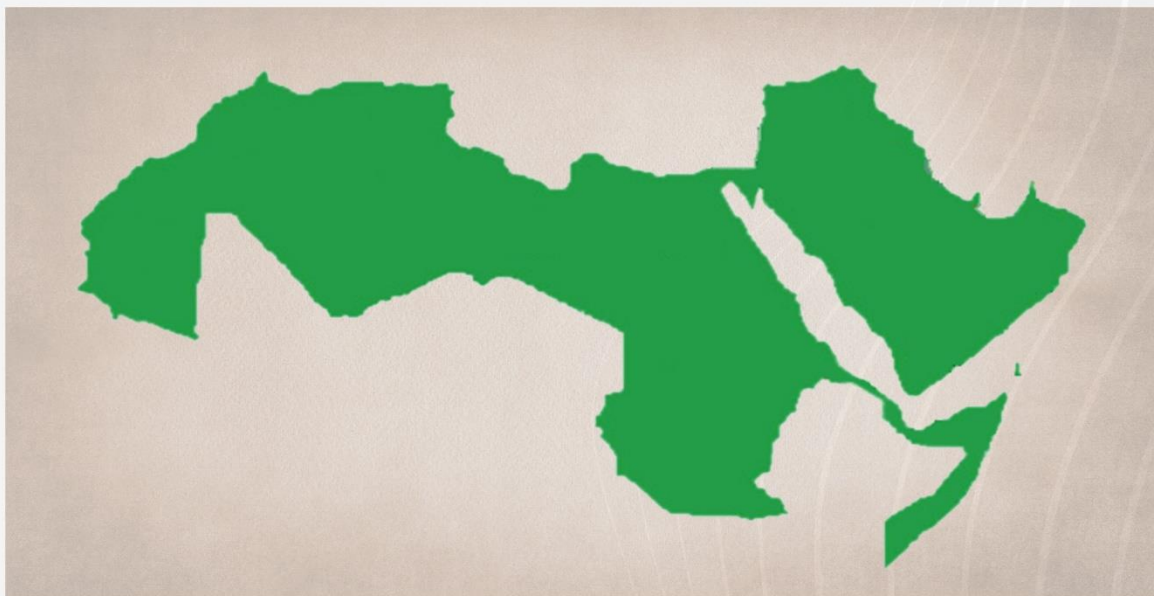


"Periodical"

Arab Countries Efforts to Leave No One Behind: Evaluation of 2024 SDGs

4th Issue :
Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions



April 2024

Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights

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Introduction

The facts of sustainable development in the Arab region, both regionally and nationally, reflect persistent efforts to achieve its goals at environmental, social, and economic levels. It demonstrates strenuous efforts to accelerate the pace of implementation and reach its goals and indicators, with annual reviews of its successes at the High-Level Political Forum.

Based on global and national efforts to periodically review progress in performance and indicators of sustainable development, and in line with the interest of Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights in the Sustainable Development Goals and its periodic participation in the High-Level Political Forum concerned with reviewing the progress achieved in development plans and goals by countries, Maat is launching the fourth issue of its research journal, "**Arab Countries Efforts to Catch Up... Evaluative Vision for Development Goals Under Review 2024.**"

Maat's periodical fourth issue is entitled "**Facts of Goal 16 in Arab Region: Evaluation Survey of Objectives and Contexts.**" This month's issue sheds light on the reality of Sustainable Development Goal 16, which is concerned with peace, justice, and strong institutions in all regions of the Arab region, focusing on assessing the extent to which these countries fulfill the requirements and objectives of Goal 16. It provides an evaluation of Goal 16 entitlements and objectives within Arab countries, and it also crystallizes a general vision of the realities of peace, justice, and strong institutions within the Arab region and their challenges, concluding with a set of recommendations presented to Arab governments to support their efforts in achieving that goal.



About Issue

This issue provides an evaluative vision of Sustainable Development Goals under review for the year 2024 at United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which are Goals 1, 2, 13, 16, and 17, based on Forum mechanism of setting five new development goals every year for review and evaluation.

