



UNITED NATIONS

الأمم المتحدة  
ESCWA



## Budgeting in support of effective institutions

On 07-08 May 2019 a group of experts gathered at the ESCWA headquarters in Beirut to participate in a meeting entitled “From plan to implementation for achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals: Budgeting in support of effective institutions”. Participants reviewed international expertise and knowledge in terms of main policies, and learned about practices and initiatives in terms of planning and budgeting, and listened to the experiences of Egypt, Jordan and Algeria. They also discussed the challenges, limitations and possible developments at the global, regional and national levels.

The meeting established a pool of resources persons on which ESCWA country representatives may draw on and it is the basis for consolidating the discussion into a summary paper on key lessons learned for budgeting and planning in support of effective institutions with lessons learned and specific guidance/recommendations for policy-makers in the Arab region.

[Read more](#)



## University students get briefed on the work of ESCWA

Students from the Political and Administrative Sciences Department at the University of Saint-Esprit – Kaslik (USEK) paid a 3rd visit to ESCWA on 8 May 2019. The visit was intended to wrap up a series of briefings they had attended to learn more about the Commission and the different areas of its work, namely in relation to conflict and development; governance and state building; as well as the role of institutions in this regard. Students were also briefed on the work of ESCWA related to gender-based violence; women’s economic participation and access to resources; female political participation; and the Commission’s work related to women, peace and security.

The visiting students learned about the role of ESCWA in promoting social justice; social inclusion; social protection; as well as about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.





## Studies & reports

### Social and Economic Situation of Palestinian Women and Girls (July 2016 - June 2018)

ESCWA has recently launched a report which reviews the social and economic situation of Palestinian women and girls from July 2016 to June 2018, focusing on political, social, economic and human rights developments.

It sets the scene with the background on the volatile political setting and its impact on the wellbeing and rights of women and girls; before presenting the socio-economic indicators that define their lives. The report also assesses the extent to which the State of Palestine has made progress in aligning national legislation and policies with the international frameworks; and concludes with a set of recommendations that encompass a broad range of gender-sensitive legal and institutional reforms.

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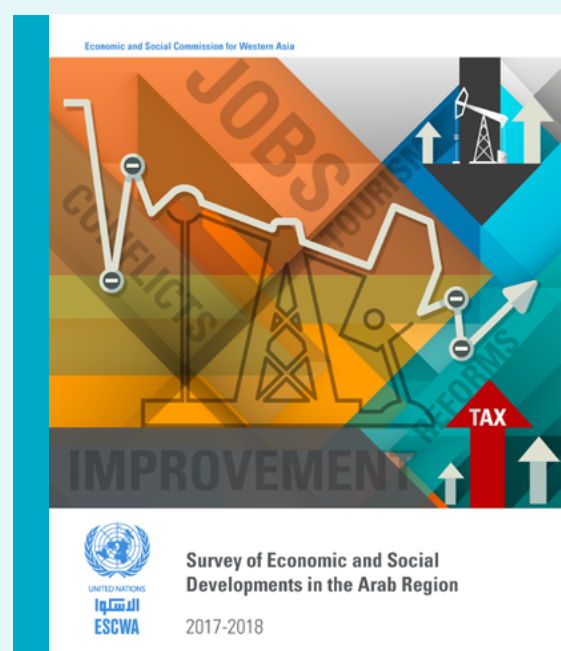
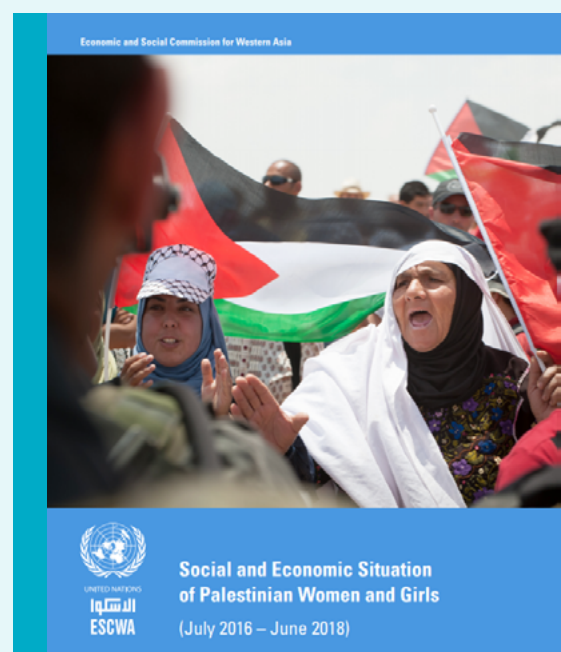
### Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the Arab Region 2017-2018

The Arab region continues to manage uncertainties on its path towards an inclusive and sustainable growth trajectory. The moderate recovery in oil prices further complicates the balance between fiscal consolidation, private sector development, diversification and external imbalances.

Reflecting both upside opportunities and downside risks, the Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the Arab Region 2017-2018 shows that regional economic growth is estimated to have slowed to 1.5 per cent in 2017 from 2.8 per cent the year before, but is projected to rebound to 3.3 per cent in 2018 and maintain a similar rate of growth for 2019.

The 2017-2018 survey finds that the region continues to lag behind the rest of the world in gender equality and attempts to explore the exchange-rate regime in Arab countries and claims that fixed exchange regimes, despite substantial misalignments, have a better impact on growth in some countries.

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## Did you Know...

... that after many years of declining, world hunger appears to be on the rise again? More than 40 million people – or 1 in 10 people – in the Arab region suffer from hunger and malnutrition. On another front, increasing climate shocks are putting the food security of the region in peril. Since climate shocks cross national boundaries, an integrated response is required by and for the region.

[Read more](#)

