



UNITED NATIONS
REGIONAL COLLABORATIVE
PLATFORM



ARAB STATES

2025 SYSTEM-WIDE ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT

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UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GROUP | ARAB STATES

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Arab States Regional Collaborative Platform

Introduction

In 2025, the Arab region continued to experience uneven economic recovery amid uncertainty and upheaval, which shaped sustainable development trajectories. Regional developments saw trade disrupted, fiscal space constrained and programme delivery delayed in some countries, while economic diversification and climate commitments in others created opportunities for acceleration towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In Jordan and Lebanon, fiscal stress and population movement-related pressures added strain to national social protection systems. Lebanon, the State of Palestine, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen faced severe insecurity causing humanitarian crises and service delivery gaps. Simultaneously, Gulf Cooperation Council States advanced green transition and investment strategies, opening space for climate action and innovation. In the Syrian Arab Republic, gradual re-engagement in certain sectors signalled the potential for scaled development support, while recovery planning in Lebanon and the State of Palestine highlighted the urgent needs and opportunities for resilience-building. These realities reflect the fragility of progress and the necessity of adaptive programming.

The Arab region continued to experience significant needs, with an estimated 59 million people requiring humanitarian assistance in 2025.¹ Food insecurity remained acute, with around four in ten people experiencing moderate or severe food insecurity², and conflict-affected areas facing the most severe crisis-level conditions. Economic pressures persisted throughout the year, with several middle-income and conflict-affected countries experiencing stagnation or contraction amid high inflation, fiscal stress and constrained access to financing. Youth unemployment stood at 24.2 per cent in 2025³, reflecting persistent structural labour market challenges. Climate-related shocks further compounded vulnerabilities, including intensified heatwaves, water scarcity and climate-induced population displacement. Projections indicate that many Arab States remain off track to meet most SDG targets by 2030, particularly on poverty reduction, food security, inequality and climate action.

These challenges were compounded by a global decline in humanitarian and development funding. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported that its humanitarian appeal for 2026 was reduced to USD 33 billion from USD 47 billion in 2025, reflecting reduced donor support and the lowest aid levels in a decade.⁴ These constraints carry significant implications for crisis response across the region.

The Arab Forum for Sustainable Development 2025, held in Beirut under the theme “Restoring hope, raising ambition,” produced key messages directly relevant to the region’s coordination priorities: Arab States were called on to play a more active, collective role in multilateral negotiation and conflict resolution amid eroding trust in international institutions, while strengthening governance frameworks for digital technology and AI,

¹<https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/world/global-humanitarian-overview-2025-enarfnres>.

²<https://www.fao.org/neareast/news/details/arab-states-face-highest-hunger-levels-in-two-decades-new-un-report-warns>.

³<https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/2024-08/MENA%20GET%20Youth%20Brief%202024.pdf>.

⁴<https://www.unocha.org/news/life-life-un-launches-us33-billion-aid-appeal-urgent-call-global-solidarity>.

including Arabic-language LLMs and ethical guidelines; participants urged pro-employment structural reforms, stronger migrant worker protections, and the removal of barriers to women's economic participation; messages emphasized using the Second World Summit for Social Development to advance peace, social protection and inclusion priorities, alongside expanded fiscal space for social spending and stronger financial inclusion for underserved groups; ahead of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, the Forum called for improved debt sustainability mechanisms, fulfilment of the 0.7% ODA commitment, and a unified regional financing vision; it further called for legal reform and better sex-disaggregated data to advance gender equality, greater use of voluntary national reviews to strengthen resilience in conflict-affected settings, continued investment in integrated primary healthcare and regional cooperation on marine ecosystem data under SDG 14, and effective implementation of trade preferences and support measures for Arab least developed countries under the Doha Programme of Action.

In parallel, discussions on the UN80 Initiative launched by the United Nations Secretary-General in March 2025 gained momentum under broader efforts to enhance efficiency, coherence and data-driven planning. The Arab States Regional Collaborative Platform continued to serve as a platform for regional collaboration, reflection and strategic alignment. With only five years remaining until 2030, the 2025 Arab States Regional Collaborative Platform Annual Meeting, chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General, provided an opportunity for regional United Nations entities and Resident Coordinators to evaluate evolving challenges and identify practical ways to strengthen coherence across development, humanitarian and peace efforts. While financial constraints and regional volatility affected staffing and the implementation of Issue-based Coalition activities, several contributions beyond the agreed scope of Issue-based Coalitions were delivered and are reflected in this report.

