



Sustainable Development Goals in North and the Horn of Africa

How COVID-19 pandemic affected
the development path?



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NGOs Major Group for Africa

United Nations Department of
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*Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in North and
the Horn of Africa between Reality and Challenges*

*Non-Governmental Organizations
Major Group for Africa*

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Introduction

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a major impact not only on the humanitarian and economic aspects, but also on the development plans adopted by undeveloped, economically-depleted countries, as well as its poor infrastructure. In Africa, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic was undeniable. As to the development aspect, the impact of the pandemic on the countries of the Dark Continent was variable. Some countries came out of the pandemic with fixed indicators in the development goals set in 2019, and some other countries, especially the countries in the African continent, have been badly affected and the development goals set by their country weren't achieved.

It is unfortunate that the regions of North Africa and the Horn of Africa are the most different in relation to their response to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Therefore, in this report, we focus on the regions of North Africa and the Horn of Africa, by monitoring and analyzing the reality and challenges of the sustainable development goals, and discussing whether these countries are moving according to clear plans that enable them to achieve the desired results for 2030 vision? However, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has, in one way or another, affected almost all countries of the world. The countries in the North and Horn of Africa have characteristics that make them a good material for study and analysis, as there are many factors that impede the development of these countries and limit the impact of the efforts made to achieve it. Among these factors, terrorism, extremism, climate change, economic collapse, political instability, and scarcity of resources and capabilities. All of these factors encourage us to closely and periodically monitor the development efforts in those countries, and also make us wonder whether these countries are going to achieve their goals one day or will remain floundering and lose the way?



First Topic

The Reality and Challenges of the Seventeen Goals of Sustainable Development in the Countries of North Africa and the Horn of Africa

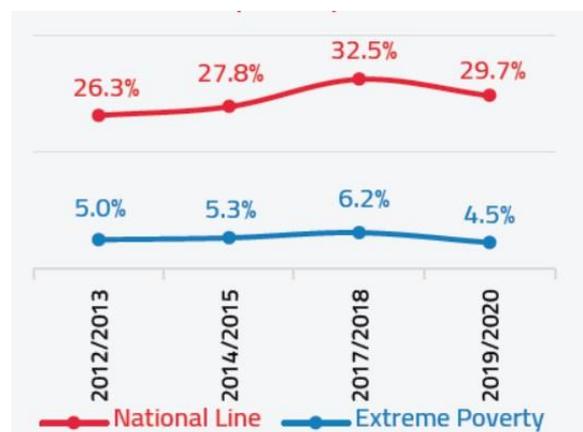
Theme I: the reality and challenges of Sustainable Development Goal 1 (No Poverty) in the countries of North Africa and the Horn of Africa

In light of the developments and variables of the international system, the implications and theses of sustainable development have imposed binding obligations on countries and accelerated their orientations towards the goal of eradicating and eliminating poverty, given the importance that it represents in development plans, with its security, political, economic, social and humanitarian dimensions, as well as international, regional and local levels, and given the fact that the SDG 1 – No Poverty - is an effective entry point in addressing issues of international system, in particular security and peace, illegal migration, terrorism and food insecurity, to the extent that it is the first development objective of United Nations 2030 Agenda, and then the development strategies of the countries, which extended to African countries to make strenuous efforts to eradicate poverty, reducing it from 54% in 1990 to 41% in 2015, especially in the contexts of the Horn of Africa and North Africa. However, developments in the international economic system, which had been severely deteriorated after the Covid-19 pandemic, had exacerbated causing an expected surge in poverty rate in the region.

First: The reality and challenges of the first goal (No Poverty) in North Africa:

A. Egypt

In the middle of the second decade of the twenty-first century, the file of poverty has received an obvious attention from the Egyptian state as one of the main causes of the 2011 events. Egypt has put poverty among its top priorities and the 2030 development strategy, and has developed many policies and programs to defeat poverty. The percentage of the population living below extreme poverty line dropped from 6.2% in 2018 to 4.5% in 2020, and the percentage of the population living below the national poverty line dropped from 32.5% 2018 to 29.7% in 2020. Public spending on health and education, which are basic services related to poverty, also grew from 4.9% to 6.1% and from 8.8% to 10.1%, respectively, during the same period as a percentage of total government expenditure





¹. However, the Coronavirus pandemic had a short-term effect on slowing the decline in extreme poverty rates in Egypt, as mentioned before that the poverty rate decreased from 4.5% in 2019 to 4.4% in 2020, a small rate that could have reached 4.1% had it not been for the pandemic.²

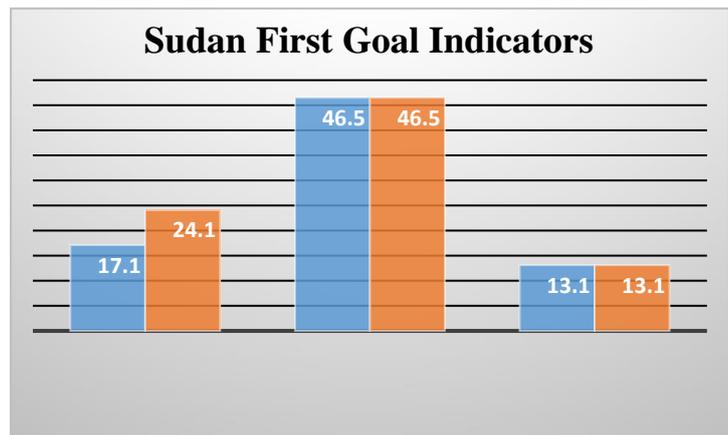
(Graph: Percentage of population below poverty line)³

B. Sudan

Sudan faced many economic challenges after the secession of South Sudan in 2011. It lost 75% of its oil resources, which is 95% of exports and 68% of revenues, and in the midst of that, Sudan developed a number of policies and programs to eradicate poverty, topped by the Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy. However, no tangible results have been achieved. Statistics on poverty indicators conflicted between 36.1% according to the statistics of the Central Bank of Sudan, or 77% of the population according to the statistics of the Sudanese Social Security Commission.

Amidst the pandemic in 2020, the rates of extreme poverty in Sudan increased in conjunction with the factors mentioned, the percentage of poor have risen at \$1.90 (the international average) to 24.1% in 2020 after it was 17.1% in 2019, and this is a significant rate that predicts the magnitude of the disaster facing Sudan, as long as this indicator continues to rise by this amount, and No clear plans have been made to reduce extreme poverty inflation.