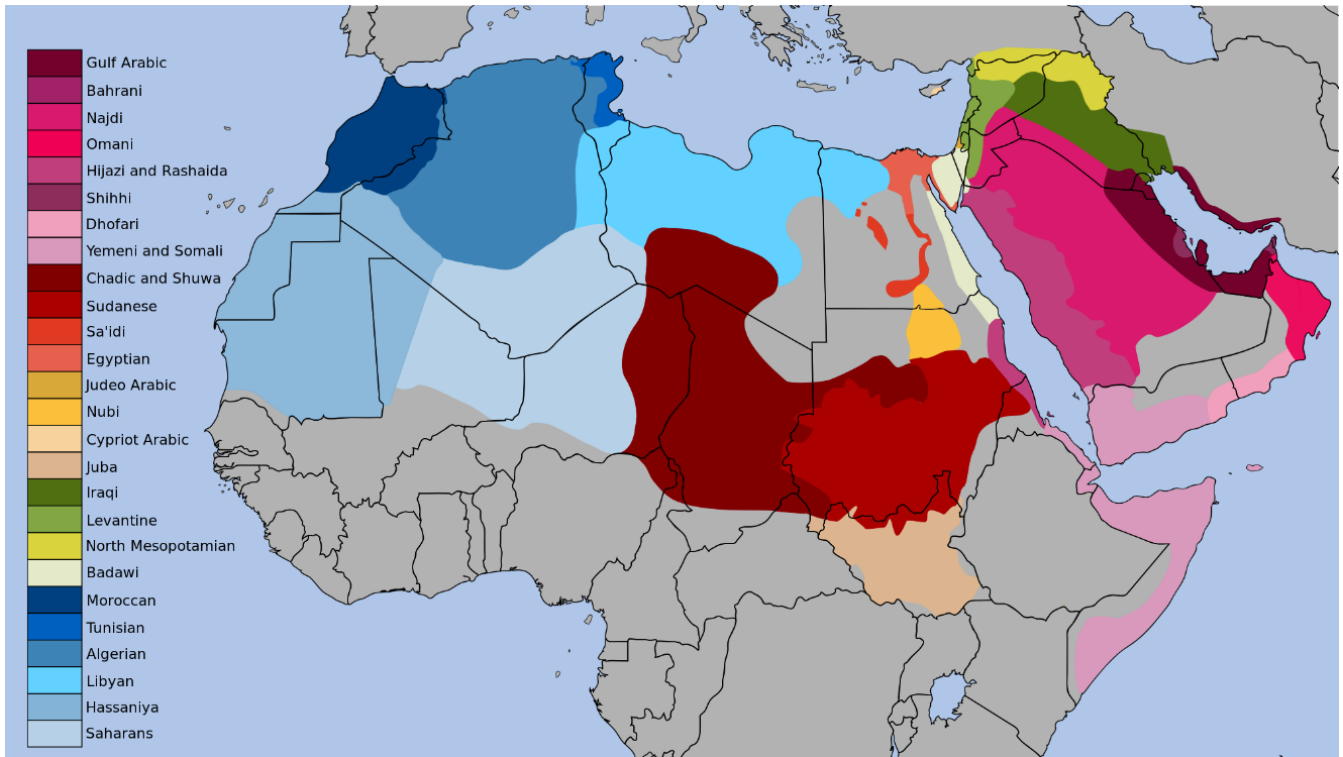
In line with the interest of Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights in the Sustainable Development Goals and its periodic participation in the High-Level Political Forum, Maat is launching a research periodical to monitor and evaluate the development goals under public review in the Arab region, during the period between February and July 2024. The periodical consists of five issues, with each addressing one of the five development goals under review through monitoring and evaluation in the Arab region, and outlining the features of the goal in the Arab region, especially in light of international and regional variables. The issue concludes with an analytical vision of Arab countries' performance for each of the goals under review. Based on the analysis of previous performance and indicators, the release will include a map of future expectations about the opportunities and challenges that may face the development goals in the Arab region during 2024, specifically during the period of national preparations for voluntary review in the next session of the High-level Political Forum.

Monitoring Methodology

The periodical relies on a methodology of direct monitoring of content published in Arab and Western media regarding government efforts to enhance development work. It also utilizes secondary research sources, open sources like the internet, and reliable, credible news sites that cover the realities of development in Arab countries and development paths in general.

The periodical further draws on information and data published on official websites of Arab ministries responsible for sustainable development, as well as reports from electronic and print media about Arab governments' efforts to achieve sustainable development goals and the challenges they face. This analysis takes into account the evaluation of Goal 16, including monitoring, analyzing, and assessing the goals and objectives related to strengthening relevant national institutions to prevent violence, combat terrorism, crime, illicit financial and arms flows, corruption, bribery, abuse, exploitation, and human and child trafficking, as well as improving the ability of institutions to implement the rule of law and ensure equal access to justice. In this

context, the periodical will utilize several relevant indices, such as the Global Peace Index, Corruption Perceptions Index, Global Terrorism Index, and Global Crime Index.



Axis I: Facts about Goal 16 in Arab Countries

All Arab countries implement policies, procedures, and measures aimed at achieving Goal 16 as part of their development goals, but the results of these efforts vary within each country. This has prompted this issue to undertake a survey and analysis of the facts and objectives of Goal 16 within Arab countries, as follows:

First: North African Region

👉 Egypt

Egypt, its agencies, and decision-makers have made clear efforts consistent with Goal 16 and its objectives around peace, justice, and strong institutions. These efforts have enabled Egypt to advance its ranking in Global Peace Index, moving from 103rd place in 2019 to 65th out of 134 countries in 2023,¹ with a score of 68 out of 100 in the safety index. This outperforms regional counterparts such as Turkey (84), Jordan (83.6), and Qatar (81.6) for the same period in February 2024.²

👉 Libya

An evaluation of Goal 16 in Libya shows that the country ranked 137th out of 163 in the 2013 Global Peace Index, indicating an improvement in the security situation by approximately 7.2% and a 14-place advancement on the list. However, the overall picture of Libya's facts and indicators (security, political, and institutional) presents difficult challenges in achieving Goal 16. Libya continues to struggle with the scourge of war, security crises, political transition challenges, institutional division, electoral delays, and climate fragility.³

Libya still has high rates of violent crime and access to weapons. At the level of countries in the Middle East and North Africa region, Libya ranked 14th in the Peace Index, scoring 2.6 points, and 170th in the 2023 Corruption Perceptions Index.⁴