In 2025, the regional Peer Support Group (PSG) served as the primary quality assurance and technical advisory mechanism supporting United Nations Country Teams across the Cooperation Framework cycle. The PSG reviewed four Cooperation Framework roadmaps (Jordan, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen) and four Country Analysis (CCA) products and updates (Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic), providing consolidated technical feedback to strengthen integrated analysis, strategic prioritization and alignment with UNSDG guidance. The PSG also delivered several capacity-development initiatives, including a Strategic Foresight Analysis training for PSG members, induction and refresher sessions for new and existing members, and dedicated foresight support to country teams, including a webinar series for the Yemen UNCT. In line with UN 2.0, the PSG strengthened the use of strategic foresight, horizon scanning, scenario analysis, systems thinking and risk-informed planning, including through support to the Iraq CCA update and foresight-based support to planning processes in Yemen. Through regular peer-learning exchanges and coordination with Issue-Based Coalitions and other regional mechanisms, the PSG promoted coherence, knowledge sharing and higher-quality Cooperation Framework processes across the Arab States region.

The Regional Operations Management Team (R-OMT) continued to strengthen inter-agency collaboration and operational coherence through sustained implementation of regional long-term agreements established in previous years. During 2025, the R-OMT reactivated its Administration Working Group, which initiated the development of a regional platform serving as a single-entry point for training opportunities offered by United Nations entities. The R-OMT also supported the Common Premises annual reporting exercise, contributing to an updated regional overview of common premises. Through the implementation of the Regional Business Operations Strategy (R-BOS), the R-OMT continued to promote the regional efficiency initiative by advancing harmonization, collaboration, and knowledge-sharing across business operations. Progress under the R-BOS remained primarily qualitative, focusing on strengthening regional coordination. In line with the reporting

guidance provided by the Task Team, reporting on R-BOS implementation remained narrative in nature, and no regional data were collected to quantify efficiencies generated through co-location or regional business operations initiatives. The R-OMT will continue to support efforts to strengthen operational collaboration and contribute to future reporting as methodologies for measuring efficiencies evolve.

Highlights of system-wide results at regional level

In 2025, the Arab States Regional Collaborative Platform convened two meetings and continued to support system-wide coherence and collective impact at regional level, assisting Resident Coordinators and United Nations Country Teams in aligning country-level action and regional trends and priorities. Through its Issue-based Coalitions, the Arab States Regional Collaborative Platform provided analytical products, policy guidance and coordination mechanisms to help translate global commitments into regionally relevant and country-responsive action.

Across transitions for SDG acceleration, the Arab States Regional Collaborative Platform sought to promote people-centred and resilience-oriented approaches, leveraging regional forums to strengthen peer learning, amplify national voices, and align regional strategies with country-level priorities.

On climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, the Arab States Regional Collaborative Platform supported consolidated analytical work linking global Conference of the Parties (CoP) decisions under the Rio Conventions to key regional climate vulnerability priorities. The resulting mapping provided Resident Coordinators and United Nations Country Teams with a technical reference to support alignment of global commitments with national frameworks, including Nationally Determined Contributions, National Adaptation Plans, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and Land Degradation Neutrality targets.

In complex settings, the Arab States Regional Collaborative Platform supported policy dialogue on resilience-based financing, innovative partnerships and durable housing solutions, providing Resident Coordinators and United Nations Country Teams with policy and programming entry points to support collaboration across humanitarian-development-peace efforts.

System-wide effectiveness was further enhanced through strengthened data and analytical capacities. [The Arab Development Portal](#) continued to serve as a shared regional data infrastructure tool, supporting evidence-based analysis, monitoring and policy dialogue. The deployment of advanced analytical tools and artificial intelligence (AI)-enabled policy support functions improved access to comparable data and knowledge products, reinforcing the United Nations system's ability to support Cooperation Frameworks and national planning processes with timely, credible evidence.