As for the indicator of the rate of population living below the national poverty line, Sudan remained unchanged between 2019 and 2020 at 46.5%. The index of the socially protected population was unchanged in 2019 and 2020 and remained at 13.1%.⁴



C. Libya

The political, security and economic transformations in Libya since 2011, such as the overthrow of the Gaddafi regime in favor of civil war, the political and institutional division, the increased foreign interference, and the proliferation of mercenaries in Libya for more than a decade, have increased the fragility of the Libyan country, weakened its ability to achieve its internal and external objectives, and disturbed their oil contributions, which has had a negative impact on development efforts and

¹ The world bank, the world bank in Egypt, access date. July 7, 2021, <https://bit.ly/3AxFGfT>

² Impact of COVID-19 on the Egyptian economy: Economic sectors, jobs, and households, Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, 2020, <https://bit.ly/3t9BP5n>

⁴ SOCIAL POLICY ANNUAL REPORT, UNICEF SUDAN, 2021, <https://www.unicef.org/sudan/media/6156/file/Social%20Policy.pdf>



the achievement of social justice. Its poverty index rose from 29% in 2009 to 45% in 2019, average annual per capita income fell from \$12,000 in 2010 to \$6.5 000 in 2019, which continued in 2020, and became more complex after the Corona pandemic, with the Libyan Government in Tripoli reducing expenditures by about 22% in 2019⁵. The salaries of political and public sector employees were reduced by 40% and 20% respectively, and development expenditures were reduced to 1.8 billion dinars in 2020 compared to 4.6 billion dinars in 2019.⁶

This evolved to the extent that the goal of eradicating poverty emerged from the Libyan voluntary report that I presented to the High-level Political Forum on 16 July 2020, which focuses on the Goals. (3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 13, 16, 17)⁷, despite Libya's successes and advances following the October 2020 ceasefire, the formation of the national Government in March 2021 and reconstruction efforts, the future of Libya and its efforts to eradicate poverty continue to depend on continued political successes and advances, its exit from transition, the holding of presidential elections and the issue of equitable distribution of resources and wealth.

D. Algeria

The manifestations of Algerian reality, in particular the indicators of illegal immigration, monitor an increase in poverty and its severe Socio-economic repercussions to the extent that 3109 thousand Algerians were estimated to attempting to board death boats, 670,000 families needed for housing, 38% of Algerians by 15 million fell below the poverty line in 2018, compared to about 24% in 2014, 80% of the wealth was concentrated in 10% of Algerians, according to the 2018 National Bureau, and the unemployment rate rose by 11.1%, 11.7%, 14% during the period (2017, 2018, 2020).

In the context of 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic, along with developments in the Algerian arena, caused the Algerian economy to decline, real GDP growth to shrink by 5.5%, the budget deficit to increase to 16.4% of GDP⁸ and annual per capita income to drop from \$4060 to \$3970 over the period (2018, 2020), according to World Bank estimates in 2020; To monitor an additional 1.9 million poor people in Algeria for the period (2018:2020), the indicator (the number of poor people at the international rate is 1.90 US dollars per day) in 2020 is 0.3%, and the percentage of the population living below the national poverty line was 5.5%, a small percentage compared to Algeria and its neighbors in other countries, which predicted that Algeria could achieve goal 2030.⁹

E. Morocco

⁶ Oil-rich Libya in poverty after decade of conflict, france24, 2021, <https://bit.ly/2WKKBuH>

⁷ The world bank, overview, mars 2021, <https://bit.ly/2WmEHzu>

⁸ The world bank, the world bank in Algeria, access date. 29 July 2021, <https://bit.ly/3iTelg0>

⁹ Statista, population under the poverty line in Algeria in 2018:2021, 4 mars 2021, <https://bit.ly/3jbmky>



Morocco is inseparable from its international counterparts and their endeavors to eradicate poverty; it developed a number of policies and programs to eradicate poverty.¹⁰ Morocco has been able to reduce extreme poverty by about 1.2%, and reduce the estimated relative poverty of 36.8% in rural areas and 6.4% in cities, and to stand at 2400 as the average annual per capita income until 2020. However, owing to local, regional and international economic changes in 2020, particularly the effects of the Coronavirus pandemic on all levels, particularly political, economic and social, the poverty rate increased to 19.87% during 2020 in Morocco, bringing the rate of Moroccan households without an income source to 34%.¹¹

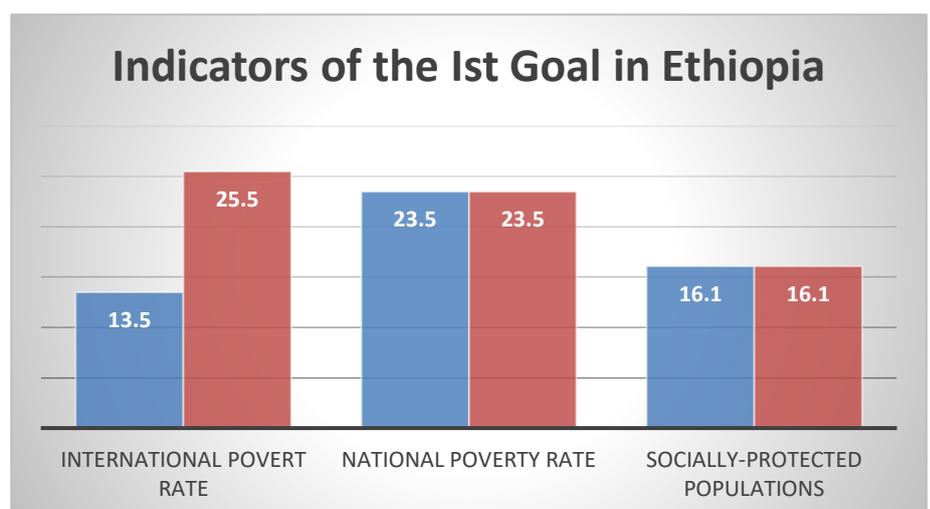
F. Tunisia

Tunisia has spared no efforts to eradicate poverty since its independence in 1956. It managed to reduce it from 32.4, 23.3 and 15.5 during the period (2000, 2005 and 2010) respectively¹². Despite the developments and events witnessed in 2011, the Tunisian National Statistics Institute, in cooperation with the World Bank, estimated the poverty rate at about (15.2%) by 1.7 million Tunisians out of 11 million by February 2020, and the extreme poverty rate by about (3.5%)¹³ before the Coronavirus pandemic and its effects on the Tunisian economy, such as its impact on the international investment and domestic product growth which has declined by 26.4% and 8.8% respectively, as well as the tourism sector and prices. The unemployment rate has also been affected, as it estimated at 15%, 17.8% and 18% over the period (2019, 2020 and 2021) respectively, and the per capita income rate has also dropped to 3,300 from 4300 in 2008.