👉 Tunisia

Tunisia has made focused efforts on Goal 16, which relates to peace, justice, and strong institutions. This has pushed it to rank 81st globally in the 2023 Global Peace Index, ahead of its neighboring countries of Morocco and Algeria, which ranked 84th and 96th, respectively. In terms of crime rate, Tunisia ranked 154th in the world with a criminality

¹ مباشر مصر، مصر تتقدم 38 مركزاً في مؤشر الدول الأكثر أماناً عام 2023، يونيو 2023، <https://shorter.me/aXLUy>

² المصري اليوم، مصر أعلى من جيرانها في مؤشر الأمن، مارس 2024، <https://shorter.me/1tKO7>

³ سكاى نيوز عربية، خسائر ليبيا منذ بدء أزمتها عام 2011، فبراير 2021، <https://shorter.me/wm36C>

⁴ بوابة الوسط، ليبيا تسجل أكبر نسبة تحسن في «مؤشر السلام العالمي» لعام 2023، أغسطس 2023، <https://shorter.me/dKuIb>

score estimated at 3.79. In the 2023 Corruption Perceptions Index, Tunisia maintained a score of 40 out of 100, ranking 78th globally. This shows stagnation and decline in Tunisia's anti-corruption policies, as it has been unable to exceed the 50% threshold for the past 13 years.⁵ In the last quarter of 2023, the pace of violence, anger, and dissatisfaction among Tunisians has increased, warning of a potential increase in crimes, impunity, and the spread of violence and hatred.⁶

👉 **Algeria**

Algerian government's efforts to achieve Goal 16 and its related peace, justice, and strong institutions have led to significant progress in the country's peace and security landscape. In 2023, Algeria advanced 8 places to rank 96th globally in the Global Peace Index,⁷ and it ranked 109th globally and 9th in the Arab world in the Peace and Security Index, with a value of 2,146 points. While Algeria has achieved improvements in political stability, perceptions of corruption reveal that the country ranks low at 104th globally, with 36 points out of 100, declining from its 2022 and 2021 rankings.⁸

👉 **Morocco**

Morocco has made significant progress on Goal 16. In 2023, the country ranked 84th globally out of 163 in the Global Peace Index. In the Corruption Perceptions Index for 2023, Morocco ranked 97th globally and 9th in the Arab world, with 38 points, recording a decline of 4 places from the previous year. Additionally, Kingdom of Morocco ranked 114th globally in the index of the safest countries for women in 2024.⁹

👉 **Mauritania**

Through its development efforts, plans, and partnerships, Mauritania hopes to achieve progress on Goal 16. It is implementing initiatives in partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development. In 2023-2024, Mauritania ranked 114th globally in the Global Peace Index, the last among the Maghreb countries.¹⁰ In the 2023 corruption index, it ranked 130th globally out of 180 countries.¹¹

⁵ تونس التزا، تونس تتأخر في ترتيب مؤشر مديركات الفساد لسنة 2023، يناير 2024، <https://shorter.me/hqY2r>

⁶ تونس التزا، 30% منها جرائم قتل... مظاهر العنف تكتسب زخماً أكبر في تونس في موفى 2023، مارس 2024، <https://shorter.me/BAD4t>

⁷ أفريقيا نيوز، الجزائر التاسعة عربيا في المؤشر الدولي للسلام والأمان، يناير 2023، <https://shorter.me/fH66X>

⁸ الحفرة، مؤشر الفساد لمنظمة الشفافية الدولية: الجزائر في المراتب المتدنية عالميا، يناير 2024، <https://shorter.me/MqyqW>

⁹ اندبنت عربية، لماذا ارتفعت نسبة الجرائم العنيفة في المغرب؟، 15 فبراير 2023، <https://shorter.me/Rqt8>

¹⁰ UN, One border - One community: A cooperation project between Mauritania and Senegal, May 25, 2024, <https://shorter.me/T4nF1>

¹¹ صحراء ميبديا، موريتانيا ستنفذ استراتيجية جديدة لمحاربة الفساد، يناير 2024، <https://shorter.me/8Y0U>

Second: Countries of East African Region

👉 Sudan

It is difficult to talk about any efforts to achieve Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals and the slogans of peace, justice, and strong institutions in Sudan, given the ongoing conflict and bloody civil war. Since April 2023, the country has witnessed about 6,050 violent incidents, resulting in the deaths of approximately 17,000 civilians. Between April 6 and May 10, 2024, there were over 415 incidents and 875 deaths, mostly in Khartoum and North Darfur, according to May 2024 statistics. As a result, Sudan ranked 155th with a value of 3.023 in the category of least peaceful countries.¹²

👉 Somalia

Progress on Goal 16 and other sustainable development goals in Somalia is hindered by the lack of security and peace, the spread of terrorist operations, and economic fragility. In the 2023 Global Peace Index, Somalia ranked 156th, ahead of only Syria and Yemen, with a score of 3.036.¹³ Somalia continues to have high crime rates, reporting 25 crimes per 1,000 people, one of the highest rates in the Arab region.¹⁴

👉 Djibouti

In the 2023 Global Peace Index, Djibouti ranked 112th in the world. Its crime rate increased from 3.99 in 2021 to 4.65 out of 10 in 2023, and it ranked 130th in the Corruption Perceptions Index for the second consecutive year. Djibouti remains a source, transit, and destination country for forced labor and sex trafficking, and small islands off its coast are used for arms trade and smuggling operations to Yemen.¹⁵

