



General Assembly

Distr.: General
5 April 2019

Original: English

Seventy-fourth session

Items 137 and 138 of the preliminary list*

Proposed programme budget for 2020

Programme planning

Proposed programme budget for 2020

Part V

Regional cooperation for development

Section 22

Economic and social development in Western Asia

Programme 19

Economic and social development in Western Asia

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* [A/74/50](#).

** In keeping with paragraph 11 of resolution [72/266 A](#), the part consisting of the programme plan and programme performance information is submitted through the Committee for Programme and Coordination for the consideration of the General Assembly.

*** In keeping with paragraph 11 of resolution [72/266 A](#), the part consisting of the post and non-post resource requirements is submitted through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for the consideration of the General Assembly.





Foreword

The Arab region holds many challenges and promises. It is currently suffering from protracted conflict and occupation, and facing serious economic, social and environmental hurdles. Nevertheless, with its young and dynamic population, and its cultural and natural wealth, it is well positioned to be an agent for sustainable development and a beneficiary of efforts in that regard.

Guided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) provides support to member States using its wealth of expertise and field experience, advocating a participatory and multidisciplinary approach. ESCWA aims to assist countries in reducing inequality and increasing opportunity by upholding women's rights, empowering young people, older persons and persons with disabilities, tackling poverty, addressing migration and refugee issues, ensuring the integrated management of natural resources, achieving sustainable energy, and providing social protection for all.

Through the effective use of its convening power, ESCWA strives to promote global objectives at the regional and national levels and to voice the Arab region's needs and priorities at international forums. It offers a platform for dialogue and knowledge exchange between stakeholders, including policymakers and practitioners, to place sustainable development at the heart of national and regional strategies and plans.

As one of the region's think tanks, ESCWA undertakes research that it translates into evidence-based policy recommendations and capacity-building activities tailored to the needs of the region and member States. Through intellectual leadership, innovation and effective cooperation, ESCWA also strives to advance regional integration, while strengthening interaction with other regional development players and regional commissions.

To achieve the desired results, ESCWA strives to use its regular budget efficiently and complement it with extrabudgetary resources. It leverages existing partnerships and builds new ones to meet heightened demands that are competing for dwindling resources.

ESCWA is determined to deliver on its promise and on its mandate for the region. It will continue to work with member States to build peaceful and prosperous societies. ESCWA also looks forward to contributing to an efficient United Nations system that delivers as one so that no one is left behind.

(Signed) **Rola Dashti**
Executive Secretary, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Overall orientation

Mandates and background

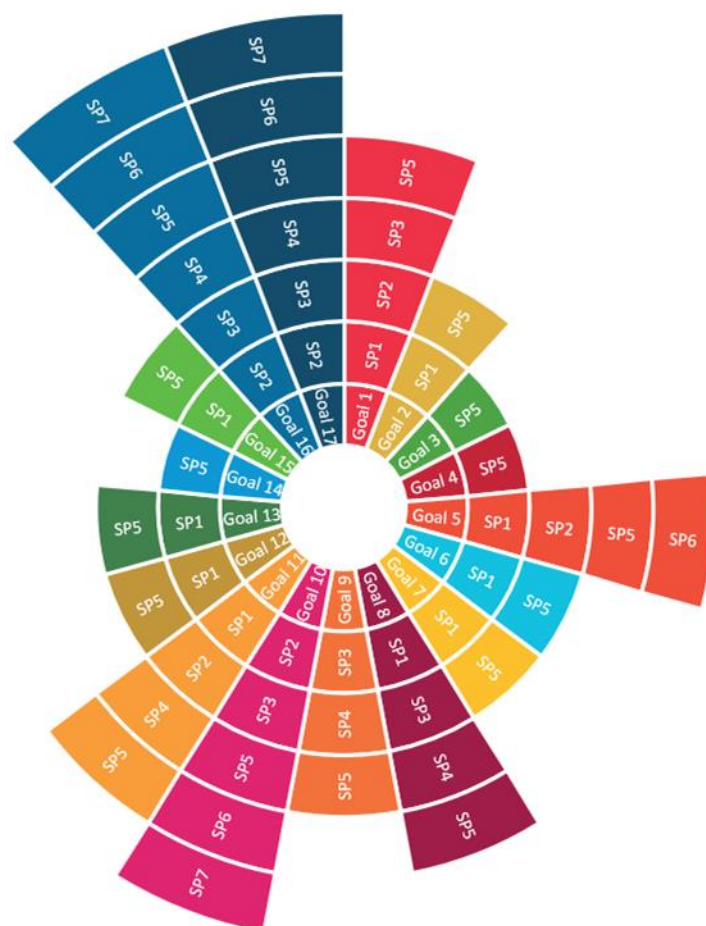
- 22.1 The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) is responsible for promoting inclusive and sustainable development in the Arab region. The mandate derives from the priorities established in relevant General Assembly resolutions and decisions, including Economic and Social Council resolutions 1818 (LV), by which the Council established the Commission, and 1985/69, amending its terms of reference, to underscore the social functions of the Commission.
- 22.2 The development landscape in the Arab region is dominated by the need to make progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, notwithstanding the prevalence of protracted and widespread political instability and violent conflict, which further exacerbate decades-old economic, social and environmental challenges and create additional barriers for a development trajectory for the region that should be inclusive, equitable, inclusive, sustainable and respectful of the needs of future generations. ESCWA support aimed at developing the capacity of Governments to formulate and implement policies for sustainable development is also provided through the implementation of the regular programme of technical cooperation and Development Account projects.

Alignment with the Charter of the United Nations, the Sustainable Development Goals and other transformative agendas

- 22.3 The mandates of ESCWA guide the subprogrammes in producing their respective deliverables, which contribute to the attainment of each subprogramme's objective. The objectives of the subprogrammes are aligned with the Organization's purpose to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion, as stipulated in Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations. In the context of the 2030 Agenda, the purposes stipulated in Article 1 of the Charter are embodied by the Sustainable Development Goals. Figure 22.I below summarizes the specific Sustainable Development Goals with which the objectives, and therefore the deliverables, of the respective subprogrammes are aligned.

Figure 22.1

Economic and social development in Western Asia: alignment of subprogrammes with Sustainable Development Goals



- 22.4 The objectives of the subprogrammes are also aligned with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Paris Agreement of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the Beijing Platform for Action and Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) on women and peace and security.

Recent developments

- 22.5 Since 2011, the Arab region has witnessed continued political instability and conflict, ranging from social unrest in a number of countries to full-fledged wars in Iraq, Libya, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. Conflict and its growing impact have dominated decision-making processes for many countries in the region for most of the past decade. This is in addition to the long-standing occupation of the Palestinian territory.
- 22.6 These challenges continue to weigh heavily on a region that suffers from a complicated set of development challenges that have been accumulating over the past few decades, including limited and poorly distributed growth; social and economic inequity and exclusion; significant climate change and environmental challenges, stressing water resources and creating food insecurity; water deprivation and declining agriculture production and productivity; very low energy efficiency, which creates yet another strain on already overstretched fiscal budgets; and an encumbered economic

situation burdened by significant structural inefficiencies, causing unemployment, in particular for young people, poverty and marginalization.

- 22.7 The end of 2018 appeared to cautiously signal a possible reversal of the downward spiral of open warfare. Major fighting was winding down in the Syrian Arab Republic, the conflict in Iraq had ended and a ceasefire was recently brokered in Hudaydah Governorate in Yemen. Progress, however, remains fragile, as evidenced by the slow pace of political reconciliation and the formation of viable institutions in some member States. The difficult processes to form governments after successful elections, as well as demonstrations driven by socioeconomic grievances, also illustrate challenges to stability in the region.
- 22.8 The deteriorating conditions for the Palestinian people and the continued occupation of the Palestinian territory remain major sources of strife and instability in the region. In addition, the continuing political challenges in and among the Gulf countries, as well as the challenges associated with social, economic and political reforms, will weigh on the stability of the region.
- 22.9 Migration is a prominent feature of the Arab region, which hosted more than 38 million migrants in 2017, representing 14.8 per cent of global migrants. Nearly 14 per cent of global remittances were sent from the Arab region in 2016, and approximately 29 million migrants from the Arab countries live or work abroad. The adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in Marrakech, Morocco, in December 2018 marks an important shift towards a rights-based approach to migration governance, which will undoubtedly have an impact on the lives of millions of migrants in the region and around the world.
- 22.10 The trends above carry important economic, social, political and environmental implications for Governments and societies of the Arab region. Governments in the Arab region need to ensure a development path in an environment characterized by increasing poverty and resource inequality, unemployment and underemployment, poor access to public services, in particular social services, the erosion of social cohesion and the low credibility of public institutions. These factors combine to create a set of conditions that pose challenges to the achievement of significant progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and raise the stakes for Governments and development actors in all areas of development.

Strategy and external factors for 2020

- 22.11 On the basis of the guiding framework of the 2030 Agenda, the proposed programme plan for the year 2020 has been designed with a view to addressing the most pressing obstacles that hinder the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab region. It places emphasis on the fundamental principles of reducing inequality among social groups and regions and of “leaving no one behind”.
- 22.12 Through its seven interdependent subprogrammes, ESCWA supports member States in collectively addressing these challenges and making progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The work of ESCWA is guided by principles that are aimed at addressing socioeconomic and environmental challenges that require multilateral, regional and international cooperation, including those related to transboundary issues.
- 22.13 The proposed programme plan is aimed at providing support to member States in building inclusive, resilient and peaceful societies that safeguard a better future for coming generations; ensuring that strong and transparent institutions provide access to basic services and infrastructure for the people of the region; creating employment opportunities through reforms and by drawing on the potential of technological advancement; mitigating the impact of climate change; striving towards social justice; engaging young people and advancing gender equality; and capitalizing on the positive effects of migration. It is intended to provide a coherent support structure to address the priorities of member States in line with the 2030 Agenda.

- 22.14 In helping to address these challenges, ESCWA will promote the regional dimension of sustainable development and assist member States in the implementation of, follow-up on and review of the 2030 Agenda and will provide regional platforms for knowledge-sharing, peer learning and capacity-building. Anticipating a change in the nature of the request of member States, from aspects of general awareness-raising and alignment to advancing the integrated approach and policy support in national priority areas, ESCWA will adapt its support to member States towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, taking into account the significant variations among Arab countries in terms of institutional and policy setups, capacity, resources and baselines.
- 22.15 The Arab region is exposed to global challenges that impede sustainable development, such as climate change, water scarcity and food insecurity. A total of 18 of 22 Arab States face water scarcity, with 13 falling below the absolute water scarcity threshold. Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen have some of the highest food insecurity rates globally, and the prevalence of undernourishment has increased owing to multidimensional factors related to conflict, high unemployment, forced migration and climate extremes. Spikes in food commodity prices disproportionately affect the poor, given that 35 to 65 per cent of their income is typically spent on food. Conflict-induced constraints to development are manifested in high fuel prices, lack of access to production resources and markets, destroyed infrastructure and loss of agricultural assets. Rural economies in which agriculture employs more than 30 per cent of the population are especially affected.
- 22.16 To address these challenges, ESCWA will enhance the capacity of member States to develop integrated policies for increased water security through improved regional cooperation and will promote sustainable agricultural practices at the farm level for increased food security and productivity that can support rural livelihoods. In tandem, ESCWA will help countries to make the transition to sustainable energy systems and pursue informed climate change action in order to enhance climate resilience, adaptation and the achievement of global goals through localized initiatives and institutional strengthening. This will assist member States in improving their energy performance, diversifying their energy mix and gaining better access to green technologies, climate finance and technical tools that support integrated approaches to achieving water, energy and food security in a changing climate.
- 22.17 The Arab region has one of the fastest-growing populations in the world, tripling to more than 400 million between 1970 and 2017 and constituting 5.5 per cent of the world's population. With 60 per cent of the population below the age of 30, the Arab region has one of the youngest populations. Moreover, demographic changes witnessed in most Arab countries, including a decrease in fertility and mortality rates and an increase in life expectancy, will result in a sharp increase in the number and proportion of older persons in the near future. The ageing population structure and ongoing conflicts in the region will probably push the disability prevalence rates in the region upwards in the coming years. These demographic transformations, coupled with ongoing conflict and instability, are affecting the fundamental pillars of society such as marriage and family, the status of women and the care of older persons, and threatening the ability of States to provide inclusive and equitable social protection for their populations.
- 22.18 In addition to these demographic trends, the people of the region experience inequality of opportunity, which affects their access to health services, quality education, social protection and good employment. For example, only one third of workers in the Arab region are covered by some form of social protection. The region also suffers from one of the highest levels of unemployment rates among young people in the world. In 2014, the unemployment rate of 29.7 per cent among young people in the Arab region was more than double the global average. Owing to election laws that, for the most part, set the minimum age of voting at 21 years and over (even 30 in some countries), young people are excluded from political participation and from having a voice in public affairs.
- 22.19 In this context, ESCWA will strengthen its support to member States to further the development of rights-based social policies and advocate the social inclusion of young people, persons with disabilities, older persons and migrants. ESCWA will also provide advice on the improvement of

existing social protection systems, sustainable urban planning and work with member States to raise awareness of the policy implications of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and build their capacities to carry out the policy reforms necessary to develop their migration governance frameworks.

- 22.20 Inequality of opportunity and, subsequently, of outcome is prevalent, in particular among women and girls in the Arab region who suffer from legal, structural and cultural discrimination affecting the enjoyment of their basic human rights and equal participation in public life. For example, unemployment among young women stood at 47 per cent and is twice that of young men. ESCWA will therefore examine women's participation in the political and economic spheres and strengthen related accountability mechanisms. It will promote women's economic participation to improve gender justice by creating a platform for knowledge exchange and transfer on barriers to economic opportunities and participation and explore means of formally recognizing women's unpaid care work. ESCWA will also facilitate the effective engagement of its member States in the women and peace and security agenda by supporting national women's machineries in developing national action plans to implement Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) and support member States in comprehensively responding to violence against women by costing its economic impact on society, the family and victims of violence.
- 22.21 Data disaggregation is fundamental to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The use of aggregate numbers risks overlooking the needs of the most vulnerable and marginalized groups that are the hardest to reach and the least likely to benefit from general development gains, thus perpetuating their exclusion and inequality. While data on demographics have improved in recent years, the relative scarcity of statistics on socioeconomic indicators continues to constitute a serious impediment to the formulation and implementation of policy interventions that address ingrained inequality and promote meaningful inclusion.
- 22.22 In 2020, ESCWA will strengthen the institutional framework for official statistics in the Arab region by building the capacities of national statistics offices not only to improve the production, dissemination and communication of national data, primarily for evidence-based policymaking, but also to enable the measurement of national and regional progress towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This will be achieved through increasing the thematic granularity of data disaggregation by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other criteria, in line with the fundamental principles of official statistics. ESCWA capacity development efforts will also result in more detailed spatial granularity that will be achieved through linking statistical and geospatial data, thus allowing analysis of disparities in small geographic areas.
- 22.23 ESCWA will pursue the implementation of the outcomes of the high-level international conference on financing sustainable development, held in Beirut on 28 and 29 November 2018, including the Beirut Consensus on Financing for Development, endorsed as a multi-stakeholder regional road map to support the Secretary-General's strategy for financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2018–2021). ESCWA will advance these outcomes by enhancing domestic resource mobilization capacities and harnessing fiscal policy equalization at the regional level to overcome financing gaps and inequalities, among other elements of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.
- 22.24 ESCWA will also elaborate on the interconnection between macroeconomic and social policies by rolling out a social expenditure monitor in the region, proposing options for Governments to fill gaps in financing sustainable development, informing multidimensional poverty eradication frameworks and providing advice on fiscal policy regimes that are aimed at expanding social welfare, while taking into account fiscal sustainability. As the growing population of young people is entering a labour market already suffering from persistently high unemployment, millions of additional jobs will need to be created to accommodate them. ESCWA will therefore provide advice to member States on regulatory frameworks to bolster private sector development and to raise the international competitiveness of the region, with the aim of creating employment opportunities. Drawing upon the Arab framework for reducing multi-dimensional poverty, approved at the Arab Economic and

Social Development Summit held in Beirut on 19 and 20 January 2019, ESCWA is supporting the League of Arab States (LAS) and member States in implementing its main action areas.

- 22.25 Building on the Beirut Consensus on Technology for Sustainable Development in the Arab Region of 2018 and the Secretary-General's strategy on new technologies, ESCWA will provide support to its member States in harnessing technology and innovation for inclusive and sustainable development. Advice on building development and transfer ecosystems for technology and innovation will underpin its work towards this goal.
- 22.26 Severe conflict and a protracted crisis in some Arab countries have brought about great human suffering and damage to infrastructure and services. Conflicts in the region have led to internal displacement affecting more than 16 million people, representing one third of the world's displaced persons, mainly in Iraq, Libya, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. Jordan and Lebanon continue to host the highest number of refugees per capita in the world.
- 22.27 In 2020, ESCWA will support the nascent emergence from conflict and cultivate a shift towards development thinking and action that abides by the core principles of the 2030 Agenda and the values enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. ESCWA will work with member States to enhance the capacity of public institutions to promote sustainable peace, pre-empt conflict and deliver public services with accountability in order to withstand the risks of conflict relapse or eruption. ESCWA will also develop the capabilities of Palestinian institutions in formulating development strategies and policies, notwithstanding the occupation.
- 22.28 In line with the multifaceted challenges facing the region, the ESCWA programme of work will increasingly focus on cross-sectoral deliverables, thereby capitalizing on its comparative advantage as the multidisciplinary United Nations institution in the region. ESCWA will also focus increasingly on its region-wide, transboundary mandate.
- 22.29 By leveraging its multidisciplinary mandate, ESCWA will use its three roles as think tank of the region, adviser to the region and voice of the region to further the knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviour of public policymakers, with the aim of triggering change in conditions, policies and organizational structures. ESCWA will provide integrated policy advice to its member States through tailor-made policy recommendations. It will also explore the role of the regional dimension of development in preventing the recurrence of conflict in order to ensure that no segment of the population is disenfranchised from economic and political progress and that social welfare for all is at the core of all government policy decisions.
- 22.30 ESCWA will seek to expand its thought leadership in the Arab region by informing its own research with the most recent findings from innovative research outlets worldwide and focusing its research deliverables on the challenges and priorities of the region. It will seek to enhance its dissemination and outreach to ensure that the knowledge that it creates is geared towards and reaches its target audience. Special interventions will be tailored to target least developed and conflict-affected countries.
- 22.31 As priorities in the region shift, ESCWA, along with partners of the United Nations development system, will support member States in navigating a path that ensures that economic growth is equitable and that its benefits are shared by all.
- 22.32 With regard to the external factors, the overall plan for 2020 is based on the following planning assumptions:
 - (a) The national development landscape is conducive for ESCWA to provide integrated policy advice, normative support and technical capacity-building on regional priorities;
 - (b) Member States continue to work together through existing platforms at the interregional and interministerial levels;
 - (c) Line ministries in member States collaborate on key strategic issues, cooperate in an institutional process and engage with other development stakeholders on key policy areas.

- 22.33 ESCWA integrates a gender perspective into its operational activities, deliverables and results, as appropriate, through the rigorous implementation of the United Nations system-wide action plan for gender equality and the empowerment of women. All deliverables of subprogramme 6 are geared towards supporting member States in achieving gender justice for all women and girls in the Arab region, and subprogramme 5 will support these efforts by enhancing the production and dissemination of sex-disaggregated data. ESCWA will ensure that all its deliverables are gender-sensitive and take into consideration the needs of both men and women. In 2020, more than 50 per cent of ESCWA deliverables will contribute significantly to reducing gender inequalities.
- 22.34 With regard to cooperation with other entities, LAS is a strategic intergovernmental partner for ESCWA in the promotion of sustainable development among member States. ESCWA enjoys close cooperation with the League on a number of issues, including trade, multidimensional poverty, migration and transport. As an example of the collaboration, ESCWA advises intergovernmental processes that convene under the auspices of the League by providing technical advice on climate change vulnerability, transboundary water resources, renewable energy options and environmental sustainability. This has resulted in joint initiatives, including the launch of a regional knowledge hub on climate change, the establishment of the Arab Climate Outlook Forum and the adoption of a harmonized monitoring framework for monitoring food security in the region.
- 22.35 ESCWA is also collaborating with LAS to facilitate the full implementation of the Pan-Arab Free Trade Area and its extension to cover the trade in goods and movement of capital. In parallel, ESCWA is working closely with LAS and its specialized technical committees on the negotiations of the Arab customs union. The collaboration is expected to be intensified in the coming years, when managing overlapping trade agreements in the region will become a real challenge for trade promotion and economic diversification. Moreover, based on the role of trade as a major driver of investment and economic growth, special attention will be given to analysing the impact of trade regimes on sustainable development, including not only export and economic growth, but also on poverty, energy and water uses and, greenhouse gases, among others. Along with LAS and the International Organization for Migration, ESCWA will co-chair the Working Group on International Migration in the Arab region and will engage with regional consultative processes, including the Arab Regional Consultative Process on Migration and Refugee Affairs and the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, to deliver on the collective commitment to improving regional cooperation on international migration.
- 22.36 The World Bank and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) are also natural partners for ESCWA. ESCWA works closely with the World Bank to harmonize price statistics for the entire region and launched a new regional initiative on multi-modal transport and a tracking framework for Sustainable Development Goal 7, with the World Bank and IDB as partners. ESCWA adapted its approach to multi-stakeholder engagement at the national and regional levels, creating unique regional platforms in which government representatives, parliamentarians, civil society and the private sector could exchange best practices and identify innovative solutions.
- 22.37 With regard to inter-agency coordination and liaison, ESCWA also cooperates closely and on a continuous basis with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) on competition and consumer protection policy, on trade in value added on and non-tariff measures; with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) on migration, population and disability; with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) on gender-related issues; with OECD, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Economic Commission for Africa on trade and general economy; with the Economic Commission for Europe on transport and road safety; with the International Telecommunication Union on information technologies; with the World Customs Organization and the International Trade Centre on rules of origins and Aid for Trade in the Arab region; with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean on equality and national planning; with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) on sustainable urban planning; with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs on conflict-related research; with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine

Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and UNFPA on refugees issues; and with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs on follow-up on the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, including regional preparations for the high-level political forum on sustainable development, among a number of ongoing regular partnerships. ESCWA also takes full advantage of the statement of collaboration between the United Nations regional commissions and the United Nations Sustainable Development Group to reinforce its work at the regional level and its coordination with United Nations country teams in the region.

