquidity of the LIDCs. The second is the improvement of tax collection with the support of various global tax reforms. The third is multilateral development (MDBs) banks' increase of financial intermediation for the support of long-term development financing. The fourth is debt relief.

The need for accelerating progress towards universal health coverage and access to key infrastructure, especially, digital infrastructure, has been underscored by COVID-19 pandemic. This crisis has pinpointed that countries equipped with effective social protection systems and universal health coverage are best equipped to respond to such pandemic. Being less costly, SDGs call for countries' strengthening of their social safety nets and progressing towards universal health coverage of key medical services. A critical role is played by digital technologies in sustaining social services, payments, schooling, and health care during lockdowns, and in enabling effective working from home for many occupations. Universal access to broadband services as key to social inclusion, economic opportunity, and public health under-scores the importance of digital applications.

Leaving No One Behind: Impact of COVID-19 on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) UNDP Team, Pardee Team 2021 [8]. In partnership with the Pardee Center at the University of Denver, this UNDP report is one of the series that examine COVID-19 impact on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It also represents a potential pathway for socioeconomic recovery from the effects of the pandemic. A range of possible future COVID-19 effects on various development aspects are explored by this analysis. Furthermore, the bene-fits of bold choices that can fuel the global recovery efforts, hasten achieving the 2030 agenda and support investment for reaping long-term sustainable develop-ment benefits are highlighted.

An in-depth consideration of the impact of COVID-19 on poverty eradication efforts across the world is presented in the first flagship report of this series. The focus of the study has been the assessment of how COVID-19 potentially impacts the SDGs through three scenarios, with a review of the multidimensional effects of the pan-demic on extreme poverty throughout the next decades. In this report, an ambitious yet feasible set of integrated SDG investments (with Push' scenario) can exceed the pre-pandemic of poverty eradication, potentially lift 124 million people out of ex-treme poverty and increase the number of countries achieving the SDG target of ex-treme poverty elimination from 107 under a COVID Baseline to 118 with an SDG Push. These benefits are also found in additional human development results, in-cluding education and nutrition.

In the second flagship report, the analysis is extended to the People and Prosperity pillars of the 2040 Agenda with a focus on 69 countries, 4 in the low and medium human development groups. The structural limitations and systemic challenges that are already pre-existing in the health and educational systems, combined with dis-connected safety nets and fiscal constraints pose risks to low and medium human development countries. This risk is represented in disproportionate impact by the 5 regressive effects of the pandemic and lagging behind in SDG achievement.

By 2030, the analysis results reveal that there could be an increase in the number of people living in the low and medium human development countries to between 626 million under the 'COVID Baseline' scenario and 753 million under a 'High Damage' scenario. According to the 'COVID Baseline' scenario, 86 per cent of all people living under poverty by 2030 would be living in countries of low and medium levels of human development, while 79 per cent will be living under a 'High Damage' scenario. Under the 'COVID Baseline' and 'High Damage' scenarios related to the No-COVID scenario, an estimated 41 to 169 million people will be pushed into poverty, with 20 and 83 million women and girls among them.

4 Analysis and Discussion

In this part we, review selected goals (Goal 1- Goal 2- Goal 3- Goal 8) in the Arab region under Covid-19 three scenarios.

Goal 1 - End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Indicator 1.1.1 Proportion of the population living below the international poverty line.

(Table 2) Percent of population living below the international poverty line (<\$1.90 per day) Across Arab countries under Covid-19 scenarios