👉 Comoros

Despite the Comoros government's efforts to achieve Goal 16 on peace, justice, and strong institutions, the country was not included in the 2023 Global Peace Index assessment.¹⁶ Human trafficking remains a challenge, as Comoros continues to be a country of origin and transit point for victims of sexual exploitation, and human smuggling networks benefit from high migration rates.¹⁷

¹² العربية، السودان شهد 6 آلاف معركة.. و17 ألف مدني فقدوا حياتهم، مايو 2024، <https://shorter.me/Rk-Gu>
¹³ العربية، تصنيف الدول العربية في مؤشر السلام العالمي، يونيو 2023، تاريخ الوصول مايو 2024، <https://shorter.me/KpSWg>
¹⁴ الحادثة، معدلات الجريمة في 2023 وسيناريوهات العام المقبل .. انخفضت 4.5٪، <https://shorter.me/BFmBZ>
¹⁵ معدل الجريمة العالمي، ترتيب جيبوتي في معدل الجريمة، تاريخ الوصول مايو 2024، <https://ocindex.net/country/djibouti>
¹⁶ الحرة، تصنيف لأكثر الدول المسالمة عربيا وعالميا، 29 يونيو 2023، <https://shorter.me/r3Mt4>

¹⁷ GLOBAL Organization Crime Index, Comoros, May 25, 2024, <https://shorter.me/xjgmi>

Levant Countries

👉 Jordan

Manifestations and events in Jordan are inconsistent with Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals. 88% of the Jordanian population believes that societal violence is widespread, with about 40% related to murders, 9% to domestic violence, 8% to family quarrels, and 7% to theft.¹⁸ Jordan also experienced an increase in crime rates from 92% to 94% in 2024 compared to 2023.¹⁹

👉 Syria

Since the beginning of the ongoing conflict and war in 2011, Syria has consistently ranked among the least safe and most dangerous countries in the Global Peace Index. On April 30, 2023, Syria ranked 1st in the Arab world and 8th globally out of 142 countries in the crime index.²⁰ This is due to the intensification of the conflict, civil war, and security complications, which have resulted in the killing of more than 250,000 Syrians and losses estimated at around \$700 billion, over 35 times the gross domestic product for 2022.²¹ In 2023, 2,747 civilians were killed and injured by both sides of the conflict.²²

👉 Palestine

Israeli occupation's violations of Palestine's right to sustainable development have undermined progress on Goal 16 and its objectives of achieving peace, justice, and strong institutions. Estimates indicate that the ongoing war in Gaza has caused approximately \$18.5 billion in direct damage to build infrastructure until January 2024, equivalent to 97% of the gross domestic product of the State of Palestine in 2022.²³

👉 Lebanon

Lebanon faces numerous challenges and obstacles in achieving Goal 16. According to the 2023 Global Peace Index published by the Institute for Economics and Peace, the average level of peace in countries deteriorated by 0.42% for the year, marking the ninth consecutive year of declining global peace.²⁴

¹⁸ المملكة العربية، استطلاع رأي: 88% من الأردنيين يعتقدون أن العنف المجتمعي منتشر في الأردن، أغسطس 2022، <https://www.almamlakatv.com/news/100274->

¹⁹ وكالة الأنباء الأردنية، الفرية: 100% نسبة اكتشاف جرائم القتل في الأردن، تاريخ الوصول مايو 2023، <https://shorter.me/ol2Et>

²⁰ سوريا نيوز، سوريا الأولى عربياً والثامنة عالمياً لعام 2023 وفقاً لمؤشر الجريمة، تاريخ الوصول مايو 2023، <https://syria.news/bb7c81c9-30042312.html>

²¹ المجلة، 700 مليار دولار خسائر سوريا... والإعمار مهمة مستحيلة، 14 يونيو 2023، <https://shorter.me/jR8OB>

²² آر تي اتش، 2747 مدنياً ضحية انعدام السلام في سوريا خلال 2023، 21 سبتمبر 2023، <https://npasyria.com/167698/>

²³ البرنامج الإنمائي للأمم المتحدة، مع دخول الحرب في غزة شهرها السابع، سيدخل 1.74 مليون فلسطيني جديد مصاف الفقراء في جميع أنحاء دولة فلسطين، وفقاً للتقييم مُخَدَّتْ للأمم المتحدة، 2 مايو 2024، <https://shorter.me/SqwCk>

²⁴ لبنان، لبنان في المرتبة 15 عربياً على مؤشر السلام العالمي، يونيو 2023، <https://www.imlebanon.org/2023/06/29/peace/>

The 2023 Global Peace Index shows a decline in Iraq's performance on Goal 16, with the country ranking 137th among the least peaceful countries. Iraq also ranked 2nd in the Arab world and 11th globally in the 2024 Global Terrorism Index out of 89 among the least secure.²⁵ Iraq was listed among the most corrupt countries along with other Arab countries such as Syria, Yemen, and Somalia, and 157th globally in the list of most corrupt countries.²⁶ The degree of criminality in Iraq increased from 7.05 in 2021 to 7.13 in 2024, and it ranks 72nd in the Global Crime Index.²⁷

