Charting Iraq's Journey Toward Health-Related Sdgs: Evaluating Progress And Future Direction

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To accomplish additional health-related objectives, it is imperative to attain sustainable goals (SDG 3). A review is being conducted to monitor progress toward these goals within specific time frames by scrutinizing national data. The report considers publications from United Nations health agencies related to sustainable frameworks (UNSDCF), strategic frameworks (UNSF), country analysis and strategies (CCA, CCS) as well as country teams' submissions(UNCT). Despite facing numerous challenges and obstacles proposed in this document that focused on various healthcare areas, significant advancements were observed over a short period. Consequently, effective tools are suggested that can help overcome current/future barriers while enhancing implementation rates. The data compilation process combined statistical analyses beside review examinations methodologically enforced principles/procedures for guidance throughout all evaluation phases leading to integrity evaluation levels.

Introduction

The Eastern Mediterranean Region's Arab countries comprise Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Gulf region nations including Yemen and Somalia as well as Sudan, Tunisia Morocco, and Libya. Health-related SDGs such as 3, 5,6, and 11,16 with additional challenges including conferences of parties on climate & environment are crucial to meeting the required needs for achieving the goals set by SDG2030 [1,2].

This study conducts an examination of existing linkages between areas within each country team member whilst highlighting gaps that need addressing before comparing progress made so far against anticipated requirements required to attain SDG targets by 2030[3,4]. The findings offer valuable insight into how health interventions can be implemented by revising documents already in place while also identifying workable solutions for unaddressed topics/areas. WHO

resolution (68/263) stipulates disaggregation based upon a nation's economic status and geographical location demography which is necessary for determining various indicators timely manner when compared alongside current population paces since many targeted aims may not yet have reached certain locations aided primarily due lack access or slower rate uptake impacting achievement estimates two-fold[2,5,6]. The country-level tracking of progress towards SDG health targets has unveiled sluggish advancements according to various indicators compared to the previous report[7]. The Arab community in our EMR region continues to experience 25% poverty.

Iraq's inadequate investment in healthcare remains a significant hurdle for achieving global targets within the specified timeframe [8,9,10.] Our review study aims to assess the varying degrees of country capacity in addressing SDG3 and other health-related objectives. This is in response to repeated calls from UN agencies for a focus on each country's interests as outlined in their publications, with the ultimate goal of achieving effective performance while avoiding unnecessary waste of both human and financial resources from governments and the United Nations. specifically focusing on improving support towards tangible achievements related to health-related SDGs within EMR countries [3,11]. Enriching the body of knowledge with a contextual analysis of health-SDGs satisfaction in Arab countries is the ultimate goal for this review, outlined through specific objectives[12,13]

The review's methodology.

The study began with a desk review using the region's countries' progress reports, joint work plans, and CCA, UNCT, and UNSDCF-published reports. Data analysis of health-related priority strategies identified at a regional level was conducted to determine whether they are reflected as parts of national priorities across all countries. The data were analyzed based on populated study tools for responding to questions about team structure corresponding to joint work plan implementation structures and actions vs collaborative activities/deliverables. The review paper studied the huge factors that could lead to country-region variations and the huge challenges to achieving health-related SDGs. Mostly, all those are political, economic, emergencies, crises, and other factors in most EMR countries[12,14].

Results

Country-specific reviews revealed varying degrees of progress towards SDGs related to health: Some nations showed significant advancement while others displayed challenges in improving healthcare outcomes (e.g., Sudan). A regression in SDG achievement has impacted marginalized populations and internally displaced groups along with associated risks such as HHR restriction resulting from increased abuse against women/children; this situation also affects provision/accessibility levels within affected areas partly because reviewed documents show limited capacity among some nations aiming address goals [14,15]. In Iraq, environmental and climatic changes and challenges could lead to escalating the prevalence of communicable and non-communicable diseases; and mental health problems are included. Additionally, the health authorities in Iraq confirmed the UN Reports that Iraq is among 17 Arab countries at the line of water poverty/stress. Moreover, a total of 16 out of 17 Arab countries that are at the edge of water poverty/stress will be drought by the year 2040 [15,16,17.]

Table 1 – Arab Countries included in the review compared to the timespan and source of information[18,19,20,21,22,23,24].