Geography	'No COVID' scenario	'COVID Baseline' scenario	'High Damage' scenario	'SDG Push' scenario	'No COVID' scenario	'COVID Baseline' scenario	'High Damage' scenario	'SDG Push' scenario	'No COVID' scenario	'COVID Baseline' scenario	'High Damage' scenario	'SDG Push' scenario
	2020				2030				2050			
Algeria	0.30	0.34	0.55	0.35	0.24	0.27	0.56	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Bahrain	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Comoros	20.03	21.64	24.65	21.64	14.74	16.08	20.74	9.83	3.48	4.00	6.79	0.58
Djibouti	28.68	31.48	34.22	31.50	17.11	18.58	24.18	14.75	7.59	7.81	11.24	2.67
Egypt	1.45	1.47	2.10	1.48	1.21	1.39	2.18	0.62	0.32	0.37	0.64	0.04
Iraq	1.28	1.97	2.80	2.06	0.39	0.44	1.73	0.14	0.00	0.01	0.07	0.00
Jordan	0.16	0.22	0.40	0.22	0.05	0.05	0.13	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.04	0.00
Kuwait	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lebanon	12.76	20.21	23.24	20.21	16.25	19.32	34.66	14.49	2.31	2.49	7.19	0.39
Libya	1.94	1.84	2.58	1.84	0.67	0.02	0.03	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.01	0.00
Mauritania	13.26	14.76	16.94	14.81	13.03	15.66	19.76	11.21	3.06	3.95	7.27	0.72
Morocco	0.84	0.87	1.30	0.88	0.59	0.64	1.14	0.28	0.16	0.18	0.35	0.02
Oman	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Palestine	1.22	1.91	2.75	1.92	0.91	0.96	1.79	0.69	0.05	0.04	0.13	0.00
Qatar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Saudi Arabia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Somalia	60.59	62.55	63.98	62.57	58.26	63.03	64.42	60.71	11.38	15.77	20.42	2.40
Sudan	12.71	15.30	17.97	15.31	9.48	8.77	12.38	7.22	2.28	1.86	4.25	0.40
Syria	10.71	10.62	12.64	10.70	8.09	7.46	10.24	4.83	4.53	4.24	6.46	1.27
Tunisia	0.48	0.54	0.84	0.55	0.34	0.38	0.70	0.15	0.08	0.08	0.17	0.01
UAE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Yemen	39.07	42.83	45.35	42.84	21.41	32.87	38.33	26.79	5.76	9.82	16.36	2.47
Average	9.34	10.39	11.47	10.40	7.40	8.45	10.59	6.90	1.87	2.30	3.70	0.50

SDGs target 2030- Less than 3% of the populations are living by less than \$1.90 a day. There is a big difference between poverty and extreme poverty. Here we are talking about extreme poverty in the Arab countries under Covid-19 scenarios

Table (2) shows the Arab countries under the 'COVID Baseline' scenario 2020. They suffer from extreme poverty and their population lives by less than 1.90 \$ daily. These include Somalia, Yemen and Djibouti by 62.5%, 42.8%, 31.48%, respectively. There is also, a significant percentage of extreme poverty in Comoros, Lebanon, Sudan and Syria.

The 'COVID Baseline' 2030 scenario data illustrate those eight countries (Somalia- Yemen- Lebanon- Djibouti - Comoros- Mauritania- Sudan –Syria) will find it very hard to achieve this target in 2030.

By 2050, the benefits of an ‘SDG Push’ are even more visible, especially in this target, while all Arab countries will reach the point and achieve their goals by reducing the number of population living in extreme poverty.