However, delivery of Issue-based Coalition work programmes in 2025 was affected by systemic challenges. Uneven inter-agency engagement linked to capacity constraints and competing institutional priorities limited sustained joint planning and follow-up. Persistent fragmentation across sectors constrained multisectoral and integrated approaches, while data gaps, particularly relating to women and young people, hindered progress tracking and monitoring. In complex settings, operational constraints slowed implementation and impacted the ability to support United Nations Country Teams. Short-term and project-based funding also limited longer-term planning and sustainability, affecting uptake and alignment of work programmes. Against the backdrop of the UN 80 initiative, funding shortfalls and regional volatility, some Issue-based Coalitions

were unable to fully deliver on priorities identified earlier in the year and adjusted their focus in response to evolving circumstances.

Transition: food systems

In 2025, the food systems Issue-based Coalition supported regional coordination, policy dialogue and analytical work to advance food systems transformation, with particular attention given to crisis-affected contexts.

The Issue-based Coalition supported the organization of a meeting with National Food Systems Convenors, providing a platform for countries to review progress on food systems pathways and strengthen alignment with climate, water and nutrition agendas. It also contributed to strengthening the regional evidence base through the joint United Nations publication *Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition 2025*, providing updated analysis on hunger, food insecurity, child malnutrition and the affordability of healthy diets, and supporting Resident Coordinators and United Nations Country Teams in aligning programming with SDG 2, particularly in complex settings.

Engagement with regional institutions was reinforced through the first meeting of the Task Force for Implementing the Arab Food Security Strategy, led by the League of Arab States, which discussed implementation priorities and mechanisms for mobilizing financial and technical resources, including the potential establishment of a regional food security observatory. The Issue-based Coalition also convened the Regional Workshop on Strategic Planning and Implementation for Food Systems Transformation and an expert group meeting on Climate and Food: Building Resilient Food Systems in Arab Least-Developed Countries, highlighting locally driven approaches to resilience-building and operationalization of collaboration across humanitarian, development and peace dimensions, and showcasing practical experiences in building resilient food systems from the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen.

Additional activities included efforts to operationalize the One Health framework in the Near East and North Africa, focusing on antimicrobial resistance, zoonotic disease prevention, food safety and early warning systems. The framework, jointly developed by FAO, UNEP, WHO and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) under the Quadripartite partnership, provides a unified approach to addressing the interconnected health of people, animals and ecosystems, and underpinned cross-agency regional capacity-building and technical guidance in this area. Issue-based Coalition members also supported United Nations Country Team efforts towards recovery and resilience in Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, including early recovery planning and strategic frameworks to strengthen food production, supply chains and value chains.

Transition: digital connectivity

In 2025, the digital connectivity Issue-based Coalition advanced implementation of the Arab Digital Agenda through analytical support, national reviews and preparatory work toward the Arab Digital Agenda 2.0, the successor agenda expected to be released by end-2026 or early 2027.

A central deliverable was support to National Digital Development Reviews. During the 2025–2026 cycle, the Issue-based Coalition supported 12 countries in initiating and conducting National Digital Development Reviews, strengthening national review processes and evidence-based digital policymaking, and informing preparations toward the Arab Digital Agenda 2.0.

The Issue-based Coalition advanced conceptual work on national and regional Digital Development Observatories and developed a technical blueprint for the data-entry module, laying foundations for future deployment. Implementation and piloting did not take place in 2025 due to funding constraints and reform-related capacity limitations.

The Issue-based Coalition also provided tailored technical support to the Governments of Sudan, Tunisia and Yemen in aligning National Digital Development Agendas with Arab Digital Agenda priorities, and initiated consultations to expand the National Digital Development Review Guiding Manual to cover emerging areas such as AI, environmental sustainability, digital postal services and outer space applications. It further integrated outcomes from the World Summit on the Information Society: 20-year review and the Global Digital Compact, preparing for regional consultations in 2026–2027.

Transition: education

In 2025, the education Issue-based Coalition advanced regional policy dialogue and technical support on youth skills development and greening education, strengthening alignment between education systems, labour market needs and sustainability priorities.

A key deliverable was the follow-up to the 2024 High-Level Meeting on Young People's Learning, Skilling and Transition to Decent Work. Through a joint session at the 2025 Arab Forum for Sustainable Development, United Nations agencies, Governments, academia, private sector partners and youth representatives reviewed progress on national commitments and discussed reforms related to multisectoral youth policies and the modernization of technical and vocational education and training. Discussions highlighted persistent skills mismatches, particularly in green and digital sectors, and underscored the importance of stronger education-industry linkages, institutionalized youth participation and targeted support for young women.