	Country	Timespan	Source of information
1	Bahrain	2022 – 2023	Reports (documents), UNSDCF
2	Djibouti	2020-2023	Reports(documents)
3	Egypt	2020-2024	Reports(documents), UNSDCF
2	Iraq	2020 – 2024	UNSDCF, reports(documents)
3	KSA	2017 – 2022	CCS, UNSDCF
	Kuwait	2023-2024	Reports(documents)
4	Lebanon	2022 – 2024	UNSDCF, reports(documents)
5	Libya	2019 – 2022	Reports(documents),UNSF
6	Morocco	2019 – 2022	Documents, Health & SDG brief
7	Oman	2021 – 2022	Reports(documents)
8	Palestine	2022-2023	Reports(documents)
9	Qatar	2022-2023	Reports(documents)
10	Somalia	2020-2022	Reports(documents)
11	Sudan	2021-2023	CCA, reports(documents)
12	Syria	2020-2023	Reports(documents)
13	Tunisia	2020-2022	Reports(documents)
14	UAE	2020-2023	Reports (documents)
15	Yemen	2020-2023	Reports(documents)

Figure 1: Health-Related SDGs [11,16]

KSA and the UAE are among the few countries with shorter rows to 2030 SDGs if compared to the previous figures in that endeavor with effective implementation. [17,18]
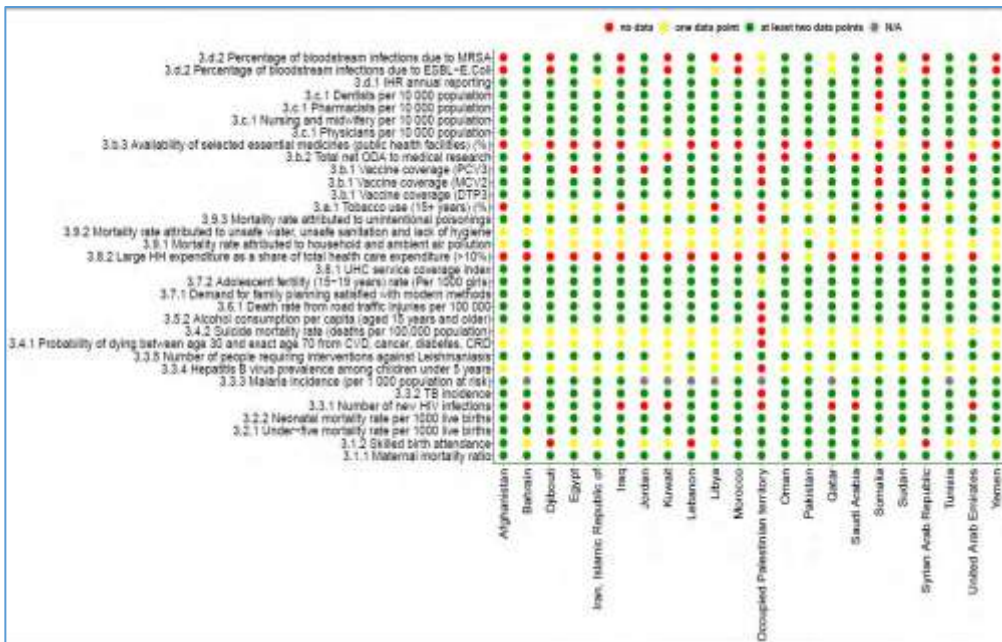

Fig. 2. Availability of data for each SDG 3 indicator: no data, one and at least two data points, 2014–2019 [17]

Conclusion

In this article, a thorough examination of the progress and challenges faced by health sectors in Arab countries was presented to determine their ability to meet SDG 2030 commitments. Despite impressive accomplishments made by many nations towards key objectives, some areas require further focus and monitoring. The author emphasized evidence-based approaches with concerted efforts to optimize goal attainment through regional collaboration. To avoid missing out on multiple critical SDGs before the deadline expires setbacks must be prevented via early identification of potential concerns related to human well-being like conflict-prone environments or gender inequalities that negatively impact population health outcomes in fragile contexts affected by violence or terrorism as well as humanitarian crises which continue due lack of data availability resulting disparities without sound strategies available for effective solutions implementation.

Ethical clearance is unnecessary.

The origin of the findings is self-collected.

There is no conflict of interest.

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