Second: The reality and challenges of the first goal (No Poverty) in the Horn of Africa

A. Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Ethiopia is the second largest country in Africa in terms of population and it has one of the fastest growing economies in the region, according to the World Bank report (2020). However, Ethiopia remains one of the poorest countries in the world with an estimated annual per capita income of \$883. Macroeconomic gains do not tell



¹⁰ BORGENT PROJECT, The state of poverty in Morocco, access date. 29 July 2021, <https://bit.ly/3iaBoE9>.

¹¹ Anadolu Agency, fears of an exacerbation of the poverty crisis in Morocco due to corona, 19 September 2020, <https://bit.ly/379tZyo>

¹² Arab development portal, poverty and inequality in Tunisia, Feb, 2015, <https://bit.ly/3i6ta1L>

¹³ The world bank, The world bank in Tunisia, access date. 29 July 2021, <https://bit.ly/3xcigene>



the full story with the high incidence of pension poverty. Many Ethiopian continue to suffer from frequent shortages of basic necessities in their daily lives and more than half of the poor in Ethiopia live in moderate or high levels of poverty, most classify the Government's performance in economic issues as weak.

In 2019, the poverty rate index was at \$1.90/day, 13.5%, but in 2020 it rose significantly to 25.1%. That is a large percentage meaning that a quarter of Ethiopia's population at the global rate is poor, despite the economic boom. The indicators of the population living below the national poverty line also remained stable between 2019 and 2020 at 23.5%. Finally, the value of the indicators of the socially protected population in the two years was also 16.1%, which is a very small percentage indicating that the country does not adopt effective protection programs to protect citizens from falling into poverty. Therefore, if these policies do not change, poverty rates in Ethiopia are expected to worsen further.¹⁴

B. Djibouti

Djibouti has been intensifying its efforts to achieve development and eradicate poverty since 1990. It developed several policies and initiatives, including: Poverty Reduction Strategy Document 2003, National Initiative for Social Development 2007 and Djibouti Vision 2014: 2035 and the Rapid Growth Strategy 2015¹⁵; to increase GDP from 1.6, 7.3 and 7.5% in 2009, 2011 and 2019, GDP was estimated at \$5.6 billion in 2019.

Nevertheless, owing to the impact of the conflicts and civil war in Djibouti that lasted until 2001, 35% of the population still fell into poverty, estimated at 35% of the population, 21% of the population in extreme poverty, 98% of the population suffering from inappropriate diet and one third of them food insecurity, according to 2018 estimates, and, in the context of 2019, GDP was about \$3.6 billion, per capita about \$367 billion. The poverty rate was estimated \$1.9 at 17%, \$3.2 at 39.8%, and 21.1% at the national poverty line, according to World Bank. In 2020, Djibouti's economic growth contracted for the first time in two decades as a result of the Corona pandemic, but medium-term economic prospects remain positive; GDP growth is expected to be about 5.5% in 2021 and 6.2% in (2022: 2023) according to World Bank estimates.¹⁶

C. Somalia

In Somalia, variables such as conflict, civil war and drought, following the collapse of the Democratic Republic of Somalia in 1991 and its developments, have posed several challenges and inevitable

¹⁴ Poverty & Equity Brief Ethiopia Africa Eastern & Southern, 2021, <https://bit.ly/2WJ0HFz>

¹⁵ The BORGENT PROJECT, poverty in Djibouti: A Galvanizing government invests in action, access date 27 July 2021, <https://bit.ly/3f5B1bV>

¹⁶ The world bank, the world bank in Djibouti, April 2021, <https://bit.ly/3iZAZng>



obstacles to sustainable development and its political and economic capabilities, culminating in the second decade of the twenty-first century; GDP decreased by (2.8%, 1.8% and 2.9%) during the period (2016: 2017, 2019), and school enrolment rates have fallen by about (30%, 26%) in favor of primary and secondary schools, compared to 60% of school-age children, which has led to poverty rates of 71%, extreme poverty to 64%, non-monetary poverty to 41%¹⁷, unemployment rate rising by 67%, rising needs of 2.3 million people for humanitarian assistance and health care, and increased food insecurity of 6.3 million people, despite entering Somalia under the umbrella of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative on March 25, 2020 and reduced its external debt to 3.9 billion dollars by 78%, but the Corona pandemic cast a shadow over Somalia's economic and social realities, dragging back GDP growth.¹⁸

Theme II: the reality and challenges of SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) in North Africa and the Horn of Africa

Protracted conflicts and crises in a number of North African countries and the Horn of Africa have hampered efforts to achieve the goal of eradicating hunger in the region by 2030. There are 27.2% of the population in the Horn and North African countries suffered from chronic hunger as a result of the conflict, which is six times higher than the 4.6% of the population that was undernourished in non-conflict countries during the same period.

The majority of countries of the Horn and North Africa suffer from food insecurity contrary to the achievement of Goal 2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, owing to the fact that most countries of the Horn of Africa suffer from poverty, economic deterioration and large-scale locust infestation in most countries. Finally, the Corona pandemic has risen the food insecurity more than the double in three months. The following presents the rates of food insecurity in the countries of North Africa and the Horn of Africa and the causes of the disaster, as well as some indicators of hunger in the region to be aware of the latest updates of the second goal in countries of North Africa and the Horn of Africa.

First: The reality and challenges of SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) in North African countries

A. Egypt

With over 100 million people, Egypt remains the most populous country in North Africa. More than 32.5% of citizens live below the poverty line, making malnutrition and hunger a pressing issue in Egypt. The current flow of poverty leaves children and adults without proper education, and they are left to participate in hazardous jobs that do not receive compensation, such as mining, quarrying and

¹⁷ THE World bank, from data to development: poverty and policy in Somalia, 9 December 2019, <https://bit.ly/3rBib1z>

¹⁸ The world bank, the world bank in Somalia, access date.27 July 2021, <https://bit.ly/3f55abw>



cement production. Because of Egypt's dependence on imported food as the world's largest wheat producer, Egypt is at risk of any radical changes in the prices of goods and economies.¹⁹

Egypt's score in composite food security indicators, such as the Global Food Security Index (GFSI), shows that Egypt's score has been steadily increasing since 2017, with a total score of 60.1/100 to 65.4/100 in 2019, before dropping to 61.1/100 in 2020. There are also good steps in reducing malnutrition, especially among children under five. The prevalence of dwarfism has dropped from 22.7% to 15.5%, wasting from 8% to 3%, and anemia is from 27% to 22.3% all from 2015 to 2020.



(GFSI overall score for Egypt out of 100)

B. Libya

The level of food insecurity is high in the western and eastern parts of the country, where the majority of internally displaced persons' (IDP) families are located. In general, locations near conflict zones generally host the most vulnerable families as they come from the areas most affected by the ongoing fighting. Although Libya's southern region has only 7% of IDP families, 21% of families in Awbari are food insecure. Tobruk is the most food secure place where there is no family is food insecure, followed by Zawiya and Sabha, where only 4 and 7% are food insecure.²⁰

As for the indicators for second goal and their development, the indicators did not develop between 2019 and 2020. The prevalence of stunting among children under the age of five remains at 21.1% (a significant percentage among children). The prevalence of atrophy among children under five years of age is constant at 6.5%. The prevalence of obesity is a major challenge in Libya, with 32.5% and the cereal access indicators is also low, despite the increase in the percentage from 0.7% in 2019 to 0.8% in 2020, but that percentage is also low.