Fourth: Arab Gulf Countries

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia's sustainable development plans and measures monitor efforts to achieve Goal 16 and improve its capabilities to promote peace, justice, strong institutions, non-marginalization, and equality. In mid-May 2024, Saudi Arabia was ranked 119th globally, reflecting its efforts to achieve security and stability and combating extremism and terrorism outside Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.²⁸ However, the country still ranks among the nations with the highest rates of slavery and servitude, due to the sponsorship system that encourages violations of forced labor, forced marriage, forced commercial sexual exploitation, and human smuggling, which undermine Goal 16.²⁹

Bahrain

Bahrain has made significant progress in achieving Goal 16 through its policies and efforts. In 2023, Bahrain ranked 3rd in the Arab world and 12th globally among the 134 safest countries, according to the safety index and its components: security, peace, terrorism, personal security, low crime rate, and the risk of natural disasters.³⁰ In Global Peace Index, Bahrain ranked 131st globally and 5th in the Gulf, but still ranks among countries with low peace.³¹

²⁵ بغداد اليوم، العراق ضمن قائمة الدول الأقل سعياً على مؤشر السلام العالمي للعام 2023، يونيو 2023، <https://shorter.me/F6dhO>

²⁶ NRT، مؤشر الفساد العالمي لعام 2023.. هل حقق العراق تقدماً عن 2022؟، فبراير 2024، <https://www.nrtv.com/ar/detail3/22819>

²⁷ شفق، ما هي مرتبة العراق بين دول العالم في معدلات الجريمة؟، تاريخ الوصول مايو 2024، <https://shorter.me/zeRBY>

²⁸ آراء حول الخليج، ارتفاع ترتيب السعودية في مؤشر السلام العالمي عام 2025، مارس 2024، <https://shorter.me/w3Z3P>

²⁹ دويتش فيله، العبودية الحديثة: دول خليجية على "مؤشر الرق العالمي"، مايو 2023، <https://shorter.me/USWY>

³⁰ الأيام، البحرين الثالثة عربياً للدول الأكثر أماناً والـ 12 عالمياً، يونيو 2023، <https://alay.am/p/75vq>

³¹ العرب الآن، البحرين في الترتيب 131 عالمياً والخامسة خليجياً في «مؤشر السلام»، مارس 2024، <https://shorter.me/bIwQ7>

👉 Qatar

Qatar, like other Arab countries, is implementing measures to achieve Goal 16 and consolidate its objectives around peace, justice, and security. According to May 2024 statistics, Qatar ranked 1st in the Arab world and 21st globally in the index of the safest countries for the fifth consecutive year, scoring 85.2 out of 100 points in the security and safety index. It also ranked 1st in the Arab world and 9th globally in the axis of the safest and most peaceful countries in society for the second year, placing it among the ten safest countries in the world.³² Qatar has the lowest crime rate in the world, with a value of 14.8 points in the crime index. However, the human rights environment in Qatar remains one of the major challenges facing Goal 16, especially in terms of discrimination, inequality, and marginalization.³³

👉 Oman

The Sultanate of Oman was ranked the fifth safest and crime-free country in the world for the year 2023, obtaining 79.50 points in the level of safety and 20.62 in the crime prevalence rate, which is a very low level.³⁴ In the Global Peace Index, the Sultanate of Oman ranked third in the Arab world, with significant progress recorded in the context of the level of community security and safety, the extent of ongoing domestic and international conflict, and the degree of militarization.³⁵

👉 Yemen

Yemen's raging political and security complexities have undermined its efforts to achieve Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals. Yemen is classified as the second least peaceful country in the world according to the Global Peace Index for 2023, and the least peaceful country in the Arab region, ranked 162nd globally.³⁶ This decline can be attributed to the ongoing conflict and civil war since 2015, which has killed more than 11,500 children and caused an estimated loss of \$126 billion. Yemen has also become a haven for terrorist organizations such as ISIS and Al-Qaeda, making it an unsafe area for the civilian population.³⁷

³² وكالة الأنباء القطرية، قطر تحافظ على صدارتها الإقليمية في مؤشر السلام العالمي وتقدم عالمياً، 3 يوليو 2023، <https://shorter.me/fxUFX>
³³ وزارة الخارجية القطرية، للمرة الخامسة على التوالي قطر تتصدر أكثر الدول أماناً في العالم لعام 2023، 18 يناير 2023، <https://shorter.me/OKC0W>
³⁴ البوابة الإعلامية، السلطنة الخامسة عالمياً في مؤشر الأمان وانخفاض الجريمة، تاريخ الوصول مايو 2024، <https://www.omaninfo.om/ar/topics/85/show/354188>
³⁵ الخليج، سلطنة عمان الثالثة عربياً في مؤشر السلام العالمي، يوليو 2023، <https://www.wa-gulf.com/1052179>
³⁶ العربية، تصنيف الدول العربية في مؤشر السلام العالمي عام 2023، يونيو 2023، <https://shorter.me/WOB9Z>
³⁷ سي إن عربية نيوز، تقرير إخباري: اليمن يطوي 9 أعوام من الحرب فيما أكثر من نصف سكان البلاد دخلوا مرحلة الحاجة للمساعدة، مارس 2024، <https://shorter.me/DZdrc>