In parallel, the Issue-based Coalition strengthened policy uptake of Education for Sustainable Development through the Education for Sustainable Development Network Arab Region 2025 Regional Workshop, which endorsed governance arrangements and a 2026–2027 roadmap, and supported the launch of Arabic Greening Education Partnership tools. These efforts strengthened regional capacity to integrate sustainability across curricula, teacher training and education-sector policies. The Issue-based Coalition also provided targeted technical support to United Nations Country Team Lebanon, contributing to the launch of the National Greening Education Strategy in 2025. While regional dialogue and peer learning advanced, uneven inter-agency participation and capacity constraints limited consolidation and scaling of country-level initiatives, and the planned webinar on financing greening education was deferred.

Transition: jobs and social protection

In 2025, the jobs and social protection Issue-based Coalition advanced policy dialogue and capacity development on inclusive and shock-responsive social protection, strengthening system-wide coherence collaboration across humanitarian-development-peace efforts.

The Issue-based Coalition supported follow-up to the Arab Ministerial Forum on Social Protection Declaration, helping to translate regional commitments into concrete reform pathways at national and regional levels. The Issue-based Coalition also provided technical inputs to an expert group meeting, reinforcing evidence-based approaches to inclusive, integrated and employment-linked reforms.

A major deliverable was the advancement of the TRANSFORM-Arab initiative, an inter-agency initiative launched in 2022 to build the capacity of government officials, policymakers and civil society on social protection across the Middle East and North Africa. Two new modules, Integrated Social Protection and Shock-Responsive Social Protection, were developed, tested and initiated for rollout. Modules were strengthened through gender and disability mainstreaming reviews, improving responsiveness to marginalized groups. Through trainings, the initiative supported United Nations Country Teams and Governments, particularly in complex settings.

To strengthen collaboration across humanitarian, development and peace dimensions, Issue-based Coalition partners led a regional mapping of social protection coordination structures, providing the first consolidated regional overview of institutions, platforms and actors involved in coordination across crisis and non-crisis settings, identifying gaps between humanitarian cash assistance and national social protection systems, and good practices. Building on this analysis, partners co-organized a regional workshop on linkages between social protection, development and humanitarian response, which generated calls for more structured regional coordination mechanisms. The implementation of planned engagement on the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for a Just Transition progressed at a slower pace than initially anticipated, with continued work focused on the three MENA pilot countries – Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic and the State of Palestine.

Transition: climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution

In 2025, the climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution Issue-based Coalition delivered a consolidated analytical output to support integrated action across the Rio Conventions and respond to Resident Coordinators and United Nations Country Teams demands for practical technical guidance.

The Issue-based Coalition prepared a regional report mapping key decisions adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification between 2022 and 2025, linking them to climate vulnerability priorities in the region. The analysis synthesized outcomes related to adaptation, biodiversity, land degradation and pollution, including emerging financing mechanisms such as the Global Goal on Adaptation, the Loss and Damage Fund, the New Collective Quantified Goal and the Cali Fund. The report provided a reference to support alignment of global commitments with national frameworks, including Nationally Determined Contributions, National Adaptation Plans, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and Land Degradation Neutrality targets, and identified entry points for integrated programming.

Staffing constraints limited capacity for the broader policy dialogue, advocacy and resource mobilization originally envisaged. However, the report clarified practical approaches to operationalizing global mandates in complex settings and highlighted cross-cutting strategies such as nature-based solutions, sustainable land and water management and pollution reduction. The report also discussed barriers such as fragmented planning and limited project-preparation capacity. The output now serves as a reference for United Nations Country Teams and partners supporting Cooperation Framework's integrated delivery.

Transition: Energy access and affordability

The Issue-based Coalition on energy access and affordability had planned regional workshops with Resident Coordinators and United Nations Country Teams to share findings on critical energy transition minerals in the

Arab region, and a report on how sustainable energy transition can alleviate poverty through investment in people. However, these activities are being rescheduled due to staffing constraints.

Advancing gender equality and the care economy in the Arab region

In 2025, the gender equality Issue-based Coalition strengthened regional tools and policy dialogue on legal reform and the care economy, responding to Resident Coordinators and United Nations Country Teams demands for practical reference frameworks.