C. Sudan

As for the Sudan, 21% of the population of 42 million people are experiencing severe hunger, and several factors have contributed to this situation. For example, during 2020, the Sudan faced excessive inflation, the worst floods in years, locust invasion, and the Corona pandemic, which caused huge job losses, resulting in 9.8 million people who cannot feed themselves most of the internally displaced populations, refugees and host populations affected by the conflict in Darfur and

¹⁹ Borgenproject, [Understanding Hunger in Egypt](https://2u.pw/4d2Rc), oct 2020, at: <https://2u.pw/4d2Rc>

²⁰ humanitarian response, Rapid Food Security Assessment, Libya, at: <https://2u.pw/zCPIW>



Southern Kordofan, as well as part of the Blue Nile, are particularly affected, as are families dependent on daily wages, poor agriculture and pastoral farming communities. The rate of acute malnutrition in the Sudan - including young children suffering from moderate and severe acute malnutrition - is also 14%, some of which are at risk of death. Approximately 3 million children under the age of five are also severely malnourished, of whom about 570,000.00 are severely malnourished.²¹

One of the most difficult challenges facing Sudan in resolving the food insecurity crisis is high inflation, which is one of the main factors for deepening food insecurity in the Sudan. This, in turn, limits the purchasing power of vulnerable families. The country rose to 331%, the highest level ever in decades. Because of this inflation and other factors driving food needs, families are forced to make some very difficult decisions to adapt to food shortages, especially during the dry season. High food prices also attribute to malnutrition, as well as poor health, water and sanitation systems, including malnutrition.²²

D. Morocco

In Morocco, both food insecurity and poverty are closely linked, partly because of the income share of about 70% spent on food by poor families and nearly 4 million people live below the national poverty line, 3 million of them in rural areas. Poverty is particularly high in rural areas, which represents 10% compared to 3.5% in urban areas. Rural families often depend directly or indirectly on agriculture.²³

According to the 2020 Global Hunger Index (GHI), the level of hunger and malnutrition for Morocco was "low," with the country ranked 44th in the world, second in Africa and fifth in the Arab world in terms of reducing hunger and malnutrition. Morocco's overall hunger index fell from 15.8 to 8.9 in 2020, marking a shift in hunger intensity from "moderate" to "low." The proportion of undernourished people in Morocco decreased from 6.4% in 2000-2002 to 4.3% in 2017-2019.

The prevalence of wasting atrophy children decreased from 4.1% in 1998-2002 to 2.6% in 2015-2019, while the percentage of child dwarfism decreased from 24.8% to 15.1% during the same years.²⁴

E. Tunisia

In Tunisia, the most vulnerable to hunger are those living in rural areas in the central and north-western west, as well as women and children. Poverty rates exceed 32% in the central-western and north-western regions. In addition, rural low-income households headed by women are particularly

²¹ More Than 20% in Sudan Face Acute Hunger, WFP Says, voa news, 2021, <https://bit.ly/3kPUZtf>

²² Over 7 million food insecure in Sudan, world vision, 2021, <https://bit.ly/3yTQBPb>

²³ A territorial approach to food security and nutrition policy: The case of Morocco, at: <https://2u.pw/HKSa1>

²⁴ Yahia Hatim, Morocco Maintains 'Low' Hunger Level, Ranks 44th in 2020 Global Index, morocco world news, 2020, <https://bit.ly/3n2LN7y>



are at risk of starvation, although physical access to food is effectively guaranteed at the country level, economic barriers such as inflated prices and unemployment pose a serious threat to achieving this.²⁵

While the GHI defines hunger levels in Tunisia as low, the stagnant economy, high unemployment rates, class disparities and dependence on grain imports challenge the ability of the most vulnerable to ensure an effective and nutritious diet.

The prevalence of undernourishment in Tunisia is 4.3%, which is also good. The prevalence of dwarfism among children under five years of age and the prevalence of atrophy among children under five years of age are 10% and 2.8% in 2020, which are also good indicators in the process of achieving the 2030 development plan.²⁶

However, Tunisia faces some challenges in terms of the deteriorating conditions of farmers. Farmers in Tunisia face many challenges in accessing crops and fertilizers, which negatively affect agricultural production and leave farmers in continuous protest against government policies. Therefore, Tunisia has been facing a grain production deficit since 2018 until now.²⁷

F. Algeria

There are about 1.2 million undernourished Algerians, who are partially food insecure and malnourished due to the high prices of imported goods, while the prevalence of undernourished is 2.7 million, and the index of moderately and severely food insecure is 6 million. (In 2020, the percentage increased by 0.2 million), and 1 in 10 children is underweight due to poor feeding practices among infants and young children.²⁸

Second: The reality and challenges of the SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) in the countries of the Horn of Africa

A. Eritrea

According to 2020 statistics, about 65% of Eritrea's rural population suffers from poverty, 37% from severe food insecurity, and in years of good rainfall, only 60% of the country's food security is reduced to 25% when rainfall decreases, due to the deterioration of its economy and its heavy dependence on agriculture, leaving it vulnerable to food insecurity and lack of economic growth. Because of the worsening hunger crisis, the percentage of dwarfism in children under the age of five is 50.3%, which is very high. The prevalence of atrophy in children under the age of five is 15.6%, which is also high.

²⁵ Borgen projec, TOP 10 FACTS ABOUT HUNGER IN TUNISIA, at: <https://2u.pw/j66Fe>

²⁶ Houcine Jeder, An econometric analysis for food security in Tunisia, 2020, [file:///C:/Users/moham/Downloads/New-Medit-2020-Vol-XIX-n.4-01-An-econometric-analysis1%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/moham/Downloads/New-Medit-2020-Vol-XIX-n.4-01-An-econometric-analysis1%20(1).pdf)

²⁷ Tunisia: Government failure endangers farmers' income and nation's food supply, impact policies, 2021, <https://impactpolicies.org/en/news/202/tunisia-government-failure-endangers-farmers-income-and-nations-food-supply>

²⁸ Borgen magazine, The Effects of Food Insecurity and Hunger in Algeria, 2020, at: <https://2u.pw/u5SOM>



With regard to agricultural production, Eritrea has a low access rate of between 0.6% and 2.8%. The only good indicator in the second goal indicators for Eritrea is the prevalence of obesity, which represents only 5%, possibly due to food shortages and poverty.