👉 United Arab Emirates

UAE continues to show advanced progress in achieving Goal 16. In 2023, for the third consecutive year, it maintained second place on the index of the safest countries in the world.³⁸ UAE ranked 1st in the Arab world and 3rd globally regarding the levels of residents' feelings of safety when roaming alone in the country's streets, according to the "Global Law and Order, 2022" index.³⁹ Additionally, it ranked 9th globally in the "Security and Security" axis regarding the quality of life in the UAE and its ability to provide a safe and exemplary environment for its residents and visitors,⁴⁰ with a confidence in the country's police agencies and their reliability in enforcing the law exceeding 98.4%, and a rate of feeling safe when walking alone outside the home at night reaching 97.5%.⁴¹ The Middle East and North Africa region also topped the global rule of law index.⁴²

👉 Kuwait

Kuwait is making significant efforts to achieve Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals. According to November 2023 statistics, Kuwait ranked first in the world among the safest countries, based on the index of citizens and individuals feeling safe when walking alone.⁴³ However, the statistics of the Public Prosecution in Kuwait recorded 46,566 cases in 2023, more than doubling over the last five years. Additionally, the crime rate has increased, with the number of premeditated and attempted murders reaching about 100, a 29% increase over 2022.⁴⁴



³⁸ الإمارات اليوم، 93.5% نسبة الشعور بالأمان بين سكان أبوظبي و88.6% بالحرية الدينية، 23 يونيو 2023، <https://shorter.me/4Szum>

³⁹ البيان، «جلوبال فايننس»: للعام الثالث على التوالي.. الإمارات ثاني أكثر دول العالم أماناً، يونيو 2023، <https://www.albayan.ae/uae/news/2023-06-16-1.4680996>

⁴⁰ وكالة أنباء الإمارات، الإمارات في المرتبة العاشرة عالمياً في مؤشر القوة الناعمة العالمي للعام 2024 الذي يشمل 193 دولة، فبراير 2024، <https://shorter.me/FGeq1>

⁴¹ المركز الاتحادي التنافسية والإحصاء، 98.4% معدل الثقة في الشرطة لإنفاذ القانون، 27 أبريل 2022، <https://shorter.me/I3dA6>

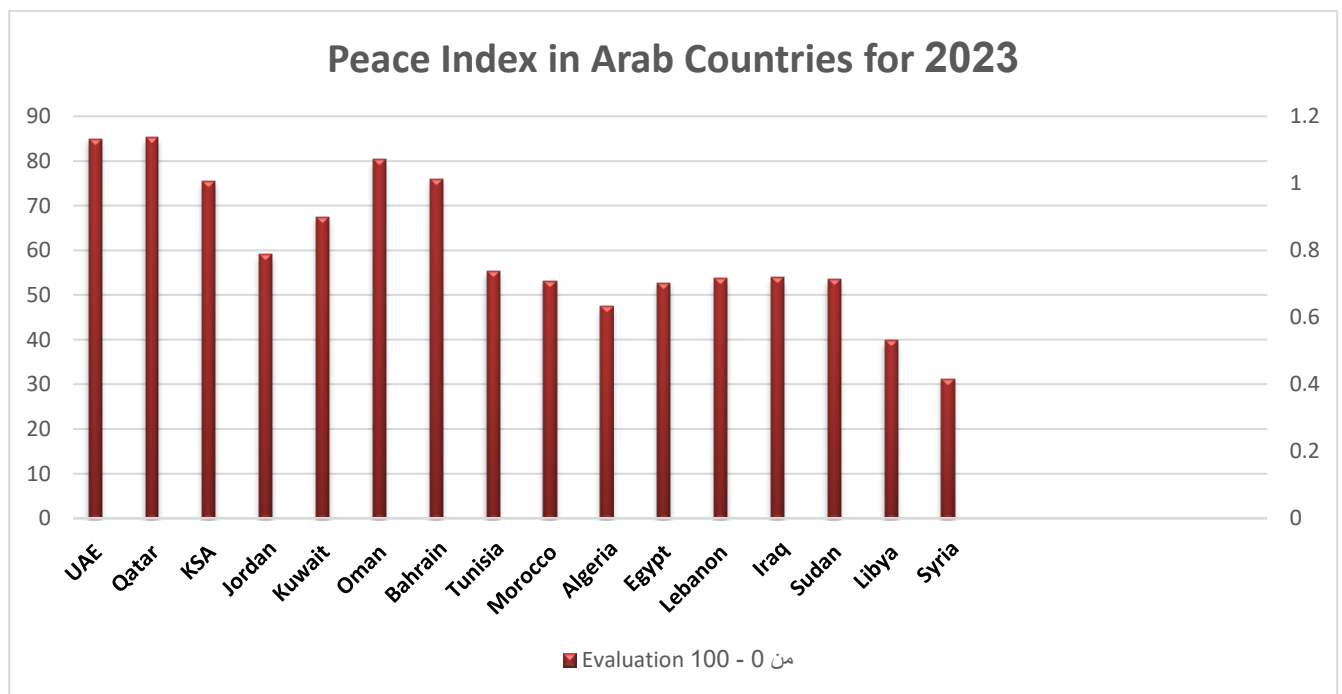
⁴² بوابة الإمارات، العدل والسلامة في رؤية "نحن الإمارات 2031"، مايو 2024، <https://shorter.me/6Ct6v>