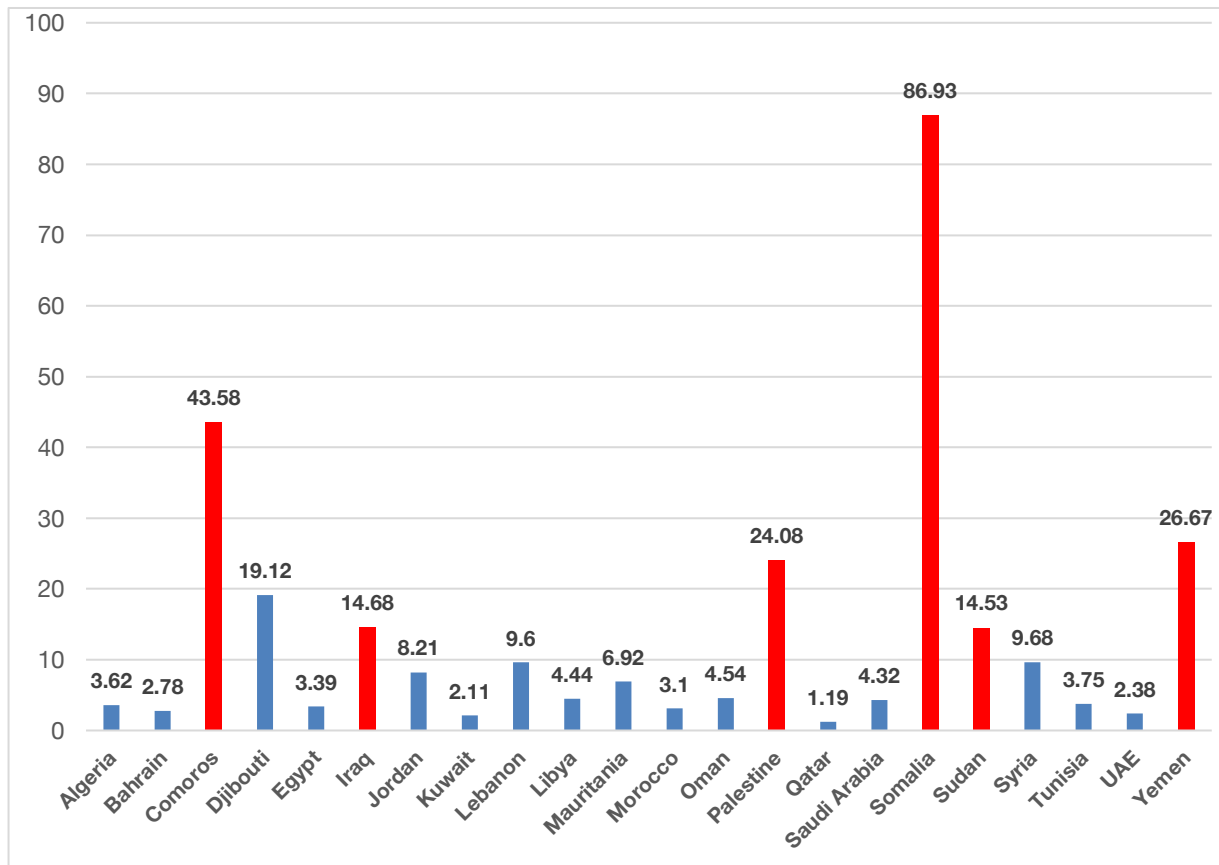
Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Indicator: 2.1.1 Prevalence of undernourishment

(Table 3) Malnourishment of population percent across the Arab countries under Covid-19 scenarios