B. Somalia

The number of people suffering from severe food insecurity has reached 1.3 million, and the state of food insecurity in Somalia is due to the spread of desert locusts, which is leading to crop erosion, as well as the threat of rangelands, floods and reduced rainfall. The Corona pandemic has had a significant impact on food security in Somalia through high prices of the country's main food commodities due to the demand for storage due to virus panic, as well as the closure of some major source markets outside Somalia, at a time when the country is experiencing a crisis due to the temporary closure of the borders and movement restrictions 2.7 million people cannot meet their daily food needs are in Somalia and they need urgent humanitarian assistance, with more than half a million people on the brink of famine, another 2.7 million Somalis need livelihood support to avoid relapsing into crisis, and an estimated 300000 children under 5 years of age are malnourished, including 4800 severely malnourished and at high risk of disease and death.²⁹

As for the reality of second goal indicators in Somalia, most of the second goal indicators were not identified because of the lack of data, but based on the indicators already monitored, Somalia has significant challenges in all of those indicators. The prevalence of dwarfism among children under five years of age is 25.8%, the prevalence of atrophy among children under five years of age is 18% and the rate of access to cereals as crops is only 0.5%. All those indicators represent a major challenge in achieving second goal in Somalia.

C. Ethiopia

Ethiopia has more than 350, 0000 people in the famine phase between May and June 2021, the highest number of people ranked in this phase since 2011 during the famine in Somalia. As of May 2021, 5.5 million people (61% of the region's population) were facing high levels of food insecurity, including: 3.1 million people in a severe food and living crisis and 2.1 million people in need of humanitarian relief, and Ethiopia is experiencing a 38.5% increase in the prevalence of dwarfism among children under five.

This is due to several factors: First, the increase in conflict since late 2020 has led to displacement and a widespread reduction in family access to food and income. The conflict has been most severe in Tigray, where a major food security emergency remains, although severe food insecurity associated with the conflict also exists elsewhere in the country.

²⁹ SOMALIA Food Security Outlook, 2021, <https://bit.ly/3BBAO9c>



Second, a large early-season deficit during the March to May 2021 rainy season, after a low average from October to December 2020, reduced agricultural production potential in most of the country's dates-producing regions.

Thirdly, the deteriorating macroeconomic conditions in Ethiopia have led to higher food prices and lower purchasing power. Combined, these factors reduce access to food for many poor families. Millions of people are therefore unable to meet their basic food needs, and urgent action must be taken to end conflicts, expand humanitarian assistance and allow unimpeded humanitarian access.³⁰

Theme III: the reality and challenges of the SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) in of North African and the Horn of Africa countries

Despite the fact that the Covid-19 pandemic has affected the public health system in all countries of the world, African countries were the hardest hit, because those countries were essentially suffering from prior challenges that impeded African countries bypass of the pandemic. Their impact on sustainable development goals, in particular the third goal on good health and well-being, emerged by falling behind the indicators of the third goal desired progress.

Despite the damage caused to the African countries, the least affected of which were the North African countries, particularly Morocco and Egypt. This does not mean that the countries of North Africa are well ahead of achieving the third goal, for example, the health sector in Algeria suffers greatly, even before the Corona pandemic its officials have no confidence in recovery in the country's hospitals and are fleeing abroad, regardless of their condition. This has led the country to issue a law criminalizing the departure of Algerian officials from the country with a purpose of treatment, so that they may pay attention to the requirements of the health sector in their country and the reasons for its collapse.

Also, Tunisia will not emerge from this pandemic as it was, as it has been difficult to control the Corona pandemic in the country, and even with the presence of the vaccine at last, the health sector in Tunisia is still heading towards the abyss.

As for the countries of the Horn of Africa, are in crisis. Most of these countries are far from the results required to achieve the objectives of the third goal (good health and well-being) in 2030, with high rates of maternal and children under five death rates, and the widespread diseases such as malaria, AIDS and measles and tuberculosis spread in the Horn of Africa, in addition to the shortage of medical personnel and health facilities, it is not hoped for significant progress during the next ten years except by paying attention to the health sector in these countries and addressing the entire system.

³⁰ Many in Tigray face food security Emergency as national needs reach five-year high, 2021, <https://bit.ly/3jM1Z1x>



First: The reality and challenges of the SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) in the North African region

A. Egypt

For the third goal in Egypt, the reality of its indicators is that it is improving moderately. For example, in Egypt, the infant death rate is gradually dropping from 13 per 1000 births to 11.2 per 1000 births in the period 2018-2020 which is a very satisfactory result, because the desired global rate is a maximum of 25 births per 1000 births. This means that Egypt has achieved that goal. The under-five death rate in Egypt also fell to 19.0 in 2020 due to the pandemic, compared to 18.8 in the event that the 2020 corona pandemic did not appear, and in the same period Egypt still maintaining its infection rate with immunodeficiency 0.0% per year. However, this improvement is affected by the fact that there are some challenges in some of the goal indicators, which require increased Egyptian efforts to overcome these challenges, including personal well-being, which percentage in Egypt is still fixed at 4.

(The index of personal well-being ranges from 0-10, the highest well-being), which relates to the quality of health care that the citizen receives.)

B. Libya

As for **Libya**, until 2020, according to the indicators of the third goal, Libya was moving moderately towards achieving good health and well-being, but the political conflict and the Corona pandemic affected this moderation severely, so Libya became stagnate in the development of the indicators of the third goal, the maternal death rate in Libya increased in 2020 after it reached 9 cases per 100,000 births until 2019, to become 30 cases, and this major change indicates that the health system has been significantly affected by the Corona pandemic.

Libya also has a significant challenge in the high traffic accident index (26.0). Accurate information on this indicator has only been obtained until 2017, and since 2017, no updated data on the rate of traffic accidents in Libya has been found so far.

C. Algeria

In Algeria, there has also been a moderate improvement in the indicators of the third goal, but there are some challenges facing Algeria, which it sets development plans to overcome. Despite the decrease in the maternal death rate from 2018 to 2020, it was 140 deaths per 100,000 in 2018 and then decreased to 112 in 2020, this percentage is still high. The standard age death rate for cardiovascular disease, cancer, and diabetes is 26.2%, which means an increase from 2018 of 14.2%.