- 22.38 Organized by close to 20 United Nations agencies and led by ESCWA, the annual Arab Forum for Sustainable Development has become the region's most inclusive gathering of sustainable development practitioners and advocates and has been preceded by preparatory meetings that have fostered consultation with a wider range of stakeholders. In 2020, ESCWA will create further opportunities for partnership and engagement with civil society and the private sector in order to bridge the knowledge implementation gap and help member States to gain access to innovation and financing.
- 22.39 In 2018, ESCWA proposed setting up a group on financing for development during the annual meeting of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Arab States. On a bilateral level, ESCWA designed and implemented concrete action plans for joint activities with the United Nations Development Programme and UNFPA. In 2020, ESCWA will hold joint meetings of the Mechanism and the regional office and continue to take the lead on key thematic issues through the relevant regional working groups.

Evaluation activities

- 22.40 The following evaluations and self-evaluations completed in 2018 have guided the programme plan for 2020:
- (a) Joint Inspection Unit review on strengthening policy research uptake in service of the 2030 Agenda (A.435);
 - (b) Self-evaluation of subprogramme 1, Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development, and subprogramme 3, Economic development and integration, completed in 2018.
- 22.41 The findings of the self-evaluation referenced in paragraph 22.39 (b) above have been taken into account for the programme plan for 2020 under subprogramme 1. The subprogramme will develop a theory of change to operationalize its long-term vision, strengthen its results-based monitoring system, undertake more frequent national and subregional consultations in the identification of its main focus areas and mainstream gender and human rights more systematically across its interventions.
- 22.42 The findings of the self-evaluation referenced in paragraph 22.39 (b) above have also been taken into account for the programme plan for 2020 under subprogramme 3. The subprogramme will develop a vision for long-term impact; design and implement a holistic engagement and advocacy strategy, with the aim of enhancing its ability to influence policy dialogues in the region; establish a results-based monitoring system to better assess its contributions to policy change; and mainstream gender across its knowledge products and projects.
- 22.43 A self-evaluation of subprogramme 4 is planned for 2020.

A. Proposed programme plan for 2020 and programme performance for 2018

Programme of work



Subprogramme 1

Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development

1. Objective

- 22.44 The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to achieve water, energy and food security and informed climate change action.

2. Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals

- 22.45 The objective is aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere); Goal 2 (End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture); Goal 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls); Goal 6 (Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all); Goal 7 (Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all); Goal 8 (Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all); Goal 11 (Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable); Goal 12 (Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns); Goal 13 (Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts); and Goal 15 (Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss).

3. Highlighted result in 2018

Institutionalizing climate change action in the Arab region

Arab States collectively first expressed their commitment, in 2007, to addressing climate change challenges when the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment adopted the Arab Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change.

With ESCWA support, Arab countries subsequently endorsed the Regional Initiative for the Assessment of Climate Change on Water Resources and Socioeconomic Vulnerability in the Arab Region, which has since built the capacity of Arab States to assess the impact of climate change on the socioeconomic vulnerability of people and water-dependent sectors, including agriculture, ecosystems and cities. This led to the issuance of the first *Arab Climate Change Assessment Report*, in 2017, under the auspices of the Arab Ministerial Water Council.

In tandem, since 2014, the subprogramme has been building the capacity of Arab countries in climate change negotiations by convening two main capacity-building events annually, in which young officials learn from seasoned climate negotiators and scientific findings are used to inform policy priorities and preparedness for climate financing. Workshop participants from Iraq and the Sudan have attributed to this training their ability to access climate financing from the Green Climate Fund and the Adaptation Fund.

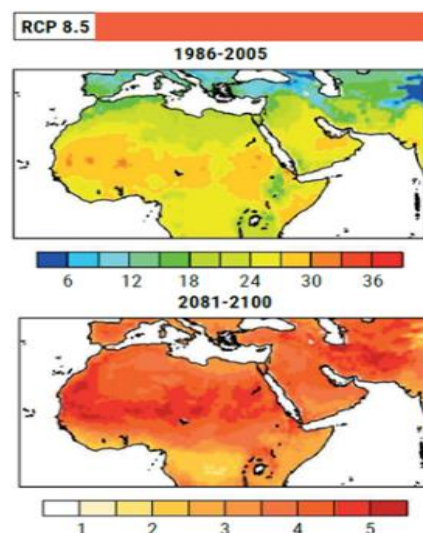
In 2018, in response to formal requests and resolutions of Arab countries adopted in Cairo in January 2018 and in Kuwait City in May 2018, the subprogramme further built the capacities of Arab States by providing training and technical assistance through workshops conducted for Egyptian water officials (Cairo, 11 to 15 March 2018), Kuwaiti policymakers (Kuwait City, April 2018), Lebanese agricultural officials (Beirut, 26 to 30 November 2018) and Iraqi officials (Beirut, 18 to 21 December 2018) on the use of Regional Initiative tools and outputs to conduct assessments of flash floods, agricultural productivity and disaster risks. The subprogramme also supported the Arab Climate Outlook Forum in issuing its second and third seasonal forecast in February and November 2018, respectively. In addition, it assisted five ESCWA member States in preparing 12 renewable energy investment projects for funding.

Result and evidence

The deliverables contributed to the result, which is the collective expression of the commitment of Arab States to addressing climate change challenges.

Evidence of the result includes the establishment of an Arab centre for climate change policies through a resolution endorsed by the ESCWA Ministerial Council (resolution 329 (XXX)), which underscores the collective commitment of member States to strengthening their capacity for climate action and recognizes the important role that ESCWA plays in supporting these efforts. Fourteen activities have been implemented under the auspices of the centre since its establishment in June 2018.

The result demonstrates progress made in 2018 towards the collective attainment of the objective.



Increase in mean temperatures by end of century (2081–2100) relative to reference period (1986–2005) for the Middle East and North Africa region.
Source: Regional Initiative for the Assessment of Climate Change on Water Resources and Socioeconomic Vulnerability in the Arab Region

- 22.46 A planned result for 2018, which is increased engagement by member States in regional and subregional processes in support of agreements, strategies and standards related to water, energy, food and the environment, as referred to in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, was achieved, as evidenced by the increased number (from 20 to 23) of joint initiatives and intergovernmental resolutions adopted to enhance regional cooperation on the sustainability of natural resources. This was demonstrated by the official adoption of three outcome documents on

water, energy and environment-related issues prepared through regional consultative and intergovernmental processes that established regional positions and priorities with respect to Sustainable Development Goals 6, 7, 11, 12 and 15. These outcome statements were endorsed by the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development and Arab Ministerial Councils.

4. Highlighted planned result for 2020

Energy efficiency in the building sector

Energy consumption in the Arab region has more than doubled since 1990. The region, however, is the only one in the world that has had no reduction in its energy intensity over the past 25 years. The building sector has accounted for more than 60 per cent of total annual electricity consumption, of which the domestic sector represents some 70 per cent. A recent study estimated the potential savings from energy efficiency in the region, by 2025, at 21 per cent of its projected total primary energy supply. Approximately 30 per cent of these savings can be achieved in the building sector.

In 2018, the subprogramme reviewed the status of the building sector's energy use in the region and provided recommendations on means to improve its energy sustainability. It was shown that the most significant savings in energy consumption could be achieved through the implementation of a sustained retrofit programme in the existing building stock to improve energy performance.

Challenge and response

In implementing the considered energy efficiency programmes in most Arab countries, the challenge is to support policy responses to low energy prices, the lack of readily available financing mechanisms, lax enforcement procedures and a shortage of skilled specialists. One effective way that the subprogramme is pursuing to meet these challenges is by setting up programmes and policies to implement, on a large scale, immediate, simple and proven energy efficiency actions with member States that can be applied to very large segments of the building stock and households.

In response, for 2020, the subprogramme will build capacity in and advise countries on setting up frameworks that can easily and rapidly be implemented to conduct national programmes that would make widespread proven energy efficiency measures in the building sector. The developed schemes would be based on a comprehensive approach addressing technical, financial and logistical aspects. Three member States from each ESCWA subregion will be targeted in a first phase using mapping studies prepared in 2019.

Result and evidence

The planned deliverables are expected to contribute to the result, which is a substantial improvement in energy efficiency in at least two Arab countries through upscaling energy efficiency programmes in the existing building stock.

Evidence of the result, if achieved, will include the design and development of one large-scale implementation scheme at the national level by at least two Arab countries, based on innovative financial instruments for improving the thermal quality and/or the replacement of old low-efficiency equipment/appliances by higher energy efficiency ones in large segments of the existing building stock, involving private and public resources. The upscaling of energy efficiency programmes in the existing building stock in the selected ESCWA member States could result in energy savings of some 9 per cent, as shown in the figure.

The result, if achieved, will demonstrate progress made in 2020 towards the collective attainment of the objective.

Performance measures

2018	2019	2020
Development by member countries of appropriate energy efficiency strategies and policies for the existing building stock in the residential and services sectors	Endorsement by 1 member country of the minimum energy performance standards for energy-intensive household appliances and equipment	Development by at least 2 member countries of a scheme offering end users access to incentives, financing instruments and implementation assistance for thermal retrofitting of the building envelope and/or adoption of more energy-efficient equipment/appliances

- 22.47 The following General Assembly resolution comprises the main mandates entrusted to the subprogramme: [69/225](#) on the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy. The following new mandates were entrusted to the subprogramme in 2018: Assembly resolution [72/238](#) on agricultural development, food security and nutrition and ESCWA resolution 329 (XXX) on the establishment of the Arab centre for climate change policies in the Arab region. The subprogramme will continue to be guided by all mandates entrusted to it, which provide the legislative framework for its deliverables.

5. Deliverables for the period 2018–2020

- 22.48 Table 22.1 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2018–2020 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 22.1

Subprogramme 1: deliverables for the period 2018–2020, by category and subcategory

	2018 planned	2018 actual	2019 planned	2020 planned
Quantified deliverables				
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	3	3	6	–
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	70	64	66	58
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	–	7	–	4
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	2	–	–	4
Publications (number of publications)	2	2	3	2
Technical materials (number of materials)	5	3	7	4
Non-quantified deliverables				
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy				
Databases and substantive digital materials				
D. Communication deliverables				
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials				

6. Most significant relative variances in deliverables

Variances between the actual and planned figures in 2018

- 22.49 The variance in field and technical cooperation projects was driven by the fact that (extrabudgetary) field projects were not reported upon, as a matter of policy, in the 2018 submission and because the fascicle was drafted in 2016, while some of the projects were not yet extended.
- 22.50 The variance in seminars, workshops and training events was driven by postponing one event planned for 2018 to 2019.
- 22.51 The variance in technical materials was driven mainly by a delay in the editing and publishing of two reports on issues related to the management of natural resources for sustainable development and on food security, owing to the volume of work resulting from intergovernmental meetings at the end of 2018.

Variances between the planned figures for 2020 and 2019

- 22.52 The variance in parliamentary documentation is driven by the submission of reports to the Committee on Energy and Committee on Water Resources in 2019, owing to the two-year cycle of these intergovernmental committee meetings.
- 22.53 The variance in field and technical cooperation projects is driven mainly by planning new projects in 2020, compared with none planned to start in 2019, owing to securing resources for two new projects and two extended ones.
- 22.54 The variance in seminars, workshops and training events is driven by two seminars planned in 2020, owing to the findings and recommendations of normative work undertaken on financing clean energy projects and the management of natural resources for climate action.



Subprogramme 2 Social development

1. Objective

- 22.55 The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to achieve equitable, inclusive and participatory social development in the Arab region and to ensure implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda by member States.

2. Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals

- 22.56 The objective is aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere); Goal 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls); Goal 10 (Reduce inequality within and among countries); Goal 11 (Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable); Goal 16 (Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels); and Goal 17 (Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership For Sustainable Development).

3. Highlighted result in 2018

Social inclusion of persons with disabilities in the Arab region

The complex and protracted development challenges of the Arab region, such as limited social services, underemployment, armed conflict and environmental degradation, are compounded for persons with disabilities. Combined with existing stigma, this reinforces their vulnerability and marginalization in such key areas as education. Girls and women with disabilities, especially in rural areas, are particularly affected. The analyses of the subprogramme show that, throughout the region, literacy rates of women with disabilities in rural areas are between 13 and 60 per cent lower than those of rural women without disabilities and between 44 and 69 per cent lower than those of urban women without disabilities. Disadvantages in other areas such as school attendance and economic participation show similar patterns. Where social protection is available for persons with disabilities, it tends not to conform with a range of principles enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, such as individual autonomy and participation in society.



Children playing together. Source: Gisela Nau

Arab States are highly committed to increasing the inclusion of persons with disabilities in social life. It takes time, however, for these commitments to translate into improvements on the ground owing to the extent of marginalization and the complex nature of disability. The subprogramme's analyses and ongoing technical assistance have prompted member States to request the subprogramme to form and lead the first regional Intersessional Group of Experts on Disability to further strengthen intergovernmental cooperation, peer learning and capacity-building. Since 2016, the Group of Experts has been supporting member States in improving the

implementation and monitoring of the Convention through collecting data and disaggregated statistics on disability and adjusting the national disability assessment and determination processes to conform to the Convention and international classification standards.

Over the past three years, under the subprogramme's guidance, knowledge-sharing and experience-sharing among Arab countries in the Group of Experts led to tangible policy change. Regional leadership by ESCWA on disability-inclusive development has helped member country representatives in the Group of Experts to attach greater priority to the inclusion of persons with disabilities in their policies and programmes. Through the Group of Experts, ESCWA has created a pool of regional expert practitioners on disability policy who ensure knowledge transfer and the exchange of good practices among member countries, either collectively through the Group of Experts or bilaterally. In September 2018, for example, ESCWA facilitated a South-South cooperation mission between Iraq and Jordan that provided advice and support regarding the comprehensive revisions of the former's disability law and the reformulation of the role of its Disability Commission to be a central policy adviser, coordinator and monitor of the Convention.

Result and evidence

The deliverables contributed to the result, which is the increased social inclusion of persons with disabilities.

Evidence of the result includes the issuance or implementation in 2018 of new disability-inclusive laws promoting the inclusion of persons with disabilities by three member States that participate in the Group of Experts (Egypt, Jordan and the Sudan). If fully implemented, these laws can help persons with disabilities to obtain greater independence through access to education, economic opportunities and social services. In addition, the Disability Council in Iraq requested ESCWA to assist in the process of updating its law, reformulating the role of the Council to be in line with international standards outlined in the Convention and drafting a national policy on disability.

The result demonstrates progress made in 2018 towards the collective attainment of the objective.

- 22.57 A planned result for 2018, which is increased emphasis by member States on a social justice approach to development planning based on equality, equity and participation, as referred to in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, was achieved, as evidenced by an increased number of member States engaged in multi-stakeholder consultations on key national and regional social development priorities facilitated by ESCWA, from 16 in 2016–2017 (baseline) to 18 in 2018 (against a target of 17). For example, the Sudan and Tunisia initiated discussions in 2018 within their different governmental entities and requested ESCWA assistance in upgrading their knowledge and skills in the analysis and measurement of socioeconomic inequalities. In addition, Iraq, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia were engaged in multi-stakeholder consultations focusing on participation and partnerships for democratic governance. Capacity-building material produced by the subprogramme on multi-stakeholder participation became part of the national curricula for engaging with civil society working on issues relating to young people in Jordan and Tunisia, hence meeting the expected accomplishment.

4. Highlighted planned result for 2020

Towards policies and actions that protect the rights of migrants and improve their lives

In 2018, the subprogramme's work contributed to a marked increase in the adoption of policies by ESCWA member States that are rights-based and inclusive of the most vulnerable in areas such as disability, the participation of young people, social protection, the rights of older persons and international migration. All these are issues in which the subprogramme has been building knowledge and providing technical and capacity-building support at the regional and national levels.

In the area of international migration in particular, the subprogramme succeeded in facilitating regional consultations and consensus-building in preparation for the negotiations and adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Rooted in the 2030 Agenda, the Global Compact is a United Nations global

agreement for a rights-based development approach to international migration governance. The subprogramme will assist its member States as they translate the principles and objectives of the Global Compact into policies and concrete measures that improve the lives of migrants and contribute to the development of their countries of origin and host communities.

Challenge and response

The challenge is, after the adoption of the Global Compact, to support member States in translating these principles and objectives, given the continued fragmented nature of policies, measures and actions related to migration, the lack of coordination among institutions and the level of implementation of existing policy.

In response, for 2020, to address this challenge and using the Global Compact's principles and objectives as a guiding framework, the subprogramme will support this shift from commitments towards evidence-based policymaking and will provide the knowledge base and technical assistance to Governments to formulate policies linking the Global Compact framework to sectoral and intersectoral interventions at the national and regional levels. The subprogramme will also build on strategic partnerships and tools to guide the efforts of Government as they introduce new policies, reformulate existing ones and implement actions aimed at guaranteeing migrants' equitable access to social services and their inclusion in their host societies. Regional dialogue platforms will serve to enhance intraregional cooperation by addressing shared concerns on issues such as mobility, remittance costs, recruitment fees and the transportability of benefits. ESCWA will lead the organization of those regional platforms, in addition to producing leading knowledge products, both in close collaboration with regional partners.

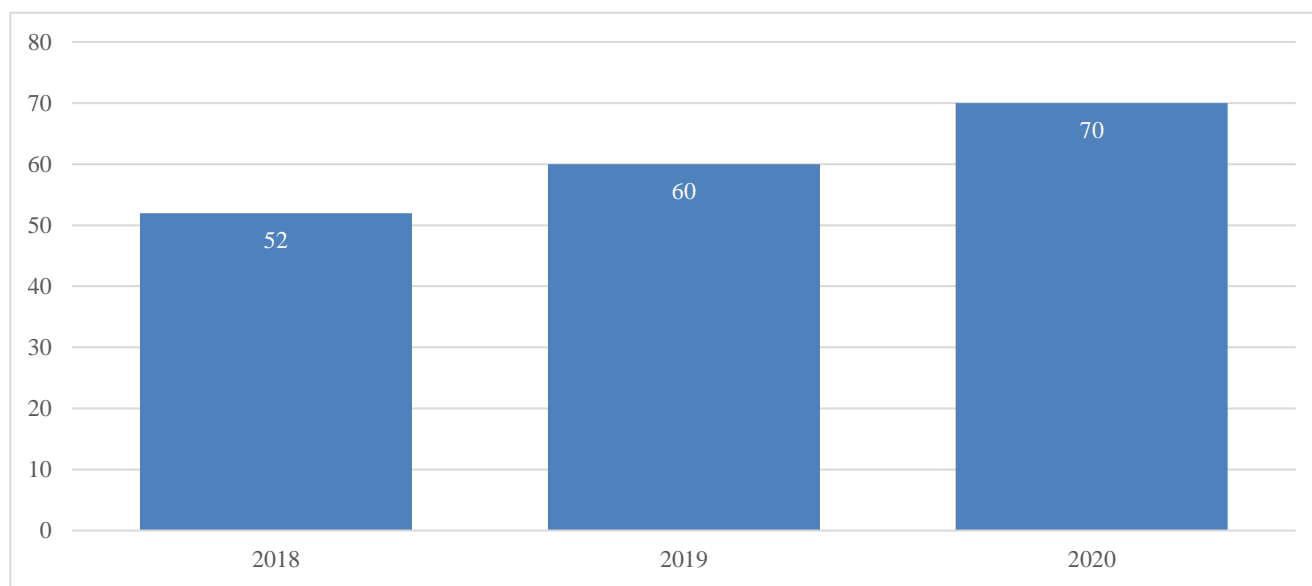
Result and evidence

The planned deliverables are expected to contribute to the result, which is the full alignment of policies, programmes and actions with the Global Compact.