Geography	'No COVID' scenario	'COVID Baseline' scenario	'High Damage' scenario	'SDG Push' scenario	'No COVID' scenario	'COVID Baseline' scenario	'High Damage' scenario	'SDG Push' scenario	'No COVID' scenario	'COVID Baseline' scenario	'High Damage' scenario	'SDG Push' scenario
year	2020				2030				2050			
Algeria	3.59	3.75	3.78	3.75	3.60	3.62	3.79	2.32	3.04	3.07	3.11	1.81
Bahrain	3.21	3.35	3.39	3.36	2.77	2.78	2.87	2.03	2.22	2.24	2.28	1.56
Comoros	61.20	64.35	65.02	64.35	41.88	43.58	45.78	34.89	16.42	16.98	18.08	10.48
Djibouti	22.46	23.13	23.24	23.14	17.37	19.12	23.80	17.40	6.55	6.51	7.67	5.41
Egypt	3.71	3.75	3.78	3.75	3.34	3.39	3.45	2.15	2.75	2.77	2.76	1.58
Iraq	21.33	23.22	23.23	23.22	14.62	14.68	16.79	12.75	6.11	6.23	6.92	3.96
Jordan	10.00	10.50	10.62	10.50	8.12	8.21	8.42	5.97	5.58	5.54	5.64	3.39
Kuwait	2.34	2.49	2.50	2.49	2.09	2.11	2.20	1.46	1.87	1.86	1.98	1.26
Lebanon	11.23	11.71	11.73	11.71	9.85	9.60	12.16	7.43	4.79	4.75	6.11	2.80
Libya	7.86	7.85	7.85	7.85	6.26	4.44	4.41	4.33	3.70	2.64	2.50	1.79
Mauritania	7.55	7.97	8.03	7.97	6.60	6.92	7.51	4.64	4.72	4.99	5.67	2.78
Morocco	3.13	3.32	3.33	3.32	3.00	3.10	3.17	1.97	2.82	2.87	2.89	1.59
Oman	5.26	5.65	5.67	5.65	4.80	4.54	5.01	3.35	3.19	3.32	3.60	2.08
Palestine	31.82	33.68	33.75	33.68	25.17	24.08	26.51	18.54	10.94	10.29	11.20	6.38
Qatar	1.41	1.48	1.50	1.48	1.22	1.19	1.24	0.89	1.20	1.20	1.25	0.97
Saudi Arabia	4.96	5.18	5.23	5.19	4.38	4.32	4.44	2.96	3.72	3.70	3.77	2.46
Somalia	45.93	49.48	50.60	49.51	84.78	86.93	87.09	86.62	23.81	28.41	30.84	22.21
Sudan	18.44	19.49	19.50	19.49	15.01	14.53	15.48	11.25	8.23	7.68	8.54	4.87
Syria	13.88	13.88	13.98	13.88	9.89	9.68	9.90	7.85	6.62	6.32	6.51	3.92
Tunisia	3.93	4.14	4.16	4.14	3.70	3.75	3.90	2.47	3.29	3.31	3.35	2.02
UAE	2.58	2.73	2.78	2.73	2.32	2.38	2.46	1.63	2.58	2.62	2.67	1.74
Yemen	33.35	34.93	35.30	34.93	22.25	26.67	27.98	19.88	9.17	11.04	11.93	6.71
Average	14.51	15.28	15.41	15.28	13.32	13.62	14.47	11.49	6.06	6.29	6.78	4.17

SDGS Target- Less than 3% of the population will be suffering from malnourishment by 2030. Table (3) shows that most of the Arab countries suffer from malnourishment in 'COVID Baseline scenario; except Qatar, Kuwait and UAE by 1.48%, 2.49%, 2.73% respectively. Hence, the data indicate that Comoros, Somalia, Yemen and Palestine suffer from a huge problem in the malnourishment of people by 64.35%, 49.48%.34.93%, and 33.68%, respectively.



(Figure 2) Malnourishment of population percent by 'COVID Baseline' scenario 2030 Across the Arab countries

By 2030 in the 'COVID Baseline' scenario, Bahrain will join the list of countries that do not suffer from malnutrition, and Morocco is close to achieving the goal by 3.1%. Countries in which the nutritional status of their population improves significantly by 2030 are Egypt by 3.39% and Tunisia by 3.75%.see figure 2.

Regarding the 'SDG Push' scenario, by 2050, we find that most Arab countries will achieve the goal of less than 3% of the population suffering from malnourishment except for Somalia and Comoros, which need more effort to achieve this target.