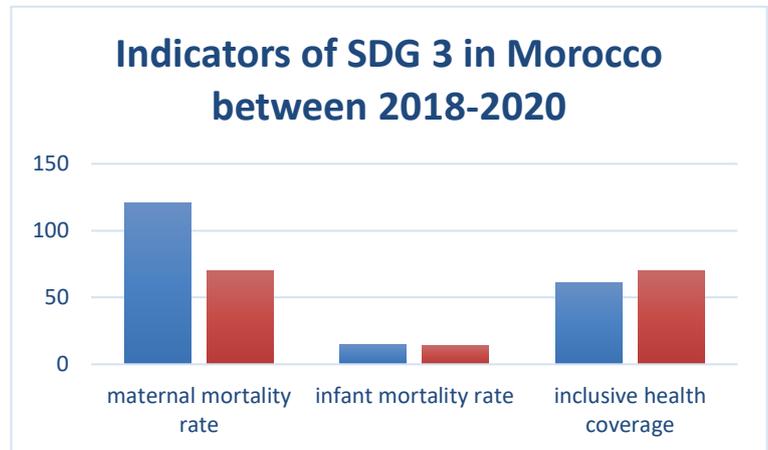
D. Morocco



As for Morocco, until 2018, the third goal was suffering from stagnation, meaning that progress in the indicators of the third goal was slight, but the situation was different in 2019 and the indicators began to improve moderately, and this continued in the indicators of 2020, the maternal mortality rate in Morocco decreased from 121 Deaths per 100,000 cases in 2018 to 70 deaths per 100,000 in 2019 and the same in 2020.

The infant mortality rate has also decreased from 14.4 in 2018 to 13.8 in 2020, and the index tracking inclusive health coverage increased from 61.1% in 2018 to 70% in 2020.

The rate of HIV infection among the Moroccan population remains very low, reaching 0.03 per 1000 in 2019.



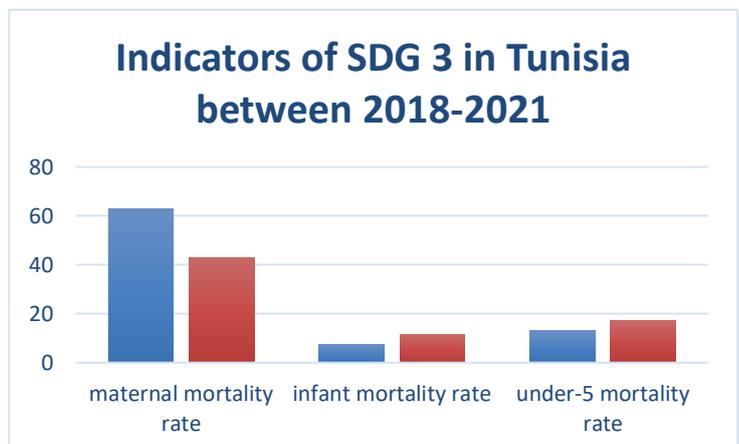
E. Tunisia

As for Tunisia, with regard to the development of the indicators of the third goal, it is progressing moderately (the overall assessment of the goal). Although we see the great impact of the Corona pandemic on the health system in Tunisia, some indicators of the third goal have improved better in 2020 than in 2019 and 2018, and others have change was negative.

Maternal mortality rate decreased from 63 in 2018 to 43 in 2020, which is a good result. Also, the rate of people infected with HIV and receiving antiretroviral treatment increased from 31 in 2018 to 39 in 2020, and this percentage is small, but it is reassuring here that the percentage continues to rise annually.

The percentage of people died as a result of road accidents also decreased from 23 in 2018 to 22.1 in 2020. The percentage of people in comprehensive health care also increased from 66% in 2018 to 70% in 2020.

Infant mortality rate increased from 7.5 in 2019 to 11.5 in 2020, which is unfortunate. The under-5 mortality rate has also increased from 13 in 2018 to 17 in 2020.



F. Sudan



In Sudan, there are no good results for the third goal indicators. There are many indicators whose results are inconsistent with international standards, which makes the reality of the third goal in Sudan somewhat ominous. Unfortunately, those indicators have not changed their results from 2018 to the present, i.e., those crumbling indicators that indicate the erosion of the health system in the Sudan and that may be one of the reasons for the departure from the former President of the Sudan, Omar al-Bashir, and the revolution against him, have improved only slightly, not only towards the development required to achieve the 2030 development goals.

In 2018 and 2019, the maternal death rate was 311, and it decreased in 2020 to 295, but it is still a very large percentage compared to all the Nordic countries.

Also, the infant death rate (per 1,000 live births) was 29.6 in 2018 and 2019 and in 2020 it became 28.9, but it is also still a high rate, only the indicator of the rate of recent HIV infections, which represents a good progress towards the desired goal by achieving 0.0% in 2020.

In the case of the indicator (traffic death rate), this indicator decreased in 2020 than in 2018 in 2020, became 25.7%.

Second: The reality and challenges of the SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) in the Horn of Africa

A. Somalia

Somalia is broadly similar in assessing the third goal to the State of the Sudan, both of them have significant challenges in achieving the goal by 2030, but the values of indicators in Somalia are more deteriorating and far from the global values that they must approach to predict the possibility of achieving the third goal in detail as follows:

In 2018, the number of maternal deaths was 828, which is a very large number, and in 2020, that percentage decreased, but it became 723 which is still a large number. Also, the newborn death rate decreased in 2020 than in 2019, in 2019 the rate was 38.5 while in 2020, it was 37.5. The incidence of tuberculosis decreased in 2020 from 266 in 2018 to 262, which is also a significant rate.

B. Eritria

In Eritrea, some indicators expressing the extent to which the country has achieved the requirements of the third goal have changed, from 2018 to 2020, some of which are a fairly good development, and others still represent a challenge for Eritrea to achieve the objectives of the third goal of sustainable development:

1. In 2018 and 2019, the maternal death rate was 510 (which is a very large figure), but with some adopted efforts to improve health care for patients, the percentage reached 480 (the



figure is still large and far from the global one because it is less than the required 6.1% annual decrease rate).

2. Also, the under-five mortality rate has been decreasing annually since 2018 until now. In 2018, the rate was 45.5, in 2019 it became 43.1, and then in 2020 it became 41.2.

C. Ethiopia

Ethiopia does not appear to be moving towards achieving the aims and objectives of third goal of the Sustainable Development Goals, as there are few indicators in which Ethiopia does not come close to its global rates. The maternal death rate in Ethiopia is very high. It was in 2018, 353, and in 2020 it reached 401, which means that it increases negatively. Also, the neonatal death rate increased from 27.6 in 2018 to 28.1 in 2020. The under-five mortality rate also decreased from 58.5 in 2018 to 55.5 in 2020. Under-five mortality also declined from 58.5 in 2018 to 55.5 in 2020. The incidence of HIV/AIDS also declined in 2020 to 0.2. The incidence of tuberculosis also decreased from 177 in 2018 to 151 in 2020.

D. Djibouti

Djibouti is also moving away from global development indicators. Djibouti cannot reduce maternal death. On the contrary, this rate increases annually compared to 2020 and 2018. This is not a good thing because Djibouti is thus moving away from the 2030 development plans.