The Issue-based Coalition continued strengthening the Gender Justice and Equality Before the Law database, a nationally validated and country-owned tool assessing legal frameworks affecting women's rights. The database supports advocacy and policy dialogue by identifying discriminatory provisions and tracking reforms. Over the past three years, countries reported 103 legislative reforms, with 60 resulting in improved alignment with international standards. Structured dissemination sessions with Resident Coordinators and United Nations Country Teams are planned to begin in January 2026 to share findings and support coherent, UNCT-wide advocacy strategies at the national level.

On the care economy, the Issue-based Coalition established a dedicated workstream on transforming care systems, which saw a mapping of initiatives and good practices and contributions to Arab State inputs added to the [South-4-Care platform](#), a global initiative launched in September 2025 to advance decent work in the care economy through South-South and Triangular Cooperation. Substantive progress was also achieved toward a regional roadmap on the care economy through three regional consultations on childcare services, care for older persons and persons with disabilities, and paid leave and flexible work arrangements.

The Issue-based Coalition also continued joint advocacy to end violence against women under UNiTE, including the We Are All a Piece of the Puzzle campaign, joint advocacy through national Gender Theme Groups, and development of a call to action with the League of Arab States on ending technology-facilitated violence.

Addressing financing for development needs

In 2025, the macroeconomic growth Issue-based Coalition strengthened United Nations Country Team capacity to support financing for sustainable development through regional technical dialogue on Integrated National Financing Frameworks.

The Issue-based Coalition convened a regional capacity-building workshop for economists in Resident Coordinator Offices and United Nations Country Team, providing an overview of the Integrated National Financing Framework approach and its four building blocks, and situating the framework within global financing for development processes and commitments. Discussions addressed key public finance challenges, private finance mobilization options and evidence-based tools, including the Integrated Budget Intelligence Toolkit, SDG costing models and financing scorecards. The workshop emphasized data analytics, institutional coordination and government leadership, and concluded with an agreement to continue engagement through follow-up technical sessions to tailor support to country contexts and United Nations Country Team priorities.

Due to shifting priorities, the planned policy note and consultation on tariff shocks and outreach on Seville conference outcomes were not delivered and remain potential areas for follow-up.

Collaboration across development, humanitarian and peacebuilding dimensions

In 2025, the humanitarian-development-peace nexus Issue-based Coalition advanced regional dialogue on recovery and reconstruction by convening policy discussion on durable solutions, housing recovery and resilience-based financing.

A key deliverable was the high-level plenary session, From Temporary Shelter to Sustainable Housing Recovery: Pathways to Durable Solutions, at the Arab Ministerial Forum for Housing and Urban Development. The session brought together housing ministers and United Nations leadership to examine approaches linking humanitarian shelter responses with long-term, area-based recovery and reconstruction, drawing on experiences from Iraq, the State of Palestine, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. Discussions emphasized integrated urban planning, housing, land and property rights and community-driven approaches.

In addition, Issue-based Coalition members contributed to the Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation – United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Thought Leadership Series, convening over 70 participants from philanthropic organizations, Governments, United Nations entities, the private sector and civil society. The series examined resilience-based development, impact measurement and innovative financing, and showcased models such as multi-year core support, catalytic finance and outcome-based instruments. It generated recommendations to localize action, institutionalize impact measurement and align philanthropic innovation with national priorities.

Providing data and statistical support

In 2025, the [Arab Development Portal](#) continued to serve as a centralized and trusted platform for development data in the region. The portal supports United Nations entities and Member States by aggregating datasets and knowledge products from United Nations agencies and international and national partners, facilitating timely access to comparable data and strengthening evidence-based analysis and policymaking.

During 2025, the Arab Development Portal recorded over 59,300 users, with the highest levels of engagement from Lebanon, China, Singapore and the United States. Following data-quality and deduplication efforts, the platform hosted approximately 1.4 million publications from 26 United Nations entities and over 186,000 datasets sourced from 213 United Nations, international and national partners.

The Arab Development Portal further enhanced its decision-support function through the deployment of AI-enabled analytical tools, including interactive dashboards, analytical models and simulation-based policy modules. These were complemented by the introduction of Mustashar, a retrieval augmented generation AI assistant embedded within the platform. Trained on United Nations publications and datasets, Mustashar provides referenced, context-specific responses in line with established United Nations ethical standards, data-governance frameworks and policy guidelines, supporting more efficient use of data for policy analysis and planning.