Evidence of the result, if achieved, will include an increasing number of national policies, programmes and actions enacted by ESCWA member States that are fully in line with the principles and objectives of the Global Compact, as shown in the figure, including the fulfilment of the basic needs and human rights of migrants in Arab countries.

The result, if achieved, will demonstrate progress made in 2020 towards the collective attainment of the objective.

Performance measures: number of policies, programmes and actions enacted that are fully aligned with the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration



- 22.58 The subprogramme will continue to be guided by all mandates entrusted to it, which provide the legislative framework for its deliverables.

5. Deliverables for the period 2018–2020

- 22.59 Table 22.2 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2018–2020 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 22.2

Subprogramme 2: deliverables for the period 2018–2020, by category and subcategory

	2018 planned	2018 actual	2019 planned	2020 planned
Quantified deliverables				
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	–	1	3	1
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	33	33	45	44
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	2	2	–	–
Publications (number of publications)		1	5	1
Technical materials (number of materials)	5	3	17	8
Non-quantified deliverables				
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy				

6. Most significant relative variances in deliverables

Variances between the actual and planned figures in 2018

- 22.60 The variance in parliamentary documentation was driven by the report on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, owing to the two-year cycle on which intergovernmental committee meetings are held.
- 22.61 The variance in publications was driven by a publication on disability, owing to a specific request for a new publication that accompanied additional programme budget implication resources.
- 22.62 The variance in technical materials was driven mainly by the technical papers on social development and reports on disability, owing to the two-year cycle in producing technical documentation related to the research and production of new material for a biennium plan.

Variances between the planned figures for 2020 and 2019

- 22.63 The variance in parliamentary documentation is driven by a reduction in the number of reports for ESCWA, owing to the two-year cycle on which intergovernmental committee meetings are held.
- 22.64 The variance in publications is driven mainly by a reduction in the number of documents issued, owing to the two-year cycle in producing technical documentation related to the research and production of new material for a biennium plan.
- 22.65 The variance in technical materials is driven mainly by a reduction in their production, owing to the two-year cycle in producing technical documentation related to the research and production of new material for the biennium plan.



Subprogramme 3 Economic development and integration

1. Objective

- 22.66 The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to achieve a basic standard of living for all people in the region through sustained and integrated economic development.

2. Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals

- 22.67 The objective is aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere); Goal 8 (Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all); Goal 9 (Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation); Goal 10 (Reduce inequality within and among countries); Goal 16 (Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels); and Goal 17 (Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership For Sustainable Development).

3. Highlighted result in 2018

Multidimensional poverty: moving towards policies that improved the lives of the destitute

Poverty is prevalent in the region. Official statistics estimate that no more than 7 per cent of the population in the Arab region live below the international money-metric poverty line of \$1.90 per day. Focusing solely on money-metric poverty lines, however, bears the risk of underestimating the number of people living in poverty. This, in turn, may lead to policies that insufficiently address this important challenge, which is at the heart of the 2030 Agenda and a major concern for most Arab policymakers.

With the objective of helping member States to address the challenge more comprehensively and in line with the 2030 Agenda principles of equity and of leaving no one behind, in 2015, the subprogramme began to promote a multidimensional measure of poverty. In collaboration with several partners, including LAS, the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative and UNICEF, the subprogramme developed a multidimensional poverty index adapted to the Arab region and produced the first *Arab Multidimensional Poverty Report*, in 2017, which was launched during a side event of the General Assembly.

The outcomes of the report and index were discussed with and exposed to more than 250 national officials and regional and global experts, which increased the interest of several member States in exploring the impact of multidimensional poverty analysis on their



The Arab Multidimensional Poverty Report (2017).
Source: ESCWA

policymaking. The report was considered by the Chair of the Council of Arab Ministers for Social Affairs to be a turning point for regional thinking and policy action on multidimensional poverty.

In 2018, and building on its work in previous years, the subprogramme built the capacities of approximately 50 officials from member States on multidimensional poverty, aimed at promoting evidenced-based regional and national strategies, policies and programmes to address poverty. In 2018, the subprogramme also contributed a regional analysis and strategic framework for poverty reduction to the Arab poverty reduction strategy prepared by LAS, in collaboration with United Nations agencies. The subprogramme also produced and disseminated in-depth multidimensional country profiles for 10 Arab countries, highlighting subnational disparities that require targeted and specific policies.

Result and evidence

The deliverables contributed to the result, which is an increased commitment to addressing poverty from a multidimensional perspective.

Evidence of the result includes the adoption of a strategic framework for an Arab poverty reduction strategy by Arab ministers of social affairs in the December 2018 session of the Council of Arab Ministers for Social Affairs. The Council was to submit the strategic framework for approval to the Arab Economic and Social Development Summit in January 2019. Subsequently, other demands were received from seven member countries in 2018 for ESCWA to support the implementation of the national multidimensional poverty strategies.

The result demonstrates progress made in 2018 towards the collective attainment of the objective.

- 22.68 A planned result for 2018, which is more effective responses by member States to reduce poverty by adopting and implementing multidimensional poverty approaches, as referred to in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, was achieved, as evidenced by the increased number of member States (from 0 to 22, thus exceeding the target) that agree on a regional action plan addressing multidimensional poverty. As described above, the Arab member States adopted the new methodology unanimously. In addition, it is evidenced by the demonstrated will to build capacity and acquire relevant skills in order to develop nationally tailored multidimensional poverty tools, also as described above.

4. Highlighted planned result for 2020

Financing the Sustainable Development Goals through fiscal consolidation and domestic resource mobilization

In 2016, ESCWA estimated the cost of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab region at \$3.6 trillion. At that time, that figure did not account for the direct and indirect leakages associated in part with financial flows, trade-based money transactions and other prioritization expenditure. In 2018, those leakages were found to constitute a lost opportunity to finance the Goals, requiring \$2.7 trillion in additional financing to achieve them. Fiscal space remains a constraint that poses many challenges for Arab States that need to invest significant efforts to consolidate government finances, rationalize subsidy schemes and enhance revenue collection. The rising debt, on the one hand, and suboptimal tax revenue associated with tax evasion and avoidance, on the other, translate into high fiscal deficits for the Arab region (approximately 7 per cent in 2018). Supporting member States in enhancing domestic resource mobilization capacities, as envisaged in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, has been a predominant focus for the subprogramme.

In 2018, the subprogramme undertook the first comprehensive mapping of the state of financing development in the Arab region and identified the priority tax reforms necessary to curb illicit financial flows. It also organized the first conference on financing for development, in November 2018. In tandem, the subprogramme undertook an analysis of the fiscal policies in the region and underscored that fiscal policy choices needed to consider setting fiscal rules to sustain adequate social expenditure to accelerate progress on the Goals and to achieve fiscal sustainability. Following the release of those analyses, the subprogramme received requests for technical assistance

from several member States. A national workshop was organized for Bahrain on financing for development to protect its tax base from erosion due to tax evasion and avoidance. Bahrain was subsequently lifted from the list of non-cooperative tax jurisdictions. Furthermore, Jordan, Kuwait and Tunisia requested assistance for developing a social expenditure monitor and support for the reform of macrofiscal policies. The subprogramme also supported Tunisia in redesigning its personal income tax system to ensure higher revenue, while reducing after-tax inequality, as measured by the Gini coefficient, and developed and trained government officials on the use of an economic model to advance the reform of the pension system.

Challenge and response

At a time when citizens of the region appear to demand a new social contract rooted in equity and justice, while public budgets are under pressure owing to high levels of debt stocks and service, the challenge is to support member States in ensuring that domestic resource mobilization reforms and expenditure management effectively channelled public expenditure to social development priorities, while maintaining fiscal and debt sustainability.

In response, for 2020, the subprogramme will follow up on the regional road maps to achieve the 2030 Agenda, guided by the work priorities set out in the Beirut Consensus on Financing for Development, a multi-stakeholder Arab position on financing for development adopted at the first Conference on Financing Sustainable Development, organized by ESCWA in 2018. The subprogramme will assess the tax structures of member States and recommend the reforms needed to enhance domestic resource mobilization, taking into account advancing equity and progressivity in taxation. In addition, the subprogramme will develop a social expenditure monitor framework in Jordan, Kuwait and Tunisia, with the aim of improving the allocative efficiency of social expenditure, taking into account fiscal sustainability constraints. Support for the Government of Tunisia will also include the redesign of its subsidy programme through developing analytical macroeconomic policy simulation tools that assist in implementing reforms to make public transfer programmes more efficient by using better targeting principles.

Result and evidence

The planned deliverables are expected to contribute to the result, which is the achievement of fiscal consolidation and the enhancement of domestic resource mobilization capacities, with a view to financing the 2030 Agenda. This includes the formulation of socially acceptable reform proposals focused on decreasing fiscal deficits and an increased understanding of the linkages among fiscal policy choices, progress on the Sustainable Development Goals and fiscal sustainability.

Evidence of the result, if achieved, will include the inclusion of a subsidy reform proposal in the financial law submitted by the Government of Tunisia to the parliament for approval, as shown in the figure, and the articulation of a regional road map to combat illicit financial flows.

The result, if achieved, will demonstrate progress made in 2020 towards the collective attainment of the objective.

Performance measures

2018	2019	2020
Request by member States, including Tunisia, to support fiscal policy reform	Development of socially acceptable fiscal policy reform proposals and corresponding economic models	Inclusion of a subsidy reform proposal in the financial law submitted by Governments to parliament for approval

- 22.69 The following General Assembly resolutions comprise the main mandates entrusted to the subprogramme; [72/202](#) on international trade and development, [72/203](#) on the international financial system and development, [72/204](#) on external debt sustainability and development, [72/206](#) on financial inclusion for sustainable development, [72/208](#) on the follow-up to and implementation of

the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development, [72/230](#) on development cooperation with middle-income countries and [72/271](#) on improving global road safety. The following new mandate was entrusted to the subprogramme in 2018: ESCWA resolution 332 (XXX) on developing the work of the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development in the Countries of the UN-ESCWA Region. The subprogramme will continue to be guided by all mandates entrusted to it, which provide the legislative framework for its deliverables.

5. Deliverables for the period 2018–2020

- 22.70 Table 22.3 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2018–2020 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 22.3

Subprogramme 3: deliverables for the period 2018–2020, by category and subcategory

	<i>2018 planned</i>	<i>2018 actual</i>	<i>2019 planned</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>
Quantified deliverables				
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	5	5	11	4
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	12	12	42	20
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	1	1	1	1
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	1	2	–	–
Publications (number of publications)	1	2	4	2
Technical materials (number of materials)	15	15	27	29
Non-quantified deliverables				
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy				
D. Communication deliverables				
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials				

6. Most significant relative variances in deliverables

Variances between the actual and planned figures in 2018

- 22.71 The variance in seminars, workshops and training events was driven by an additional academic seminar on the Lebanese Financial Stress Index, owing to the dissemination strategy of subprogramme 3.
- 22.72 The variance in publications was driven by an additional publication on the Syrian Arab Republic, owing to the continuation of previous partnerships with the National Agenda for the Future of Syria and the University of St. Andrews.

Variances between the planned figures for 2020 and 2019

- 22.73 The variance in parliamentary documentation is driven mainly by a reduction in the number of documents to committees and commissions, owing to the two-year cycle on which intergovernmental committee meetings are held.

- 22.74 The variance in substantive services for meetings is driven mainly by a reduction in the number of meetings of the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development in the Countries of the UN-ESCWA Region (focus on trade and focus on finance), owing to the two-year cycle on which intergovernmental committee meetings are held.
- 22.75 The variance in publications is driven by a survey of economic and social development in the Arab region and a report on Arab multidimensional poverty, owing to the two-year cycle on which recurrent and non-recurrent publications rotate.



Subprogramme 4 Technology for development and regional integration

1. Objective

- 22.76 The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to expedite the implementation of the 2030 Agenda 2030 and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab region using technology and innovation.

2. Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals

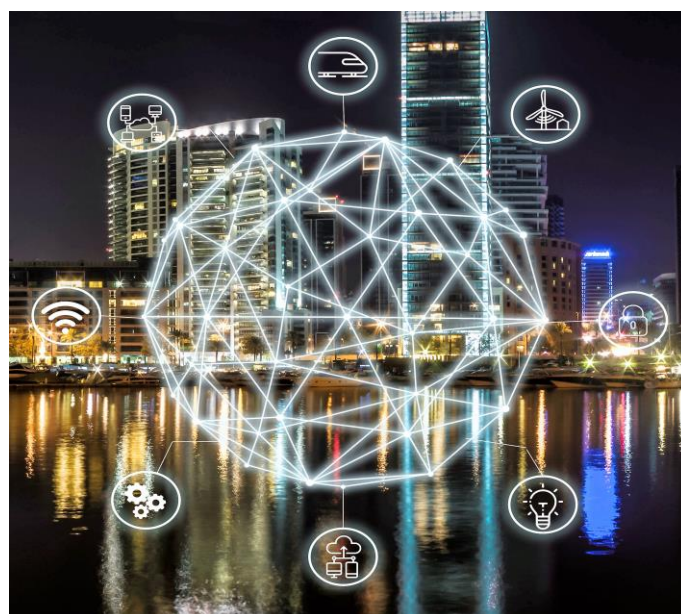
- 22.77 The objective is aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 8 (Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all); Goal 9 (Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation); Goal 11 (Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable); Goal 16 (Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels); and Goal 17 (Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership For Sustainable Development).

3. Highlighted result in 2018

Technology as an accelerator for development

The need to address the digital and knowledge divide in the Arab region has been recognized as a major development challenge hampering the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The potential that can be expected from employing science, technology and innovation, in particular information and communications technology (ICT), in advancing social and economic development has motivated many initiatives for enhancing national science, technology and innovation systems in Arab countries, in particular in relevant productive sectors, mainly water desalination in Saudi Arabia, solar energy in the United Arab Emirates, health services in Qatar, wind energy in Morocco and agricultural production in Egypt.

In recent years and in 2018, the subprogramme supported Arab countries in profiling and streamlining their science, technology and innovation landscape and to analyse the gaps and duplication in relevant national legislation, innovation policies, programmes and strategies, and institutions, in particular in higher education, intellectual property



The national technology development and transfer systems integrate the various islands of excellence into productive virtuous cycle. Source (photo): Belkacem Ayachi; (graphic): VSstudio

rights and financial incentives for research and development activities. In this context, the subprogramme collaborated with leading national scientific institutions in seven member States (Egypt, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, the Sudan and Tunisia), with the aim of stimulating the development, transfer and use of technology and improving measures on innovation to increase the share of gross domestic product (GDP) for research and development activities. In that regard, the subprogramme carried out an analysis of innovation in small and medium-sized enterprises in the Arab region and shared the findings with member States to encourage Governments to adapt legislation and regulation to foster innovation in the private sector in Arab countries. Lastly, and in 2018, the subprogramme organized a Ministerial Session of ESCWA on the theme of technology, development and young people, which convened ministers and high-level officials from all member States and other participants from the Arab region.

Result and evidence

The deliverables contributed to the result, which is a greater commitment by ESCWA member States to using science, technology and innovation in their national development plans and strategies to accelerate development in the region.

Evidence of the result includes the adoption by Arab countries in June 2018 of the Beirut Consensus on Technology for Sustainable Development in the Arab Region, in which member States are called upon to utilize the various facets of technology and innovation to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Evidence also includes the establishment of national institutions for the advancement of technology transfer in some member States, including the National Technology Transfer Office in Morocco, and the adoption of a new law on incentives for science, technology and innovation in Egypt, reformulating a number of its laws, developing its national innovation system and establishing an observatory for science, technology and innovation to measure its impact on development. Evidence further includes the adoption of a bylaw for the establishment of the Mougran technology incubator by the Sudan, which will be officially launched in early 2019.

The result demonstrates progress made in 2018 towards the collective attainment of the objective.

-
- 22.78 A planned result for 2018, which is strengthened national institutional frameworks on technology for development and innovation, as referred to in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, was achieved, as evidenced by the increased number of policies (from 9 to 11) revised to foster technology for development and innovation. In fact, Egypt and Morocco have reviewed their science, technology and innovation frameworks in 2018 to enhance and streamline their science, technology and innovation ecosystems towards more productivity.

4. Highlighted planned result for 2020

Digital development in the Arab region: leaving no one behind

The connectedness of digital technologies to billions of people and devices introduces new opportunities and imposes new risks for everybody. To explore the prospects for digital technologies and minimize their risks, digital strategies are a key element of government policy. These strategies are aimed at developing the ICT sector and leveraging digital technologies and applications for socioeconomic development. While all Arab countries have developed national digital strategies, these are, in general, delinked from the 2030 Agenda, and the progress in their implementation varies throughout the region.

In 2018, the subprogramme produced a study entitled, “Arab horizon 2030: digital technologies for development”, in which seven policy areas are addressed using a holistic approach. It contains proposals for an analysis organized by the following: contextualization with respect to the impact on the Sustainable Development Goals; situation of Arab countries; outlining a Horizon 2030 vision; and policy change recommendations. To support member States in translating the vision at the national level, the subprogramme initiated an integrated multisectoral Arab digital development process that includes the deployment of a national profiling tool.

Challenge and response

The challenge is to enhance the support given to member States in establishing policy structures for the deployment of digital technologies for achieving sustainable development.

In response, for 2020, the subprogramme will provide technical advice to member States to link and integrate socioeconomic development challenges into their national digital strategies. It will also support the remaining Arab States in the assessment of their digital development landscape. On the basis of the results of the national gap assessment, the subprogramme will assist Arab countries in the preparation of dynamic national strategic plans for digital technologies to accelerate sustainable development.

Result and evidence

The planned deliverables are expected to contribute to the result, which is the efficient and accelerated achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals through the deployment of national strategies on digital technologies linked to 2030 Agenda-related national goals.

Evidence of the result, if achieved, will include the adoption of dynamic national strategic plans for digital development linked to the 2030 Agenda, as shown in the figure. Specifically, by 2020, it is expected that at least three member states will have deployed their national digital strategy for accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The result, if achieved, will demonstrate progress made in 2020 towards the collective attainment of the objective.

Performance measures

2018	2019	2020
Member States adopted the multisectoral Arab digital development process	At least 10 member States deploy the national digital development template to assess the digital development landscape vis-à-vis inclusiveness and empowerment	At least 3 member States deploy their national digital strategy for accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals

- 22.79 The following resolution comprises the main mandates entrusted to the subprogramme: General Assembly resolution [72/200](#) on information and communications technologies for sustainable development. The subprogramme will continue to be guided by all mandates entrusted to it, which provide the legislative framework for its deliverables.

5. Deliverables for the period 2018–2020

- 22.80 Table 22.4 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2018–2020 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 22.4

Subprogramme 4: deliverables for the period 2018–2020, by category and subcategory

	<i>2018 planned</i>	<i>2018 actual</i>	<i>2019 planned</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>
Quantified deliverables				
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	1	1	1	1
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	11	11	23	17
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Publications (number of publications)	1	1	7	1
Technical materials (number of materials)	1	1	4	5
Non-quantified deliverables				
D. Communication deliverables				
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials				
Digital platforms and multimedia content				

6. Most significant relative variances in deliverables**Variances between the planned figures for 2020 and 2019**

- 22.81 The variance in parliamentary documentation is driven mainly by an increase in the amount of documentation in 2020, owing to the two-year cycle on which intergovernmental committee meetings are held.
- 22.82 The variance in substantive services for meetings is driven mainly by a reduction in the number of meetings in 2020, owing to the two-year cycle on which intergovernmental committee meetings are held.
- 22.83 The variance in publications is driven mainly by a reduction in the number of publications in 2020, owing to the two-year cycle in producing technical documentation related to the research and production of new material for a biennium plan.



Subprogramme 5 Statistics for evidence-based policymaking

1. Objective

- 22.84 The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to strengthen national statistics for the 2030 Agenda that are based on relevant, reliable, timely, comparable data and that are consistent with international statistical standards, methods and concepts.

2. Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals

- 22.85 Given its broad scope, the objective is aligned with all of the Sustainable Development Goals.

3. Highlighted result in 2018

Improved measurement of growing Islamic finance in the national accounts context

Enhancing sustainable financing, including at the regional level, is a critical element in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The tremendous expansion of Islamic finance instruments over the past 10 years underscores their importance as a potential source of financing for sustainable development initiatives in the Arab region. The industry's assets reached \$2.4 trillion at the beginning of 2018, most of which was concentrated in the Gulf countries (41 per cent), as well as in the countries in the Middle East and North Africa (29 per cent). Islamic finance in real sector industries, such as agriculture, manufacturing, construction, services and commerce, which have far-reaching social,



Moroccan banknote. Source: pixabay.com

economic and environmental impact, is emerging as an effective tool for financing development and realizing the Sustainable Development Goals. This tool has become even more important following the global financial crisis of 2008 and in the face of the significant financing needs to implement the 2030 Agenda. Failing to sufficiently take Islamic finance into account prevents policymakers from capturing the impact of this increasingly important contributor to sustainable development in the data and information used for evidence-based policymaking.