⁴³ وكالة أنباء العالم العربي، أكثر الدول أماناً في العالم، نوفمبر 2023، <https://awp.net/ar/stories/akthr-aldwl-amana-fy-alealm/>

⁴⁴ الحرية، ماذا وراء جرائم القتل في الكويت؟، 30 مايو 2023، <https://shorter.me/8YJTU>

Axis II: Goal 16 Realization in Arab Region

Goal 16 calls on the countries of the Arab region, like other countries of the world, to work to establish safe, peaceful, and just societies, with justice and accountability available to all, and effective and transparent institutions operating at all levels. While the Arab region as a whole remains the least safe in the world for the eighth year in a row, this varies among the individual Arab countries. Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, Jordan, and the UAE topped the list of Arab countries within the Peace Index in 2023, while Yemen, Syria, Sudan, and Iraq were at the bottom.⁴⁵



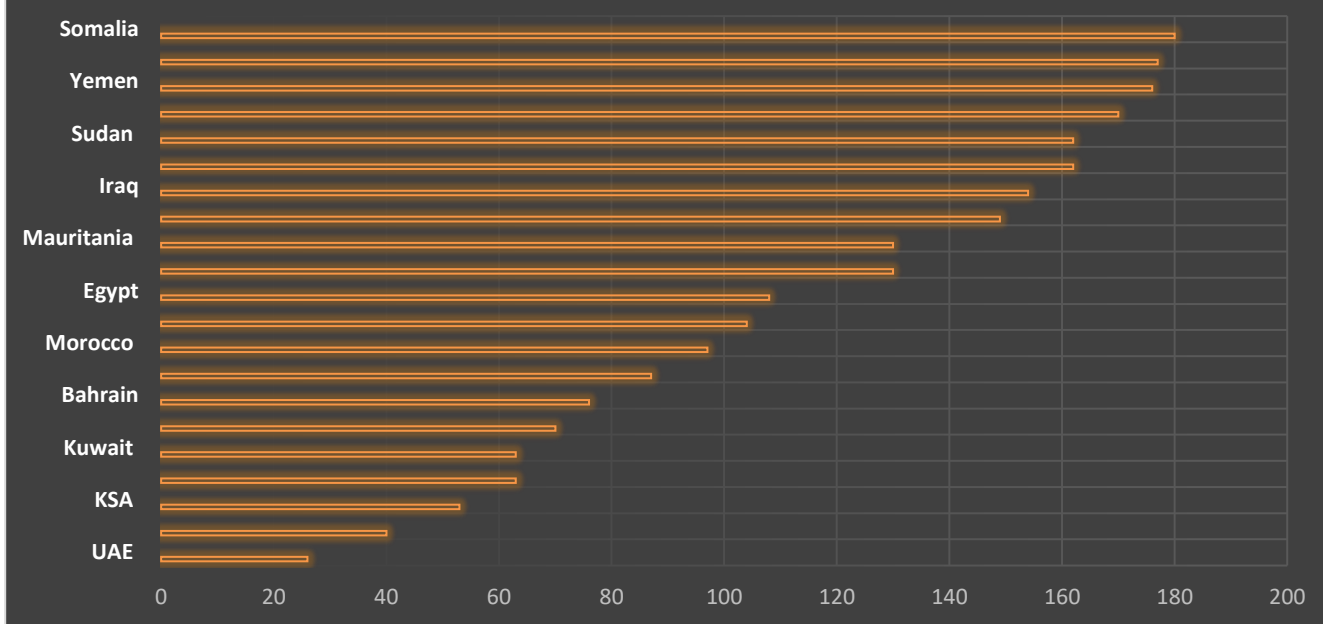
The indicators of Goal 16 also reveal high crime rates in some Arab countries, with **Yemen, Syria, Libya, Iraq, and Somalia** recording 45, 40, 35, 30, and 25 crimes per 1,000 people, in contrast to the lower rates in **United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Jordan, and Lebanon**, at 1.5, 2, 3 and 3.5 crimes per 1000 inhabitants, respectively.⁴⁶

Moreover, the Arab region shows a decline in efforts to combat corruption and illegal practices, with most Arab countries scoring below 50 on the Corruption Perceptions Index. UAE, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia ranked first in the Arab world, while Libya, Sudan, Yemen, Syria, and Somalia recorded the worst levels of corruption.⁴⁷

⁴⁵ بوابة الوسط، ليبيا تسجل أكبر نسبة تحسن في «مؤشر السلام العالمي» لعام 2023، أغسطس 2023، <https://alwasat.ly/news/libya/407389>
⁴⁶ الحادثة، معدلات الجريمة في 2023 وسيناريوهات العام المقبل .. انخفضت 4.5٪، ديسمبر 2023، <https://www.alhadtha.com/37565>
⁴⁷ الجزيرة، بلغة الأرقام.. خبراء يكشفون أسباب تفشي الفساد في الدول العربية وكيف يمكن محاربه في المنطقة، مايو 2024، <https://shorter.me/gxeup>

Arab Countries Between Least and Most Peaceful

Less peaceful countries



Axis III: Challenges to Achieving Goal 16 in Arab Region

Arab region contexts and assessments of realities of peace, justice, and performance of institutions reveal the need for the Arab region to address many challenges: political, security, and institutional that prevent the full and effective implementation of Goal 16. The most prominent of these challenges are noted as follows:



👉 Illicit Financial Flows

Goal 16 and its themes: peace, justice, and strong institutions, face a major challenge. Increasing illicit financial flows undermine the rule of law, distort macroeconomic stability, and generate severe security complications in the Arab region,⁴⁸ while also expanding the circle of discord within countries and delaying the efforts of Arab governments to achieve social justice within local communities.