Goal 3 - Ensure healthy lives and well-being for all at all ages

Indicator: 3.1.1 maternal mortality

(Table 4) Maternal birth (ratio) across Arab countries under Covid-19 scenarios

Geography	'No COVID' scenario	'COVID Baseline' scenario	'High Damage' scenario	'SDG Push' scenario	'No COVID' scenario	'COVID Baseline' scenario	'High Damage' scenario	'SDG Push' scenario	'No COVID' scenario	'COVID Baseline' scenario	'High Damage' scenario	'SDG Push' scenario
year	2020				2030				2050			
Algeria	100.0	106.3	107.5	106.3	60.7	62.6	68.0	57.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Bahrain	4.4	4.8	6.1	4.8	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Comoros	240.1	244.6	245.8	244.6	174.3	179.3	185.1	171.9	18.5	22.9	31.3	3.0
Djibouti	205.8	210.9	212.1	210.9	138.2	141.6	146.2	135.0	13.4	14.3	19.9	3.0
Egypt	24.0	25.8	26.9	25.8	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Iraq	61.9	75.7	77.1	75.8	21.5	27.9	39.8	22.1	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Jordan	35.3	41.6	42.9	41.6	15.1	18.5	21.7	12.4	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Kuwait	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	10.6	10.6	10.6	10.6	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8
Lebanon	41.1	66.0	67.6	66.0	9.4	11.2	29.8	9.2	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Libya	32.9	30.6	30.6	30.6	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Mauritania	668.6	675.2	676.3	675.2	497.0	503.8	511.6	496.1	166.6	170.2	185.4	140.5
Morocco	50.5	59.1	60.4	59.1	10.2	14.6	19.0	7.4	3.0	3.0	3.5	3.0
Oman	29.5	40.9	42.3	41.0	10.5	14.3	27.7	8.9	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Palestine	23.3	34.1	35.5	34.1	6.6	4.4	14.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Qatar	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8
Saudi Arabia	7.2	13.5	14.8	13.5	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Somalia	723.5	726.9	728.0	726.9	540.8	546.1	549.5	541.4	137.7	146.1	151.6	115.0
Sudan	269.3	274.5	275.7	274.5	202.2	200.9	208.0	194.8	57.5	51.9	64.5	21.3
Syria	15.3	15.3	16.5	15.3	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Tunisia	31.5	39.5	40.7	39.5	3.0	3.9	7.1	3.0	6.3	7.0	8.8	3.0
UAE	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Yemen	160.1	165.4	166.6	165.4	108.3	133.4	139.0	127.2	3.0	7.4	16.9	3.0
Average	124.9	130.6	131.7	130.6	83.4	86.4	91.1	83.1	20.8	21.6	24.3	15.7

SDGS Target- Reduce maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births by 2030. In the 'COVID Baseline' scenario 2020, we find that UAE is the first Arab country in terms of achieving this goal with only 3 cases. This is a very clear achievement and indicates the reason for the great interest in health care, and is followed by Bahrain and Qatar by 4.8, 6.6 cases respectively. The list of Arab countries that have already achieved this goal in 2020 include Kuwait by 11.5, Saudi Arabia by 13.5, Syria by 15.3 and Egypt by 25.8 maternal mortality deaths cases, followed by Palestine and Tunisia. See table (4).

Regarding the Arab situation under the 'COVID Baseline' scenario 2030, we find that all Arab countries will achieve this target, except for Somalia which has 546.1 maternal deaths cases. This number is more than seven times the number

required to achieve the target, and it is followed by Mauritania by 503.8 deaths, then Sudan by 200.9 deaths, and finally Comoros, Djibouti and Yemen, and these numbers are far from achieving the desired target.

'SDG Push' scenario shows that by 2050, it will be very difficult for Mauritania and Somalia to achieve this target.

Goal 3 - Ensure healthy lives and well-being for all at all ages

Indicator: 3.2.1 Under-5 mortality rate

(Table 5) Children under 5 mortality (rate per 1000 live births) across Arab countries under Covid-19 scenarios