Also, the infant death rate in Djibouti decreased between 2018 and 2020 by only 1.2%, but the rate remains at 31.7%, which is a large percentage.

The comprehensive health coverage tracking index also increased in 2020 to 47, after it was 46.7 in 2018, which is a very low percentage that predicted that most citizens do not have access to the intended health care.

The percentage of people infected with HIV who received antiretroviral treatment increased from 26% in 2018 to 30% in 2020, and the percentage of people infected with tuberculosis decreased from 335 in 2018 to 260 in 2020. Although most indicators are relatively improving, that Djibouti is still far from the global ratios of the indicators of the third goal, which achieve the 2030 development goals, the country of Djibouti is still far from achieving this goal.

Theme IV: the reality and challenges of the SDG 4 (Quality Education) in the countries of North Africa and the Horn of Africa

In the context of the economic conditions experienced by most of the North African countries and the Horn of Africa, which naturally affect the living conditions of the population in those countries,



where the impact of poverty on education in North Africa and the Horn of Africa remains one of the greatest challenges, along with major structural issues such as the lack of employment opportunities for school and universities graduates.

As a result of the importance of education in achieving economic development in the countries concerned with the study in particular and the countries of the whole world in general, so the countries of the North and the countries of the Horn of Africa sought to improve education levels despite the conditions the country is experiencing, but the conditions of the Corona pandemic added more burdens in light of the economic deterioration, in addition to the failure of many children to go to school in accordance with the precautionary measures of the Corona virus, which was reflected in the level of education more than it was before.

First: The reality and challenges of the SDG 4 (Quality Education) in North African countries

A. Tunisia

Despite the current economic situation in Tunisia, the country has the capacity to recover, and this economic exemption would enhance the education of children in Tunisia³¹. Tunisia has focused on developing a good education system. Education is an important focus of the Tunisian government, and about 20% of the government's budget is allocated to its education system. In early 2018, the Tunisian Ministry of Women and Children partnered with the Fun Academy to help develop high-quality education for Tunisian children. This is one of the strategies the Tunisian government is taking to improve the education system.

Tunisia currently spends between 20% and 30% of its national budget on education, with an average of 24.6 students per class, and in the 2019/2020 academic year about 1 million students were enrolled in public middle and high schools in Tunisia. By the same year, there were more females (507,881) than male students (418,951), and the overall number of students increased from 2014 onwards, with more females than males each year.³²

B. Morocco

As of 2019 the total number of children outside primary school was 16,064, while the completion rate was 97.14% for the same level of education, however the government is making continuous efforts to ensure that educational reforms are initiated to promote the development of knowledge-based human capital.

The number of primary schools in Morocco had recently reached 7800, with more than 171,000 teachers, while the number of children enrolled in schools had reached more than 4.43 million.

³¹ The Borgen Project, EXAMINING CHILD POVERTY IN TUNISIA, at: <https://2u.pw/MbVEg>

³² Statista, Number of students enrolled in public middle and secondary schools in Tunisia from 2014 to 2020, by gender, Jul 2021, at: <https://2u.pw/97VdI>



Moreover, the country had boasted about 3 million high school students with 15,5188 teachers and over 4.43 million primary school students.³³

In addition, there were over 1.1 million university students while the number of teaching staff at the university level was 9,721 females and 26,021 males, and of all students enrolled in higher education 7.2% were in private institutions.³⁴

C. Algeria

As for Algeria, according to recent statistics for 2020, the literacy rate for people aged 15 years and over was about 81% of the total adult population.

In the same year, the literacy rate of adult women was about 75%, which is lower than the average and a significant difference of about 12% can be observed between the sexes, as 87.42% of adult men are able to read and write in Algeria.³⁵

The number of out-of-school children who did not attend school reached 16,430,000 in 2019, which is an increase from the previous number of 14,211,000 for 2018.³⁶

D. Libya

In Libya, the nearly decade-long crisis has left more than 400,000 people displaced, including nearly 120,000 children. Since March 2020, schools and informal learning centers have been closed to limit the spread of the pandemic; This has left at least 1.3 million students out of school, as well as children and adolescents affected by conflict unable to access various basic services, including psychosocial support, where informal schools and learning centers serve as access points.³⁷

Even with the entry of 2021 and the decrease in precautionary measures, the collapse of Libya's infrastructure as a result of the war has been alleged to cause significant damage to Libya's educational system, destroying or damaging many schools, leading to the closure of many schools against the backdrop of ongoing battles. Most cities in Libya also still live long hours without electricity, Internet access or both. Even in the case of electricity and Internet access, it can take hours to download a simple file, which makes the educational process difficult, so the school drop-out rate of children in Libya was the highest.

³³ Statista, Education in Morocco- statistics & facts, May 2021, at: <https://2u.pw/fySk9>

³⁴ The World Bank, Morocco: A case for building a stronger education system in the post Covid-19 era, Oct 2020, at: <https://2u.pw/8ubfA>

³⁵ Statista, Adult literacy rate in Algeria in 2018, by gender, Oct 2020, at: <https://2u.pw/T1Ejc>

³⁶ Statista, Adult literacy rate in Algeria in 2018, by gender, Oct 2020, at: <https://2u.pw/T1Ejc>

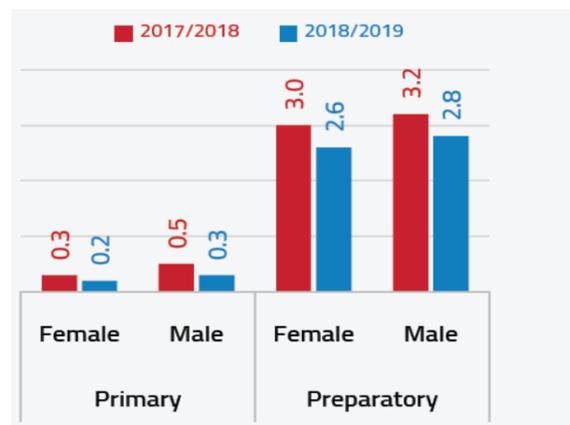
³⁷ Education in Libya is free but inaccessible, 2021, <https://bit.ly/3DQ7BcD>



Security remains the main source of fear for all Libyan families and explains why many parents refuse to send their children to school. Public schools do not provide transportation, leaving each family either to take their children to school themselves or to rely on private means of transport, such as taxis. This is not guaranteed by the parents, who prefer to prevent their children from going to school in exchange for going work.