In 2016, ESCWA member States raised the need for methodological guidance on incorporating Islamic finance into national accounts. In response, and in cooperation with the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the subprogramme led the methodological work on how to include this aspect in the implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts, the international standard for calculating GDP. That work included the development of systematic methodologies on supply and use tables, price statistics, external trade and financial corporations specific to Islamic finance, which attracted the interest of national statisticians from 17 Arab, African and Asian countries and 6 specialized international organizations, as well as independent academicians and experts.

In 2018, following the above, the subprogramme initiated the development of a modified methodology on Islamic finance in the 2008 System of National Accounts, including the classification of 17 Islamic financial instruments,

the sectorization of Islamic financial corporations and the methods to calculate the corresponding outcome and income. In addition, experts from national statistics offices and from international organizations, such as the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the International Monetary Fund, the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries and the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts, agreed on a standard that reflects Islamic finance in the national accounts and recommended further research on specific issues, such as the pension system, for 2019 and 2020.

Result and evidence

The deliverables contributed to the result, which is the greater availability of core national accounts data in ESCWA member States and alignment with the current System of National Accounts and related global statistical standards.

Evidence of the result includes the increasing number of countries (from 16 to 18) that have adopted the 2008 System of National Accounts as an integrating framework for all their economic statistics.

The result demonstrates progress made in 2018 towards the collective attainment of the objective.

-
- 22.86 A planned result for 2018, which is increased availability of statistics for evidence-based policymaking and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda through implementation of statistical standards, guidelines and recommendations, as referred to in the proposed programme budget for 2018–2019, was achieved, as evidenced by the increased number of member States that provide at least 60 per cent of core socioeconomic indicators for the core data sets, from 16 to 18. The increase in the number of States that have fully adopted international standards for production of statistical data was achieved through ESCWA methodological and technical cooperation activities, providing guidance to national statistics offices and supporting South-South cooperation, as illustrated above.

4. Highlighted planned result for 2020

Introducing modern technologies and a geospatial dimension to enhance the availability of census data for the 2030 Agenda

In the Arab region, only 40 per cent of the data needed to measure the indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals were available in 2018. This was due in part to a low level of utilization of alternative data sources and the low penetration of modern technologies in data collection and dissemination.

Population and housing censuses provide fundamental data for development planning and can be a critical source of information for the 2030 Agenda. Censuses collect a wide range of statistical information, including population size and growth, and allow for detailed data disaggregation by small geographic areas, population groups and diverse population characteristics such as sex, age, education, migration status, labour force and disability.

Traditionally, countries in the Arab region have conducted their censuses once per decade, using traditional, non-technological methods. Recent developments in technology and census methodology have created a variety of approaches to conduct censuses, taking advantage of leading-edge technological tools throughout the process. There are many drivers for using technology in census-taking, including increasing census coverage and response rate, improving data quality, providing more timely information and the digital dissemination of data.

Challenge and response

The challenge, however, is to support member States, given that some States have limited expertise and infrastructure in using technology in census-taking, especially those in conflict where the statistical infrastructure has greatly deteriorated. These States could benefit from the shared experience of countries in the region that have successfully used advanced technologies for census enumeration.

In response, for 2020, the subprogramme will support the preparations for the 2020 round of population and housing censuses, including assisting national statistics systems in the design of questionnaires, data-collection planning, undertaking post-enumeration surveys and the validation and dissemination of data. Moreover, by facilitating

South-South cooperation, the subprogramme will accelerate the exchange of experience and lessons learned on the use of modern information, communication and geospatial technologies currently being adopted throughout the region. Before the end of 2020, all ESCWA member States will be prepared to utilize electronic means of data collection directly from respondents or from administrative registers and records.

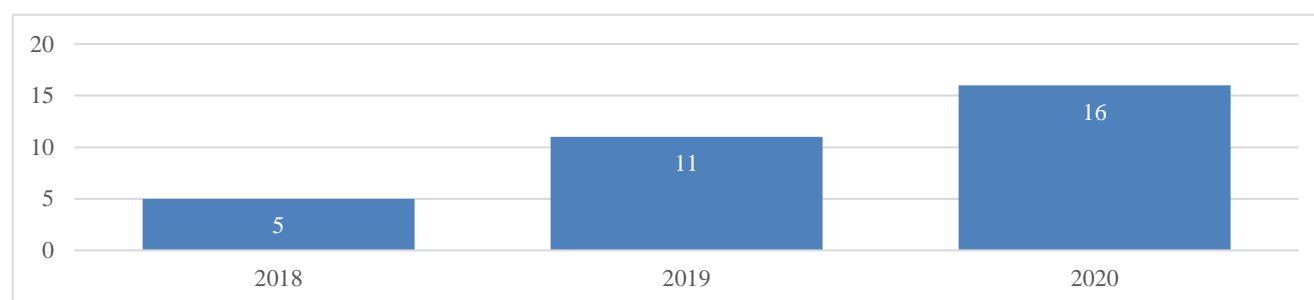
Result and evidence

The planned deliverables are expected to contribute to the result, which is the increased number of ESCWA member States prepared to analyse disparities at the subnational level, linking geospatial and statistical data and doing so with greater cost-efficiency.

Evidence of the result, if achieved, will include 16 Arab States ready to conduct population and housing censuses using electronic means of data collection, as shown in the figure.

The result, if achieved, will demonstrate progress made in 2020 towards the collective attainment of the objective.

Performance measures: number of Arab States ready to conduct population and housing censuses



- 22.87 The following General Assembly resolutions comprise the main mandates entrusted to the subprogramme: [68/261](#) on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics; [69/266](#) on a global geodetic reference frame for sustainable development; and [71/313](#) on the work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The subprogramme will continue to be guided by all mandates entrusted to it, which provide the legislative framework for its deliverables.

5. Deliverables for the period 2018–2020

- 22.88 Table 22.5 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2018–2020 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 22.5

Subprogramme 5: deliverables for the period 2018–2020, by category and subcategory

	<i>2018 planned</i>	<i>2018 actual</i>	<i>2019 planned</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>
Quantified deliverables				
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	2	10	1	6
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	22	22	24	28
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	1	1	1	1
Publications (number of publications)	3	3	3	6
Technical materials (number of materials)	7	7	6	1
Non-quantified deliverables				
C. Substantive deliverables				
Databases and substantive digital materials				
Consultation, advice and advocacy				
D. Communication deliverables				
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials				

6. Most significant relative variances in deliverables**Variances between the actual and planned figures in 2018**

- 22.89 The variance in parliamentary documentation was driven by an increase in the substantive parliamentary documentation for the Statistical Committee, owing to a request by the Committee to submit specific reports, such as the reports on use of technology in official statistics, ethical issues of new data-collection approaches, big data, geospatial information systems and statistical capacity development programmes.

Variances between the planned figures for 2020 and 2019

- 22.90 The variance in parliamentary documentation is driven mainly by an increase in the number of documents in 2020, owing to the two-year cycle on which sessions of the Statistical Committee are held.
- 22.91 The variance in publications is driven mainly by an increase in the number of e-bulletins in 2020, owing to the two-year cycle in producing technical documentation related to the research and production of new material for a biennium plan.
- 22.92 The variance in technical materials is driven by a reduction in the number of materials, owing to the shift to producing information directly in the ESCWA online statistical data management system launched in 2019.



Subprogramme 6 Advancement of women

1. Objective

- 22.93 The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to achieve gender justice for all women and girls in the Arab region.

2. Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals

- 22.94 The objective is aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 5, which is to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. Progress towards the attainment of the objective will help to end all forms of discrimination and eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls, eliminate harmful practices and ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.
- 22.95 The objective is also aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 10, which is to reduce inequality within and among countries. Progress towards the attainment of the objective will help to empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status, and ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard.
- 22.96 Furthermore, the objective is also aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 16, which is to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. Progress towards the attainment of the objective will help to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all, develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels and ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.
- 22.97 Finally, the objective is also aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 17, which is to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development. Progress towards the attainment of the objective will help to enhance international support for the implementation of effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans in implementing all the Sustainable Development Goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation.

3. Highlighted result in 2018

A costing approach to eliminating violence against women in the Arab region

One in three women in the Arab region experiences some form of violence. Ongoing and emerging conflicts, as well as occupation, further increase women's risk to violence in both the private and public spheres. Violence against women is a human rights violation that has a severe cost on dignity and personhood. It also has a significant economic cost at the family, community and national levels. Measuring this cost allows society to better understand the extent of the negative consequences of violence against women and helps Governments to make the legislative, fiscal, policy and programme reforms necessary to minimize the negative impact of this human rights violation.

To better estimate the cost of violence against women, in 2017, the subprogramme developed the first Arab economic model, taking into consideration the specificities of the Arab region, namely, in terms of statistical capacities and data availability, which would allow Arab countries to estimate justice, health, social service, education and business costs, and the costs at the household level. The launch of the model and its discussion in regional consultations led to increased interest by member States in exploring and using the model at the national level.

In 2018, the subprogramme translated the model into a step-by-step guide to costing violence against women. This was accomplished through a consultative process and involved highlighting case studies from the region along with other international examples, with a focus on challenges faced and lessons learned.

Result and evidence

The deliverables contributed to the result, which is a greater commitment from ESCWA member States to addressing violence against women and greater efforts to mobilize the resources needed to implement the costing model.

Evidence of the result includes financial resources allocated by the Government of Saudi Arabia, as well as that of the State of Palestine, to implement the costing model, whereby in both countries national statistics offices joined forces with national women's machineries and designed the questionnaire for a national prevalence survey on violence against women, which also captured relevant costs incurred at the household level.

The result demonstrates progress made in 2018 towards the collective attainment of the objective.



"Hiding It Won't Help: Report Violence against Women". Source: Kourken Papazian. This short video won first place in the 2016 ESCWA Arts Competition for the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence. The video is available at https://youtu.be/NPSRzMH_4lw

- 22.98 A planned result for 2018, which is strengthened institutional and legal frameworks of member States to promote gender equality and gender justice, including the elimination of violence against women, as referred to in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, was achieved, as evidenced by the increased number (from 9 to 11) of legislative reforms aimed at the elimination of discrimination against women, gender inequality and/or violence against women. For example, the State of Palestine passed Law No. 5 of 2018, which repealed article 308 of the 1960 Penal Code enforced in the West Bank. The law had allowed alleged rapists to escape prosecution and allowed convicted rapists to avoid imprisonment if they married their victim. This reform is part of a larger effort to repeal similar laws in member States and to more thoroughly address violence against women in the Arab region. Furthermore, legislation on violence against women in Morocco and in Tunisia went into force in early 2018, and both States are actively seeking to ensure that their services comply with international norms.

4. Highlighted planned result for 2020

National women's machineries: agents for change

Conflict and displacement disproportionately affect women and girls, exacerbating pre-existing gender inequalities and vulnerabilities, often leading to a greater risk of violence and marginalization and a decrease in access to justice mechanisms. In the Arab region, six States are directly experiencing conflict, occupation or transition, with several others affected by the spillover effects.

National women's machineries work to ensure gender equality and women's empowerment, even in times of conflict and transition. In doing so, they seek to understand and respond to women's practical and strategic gender needs, as defined by Caroline Moser.¹ Whereas practical gender needs are about survival (i.e., they are the needs that women identify in their socially accepted roles and that are intended only to address inadequacies in living conditions such as water provision, health care and employment that national women's machineries must ensure), strategic gender needs are about challenging women's subordinate position in society. National women's machineries must therefore also aspire to identify and implement women's strategic gender needs with the aim of addressing power structures that may hinder gender justice and equality. They are, however, often constrained by limited resources and capacities that have an impact on their ability to maintain their core purpose and integrity.

In 2018, the subprogramme examined the resilience of national women's machineries in Jordan, Tunisia and Yemen, as well as the State of Palestine, and their ability to respond to women's needs during conflict, occupation and within transitional contexts. This revealed that national women's machineries located in unstable settings are insufficiently equipped to respond to and advocate the needs of women owing to weak structures, inadequate financial resources and limited capacities to identify and investigate women's needs.

Challenge and response

The challenge is to support member States, given that, in protecting women, there are only a limited number of national action plans to guide the work of national women's machineries and implement the women and peace and security agenda. In the absence of action plans, the prevention of gender-based violence and the protection of women in the public and private spheres are severely undermined, as is their participation in peacebuilding initiatives.

In response, for 2020, the subprogramme will adopt a twin-track approach: (a) to increase the resilience of national women's machineries to develop sound policy frameworks, such as national action plans on women and peace and security; and (b) to augment the voices of women to identify their needs directly to national women's machineries, as outlined in the action plans. The subprogramme will work with national women's machineries to support their efforts in better adapting to instability, conflict and transformative political developments. Furthermore, the subprogramme will support national women's machineries in their efforts to develop national action plans based on the four pillars of the women and peace and security agenda, with a special focus on protecting women from violence during conflict, promoting the political and economic participation of women and preventing violent extremism. Concurrently, the subprogramme will also engage with women refugees from the Syrian Arab Republic in select host countries, as well as women from host communities, to help them to identify their practical and strategic gender needs. The knowledge generated will then be shared with national women's machineries and decision makers in countries of refuge to advocate greater government responsiveness to women's practical needs and to influence change at the social, political and legislative levels, in order to realize women's strategic needs.

Result and evidence

These planned deliverables are expected to contribute to the result, which is the increased capacity and resilience of national women's machineries and an increase in the engagement of Arab States in the development of national action plans that are inclusive of women's voices and responsive to the women and peace and security agenda.

Evidence of the result, if achieved, will include the adoption by two States of comprehensive national action plans on the women and peace and security agenda that are participatory and inclusive and that incorporate aspects of the women and peace and security agenda, as shown in the figure.

The result, if achieved, will demonstrate progress made in 2020 towards the collective attainment of the objective.

¹ "Gender planning in the third world: meeting practical and strategic gender needs", *World Development*, vol. 17, No. 11 (November 1989) pp. 1799–1825.

Performance measures

2018	2019	2020
No comprehensive action plans adopted that are participatory and inclusive	No comprehensive action plans adopted that are participatory and inclusive	Adoption of 2 comprehensive action plans that are participatory and inclusive

- 22.99 The following General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions comprise the main mandates entrusted to the subprogramme: Assembly resolution [66/130](#) on women and political participation, [66/131](#) on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, [66/285](#) on support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies, [67/144](#) on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and [67/148](#) on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly; and Council resolution 2011/5 on the role of the United Nations system in implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender quality and the empowerment of women and, [2013/17](#) on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women. The subprogramme will continue to be guided by all mandates entrusted to it, which provide the legislative framework for its deliverables.

5. Deliverables for the period 2018–2020

- 22.100 Table 22.6 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2018–2020 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 22.6

Subprogramme 6: deliverables for the period 2018–2020, by category and subcategory

	2018 planned	2018 actual	2019 planned	2020 planned
Quantified deliverables				
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	1	1	–	–
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	22	36	14	34
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	–	–	–	2
Publications (number of publications)	–	–	5	–
Technical materials (number of materials)	3	3	5	4
Non-quantified deliverables				
D. Communication deliverables				
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials				
External and media relations				

6. Most significant relative variances in deliverables

Variances between the actual and planned figures in 2018

- 22.101 The variance in substantive services for meetings was driven by additional servicing of side events and meetings on the margins of the Commission on the Status of Women, the LAS annual intergovernmental meeting on gender equality and the Arab Women Organization's annual intergovernmental meeting on gender equality, owing to an increased demand for documentation by member States.

Variances between the planned figures for 2020 and 2019

- 22.102 The variance in substantive services for meetings is driven mainly by an increase in the number of meetings in 2020, owing to the two-year cycle on which intergovernmental committee meetings are held.
- 22.103 The variance in field and technical cooperation projects is driven by introducing two new projects in 2020, compared with none planned in 2019, owing to confirmed resources for the projects.
- 22.104 The variance in publications is driven mainly by the lapse in time between the production and the publishing of a publication/technical material.



Subprogramme 7 Conflict mitigation and development

1. Objective

- 22.105 The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to enhance the capacities of member States in conflict or post-conflict settings on conflict prevention for more just, equitable and inclusive societies that are aimed at achieving sustainable development.

2. Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals

- 22.106 The objective is aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 10, which is to reduce inequality within and among countries. Progress towards the attainment of the objective will help to empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome.
- 22.107 The objective is also aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 16, which is to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. Progress towards the attainment of the objective will help to significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere; to develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels; to strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity to prevent violence; and to promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development.
- 22.108 Furthermore, the objective is also aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 17, which is to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development. Progress towards the attainment of the objective will help to enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation.

3. Highlighted result in 2018

Intergenerational impact of conflict on human development in the Arab region

One of the longer lasting but insufficiently assessed effects of conflict is the damage that it causes to the younger generation and the disruption that it creates in the development process. This disruption has a heavy impact on Arab countries, in particular given that the Arab population is considerably young, with children under the age of 15 accounting for one third of the population. It is critical for the rebuilding of their countries that younger generations be able to play a more prominent role in national transitions to peace and recovery. This enabling is significantly impaired by war-induced shocks, such as the inability to benefit from education, health services and social engagement, which would allow them to acquire the skills necessary to play such a role. In order to better



*A Yemeni child suffering from severe acute malnutrition.
Source: UNICEF/UNO57347/Almang*

understand this phenomenon, assess its impact and recommend remedial policies, the subprogramme began to analyse the impact of conflict on younger generations for countries in conflict.

In 2018, the subprogramme analysed micro-level data to document the effects of exposure to conflict on people in infancy, early childhood, childhood and the transitions into adulthood and recommended policies that prevent the reinforcement of inequalities that threatens the potential of future generations in several Arab States. Preliminary findings of the analysis show, among other things, that, from 2007 to 2014, the prevalence of wasting and underweight among children 0–59 months of age had increased twofold in Libya. Whereas more than 90 per cent of primary school-age children were enrolled in schools in Yemen in 2006, that figure began to decline significantly by 2013, with particularly worrying trends for girls. These worrisome trends could well be associated with the intensification of conflict since 2011. Using the same approach, the subprogramme is engaging in an unprecedented kind analysis of the impact of the Israeli occupation on Palestinian households over a five-year period (2013–2018) using three waves of socioeconomic household surveys.

In undertaking these analyses, the subprogramme engaged more than 400 civil servants from Iraq, Libya and Yemen, as well as the State of Palestine, to support public institutions in mitigating the impact of conflict on human development.

Result and evidence

The deliverable contributed to the result, which is the raised awareness and commitment of Arab countries to addressing the negative long-term consequences of conflict on human development, and consequently, on future generations in national recovery strategies.

Evidence of the result includes the recommendations by ESCWA member States in the fifth meeting of the Executive Committee to support member States that so wish in developing their institutional capacity to mitigate the impact of conflict and instability and their implications for development, including through reconstruction programmes, policy formulation, priority setting and the evaluation of human capacity and functional competencies that can assist in facing challenges raised by current circumstances in the Arab region and in implementing the 2030 Agenda.

The result demonstrates progress made in 2018 towards the collective attainment of the objective.

- 22.109 A planned result for 2018, which is more effective responses by member States to address the root causes and impact of conflict and to mitigate its spillover effects, as referred to in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, was achieved, as evidenced by an increased number of member States (from two to four) seeking and receiving technical assistance related to effectively responding to the impact of conflict and crises, addressing their root causes and mitigating their spillover effects. For example, Libya and Yemen requested a national technical platform to address development challenges, including the rehabilitation of public institutions. The Palestinian Authority requested institutional capacity-building to enhance service delivery and Iraq requested a pilot project for the recovery of liberated areas from the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and the development of a regional engagement strategy of conflict-related transboundary challenges.

4. Highlighted planned result for 2020

Strengthened institutions for the prevention of and recovery from conflict

The long-term impact of conflict on development is further exacerbated by weak institutional capacities. With a view to strengthening the capacities of institutions in conflict-affected member States, in 2018, the subprogramme conducted consultations, specifically with Iraq, Libya and Yemen, and introduced a tool for strengthening the public sector to support recovery, improve development outcomes and prevent conflict relapse.

The new tool entailed the development of tailor-made national capacity-building modules based on a distinct assessment methodology that serves to identify key institutional gaps in nationally selected development priorities. In consultation with 24 Yemeni senior civil servants from 16 ministries and 26 Iraqi civil servants from 4 ministries

and local government structures, the assessment methodology was adapted to their national priorities. For Yemen, the assessment focused on institutional budgeting, strategic planning and coordination, areas identified as critical for the recovery phase. For Iraq, the workshop focused on assessing the capacity of local institutions in programme implementation and coordination to meet the challenges of reconstruction and the integration of internally displaced persons in areas liberated from the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant.

Challenge and response

The challenge was that, while the focus of the assessments has been on identifying the gaps in institutional effectiveness, there is a recognized need to develop strategies, policies and programmes to address these gaps.

In response, for 2020, the subprogramme will analyse the data resulting from the assessment outcomes of the gaps provided by the different ministries and local governing bodies and will identify ways to strengthen institutional effectiveness by developing policy and programmatic recommendations. These will include the production by ESCWA of institutional gap assessment reports and capacity-building programmes dedicated to addressing the institutional gaps. Part of this programme will also entail the training of national trainers who would carry forward other gap assessments on priority development targets and institutions. The assessment reports on institutional gaps will be reviewed with the national ministries concerned prior to the roll-out of the trainings for national trainers.