Engagement with regional and sub-regional organizations and other regional stakeholders

In 2025, the Arab States Regional Collaborative Platform strengthened engagement with regional and sub-regional organizations and other stakeholders to support coherent implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and enhance the collective impact of United Nations action.

Collaboration with regional intergovernmental organizations, including the League of Arab States and its specialized bodies, supported policy dialogue and follow-up on regional strategies across food security, social protection, gender equality, housing and urban development, and climate resilience, reinforcing ownership and uptake by member States.

The Arab States Regional Collaborative Platform also strengthened engagement with regional financial institutions, development banks and policy networks through the work of the macroeconomic growth Issue-based Coalition. In particular, the Regional Economist Network and development of Integrated National Financing Framework tools supported dialogue with financing stakeholders on public finance management, risk management and private-sector mobilization.

Engagement with civil society, academia, youth networks, philanthropic actors and the private sector further enriched regional dialogue across multiple transitions. The education Issue-based Coalition facilitated engagement with young people, academic institutions and private sector actors through Arab Forum for Sustainable Development dialogue on learning, skilling and transition to decent work. The gender equality Issue-based Coalition strengthened partnerships through national United Nations Gender Theme Groups and collaboration with the Arab Institute for Women, and youth- and women-focused advocacy platforms. The humanitarian-development-peace nexus Issue-based Coalition engaged philanthropic actors and impact investors through the Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation-UNDP Thought Leadership Series and advanced dialogue on housing recovery linked to durable solutions. Collectively, these engagements elevated diverse perspectives and strengthened linkages between policy formulation and implementation in areas such as skills development, the care economy, climate action and collaboration across the humanitarian, development and peace dimensions.

Overall, these partnerships reinforced the Arab States Regional Collaborative Platform's convening role, supporting the translation of global commitments into actionable, regionally-grounded solutions aligned with national priorities.

Conclusion

In 2025, the Arab States Regional Collaborative Platform continued to advance inter-agency collaboration and provide support to member States, Resident Coordinators and United Nations Country Teams in a highly challenging operating environment. Despite financial constraints, reform-related transition and a volatile regional context, the platform enabled system-wide dialogue, analytical contributions and selected joint initiatives across priority transitions, contributing to strengthened collaboration across development, humanitarian and peace dimensions.

The year demonstrated the continued need for regional coordination mechanisms to promote shared understanding of evolving regional risks, facilitating peer learning and supporting alignment between global

processes and country-level priorities. Beyond convening and dialogue, several Issue-based Coalitions delivered results that translated into concrete institutional and policy change. The Gender Justice and Equality Before the Law database has now tracked 103 legislative reforms across the region, with 60 contributing to measurably improved alignment with international human rights standards. The TRANSFORM-Arab initiative moved two new social protection modules from design into active rollout, expanding the practical toolkit available to governments and United Nations Country Teams in some of the region's most complex operating environments. Direct technical support from the Education Issue-based Coalition contributed to the launch of Lebanon's National Greening Education Strategy, while the Arab Development Portal scaled significantly in reach and sophistication – now serving over 59,000 users through 1.4 million publications and 186,000 datasets, complemented by the introduction of Mustashar, an AI-enabled assistant that strengthens evidence-based policymaking across the region. These outcomes illustrate the Platform's value beyond procedural coordination: shifting national legal frameworks, equipping governments with operational tools, and strengthening the regional data architecture that underpins Cooperation Framework planning system-wide.