Geography	'No COVID' scenario	'COVID Baseline' scenario	'High Damage' scenario	'SDG Push' scenario	'No COVID' scenario	'COVID Baseline' scenario	'High Damage' scenario	'SDG Push' scenario	'No COVID' scenario	'COVID Baseline' scenario	'High Damage' scenario	'SDG Push' scenario
	2020				2030				2050			
Algeria	24.52	25.48	25.68	25.50	22.48	22.71	23.44	21.22	18.27	18.46	18.99	15.63
Bahrain	6.96	7.24	7.30	7.24	5.53	5.64	5.79	5.40	3.93	3.98	4.12	3.29
Comoros	48.96	50.31	50.64	50.31	38.41	39.94	43.06	33.83	20.97	21.85	23.24	17.50
Djibouti	48.76	52.29	52.81	52.30	29.55	30.36	33.41	25.86	17.56	17.72	18.46	14.15
Egypt	20.77	21.01	21.17	21.02	16.79	17.14	17.52	15.64	11.47	11.67	11.87	9.43
Iraq	24.16	26.18	26.40	26.24	19.90	20.57	21.98	19.15	14.15	14.49	15.58	12.27
Jordan	14.88	15.46	15.58	15.46	13.22	13.46	13.72	12.58	10.84	10.94	11.18	9.49
Kuwait	8.55	9.12	9.22	9.12	6.70	6.93	7.18	6.69	4.84	4.91	5.24	4.18
Lebanon	9.53	11.15	11.29	11.16	8.18	8.51	9.70	7.83	5.50	5.63	6.36	4.49
Libya	11.50	11.34	11.33	11.35	9.87	7.11	6.71	6.43	7.55	5.75	5.53	4.64
Mauritania	44.73	47.42	47.90	47.42	32.28	35.23	39.83	28.20	18.25	19.32	24.69	14.56
Morocco	19.38	20.34	20.46	20.37	15.75	16.15	16.57	14.76	10.80	11.01	11.26	8.79
Oman	12.14	13.44	13.62	13.44	11.25	11.47	12.49	10.93	9.35	9.65	10.70	7.67
Palestine	13.47	14.24	14.36	14.25	10.43	10.31	10.80	9.72	5.66	5.58	5.86	4.69
Qatar	7.54	7.89	7.97	7.89	5.80	5.83	6.09	5.68	4.56	4.55	4.93	4.19
Saudi Arabia	9.22	9.70	9.80	9.70	8.91	8.97	9.23	8.54	9.52	9.58	9.90	8.11
Somalia	102.30	105.20	106.00	105.20	76.47	80.24	83.34	73.74	35.97	37.29	38.38	31.14
Sudan	49.14	51.12	51.58	51.12	40.71	40.24	42.70	34.83	25.96	25.11	27.47	19.30
Syria	23.18	23.17	23.20	23.18	21.57	21.53	21.73	20.63	18.82	18.66	18.81	17.44
Tunisia	11.23	11.79	11.87	11.79	9.82	10.00	10.31	9.43	7.34	7.44	7.63	6.31
UAE	7.15	7.53	7.60	7.53	6.08	6.28	6.47	6.05	5.92	6.12	6.37	5.21
Yemen	46.66	48.72	49.18	48.73	33.42	41.10	43.66	35.17	19.25	22.07	23.65	16.64
Average	25.67	26.82	27.04	26.83	20.14	20.90	22.08	18.74	13.02	13.26	14.10	10.87

SDG Target- to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births by 2030. 'COVID Baseline' scenario 2020 shows that Bahrain is the first Arab country in terms of achieving this target with only 7.24 cases, then UAE by 7.53 and Qatar by 7.89, followed by Kuwait, Lebanon and Libya. All of these countries have achieved this target. See table (5).

The situation under 'COVID Baseline' scenario 2030 shows that there are new countries joining the previous countries that have already achieved the goal, such as Palestine and Oman by 10.31 and 11.47 death births cases, respectively.

By illustrating the 'SDG Push' scenario 2050, we find that Iraq will come closer to achieving the goal of 12.27 neonatal death cases per 1,000 live births. However, for Syria and Algeria, followed by the low-income countries (Somalia, Sudan, Comoros, Yemen, Mauritania, Djibouti), it may be very difficult to achieve this target.

Goal 3 - Ensure healthy lives and well-being for all at all ages

Indicator: 2 .2 .3 Neonatal mortality rate

(Table 6) Neonatal death rate (number of neonatal deaths per 1000 live births) across Arab countries under Covid-19 scenarios