Result and evidence

The planned deliverables are expected to contribute to the result, which is strengthened institutional effectiveness for recovery and conflict prevention.

Evidence of the result, if achieved, will include the use of the gap assessment methodology by at least three additional member States requesting support in the implementation of the methodology.

The result, if achieved, will demonstrate progress made in 2020 towards the collective attainment of the objective.

Performance measures

2018	2019	2020
Institutional gap assessment methodology discussed with member States	Institutional gaps assessment methodology used in 2 member States (Iraq and Yemen)	Methodology used in at least 1 additional member State

- 22.110 The following new mandate was entrusted to the subprogramme in 2018: ESCWA resolution 330 (XXX) on support for the Palestinian people. The subprogramme will continue to be guided by all mandates entrusted to it, which provide the legislative framework for its deliverables.

5. Deliverables for the period 2018–2020

- 22.111 Table 22.7 lists all deliverables, by category and subcategory, for the period 2018–2020 that contributed and are expected to contribute to the attainment of the objective stated above.

Table 22.7

Subprogramme 7: deliverables for the period 2018–2020, by category and subcategory

	<i>2018 planned</i>	<i>2018 actual</i>	<i>2019 planned</i>	<i>2020 planned</i>
Quantified deliverables				
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	3	3	1	3
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	24	16	24	20
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	1	1	1	1
Publications (number of publications)	1	–	3	2
Technical materials (number of materials)	8	4	6	7
Non-quantified deliverables				
D. Communication deliverables				
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials				

6. Most significant relative variances in deliverables**Variances between the actual and planned figures in 2018**

- 22.112 The variance in substantive services for meetings was driven mainly by a reduction in the number of services for expert group meetings, owing to the two-year cycle on which intergovernmental committee meetings are held.
- 22.113 The variance in publications was driven mainly by the lapse of time between the production and the publishing of a publication/technical material.

Variances between the planned figures for 2020 and 2019

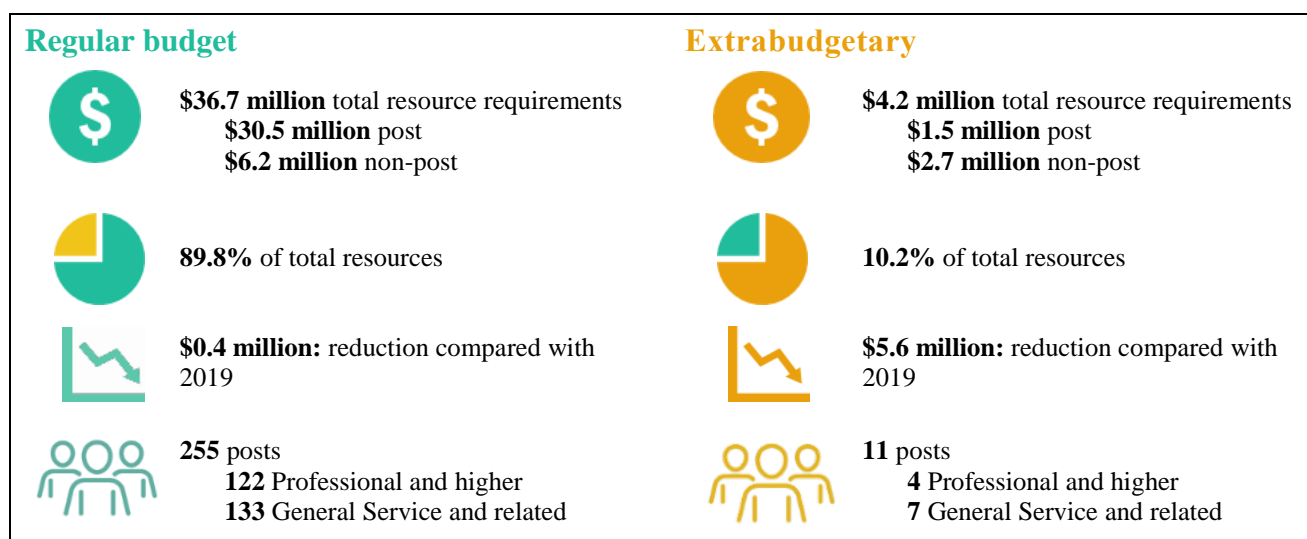
- 22.114 The variance in parliamentary documentation is driven by two additional reports in 2020, owing to the two-year cycle on which intergovernmental committee meetings are held.
- 22.115 The variance in substantive servicing of meetings is driven by a reduction in the number of servicing expert group meetings, owing to the two-year cycle on which intergovernmental committee meetings are held.

B. Proposed post and non-post resource requirements for 2020

Overview

22.116 The total resource requirements for 2020, comprising the regular budget and extrabudgetary resources, are reflected in figure 22.II and table 22.8.

Figure 22.II
2020 in numbers



Note: Estimates before recosting.

Table 22.8

Overview of financial and post resources by component, subprogramme and funding source

(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	Regular budget			Extrabudgetary			Total		
	2019 appropriation	2020 estimate (before recosting)	Variance	2019 estimate	2020 estimate	Variance	2019 estimate	2020 estimate	Variance
Financial resources									
Polymaking organs	95.2	89.9	(5.3)	—	—	—	95.2	89.9	(5.3)
Executive direction and management	2 692.5	2 744.8	52.3	—	—	—	2 692.5	2 744.8	52.3
Programme of work									
1. Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development	3 735.1	3 706.6	(28.5)	4 324.9	1 469.0	(2 855.9)	8 060.0	5 175.6	(2 884.4)
2. Social development	3 662.6	3 629.2	(33.4)	—	—	—	3 662.6	3 629.2	(33.4)
3. Economic development and integration	4 347.0	4 327.0	(20.0)	2 774.9	1 274.1	(1 500.8)	7 121.9	5 601.1	(1 520.8)
4. Technology for development and regional integration	1 593.6	1 574.6	(19.0)	—	—	—	1 593.6	1 574.6	(19.0)
5. Statistics for evidence-based policymaking	2 484.2	2 475.2	(9.0)	92.7	—	(92.7)	2 576.9	2 475.2	(101.7)

Part V Regional cooperation for development

	<i>Regular budget</i>			<i>Extrabudgetary</i>			<i>Total</i>		
	<i>2019 appropriation</i>	<i>2020 estimate (before recosting)</i>	<i>Variance</i>	<i>2019 estimate</i>	<i>2020 estimate</i>	<i>Variance</i>	<i>2019 estimate</i>	<i>2020 estimate</i>	<i>Variance</i>
6. Advancement of women	1 626.4	1 616.5	(9.9)	112.2	–	(112.2)	1 738.6	1 616.5	(122.1)
7. Conflict mitigation and development	2 161.5	2 150.8	(10.7)	1 544.9	442.8	(1 102.1)	3 706.4	2 593.6	(1 112.8)
Subtotal, programme of work	19 610.4	19 479.9	(130.5)	8 849.6	3 185.9	(5 663.7)	28 460.0	22 665.8	(5 794.2)
Programme support	14 717.7	14 374.5	(343.2)	1 056.4	1 056.4	–	15 774.1	15 430.9	(343.2)
Total	37 115.8	36 689.1	(426.7)	9 906.0	4 242.3	(5 663.7)	47 021.8	40 931.4	(6 090.4)
Post resources									
Executive direction and management	18	19	1	–	–	–	18	19	1
Programme of work									
1. Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development	24	24	–	5	3	(2)	29	27	(2)
2. Social development	24	24	–	–	–	–	24	24	–
3. Economic development and integration	31	31	–	3	3	–	34	34	–
4. Technology for development and regional integration	10	10	–	–	–	–	10	10	–
5. Statistics for evidence-based policymaking	18	18	–	–	–	–	18	18	–
6. Advancement of women	11	11	–	–	–	–	11	11	–
7. Conflict mitigation and development	15	15	–	6	5	(1)	21	20	(1)
Subtotal, programme of work	133	133	–	14	11	(3)	147	144	(3)
Programme support	104	103	(1)	–	–	–	104	103	(1)
Total	255	255	–	14	11	(3)	269	266	(3)

Overview of resources for the regular budget

22.117 The proposed regular budget resources for 2020, including the breakdown of resource changes, as applicable, are reflected in tables 22.9–22.11. The proposals reflect reductions that were made possible, in part, by the rationalization of the support for the policymaking organs; the rationalization of consultancies under programme of work; and the redistribution of work and the rationalization and revision of contracts, services, supplies and material under programme support; and the improved management of assets. Further details are provided under the respective components. The proposed resource level provides for the full, efficient and effective implementation of mandates.

Table 22.9

Evolution of financial resources by component and main category of expenditure

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	2018 expenditure	2019 appropriation	Changes				2020 estimate (before recosting)	Recosting	2020 estimate (after recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage		
Component									
Polymaking organs	87.1	95.2	–	–	(5.3)	(5.3)	(5.6)	89.9	93.0
Executive direction and management	2 594.4	2 692.5	–	–	52.3	52.3	1.9	2 744.8	2 865.2
Programme of work	18 914.5	19 610.4	–	–	(130.5)	(130.5)	(0.7)	19 479.9	20 365.1
Programme support	13 937.3	14 717.7	–	–	(343.2)	(343.2)	(2.3)	14 374.5	14 997.7
Total	35 533.3	37 115.8	–	–	(426.7)	(426.7)	(1.1)	36 689.1	38 321.0
Main category of expenditure									
Post	29 899.4	30 587.6	–	–	(63.0)	(63.0)	(0.2)	30 524.6	31 958.3
Non-post	5 633.9	6 528.2	–	–	(363.7)	(363.7)	(5.6)	6 164.5	6 362.7
Total	35 533.3	37 115.8	–	–	(426.7)	(426.7)	(1.1)	36 689.1	38 321.0

Table 22.10

Evolution of established post resources by category

	2019 approved	Changes			2020 estimate	Variance
		Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other		
Professional and higher						
USG	1	–	–	–	1	–
ASG	–	–	–	–	–	–
D-2	2	–	–	–	2	–
D-1	8	–	–	–	8	–
P-5	25	–	–	–	25	–
P-4	34	–	–	–	34	–
P-3	30	–	–	–	30	–
P-2/1	18	–	–	–	18	–
Subtotal	118	–	–	–	118	–
General Service						
Field Service	1	–	–	–	1	–
National Professional Officer	4	–	–	–	4	–
Local level	128	–	–	–	128	–
Subtotal	133	–	–	–	133	–
Total	251	–	–	–	251	–

Note: The breakdown of post changes by component, subprogramme and post level is provided in annex II.

Abbreviations: ASG, Assistant Secretary-General; USG, Under-Secretary-General.

Table 22.11
Evolution of temporary post resources by category

	2019 approved	Changes			2020 estimate	Variance
		Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other		
Professional and higher						
P-4	1	–	–	–	1	–
P-3	2	–	–	–	2	–
Subtotal	3	–	–	–	3	–
General Service						
Local level	1	–	–	–	1	–
Subtotal	1	–	–	–	1	–
Total	4	–	–	–	4	–

Policymaking organs

- 22.118 The resources proposed under this component would provide for requirements relating to standing intergovernmental organs and intergovernmental processes, the servicing of which is the responsibility of the policymaking organs and which are deemed to require specific provisions. The provision for intergovernmental organs and intergovernmental processes is in accordance with the rules of ESCWA, which were adopted at its first session (E/ESCWA/9), incorporating amendments adopted by the Commission in its resolutions 133 (XII), 153 (XIII), 158 (XIV), 159 (XIV), 178 (XVI) and 196 (XVII).
- 22.119 ESCWA reports to the Economic and Social Council, and sessions of the Commission provide overall direction to the work of the secretariat. The session convenes biennially, usually for four days at ESCWA headquarters. As mandated pursuant to ESCWA resolution 230 (XXI), the session of the Preparatory Committee is an integral part of the sessions of ESCWA. The thirty-first session of the Commission will convene in 2020, with a senior officials segment, to be held for two days, to consider programmatic agenda items, followed by the ministerial plenary segment, also to be held for two days.
- 22.120 The Executive Committee meets once in the session year and twice in the other year to assume responsibilities of ESCWA between ministerial sessions. It guides the secretariat on programmatic issues, including the proposed programme of work, implementation of the programme of work, resource mobilization, follow-up to resolutions of ESCWA and identification of emerging regional economic and social issues for consideration by the Commission. The Executive Committee will hold its eighth meeting, in 2020.
- 22.121 ESCWA has eight specialized subsidiary intergovernmental committees, which meet for two days between sessions of the Commission. All committees meet once biennially, except the Committee on Transport and Logistics, which meets annually. In 2020, only two specialized intergovernmental committees will be held:
- Statistical Committee, established pursuant to ESCWA resolution 179 (XVI) and endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution [1993/2](#), will hold its fourteenth session;
 - Committee on Transport and Logistics, established pursuant to ESCWA resolution 213 (XIX) and endorsed by the Council in its resolution 1997/11 (see also ESCWA resolution 229 (XXI) concerning the frequency of the sessions of the Committee), will hold its twenty-first session.

- 22.122 The ESCWA Advisory Committee meets twice annually for one-day sessions. It comprises heads of diplomatic missions in the host country of ESCWA and a high-level representative of the host country. It assumes a consultative role and functions as a principal means of communication between member States and the ESCWA secretariat and among member States themselves on important matters requiring attention between the biennial sessions of the Commission.
- 22.123 Tables 22.12 and 22.13 and figures 22.III and 22.IV provide a summary of the standing intergovernmental organs, related mandates and proposed financial resource requirements.

Table 22.12
Policymaking organs

	<i>Mandate</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Membership</i>		<i>Number of sessions in 2020</i>	<i>Resource requirements (thousands of United States dollars)</i>	
			<i>Governments</i>	<i>Experts</i>		<i>2019 appropriation</i>	<i>2020 estimate (before recosting)</i>
ESCWA session	ESCWA resolutions 158 (XIV), 196 (XVII) and 230 (XXI)	The ESCWA session, composed of a high-officials segment and ministerial segment, is the highest governing body of ESCWA and is responsible for broad direction-setting. The session follows up on programmatic implementation and technical cooperation activities and addresses salient development issues in the region, such financing for development, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, climate change, young people and labour, social policies, technology for development, and so on	18	–	1: Thirty-first session	52.3	49.4
Executive Committee	ESCWA resolution 320 (XXVIII)	The Executive Committee was established to develop interaction and consultation among members of ESCWA and the Secretariat on substantive development issues. It facilitates direct and timely communication with member States and submits resolutions to the Economic and Social Council in between ESCWA ministerial sessions	18	–	1: Eighth session	27.5	25.9
Statistical Committee	ESCWA resolution 179 (XVI)	The Statistical Committee follows up on national progress of member States in the development of their statistical systems, provides technical advice, proposes training programmes and organizes workshops and seminars to strengthen their statistical capacity. It also assists member States in the standardization of national statistics for greater comparability at the regional and international levels and supports them in coordinating statistical data and information with the Statistical Commission and with other member countries, in particular in surveys and censuses	18	–	1: Fourteenth session	7.4	7.0
Committee on Transport and Logistics	ESCWA resolutions 213 (XIX) and 229 (XXI)	The Committee on Transport and Logistics contributes to the establishment and formulation of priorities for the programmes of work and medium-term plans in the field of transport, monitors developments in the field of transport in ESCWA member States, monitors progress achieved in the activities of the ESCWA secretariat in the field of transport, ensures the participation of member States in international and regional conferences and coordinates efforts of member States related to the implementation of resolutions and recommendations	18	–	1: Twenty-first session	7.4	7.0

	<i>Mandate</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Membership</i>			<i>Resource requirements (thousands of United States dollars)</i>	
			<i>Governments</i>	<i>Experts</i>	<i>Number of sessions in 2020</i>	<i>2019 appropriation</i>	<i>2020 estimate (before recosting)</i>
Advisory Committee	ESCWA resolutions 175 (XV) and 208 (XVIII)	The Advisory Committee is made up of heads of diplomatic missions in the host country and a high-level representative of that country. It plays a consultative role and facilitates contact between member States and the ESCWA secretariat on matters requiring attention between the Commission's biennial sessions	18	–	2 sessions	–	–
Model ESCWA	ESCWA resolutions 295 (XXVI) and 285 (XXV)	Model ESCWA is a simulation of the ESCWA ministerial session, beginning as an initiative to involve more Arab young people in the work of ESCWA and encourage their engagement in policy discussions in their own countries/institutions. It is usually held with academic partners	–	–	1: Fifth session	0.6	0.6
Total						95.2	89.9

22.124 The proposed regular budget resources for 2020 amount to \$89,900 and reflect a net decrease of \$5,300 compared with the appropriation for 2019. The resources would provide for the servicing of the thirty-first ministerial session of ESCWA, the sessions of two specialized subsidiary intergovernmental committees, the meetings of the Executive Committee and the Advisory Committee and the Model ESCWA. Additional details are reflected in table 22.13 and figures 22.III and 22.IV.

Table 22.13

Policymaking organs: evolution of financial resources

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	2018 expenditure	2019 appropriation	Changes				Total (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Percentage	
Non-post	87.1	95.2	–	–	(5.3)	(5.3)	89.9

Figure 22.III

Policymaking organs: distribution of proposed resources for 2020 (before recosting)

(Thousands of United States dollars)

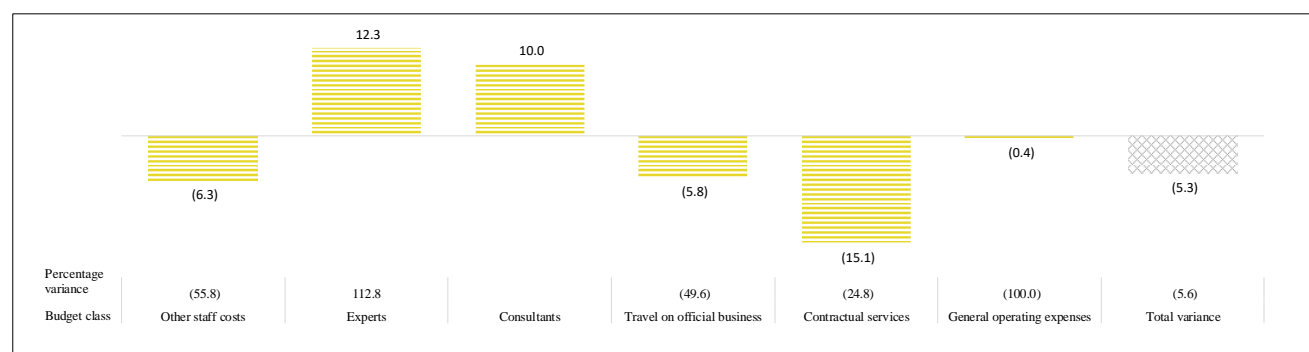
**Distribution of financial resource
\$89.9**



Figure 22.IV

Policymaking organs: variance between proposed resources for 2020 and appropriation for 2019, by budget class

(Thousands of United States dollars)



22.125 The variance of \$5,300 reflects:

Other changes. The net decrease of \$5,300 relates to decreased requirements for contractual services, other staff costs and travel on official business, offset in part by increased requirements for consultants and experts.

Executive direction and management

22.126 Executive direction and management is led by the Office of the Executive Secretary and supported by the Deputy Executive Secretary for Programme, the Deputy Executive Secretary for Programme Support and the Secretary of ESCWA.

22.127 The Office of the Executive Secretary provides overall leadership, policy direction to and management of the ESCWA secretariat in supporting member States, in collaboration with other parts of the United Nations system, with strategic analysis, policy guidelines and capacity-building activities to address key development challenges and issues and to implement innovative solutions for region-wide equitable and inclusive economic prosperity, social progress and environmental sustainability. ESCWA has identified and addressed emerging issues relevant to the regional development agenda and articulated regional concerns and priorities at the global level.

22.128 Moreover, the Office of the Executive Secretary provides all ESCWA divisions with direction and guidance for coordinating the implementation of and accountability for the ESCWA programme of work. The Office will also continue to provide leadership and policy orientation and establish the criteria to coordinate follow-up in the region on implementing the 2030 Agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and the mainstreaming of cross-cutting issues, such as gender empowerment and sustainability perspectives, throughout ESCWA substantive programmes.

22.129 The Office of the Executive Secretary will continue to reinforce policy consistency and coherence both within ESCWA and among United Nations entities and development partners involved in addressing regional development issues, among others, through the Regional Coordination Mechanism, and to strengthen cooperation and coordination with international and regional intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, especially LAS and its subsidiary bodies.

22.130 In addition, the Office of the Executive Secretary will ensure the development of United Nations system-wide policies and mandates and promote coherence and effective collaboration and coordination between ESCWA and other entities of the United Nations system, especially among the five regional commissions, specialized agencies, funds and programmes, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Regional Commissions New York Office.

22.131 In accordance with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular target 12.6 of the Sustainable Development Goals, in which organizations are encouraged to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycles, and in compliance with the cross-cutting mandate set out in paragraph 19 of General Assembly resolution [72/219](#), the Office is integrating environmental management practices into its operations. In 2020, executive direction and management will reduce its carbon footprint by 4 per cent of current carbon emissions.