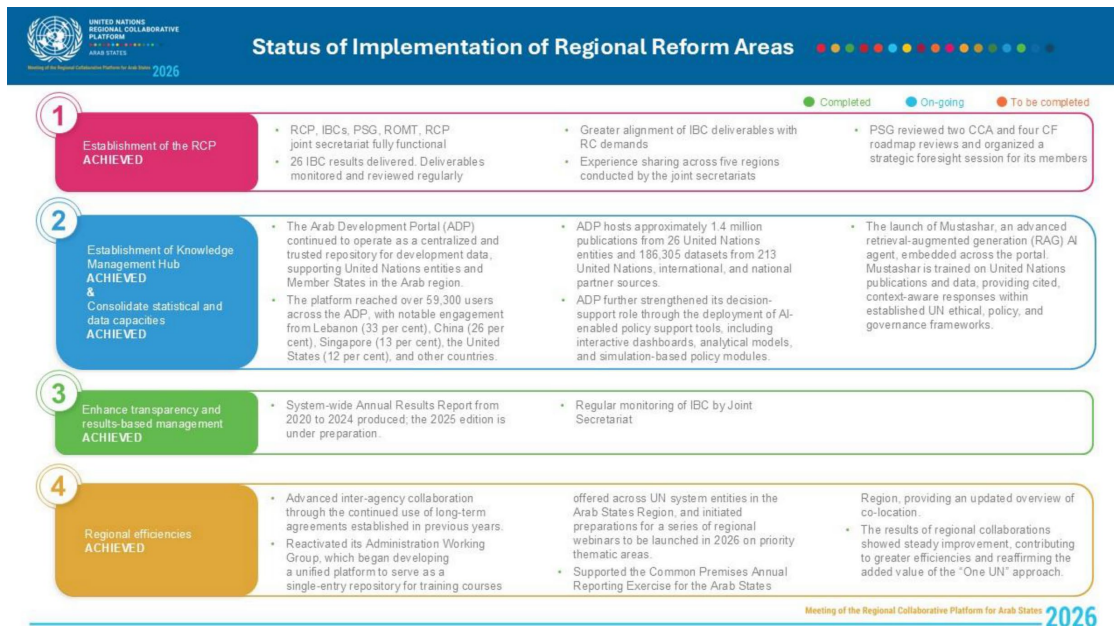
The value of practical, deliverable-focused collaboration was clearest where Issue-based Coalitions were able to produce tangible analytical outputs, convene structured dialogue and support the capacity development of United Nations Country Teams.

At the same time, implementation through Issue-based Coalitions varied. Staffing and funding constraints, shifting institutional priorities and the evolving regional context required several Issue-based Coalitions to adjust their scope, recalibrating planned outputs. These experiences highlighted the importance of maintaining flexible workplans that can adapt to changing circumstances, ensuring that deliverables remain responsive to the demand of Resident Coordinators and United Nations Country Teams, and strengthening follow-up mechanisms to translate dialogue into sustained joint action.

Looking ahead, the Arab States Regional Collaborative Platform will continue to adapt to evolving priorities. Strengthening its effectiveness will require clearer scoping of Issue-based Coalition mandates, improved alignment between planned deliverables and available resources, and continued emphasis on data-driven, results-oriented coordination. With these adjustments, the Arab States Regional Collaborative Platform can remain a valuable platform for advancing coherent United Nations support to the Arab region and accelerating progress towards the 2030 Agenda.

Annexes

Snapshot of progress made on the Secretary-General's recommendations (2 to 5)



In response to the Secretary-General's recommendation on regional rosters of expertise, the AS-RCP established [Maharat](#) in 2023. Maharat is an interactive platform mapping institutional and individual expertise across United Nations entities operating in the Arab region, organized by SDG, by thematic area (across six themes and 38 focus areas) and by agency. The platform currently profiles 237 experts across United Nations entities operating in the region, with each profile including the expert's functional title, institution, contact details, biography and photo, facilitating the identification and mobilization of relevant expertise for regional and country-level support.

The infographic illustrates the organizational structure of the Arab States Regional Collaborative Platform. At the top, the United Nations Regional Collaborative Platform for Arab States logo is displayed alongside the year 2026. The main title, "Arab States Regional Collaborative Platform," is prominently featured. Below this, the "Regional Collaborative Platform" is shown with its leadership: Chair Deputy Secretary General Amina J. Mohammed, Vice-Chair Executive Secretary Mourad Wahba, and Vice-Chair Regional Director Abdallah Dardari. A row of logos represents the platform's partners, including the Arab League, UN Women, UNICEF, UNCTAD, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNHabitat, UN Women, WHO, and others. The structure is divided into three main sections: Joint Secretariat (led by DCO), Peer Support Group (PSG), and Regional Operations Management Team (R-OMT). The Joint Secretariat includes UNDP, ESCWA, and the Shared Prosperity Digital Life initiative. The Peer Support Group (PSG) and Regional Operations Management Team (R-OMT) are also shown. At the bottom, the "Issue Based Coalition" is detailed, listing eight thematic areas: Food Systems, Energy Access and Affordability, Digital Connectivity, Education, Jobs and Social Protection, Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss, and Pollution, Macroeconomic Growth, Gender Equality, Humanitarian, Peace, and Development Nexus – Recovery and Reconstruction, and Data and AI Tools. The infographic concludes with the text "Meeting of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Arab States" and the year 2026.