Geography	'No COVID' scenario	'COVID Baseline' scenario	'High Damage' scenario	'SDG Push' scenario	'No COVID' scenario	'COVID Baseline' scenario	'High Damage' scenario	'SDG Push' scenario	'No COVID' scenario	'COVID Baseline' scenario	'High Damage' scenario	'SDG Push' scenario
	2020				2030				2050			
Algeria	14.45	14.94	15.04	14.95	12.88	13.00	13.36	12.24	9.73	9.83	10.09	8.43
Bahrain	1.12	1.16	1.17	1.16	0.87	0.89	0.91	0.85	0.59	0.60	0.62	0.49
Comoros	30.99	31.63	31.79	31.63	24.34	25.06	26.51	22.22	12.90	13.30	13.94	11.33
Djibouti	31.02	32.56	32.79	32.57	18.67	19.23	21.36	16.16	10.51	10.62	11.11	8.25
Egypt	11.24	11.35	11.42	11.35	8.98	9.13	9.31	8.45	5.73	5.82	5.91	4.83
Iraq	16.41	17.44	17.55	17.47	13.09	13.42	14.12	12.74	7.98	8.14	8.67	7.12
Jordan	10.05	10.34	10.41	10.35	8.65	8.78	8.90	8.34	6.35	6.40	6.52	5.69
Kuwait	3.02	3.28	3.33	3.28	2.22	2.32	2.43	2.20	1.52	1.54	1.68	1.23
Lebanon	5.19	6.01	6.08	6.01	4.40	4.57	5.17	4.23	2.86	2.92	3.28	2.36
Libya	5.92	5.86	5.86	5.86	4.89	3.57	3.35	3.19	3.23	2.65	2.58	2.17
Mauritania	31.85	33.15	33.38	33.16	22.37	24.60	27.28	19.38	11.88	12.66	15.68	9.22
Morocco	15.11	15.81	15.87	15.82	12.09	12.41	12.75	11.29	7.65	7.75	7.86	6.50
Oman	5.56	6.16	6.25	6.16	5.09	5.18	5.64	4.92	4.11	4.24	4.70	3.35
Palestine	6.06	6.45	6.51	6.46	4.55	4.50	4.74	4.22	2.27	2.23	2.36	1.83
Qatar	3.57	3.71	3.75	3.71	2.72	2.73	2.84	2.66	2.02	2.02	2.16	1.86
Saudi Arabia	6.57	6.78	6.83	6.79	5.96	5.99	6.10	5.78	5.26	5.28	5.42	4.63
Somalia	37.48	38.64	38.94	38.65	27.38	28.82	30.00	26.37	11.92	12.42	12.83	10.16
Sudan	27.30	28.25	28.47	28.25	22.11	21.88	23.04	19.43	12.93	12.53	13.62	9.92
Syria	6.44	6.43	6.45	6.44	5.57	5.56	5.63	5.30	4.17	4.12	4.18	3.78
Tunisia	7.53	7.80	7.84	7.80	6.39	6.47	6.62	6.20	4.29	4.34	4.43	3.81
UAE	3.12	3.28	3.31	3.28	2.61	2.70	2.78	2.60	2.43	2.50	2.60	2.14
Yemen	22.25	23.31	23.55	23.32	15.31	19.23	20.54	16.27	7.92	9.33	10.12	6.71
Average	13.74	14.29	14.39	14.29	10.51	10.91	11.52	9.77	6.28	6.42	6.84	5.26

SDGS Target- to Reduce under 5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 births. According to 'COVID Baseline' scenario 2020, table (6) show that Bahrain is the first Arab country in terms of achieving this goal with only 1.16 death cases, then UAE and Kuwait by 3.28 cases respectively. Furthermore, Qatar, Libya, Lebanon, Oman, Syria,

Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Jordan, Egypt, Algeria, Morocco and Iraq have all achieved this goal ranked by number of deaths in a total of 16 Arab countries.

Data under 'COVID Baseline' scenario 2030 show that there are new countries joining the previous countries that have already achieved the goal, such as Djibouti and Yemen by 19.23 death cases, then Sudan and Mauritania by 21.88 and 24.6 respectively

Two countries only, Somalia and Comoros, did not achieve this target by 2030, but they are getting close to achieving the goal. This opens ideas for clarifying the 'SDG Push' scenario 2050 which indicates that all countries recover and achieve this target.

Goal 8 - Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Indicator 8.1.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita

- Projected impact of COVID-19 on common macroeconomic factors, such as gross domestic products (GDP) are presented below.