22.132 Information on compliance with regard to the timely submission of documentation and advanced booking for air travel is reflected in table 22.14.

Table 22.14
Compliance rate
(Percentage)

	<i>Planned 2018</i>	<i>Actual 2018</i>	<i>Planned 2019</i>	<i>Planned 2020</i>
Timely submission of documentation	100	95	100	100
Air tickets purchased at least 2 weeks before the commencement of travel	100	75	100	100

- 22.133 The proposed regular budget resources for 2020 amount to \$2,744,800 and reflect a net increase of \$52,300 compared with the appropriation for 2019. Additional details are reflected in figures 22.V to 22.VII and table 22.15.

Figure 22.V

Resources for executive direction and management as a percentage of the regular budget

(Millions of United States dollars)

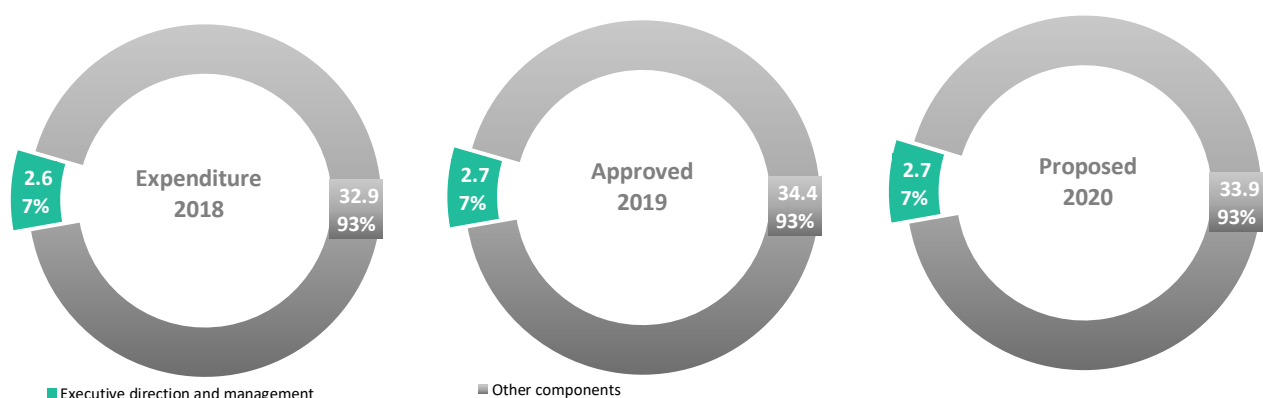


Table 22.15

Executive direction and management: evolution of financial and post resources

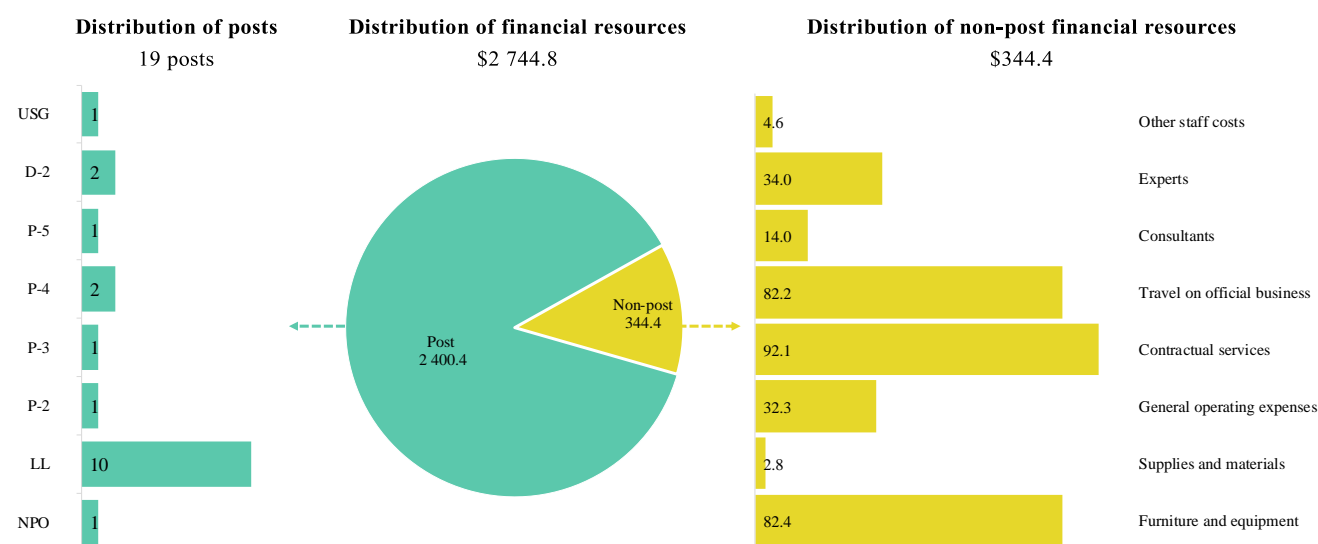
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2018 expenditure	2019 appropriation	Changes					2020 estimates (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	2 201.5	2 327.7	—	—	72.7	72.7	3.1	2 400.4
Non-post	392.9	364.8	—	—	(20.4)	(20.4)	(5.6)	344.4
Total	2 594.4	2 692.5	—	—	52.3	52.3	1.9	2 744.8
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		8	—	—	—	—	—	8
General Service and related		10	—	—	1	1	10.0	11
Total		18	—	—	1	1	5.6	19

Figure 22.VI

Executive direction and management: distribution of proposed resources for 2020 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)

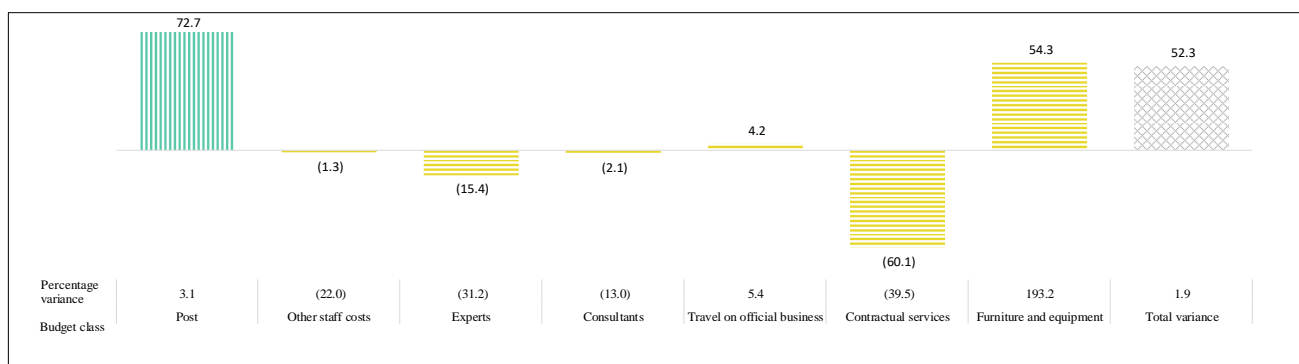


Abbreviations: LL, Local level; NPO, National Professional Officer; USG, Under-Secretary-General.

Figure 22.VII

Executive direction and management: variance between proposed resources for 2020 and appropriation for 2019, by budget class

(Thousands of United States dollars)



22.134 The variance of \$52,300 reflects:

Other changes. The net increase of \$52,300 relates to the proposed reassignment of one Procurement Officer post (National Professional Officer) to Programme Management Officer to strengthen the management and coordination in the Office of the Executive Secretary by performing functions in the areas of accountability, internal controls and monitoring and evaluation. The increase is offset in part by decreased requirements mainly under contractual services, made possible by the engagement of fewer individual contractors.

Programme of work

22.135 The proposed regular budget resources for 2020 amount to \$19,479,900 and reflect a net decrease of \$130,500 compared with the appropriation for 2019. Additional details are reflected in figures 22.VIII and 22.IX and table 22.16.

Figure 22.VIII
Resources for the programme of work as a percentage of the regular budget
(Millions of United States dollars)

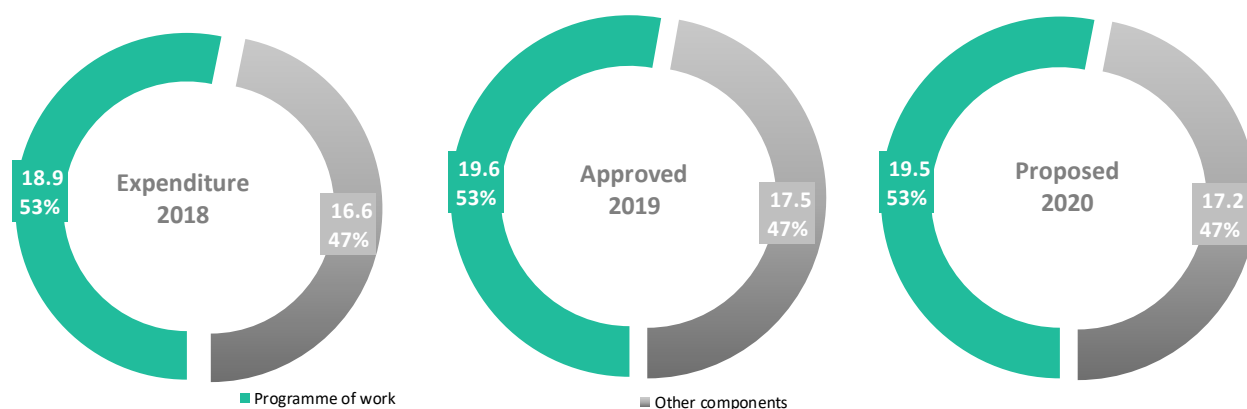
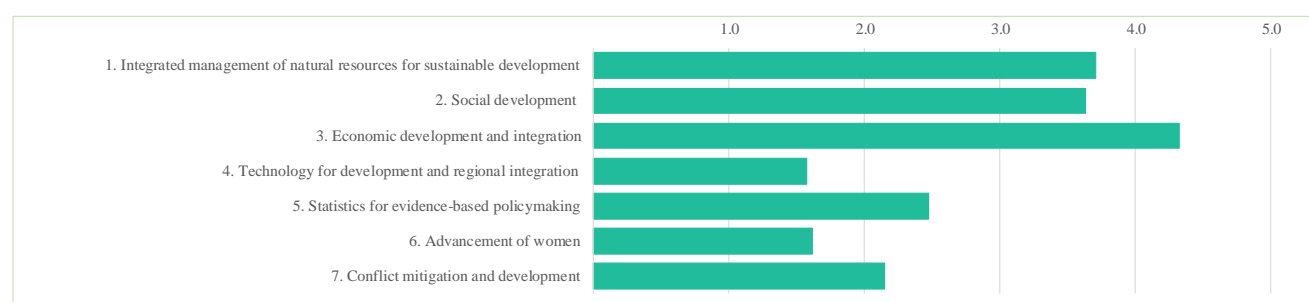


Table 22.16
Programme of work: evolution of financial and post resources
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

			Changes					2020 estimate (before recosting)
2018 expenditure	2019 appropriation	Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage		
Financial resources by subprogramme								
1. Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development	3 566.0	3 735.1	—	—	(28.5)	(28.5)	(0.8)	3 706.6
2. Social development	3 515.5	3 662.6	—	—	(33.4)	(33.4)	(0.9)	3 629.2
3. Economic development and integration	4 202.0	4 347.0	—	—	(20.0)	(20.0)	(0.5)	4 327.0
4. Technology for development and regional integration	1 643.9	1 593.6	—	—	(19.0)	(19.0)	(1.2)	1 574.6
5. Statistics for evidence-based policymaking	2 675.3	2 484.2	—	—	(9.0)	(9.0)	(0.4)	2 475.2
6. Advancement of women	1 531.5	1 626.4	—	—	(9.9)	(9.9)	(0.6)	1 616.5
7. Conflict mitigation and development	1 780.2	2 161.5	—	—	(10.7)	(10.7)	(0.5)	2 150.8
Total	18 914.4	19 610.4	—	—	(130.5)	(130.5)	(0.7)	19 479.9
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	17 212.9	17 264.6	—	—	—	—	—	17 264.6
Non-post	1 701.5	2 345.8	—	—	(130.5)	(130.5)	(5.6)	2 215.3
Total	18 914.4	19 610.4	—	—	(130.5)	(130.5)	(0.7)	19 479.9
Post resources by subprogramme								
1. Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development		24	—	—	—	—	—	24
2. Social development		24	—	—	—	—	—	24

	2018 expenditure	2019 appropriation	Changes					2020 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
3. Economic development and integration		31	—	—	—	—	—	31
4. Technology for development and regional integration		10	—	—	—	—	—	10
5. Statistics for evidence-based policymaking		18	—	—	—	—	—	18
6. Advancement of women		11	—	—	—	—	—	11
7. Conflict mitigation and development		15	—	—	—	—	—	15
Total		133	—	—	—	—	—	133

Figure 22.IX
Distribution of proposed resources for 2020 by subprogramme
(Millions of United States dollars)



Subprogramme 1 Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development

22.136 The proposed regular budget resources for 2020 amount to \$3,706,600 and reflect a net decrease of \$28,500 compared with the appropriation for 2019. Additional details are reflected in table 22.17 and figures 22.X and 22.XI.

Table 22.17
Subprogramme 1: evolution of financial and post resources
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

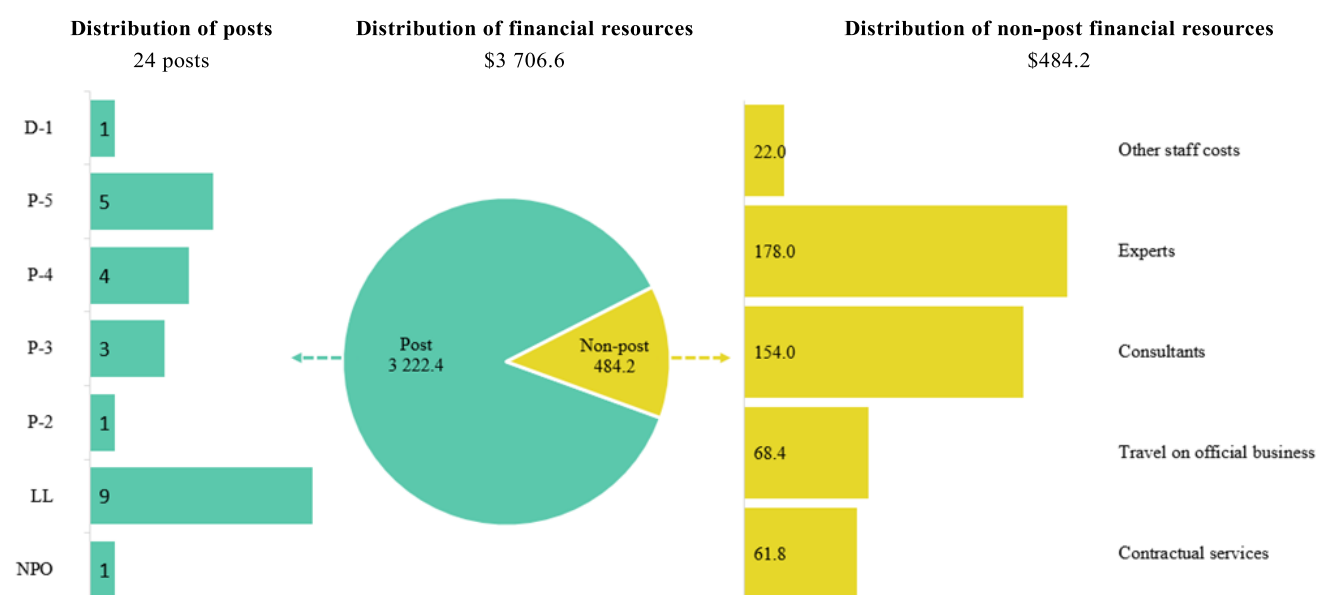
	2018 expenditure	2019 appropriation	Changes					2020 estimates (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	3 243.9	3 222.4	—	—	—	—	—	3 222.4
Non-post	322.1	512.7	—	—	(28.5)	(28.5)	(5.6)	484.2
Total	3 566.0	3 735.1	—	—	(28.5)	(28.5)	(0.8)	3 706.6

	2018 expenditure	2019 appropriation	Changes					2020 estimates (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		14	—	—	—	—	—	14
General Service and related		10	—	—	—	—	—	10
Total		24	—	—	—	—	—	24

Figure 22.X

Subprogramme 1: distribution of proposed resources for 2020 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)

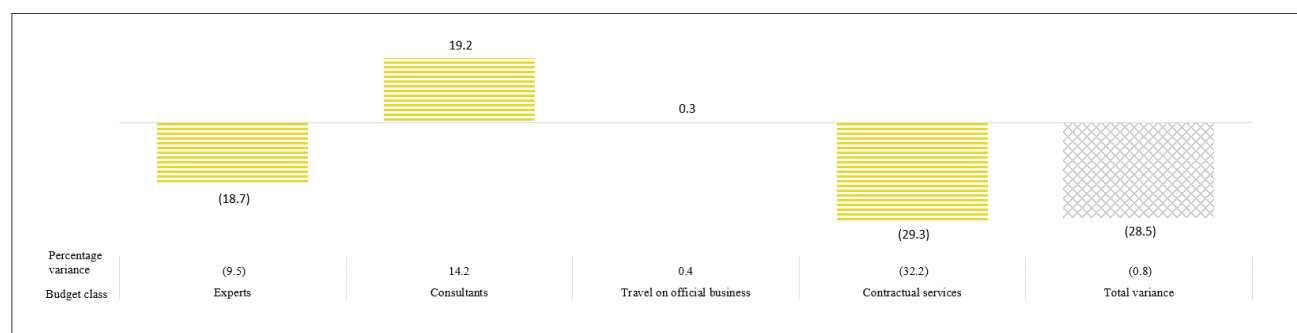


Abbreviations: LL, Local level; NPO, National Professional Officer.

Figure 22.XI

Subprogramme 1: variance between proposed resources for 2020 and appropriation for 2019, by budget class

(Thousands of United States dollars)



22.137 The variance of \$28,500 reflects:

Other changes. The net decrease of \$28,500 relates to decreased requirements for experts and contractual services, offset in part by increased requirements for consultants.

22.138 The subprogramme is supported by extrabudgetary resources, estimated at \$1,469,000, as reflected in table 22.8. The resources would support primarily the delivery of commitments under the regional initiative for small-scale renewable energy applications in the Arab region, funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, addressing energy poverty, water scarcity and the vulnerability to climate change of marginalized groups in Arab rural communities. Extrabudgetary resources will also be used to implement initiatives, such as the ESCWA Technology Centre, sponsored by the Royal Scientific Society of Jordan and the Jordanian Higher Council for Science and Technology, focusing on building the capacities of local, national and regional stakeholders in member States to develop, transfer and adapt technology to accelerate socioeconomic development. The decrease of \$2,885,900 compared with the estimates for 2019 is due to the decrease in pledges.

Subprogramme 2 Social development

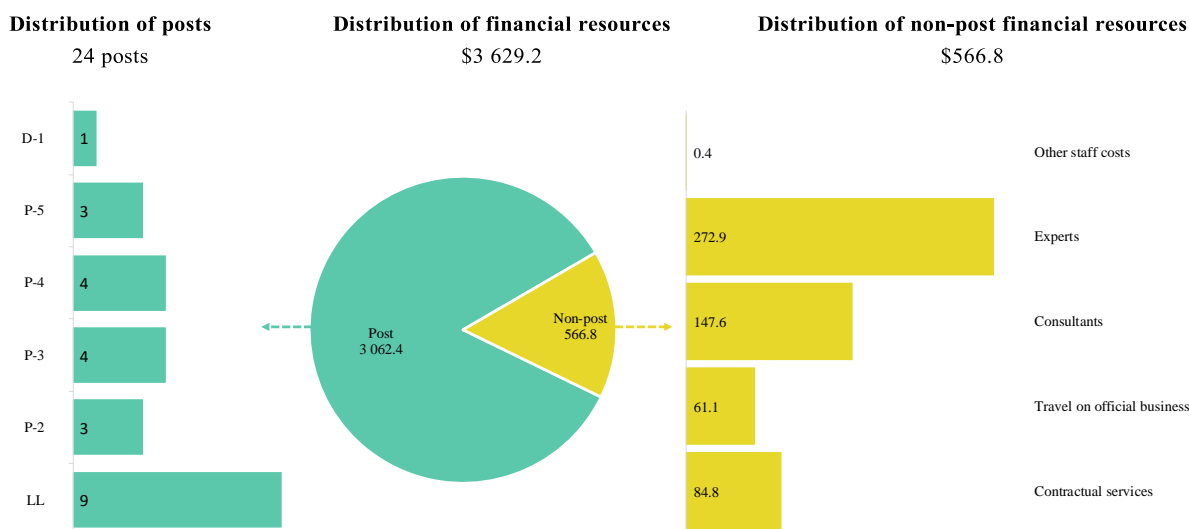
22.139 The proposed regular budget resources for 2020 amount to \$3,629,200 and reflect a net decrease of \$33,400 compared with the appropriation for 2019. Additional details are reflected in table 22.18 and figures 22.XII and 22.XIII.