Arab States Regional Collaborative Platform key results delivered in 2025

Issue-based Coalition on education

1. Hosted a special session on Supporting Young People's Learning, Skilling and Transition to Decent Work in the Arab States following the national commitments endorsed at the Second Regional High-Level Meeting 2024. [\(link\)](#)
2. Convened the Education for Sustainable Development Network Arab Region 2025 Regional Workshop Towards Mainstreaming Education for Sustainable Development in the Arab Region. [\(link\)](#)
3. Provided targeted technical assistance for the development of national greening education initiatives. [\(link\)](#)

Issue-based Coalition on food systems

4. Organized regional food systems dialogue and progress review. [\(link\)](#)
5. Launched the joint United Nations regional publication Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition 2025. [\(link\)](#)
6. Supported the operationalization of One Health and strengthened multi-sectoral collaboration in the Near East and North Africa. [\(link\)](#)
7. Organized the first meeting of the Task Force Team for Implementing the Arab Food Security Strategy.
8. Organized the regional workshop on strategic planning and implementation for food systems transformation in the Arab region. [\(link\)](#)
9. Organized the expert group meeting, Climate and Food: Building Resilient Food Systems in Arab Least-Developed Countries. [\(link\)](#)
10. Organized the UNFSS+4 Regional Preparatory Meeting: Arab Region. [\(link\)](#)

Issue-based Coalition on digital connectivity

11. Supported 12 countries in conducting National Digital Development Reviews and strengthened institutionalization of national review cycles and evidence-based policy planning.
12. Promoted the establishment of Digital Development Observatories by articulating the conceptual design and developing the technical blueprint.
13. Supported the development and alignment of National Digital Development Agendas with the Arab Digital Agenda in three countries.
14. Conducted expert consultations on the extended scope of the National Digital Development Review Guiding Manual.

Issue-based Coalition on jobs and social protection

15. Contributed to the follow-up actions of the Arab Ministerial Forum on Social Protection Declaration.
16. Provided technical input to the expert group meeting on social protection reform.

17. Advanced the TRANSFORM-Arab initiative by finalizing two new context-specific modules and supported United Nations Country Teams and government counterparts through multiple capacity-building workshops across the region.

18. Strengthened TRANSFORM modules on the Transition from Social Assistance to Social Insurance through a gender- and disability-mainstreaming review.

19. Conducted mapping and analysis of social protection coordination structures across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

20. Organized a regional workshop on linkages between social protection, development and humanitarian response.

Issue-based Coalition on climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution

21. Developed a report on mapping key decisions from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and linking them to climate vulnerability priorities.

Issue-based Coalition on gender equality

22. Established the Gender Justice and Equality Before the Law database. [\(link\)](#)

23. Conducted mapping of national, regional and global initiatives and best practices related to care systems and unpaid care work.

24. Developed a regional roadmap on the care economy and organized three regional consultations.

25. Continued legal reforms and advocacy to End Violence Against Women and aligned efforts with the Secretary-General's UNiTE Campaign to End Violence Against Women.

Issue-based Coalition on humanitarian-development-peace nexus recovery and reconstruction

26. Contributed to the Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation-UNDP Thought Leadership Series by bringing together philanthropic organizations, Governments, United Nations agencies, the private sector and civil society to collectively reimagine the role of philanthropy in resilience-based development.

27. Organized a high-level plenary session, From Temporary Shelter to Sustainable Housing Recovery: Pathways to Durable Solutions, at the Arab Ministerial Forum for Housing and Urban Development.

Issue-based Coalition on data and AI tools

28. Strengthened the Arab States Regional Collaborative Platform Data and Policy Support Hub decision-support role through the deployment of AI-enabled policy support tools, including interactive dashboards, analytical models and simulation-based policy modules.

Issue-based Coalition on macroeconomic growth

29. Organized a joint capacity-building workshop for Resident Coordinator Office and United Nations Country Team economists from Arab countries on the regional Integrated National Financing Framework tools.