👉 Disputes and Conflicts

The escalating disputes and conflicts in the Arab region undermine the efforts of its countries to achieve Goal 16. Globally, violent conflicts caused 50% of the world's deaths in 2022, with an economic cost of \$17.5 trillion.⁴⁹ In the Arab world, 80% of Arab countries are experiencing notable conflicts, disputes, and political and social instability.

⁴⁸ اليونسكو، التدفقات المالية غير المشروعة في المنطقة العربية، تاريخ الوصول مايو 2024، <https://shorter.me/17NH>
⁴⁹ بوابة الوسط، ليبيا تسجل أكبر نسبة تحسن في «مؤشر السلام العالمي» لعام 2023، أغسطس 2023، <https://alwasat.ly/news/libya/407389>

The wars and conflicts have cost the warring Arab countries more than \$900 billion during the period 2011-2018, affecting 180 million Arabs in neighboring countries.⁵⁰

👉 Spread of Bribery & Tax Evasion

Confronting the fragility of institutions and enhancing their ability to prevent bribery, tax evasion, and corruption is crucial for achieving Goal 16. In developing countries, including the Arab region, bribery, theft, and tax evasion cause annual losses of approximately \$1.26 trillion. Facts show that 20% of companies in the Arab region were asked at least once to pay a bribe, compared to 17% globally.

👉 Abuse & Violence against Children

Arab region, like other parts of the world, faces the challenge of violence against children, which affects more than a billion children worldwide and costs societies approximately \$7 trillion per year.⁵¹ In Arab region, there is a sharp increase in the phenomenon of child marriage, with a rate of 1 in every 5 girls under the age of 18, and from 1 in 3 children in Sudan and Yemen to 1 in 50 children in Tunisia.⁵²

👉 Corruption

Indicators confirm that rampant corruption in Arab countries greatly undermines progress in the region. Corruption Perceptions Index for 2023 shows sharp spread of corruption in countries affected by protracted crises and armed conflicts, such as Somalia, Syria, and Yemen, which ranked 180, 177 and 176 globally.

👉 Human Trafficking

Despite the requirements of Goal 16 to eliminate human trafficking, the Arab region still has the highest per capita prevalence of slavery in the world, with just over 10 out of every 1,000 people trapped in some form of labor trafficking, sex trafficking, or forced marriage, with 1.7 million people are trafficked in this region on any given day in 2021.⁵³

👉 Inequality

Inequalities - economic, social, and political - remain a significant challenge in the Arab region. The region is ranked among the least equal in the world before East Asia, with 10% of the population owning more than 80% of the wealth and 90% owning about 20%. It will take more than 179 years for the Arab region to achieve gender equality, compared to 142 years globally.⁵⁴

⁵⁰ البوابة العربية للتنمية، ديمغرافيا، تاريخ 16 ديسمبر 2023، <https://shorter.me/z-0cu>

⁵¹ UN.ORG, <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/ar/peace-justice/>

⁵² البوابة العربية للتنمية، الشباب، تاريخ الوصول 17 ديسمبر 2023، <https://shorter.me/StwGM>

⁵³ THE Exodus Road, Human Trafficking in the Middle East, March 2024, <https://theexodusroad.com/human-trafficking-middle-east/>

⁵⁴ البوابة العربية للتنمية، النوع الاجتماعي، تاريخ الوصول 17 ديسمبر 2023، <https://shorter.me/zvQSC>

Recommendations

Based on its analytical and evaluative review of Goal 16 and its objectives, as well as its monitoring and analysis of the challenges facing the Arab region in achieving it, Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights presents the following recommendations:

- Maat encourages the governments of Arab countries, especially those struggling to achieve Goal 16 (such as Libya, Yemen, Syria, and Sudan), to cooperate with relevant parties and civil society institutions, respond to calls for a ceasefire, and commit to a peaceful transfer of power as essential steps to ending conflicts and achieving transitional justice.
- Maat recommends that the governments of Arab countries, particularly Iraq, Yemen, and Syria, work to combat corruption and reduce its indicators. This includes conducting practical and immediate investigations into corruption crimes and establishing effective, transparent, and accountable national institutions at all levels, capable of achieving all Sustainable Development Goals.
- Maat calls on the governments of Arab countries to strengthen the capacity of local and national institutions to better respond to climate, health, and security emergencies. This would allow these governments to better absorb the effects and repercussions that are inconsistent with Goal 16 and mitigate their impact on efforts to establish peace and justice.
- The institutions call on the governments of Arab countries to strengthen capacity-building and training programs for their security and law enforcement institutions, and support them with the necessary resources and expertise to establish security and peace, and to confront the challenges of Goal 16, especially human trafficking and terrorism.
- Maat recommends that the governments of Arab countries strengthen civic space and involve civil society organizations to play a role in strengthening institutional structures, supporting procedures and ways to achieve justice and accountability, and supporting human rights.