Table 22.18
Subprogramme 2: evolution of financial and post resources

(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

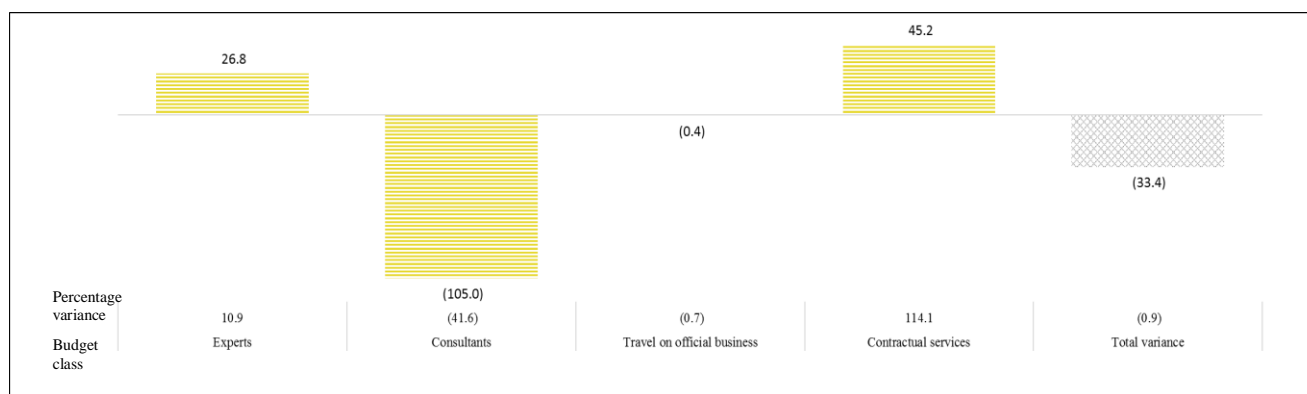
	2018 expenditure	2019 appropriation	Changes					2020 estimates (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	3 074.5	3 062.4	—	—	—	—	—	3 062.4
Non-post	441.0	600.2	—	—	(33.4)	(33.4)	(5.6)	566.8
Total	3 515.5	3 662.6	—	—	(33.4)	(33.4)	(0.9)	3 629.2
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		15	—	—	—	—	—	15
General Service and related		9	—	—	—	—	—	9
Total		24	—	—	—	—	—	24

Figure 22.XII
Subprogramme 2: distribution of proposed resources for 2020 (before recosting)
 (Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)



Abbreviation: LL, Local level.

Figure 22.XIII
Subprogramme 2: variance between proposed resources for 2020 and appropriation for 2019, by budget class
 (Thousands of United States dollars)



22.140 The variance of \$33,400 reflects:

Other changes. The net decrease of \$33,400 relates to decreased requirements for consultants, offset in part by increased requirements for contractual services and experts.

Subprogramme 3 Economic development and integration

22.141 The proposed regular budget resources for 2020 amount to \$4,327,000 and reflect a net decrease of \$20,000 compared with the appropriation for 2019. Additional details are reflected in table 22.19 and figures 22.XIV and 22.XV.

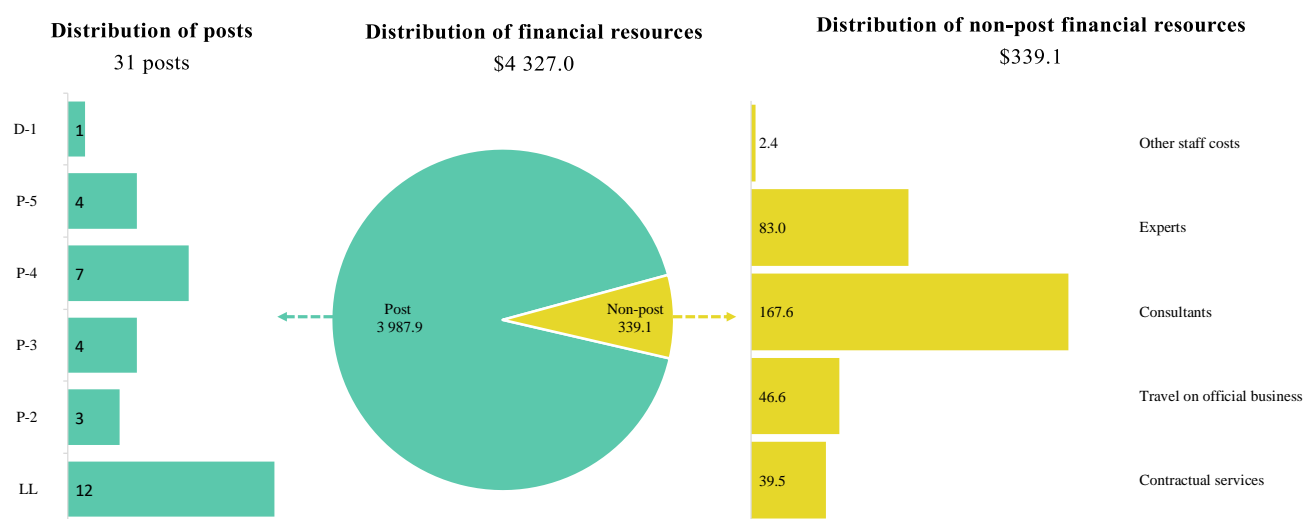
Table 22.19
Subprogramme 3: evolution of financial and post resources

(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2018 expenditure	2019 appropriation	Changes					2020 estimates (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	3 919.3	3 987.9	—	—	—	—	—	3 987.9
Non-post	282.7	359.1	—	—	(20.0)	(20.0)	(5.6)	339.1
Total	4 202.0	4 347.0	—	—	(20.0)	(20.0)	(0.5)	4 327.0
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		19	—	—	—	—	—	19
General Service and related		12	—	—	—	—	—	12
Total		31	—	—	—	—	—	31

Figure 22.XIV
Subprogramme 3: distribution of proposed resources for 2020 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)

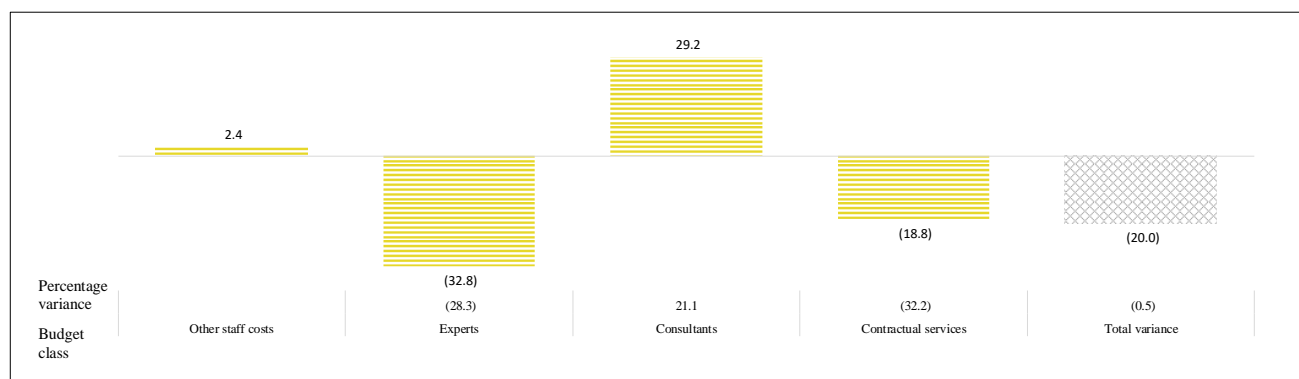


Abbreviation: LL, Local level.

Figure 22.XV

Subprogramme 3: variance between proposed resources for 2020 and appropriation for 2019, by budget class

(Thousands of United States dollars)



22.142 The variance of \$20,000 reflects:

Other changes. The net decrease of \$20,000 relates to decreased requirements for experts and contractual services, offset in part by increased requirements for consultants.

22.143 The subprogramme is supported by extrabudgetary resources, estimated at \$1,274,100, as reflected in table 22.8. The resources will support ESCWA in implementing the National Agenda for the Future of Syria. The decrease of \$1,500,800 compared with the estimates for 2019 is due to the decrease in pledges.

**Subprogramme 4
Technology for development and regional integration**

22.144 The proposed regular budget resources for 2020 amount to \$1,574,600 and reflect a net decrease of \$19,000 compared with the appropriation for 2019. Additional details are reflected in table 22.20 and figures 22.XVI and 22.XVII.

Table 22.20

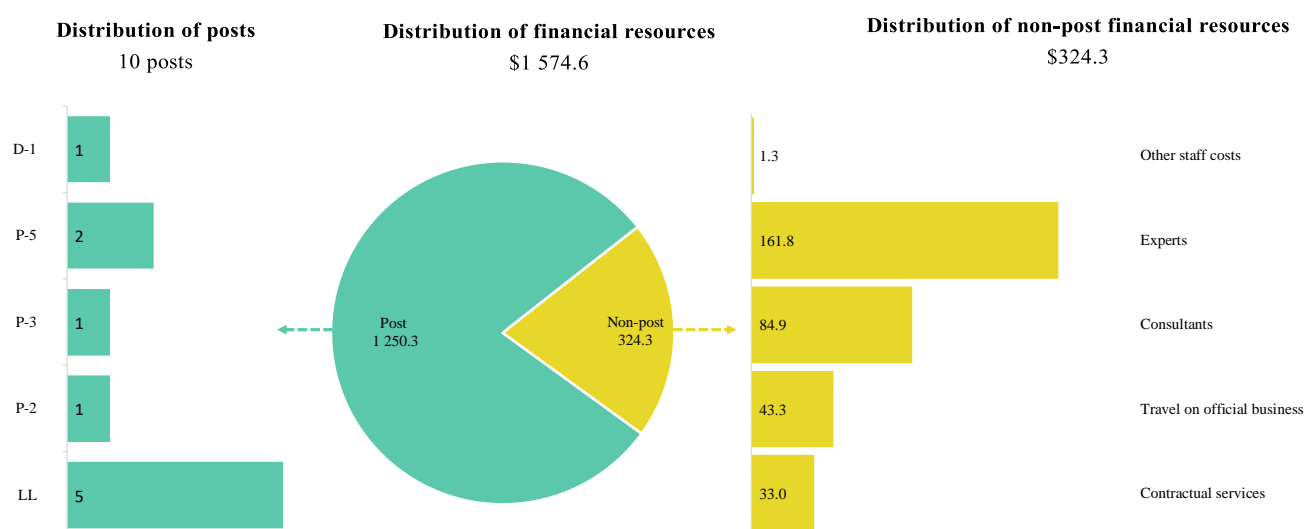
Subprogramme 4: evolution of financial and post resources

(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2018 expenditure	2019 appropriation	Changes					2020 estimates (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	1 471.8	1 250.3	—	—	—	—	—	1 250.3
Non-post	172.1	343.3	—	—	(19.0)	(19.0)	(5.5)	324.3
Total	1 643.9	1 593.6	—	—	(19.0)	(19.0)	(1.2)	1 574.6
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		5	—	—	—	—	—	5
General Service and related		5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Total		10	—	—	—	—	—	10

Figure 22.XVI
Subprogramme 4: distribution of proposed resources for 2020 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)



Abbreviation: LL, Local level.

Figure 22.XVII
Subprogramme 4: variance between proposed resources for 2020 and appropriation for 2019, by budget class

(Thousands of United States dollars)



22.145 The variance of \$19,000 reflects:

Other changes. The net decrease of \$19,000 relates to decreased requirements for consultants and contractual services, offset in part by increased requirements for experts.

Subprogramme 5 Statistics for evidence-based policymaking

22.146 The proposed regular budget resources for 2020 amount to \$2,475,200 and reflect a net decrease of \$9,000 compared with the appropriation for 2019. Additional details are reflected in table 22.2 1 and figures 22.XVIII and 22.XIX.

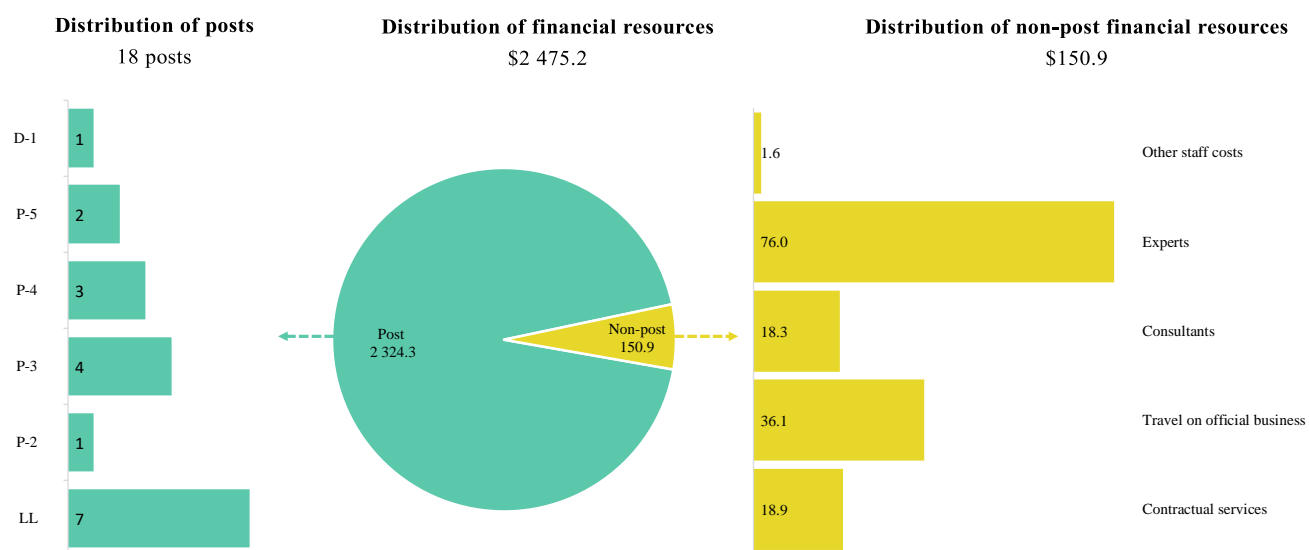
Table 22.21
Subprogramme 5: evolution of financial and post resources

(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2018 expenditure	2019 appropriation	Changes					2020 estimates (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	2 514.8	2 324.3	—	—	—	—	—	2 324.3
Non-post	160.4	159.9	—	—	(9.0)	(9.0)	(5.6)	150.9
Total	2 675.3	2 484.2	—	—	(9.0)	(9.0)	(0.4)	2 475.2
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		11	—	—	—	—	—	11
General Service and related		7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Total		18	—	—	—	—	—	18

Figure 22.XVIII
Subprogramme 5: distribution of proposed resources for 2020 (before recosting)

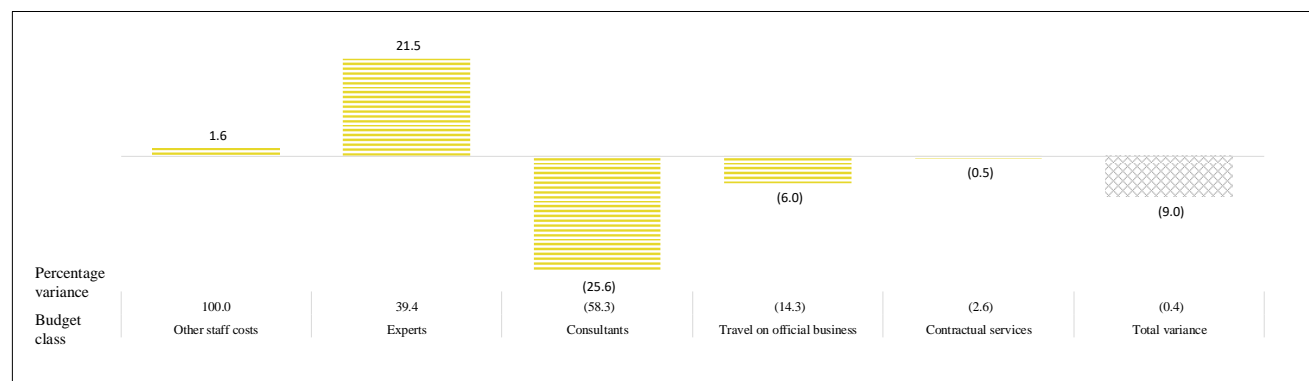
(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)



Abbreviation: LL, Local level.

Figure 22.XIX
Subprogramme 5: variance between proposed resources for 2020 and appropriation for 2019, by budget class

(Thousands of United States dollars)



22.147 The variance of \$9,000 reflects:

Other changes. The net decrease of \$9,000 relates to decreased requirements for consultants and travel on official business, offset in part by increased requirements for experts.

Subprogramme 6 Advancement of women

22.148 The proposed regular budget resources for 2020 amount to \$1,616,500 and reflect a net decrease of \$9,900 compared with the appropriation for 2019. Additional details are reflected in table 22.22 and figures 22.XX and 22.XXI.

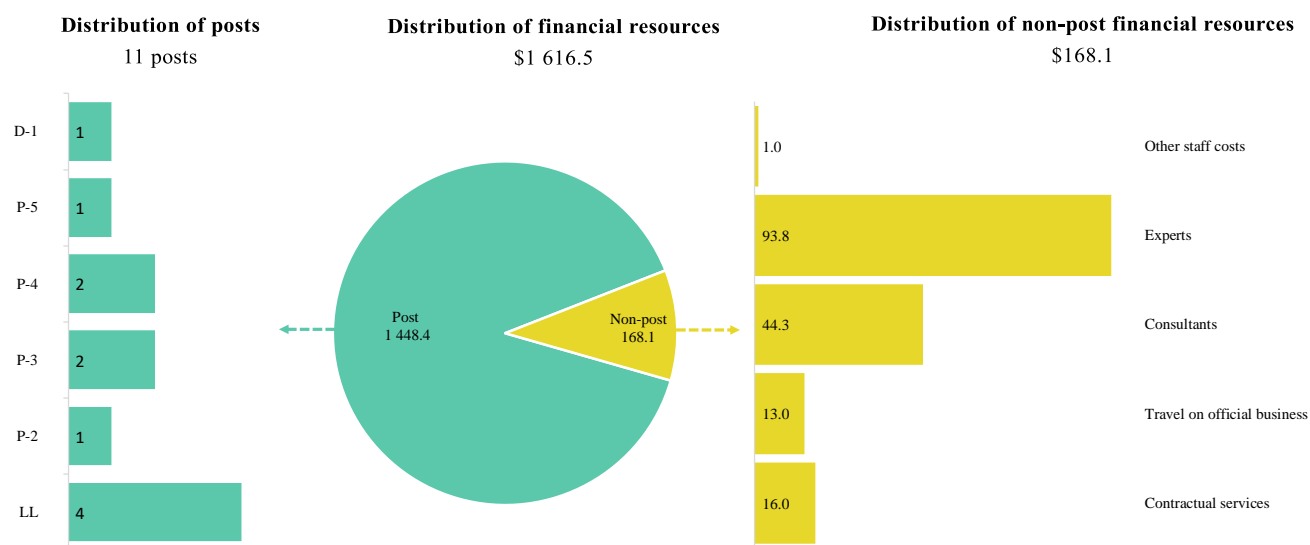
Table 22.22
Subprogramme 6: evolution of financial and post resources

(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2018 expenditure	2019 appropriation	Changes					2020 estimates (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	1 333.9	1 448.4	—	—	—	—	—	1 448.4
Non-post	197.6	178.0	—	—	(9.9)	(9.9)	(5.6)	168.1
Total	1 531.5	1 626.4	—	—	(9.9)	(9.9)	(0.6)	1 616.5
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		7	—	—	—	—	—	7
General Service and related		4	—	—	—	—	—	4
Total		11	—	—	—	—	—	11

Figure 22.XX
Subprogramme 6: distribution of proposed resources for 2020 (before recosting)

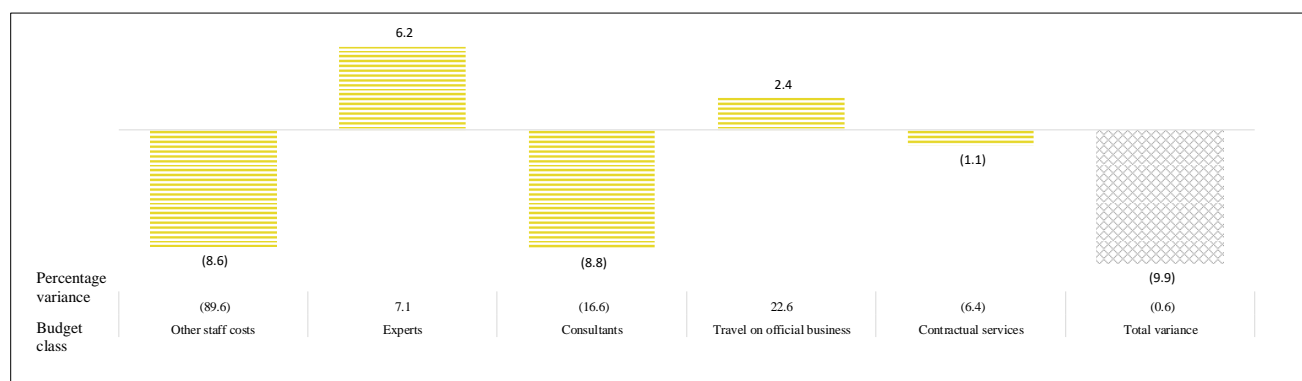
(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)



Abbreviation: LL, Local level.