(Table 7) Gross domestic product per capita, current price units by US dollar

Country	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Estimates Start After
Algeria	3,337.32	3,638.33	3,672.46	3,696.74	3,673.80	3,632.98	3,596.42	2019
Bahrain	23,589.96	26,293.95	27,052.97	27,678.48	28,412.12	29,209.05	30,038.18	2020
Djibouti	3,481.57	3,645.50	3,869.25	4,128.17	4,406.40	4,705.36	5,026.78	2018
Egypt	3,600.84	3,851.75	4,176.60	4,449.80	4,718.11	5,004.58	5,329.68	2020
Iraq	4,223.22	4,892.96	5,364.25	5,536.84	5,655.36	5,787.45	5,935.15	2013
Jordan	4,286.49	4,393.64	4,564.91	4,792.51	5,043.13	5,306.87	5,584.39	2018
Kuwait	22,683.64	27,927.16	28,821.61	28,794.89	28,992.74	29,413.94	30,151.31	2020
Lebanon	2,784.82	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2019
Libya	2,891.46	4,068.61	4,308.91	4,381.96	4,320.65	4,445.38	4,591.32	2014
Mauritania	1,955.50	2,161.28	2,154.15	2,212.37	2,255.12	2,277.22	2,336.88	2014
Morocco	3,187.63	3,470.80	3,617.25	3,801.03	3,991.90	4,195.76	4,379.79	2018
Oman	14,255.09	17,632.65	18,226.55	17,888.76	17,750.79	17,741.89	17,903.92	2020
Qatar	54,184.97	61,790.57	64,768.01	65,466.92	67,109.34	68,739.54	70,733.99	2020
Saudi Arabia	19,995.70	23,762.42	24,224.38	24,371.81	24,683.31	25,093.98	25,698.57	2020
Somalia	331,637	350,361	369.62	403.277	437,788	464,394	490.693	2013
Sudan	775,635	789,448	809.088	841.11	889,609	944.043	998.771	2011
Syria	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2010
Tunisia	3,294.88	3,555.59	3,747.54	3,916.28	4,094.26	4,257.46	4,399.40	2019
United Arab Emirates	38,661.18	43,537.69	44,752.86	45,670.15	46,748.56	48,008.21	49,445.50	2020
Yemen	580.221	585.003	587.408	612,947	637.373	666.75	689,637	2019

SOURCE: International Monetary Fund, World Economic Outlook Database, October 2021

Table (7) indicates that Gross domestic product (GDP) is growing slowly in some Arab countries, except for Qatar, which is considered the first in the Arab world in terms of per capita national income. This can be attributed to the decline in population numbers there, followed by the UAE with a per capita share of 44 thousand and seven hundred dollars annually per person, then Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

The table above also shows that the GDP per capita will be growing slowly over the coming years; especially in Algeria, Egypt, Iraq and Jordan

5 Conclusion and Recommendation

By prospecting the situation in the future, the type of modeling and scenario analysis undertaken in this study empower policymakers to begin grasping the complexity of the challenge, be ready with relevant policy responses for futures, take urgent actions to prevent the worst outcomes, and turn the crisis into good opportunity for change towards sustainable development.

- Even though many countries may not reach many of the SDG targets by 2030, a renewed focus on the 2030 Agenda in COVID-19 recovery efforts, through targeted integrated policies as simulated by the “SDG Push” scenario, would bring them more closer to achievement SDGS.
- Arab governments should target investments for the socioeconomic recovery
Through integrated policies that enable transformative and accelerated sustainable development progress.
- It is difficult for the Arab region, except for the Gulf countries, to reach the goal of reducing poverty rates by 2030. It is important to activate social protection policies and programs for vulnerable and poor groups.
- Arab governments should establish a regional social solidarity fund to support the countries at risk, especially the least developed Arab countries. The allocation of this fund to serve the poor and vulnerable groups should be developed.
- Arab governments should propose the “SDG Push” scenario to help countries identify the right mix of policy interventions to steer past the immediate crisis and build back better in the long-term.

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