Figure 22.XXI
Subprogramme 6: variance between proposed resources for 2020 and appropriation for 2019, by budget class

(Thousands of United States dollars)



22.149 The variance of \$9,900 reflects:

Other changes. The net decrease of \$9,900 relates to decreased requirements for other staff costs and consultants and contractual services, offset in part by increased requirements for experts and travel on official business.

Subprogramme 7 Conflict mitigation and development

22.150 The proposed regular budget resources for 2020 amount to \$2,150,800 and reflect a net decrease of \$10,700 compared with the appropriation for 2019. Additional details are reflected in table 22.2.3 and figures 22.XXII and 22.XXIII.

Table 22.23

Subprogramme 7: evolution of financial and post resources

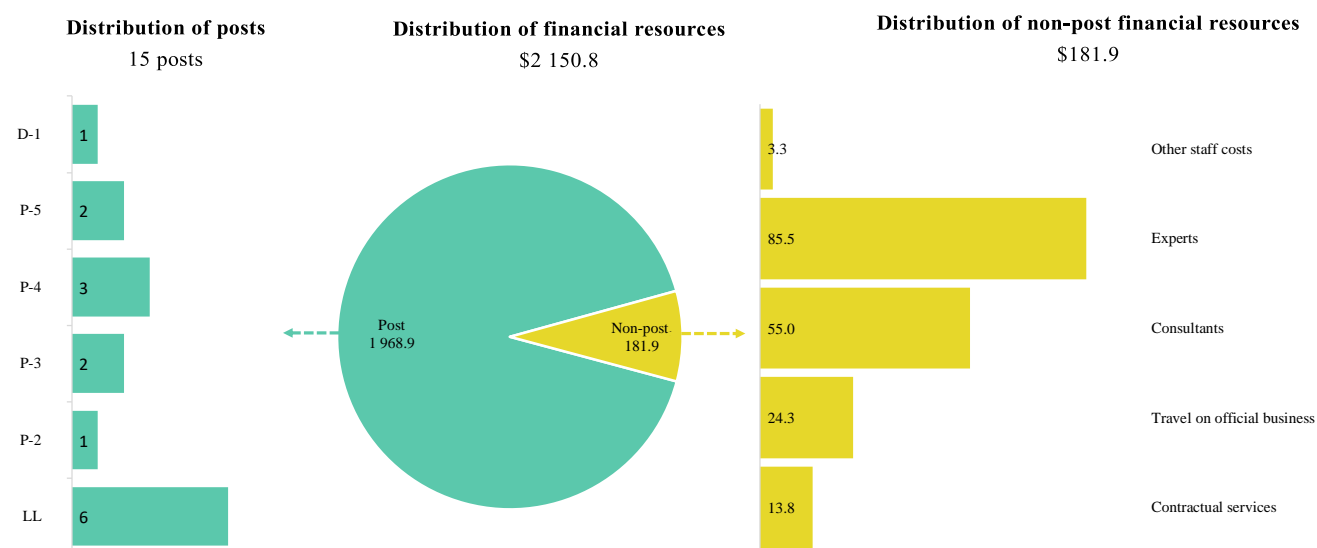
(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2018 expenditure	2019 appropriation	Changes					2020 estimates (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	1 654.7	1 968.9	—	—	—	—	—	1 968.9
Non-post	125.5	192.6	—	—	(10.7)	(10.7)	(5.6)	181.9
Total	1 780.2	2 161.5	—	—	(10.7)	(10.7)	(0.5)	2 150.8
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		9	—	—	—	—	—	9
General Service and related		6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Total		15	—	—	—	—	—	15

Figure 22.XXII

Subprogramme 7: distribution of proposed resources for 2020 (before recosting)

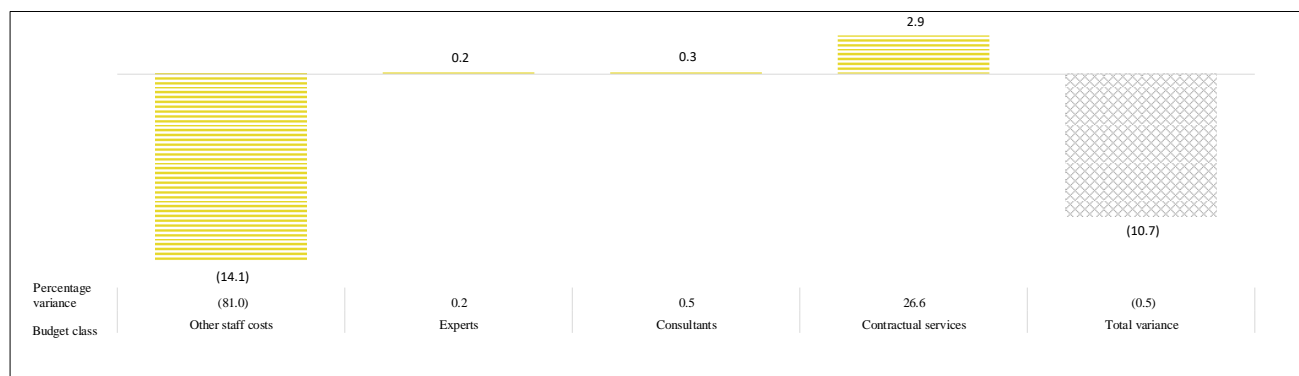
(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)



Abbreviation: LL, Local level.

Figure 22.XXIII
Subprogramme 7: variance between proposed resources for 2020 and appropriation for 2019, by budget class

(Thousands of United States dollars)



22.151 The variance of \$10,700 reflects:

Other changes. The net decrease of \$10,700 relates to decreased requirements for other staff costs, offset in part by increased requirements for contractual services, resulting from streamlined processes that the subprogramme plans to implement in 2020.

22.152 The subprogramme is supported by extrabudgetary resources, estimated at \$442,800 (representing 21 per cent of total resources under the subprogramme) as reflected in table 22.8. The resources will assist ESCWA in providing and supporting a platform for Libyans to formulate, discuss, evaluate and advocate a future socioeconomic vision to achieve stability and development in Libya. The decrease of \$1,102,100 compared with the estimates for 2019 is due to the decrease in pledges.

IV. Programme support

22.153 Programme support comprises the Administrative Services Division, the Programme Planning and Technical Cooperation Section and the Strategy, Evaluation and Partnership Section. Its role will continue to entail the provision of timely, effective and efficient support to implement the ESCWA programme of work.

22.154 The Administrative Services Division is headed by a Director, who manages administrative and logistical support for ESCWA work, assists senior management in developing and implementing administrative and financial framework and provides advice on all administrative policies concerning the work of the Commission. The Director also leads the ESCWA contribution to system-wide initiatives such as Umoja and the staff mobility and development policy. The Division includes the Human Resources Management Section, the Budget and Finance Section, the Information and Communications Technology Section, the General Services Section, the Conference Services Section and the Joint Medical Services Unit.

22.155 The Programme Planning and Technical Cooperation Section reports to the Deputy Executive Secretary for Programme Support. The Section supports the implementation of the ESCWA programme of work and the coordination of interdisciplinary issues to achieve coherence between the ESCWA regular programme of work and its technical cooperation programme. It also addresses emerging interdisciplinary development challenges by fostering collaboration between divisions.

22.156 The Programme Planning and Technical Cooperation Section is responsible for supporting the process of interdivisional programming in the preparation of the programme planning and performance information for 2021, 2022 and 2023; coordinating the articulation of normative, analytical and operational work; providing policy guidance and support to divisions in formulating

their relevant technical cooperation programmes and projects funded from the regular programme of technical cooperation, the Development Account and extrabudgetary sources; supporting the delivery of policy advisory and capacity-building activities to member States upon request, in line with the mandate of ESCWA; servicing meetings of the technical cooperation network; monitoring the preparation of programme performance reports through the application of results-based management and results-based-budgeting principles; implementing internal and peer-review mechanisms; acting as the secretariat of the Projects Committee; and ensuring coherence with other regional commissions by actively participating and contributing to meetings of the Chiefs of Programme Planning.

- 22.157 The Strategy, Evaluation and Partnership Section aims to focus programmatic results and increase effectiveness and coherence in programme delivery. Reporting to the Deputy Executive Secretary for Programme Support, the Section supports the articulation and implementation of the long-term strategic vision of ESCWA and the coordination of interdisciplinary initiatives.
- 22.158 Through the implementation of the ESCWA partnership strategy, the Strategy, Evaluation and Partnership Section also seeks to nurture relationships with partners and other stakeholders, including intergovernmental bodies such as LAS, other organizations of the United Nations system, think tanks and research institutes, civil society organizations and the private sector. The Section also coordinates activities of the Regional Coordination Mechanism and its affiliated thematic working groups to ensure policy coherence among United Nations entities at the regional level and to coordinate important joint outputs. The Section supports the implementation of the ESCWA resource mobilization strategy by enhancing donor relations and improving the ability of the organization to raise voluntary contributions to support its regular programme of work. The Section is the secretariat of the Publications Committee. Furthermore, the Section oversees the implementation of the ESCWA evaluation policy, in line with the norms and standards of the United Nations Evaluation Group, manages all mandatory and discretionary self-evaluations and ensures proper follow-up and implementation of approved recommendations.
- 22.159 The proposed regular budget resources for 2020 amount to \$14,374,500 and reflect a net decrease of \$343,200 compared with the appropriation for 2019. Additional details are reflected in table 22.24 and figures 22.XXIV through 22.XXVI.

Figure 22.XXIV

Resources for programme support as a percentage of the regular budget

(Millions of United States dollars)

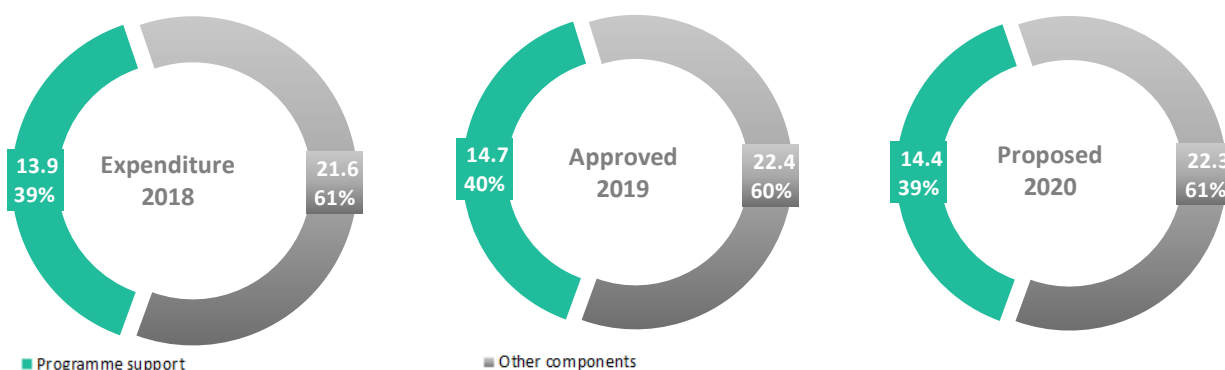


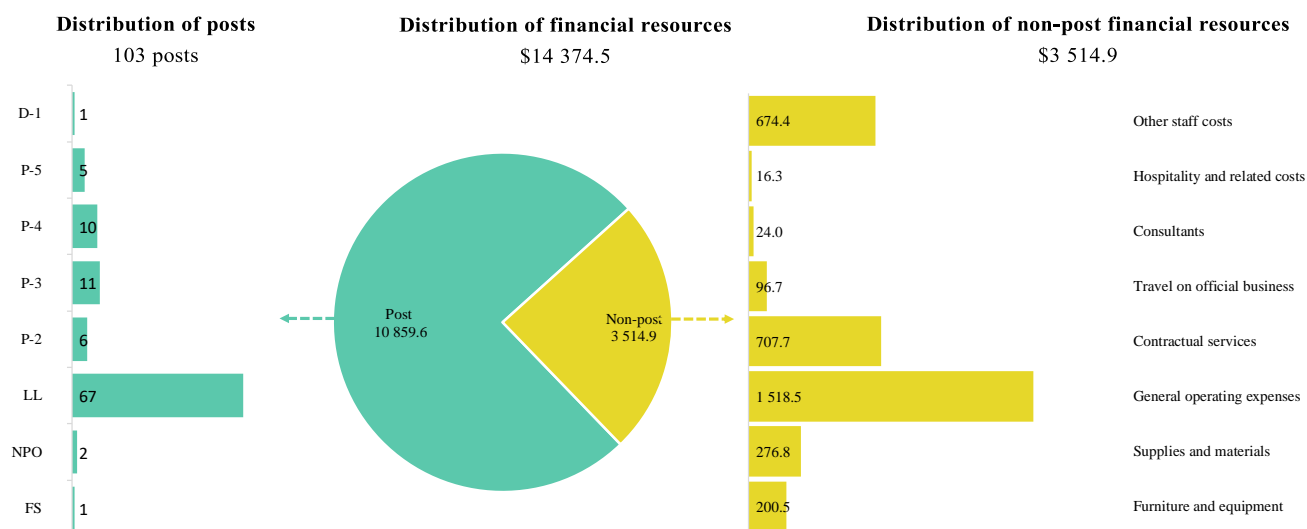
Table 22.24
Programme support: evolution of financial and post resources

(Thousands of United States dollars/number of posts)

	2018 expenditure	2019 appropriation	Changes					2020 estimates (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
Financial resources by main category of expenditure								
Post	10 484.9	10 995.3	—	—	(135.7)	(135.7)	(1.2)	10 859.6
Non-post	3 452.4	3 722.4	—	—	(207.5)	(207.5)	(5.6)	3 514.9
Total	13 937.3	14 717.7	—	—	(343.2)	(343.2)	(2.3)	14 374.5
Post resources by category								
Professional and higher		33	—	—	—	—	—	33
General Service and related		71	—	—	(1)	(1)	(1.4)	70
Total		104	—	—	(1)	(1)	(1.0)	103

Figure 22.XXV
Programme support: distribution of proposed resources for 2020 (before recosting)

(Number of posts/thousands of United States dollars)

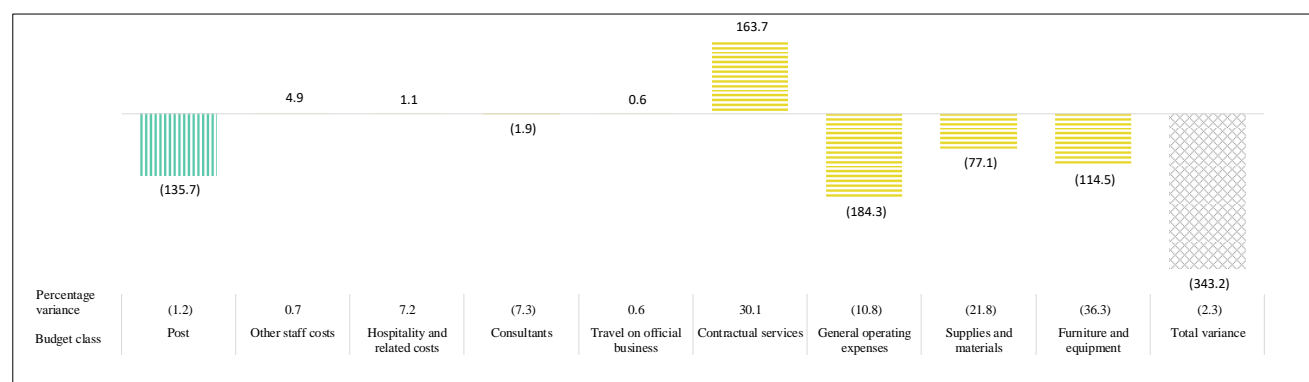


Abbreviations: FS, Field Service; LL, Local level; NPO, National Professional Officer.

Figure 22.XXVI

Programme support: variance between proposed resources for 2020 and appropriation for 2019, by budget class

(Thousands of United States dollars)

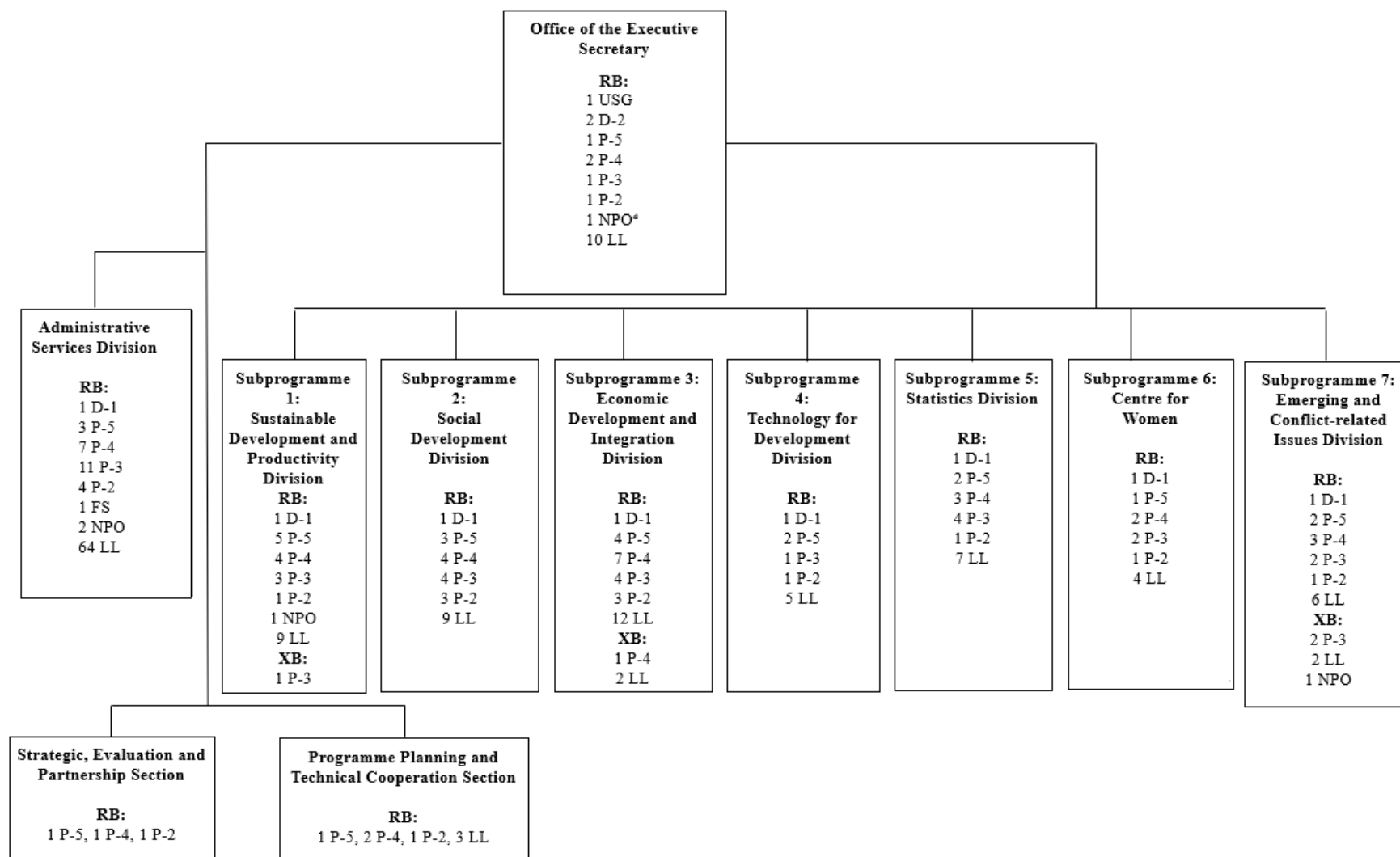


22.160 The variance of \$343,200 reflects:

Other changes. The net decrease of \$343,200 relates to: (i) the proposed reassignment of one Procurement Officer (National Professional Officer) to Programme Management Officer (the original functions of the post proposed for reassignment will be carried out by an existing senior staff at the Local level and no adverse impact is expected on the overall functions and responsibilities of the Administrative Services Division); and (ii) decreased requirements mainly under general operating expenses, and furniture and equipment.

Annex I

Organizational structure and post distribution for 2020



Abbreviations: FS, Field Service; LL, Local level; NPO, National Professional Officer; RB, regular budget; USG, Under-Secretary-General; XB, extrabudgetary.

^a Reassignment.

Annex II

Summary of proposed changes in established and temporary posts by component and subprogramme

	<i>Posts</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Reason for change</i>
Executive direction and management	1	NPO	Reassignment of National Professional Officer to Programme Officer	To strengthen management and coordination in the Office of the Executive Secretary by performing functions in the areas of accountability, internal controls and monitoring and evaluation
Programme support	(1)	NPO	Reassignment of National Professional Officer to Programme Officer	
Total	—			

Abbreviation: NPO, National Professional Officer.