E. Egypt

Finally, in Egypt, the indicators of the fourth goal related to quality of education improved between 2018 and 2020, so the primary education rate increased from 94.5% in 2018 to 100.2% in 2020, and the enrollment rate in preparatory education increased from 81.5% in 2018 to 85.5% in 2020, and the rate of enrollment in secondary education increased from 81.5% in 2018 to 85.5% in 2020. Secondary education from 27.5% in 2018 to 28.5% in 2020 and the illiteracy rate among young people decreased from 28% in 2018 to 19% in 2020, and school dropout rates decreased until 2020 to only 2%, with a decrease in male and female dropout rates in the primary levels and preparatory (pre-secondary). Primary completion rates in Egypt exceeded 100% in 2019, with primary completion rates somewhat lower (82.5%) and secondary completion rates at 57.2%.³⁸



(Dropout rate%)

Second: The reality and challenges of the SDG 4 (Quality Education) in the countries of East Africa and the Horn of Africa

A. Sudan

In Sudan, the country's economic crisis fueled by high inflation has put children at high risk of dropping out of school. Over the past decade, the Sudan has witnessed an increase in access to education. Between 2008 and 2018, the total number of schools - public and private - increased by 2800, allowing an additional 1 million children to attend school.³⁹

Similarly, the gross enrollment rate in pre-primary education was 43% which is 10% higher than the average in sub-Saharan Africa, and net primary enrollment rates improved from 56% in 2013 to 60% in 2018.

³⁸ Covid-19 and education in Egypt: the impact of a pandemic on the education system in the Arab republic of Egypt, IFLR1000, 2021, <https://bit.ly/3kWmdi6>

³⁹ GPE Transforming Education, Sudan, 2020, at: <https://2u.pw/wtff0>



Nevertheless, there are still many challenges to the education of all children in the country, with an estimated 3 million school-age children out of school, which is one of the largest figures in the world, while 52% of these children did not attend school, 48% dropped out.⁴⁰

B. Djibouti

The education system in Djibouti is 5-4-3, which means that primary stage has a duration of five years, preparatory stage is four years, and secondary or high stage is three years. Students in Djibouti start school at the age of six. In 2016, about 64.3% of students completed primary stage and in 2020 reached 75.29%, while only 44% of students completed preparatory stage, in 2020, the rate of enrollment in secondary education was 54.69%, and the total percentage Education 73.85%.⁴¹

Although Djibouti is working towards achieving gender equality in education, there are still wide gaps between males and females. For example, more females are out-of-school students than male students, with 46% of out-of-school female students in 2015 and 39.3% of out-of-school male students in the same year. Additionally, in 2019, 68.6% of male students attended primary school, while only 60.9% of female students attended. The main causes of the lack of enrollment of students in Djibouti are poverty and social problems, legal status issues, disability and social and cultural issues, including child labor.⁴²

Although education in Djibouti still lags behind the more developed countries, efforts to improve education have made long strides for Djibouti's children, improvements and plans have been made until 2019 with continued attention and efforts towards education.

C. Eritrea

For Eritrea, education is officially compulsory between the ages of 7 and 16. The important objectives of Eritrea's education policy are to provide basic education in each of Eritrea's mother languages as well as to produce a society equipped with the necessary skills to work with a culture of self-reliance in the modern economy, but the current education infrastructure is insufficient to meet these needs.

Recent statistics indicate that between 39 and 57% of school-age children go to primary school and 21% go to secondary school. On average, there are 63 students per class at the primary level and 97 per class at the secondary level, and school learning hours are often less than four hours per day.⁴³

There is also a lack of skills at all levels of the education system. Funding and access to education vary significantly by gender (with significantly higher dropout rates for girls) and location, i.e. rural and urban.

⁴⁰ Idem.

⁴¹ The Borgen Project, SIX FACTS ABOUT EDUCATION IN DJIBOUTI, Oct 2017, at: <https://2u.pw/vTyNI>

⁴² The Global Economic, Djibouti: Secondary school enrollment, at: <https://2u.pw/BSeMC>

⁴³ GPE Transformation Education, Eritrea, Mar 2020, at: <https://2u.pw/CIoQd>



The overall literacy rate in Eritrea is estimated at 84% in 2020, and in the 15-24 age group, the literacy rate is 89%.⁴⁴

D. Somalia

In Somalia, more than two decades of conflict have almost destroyed the educational system, which is of poor quality, insufficient numbers of qualified teachers and insufficient resources. The educational deficit in Somalia is one of the most acute in the world.

Of the total 4.7 million school-age population (12.3 million total Somali population), 97,200 or one in five school-age Somali children were specifically displaced in November 2016 to August 2017, approximately 50,000.00 children lost school access because of displacement, and this phenomenon has continued to the present day.⁴⁵

Pastoral communities in Somalia, which represents nearly 60% of the Somali population, face more obstacles to education. Communities move with their children and livestock in search of water and pastures, making education in regular established schools impractical and often impossible.

Somalia has one of the most out-of-school populations in the world, with nearly 3 million out of 5 million school-age children and youth are out of school.⁴⁶

Assessments indicate that even for those children who are in school they are not actually learning. In the first-grade reading assessment conducted to test students in grades 2-4, when second-grade students were asked to read a passage, nearly half of the students (47%) in the second grade were unable to recognize a single word.⁴⁷

E. Ethiopia

As for Ethiopia, a large number of children in Ethiopia suffer from the inability to enroll in education as a result of the deteriorating economic conditions that impede their ability to enroll as a result of poverty suffered by a large number of them, and in some cases a large number of them suffer from their inability to go to school to obtain education due to the distance.

Although Ethiopia has made significant progress in the education sector, the system has expanded from 10 million learners a decade ago to more than 25 million learners today. The country was able to maintain and improve educational achievement in key subjects, as the percentage of education increased by 57% in the last period in 2020 compared to 2015.⁴⁸

⁴⁴ Idem.

⁴⁵ UNICEF For Every Child, Education, at: <https://2u.pw/OvChY>

⁴⁶ USAID, EDUCATION, Mars 2021, at: <https://2u.pw/hsM8Z>.

⁴⁷ Idem.

⁴⁸ Britannica, Education of Ethiopia, Nov 2018, at: <https://2u.pw/Rj8tt>



However, in Ethiopia, 25% of primary school-age children are out of school, approximately 25%, and for primary school-age children in Ethiopia there is a significant disparity between enrolment and segregation due to their economic conditions.

However, in Ethiopia 25% of children of formal primary school age are out of school that is approximately 25%, and for children of primary school age in Ethiopia there is a significant disparity between enrolment and segregation due to their economic conditions.

Ethiopia has a literacy rate of 55% among youth; This is lower than the average youth literacy rate in other low-income countries.⁴⁹

From the foregoing, it can be concluded that despite the achievement of remarkable progress in most of the countries under study in the levels of education and the number of students in schools, the fourth goal of the sustainable development goals has not been achieved in any of them, where there is hesitation between enrolment indicators from time to time and there is no stability in education.

Theme V: The reality and challenges of the SDG 5 (Gender Equality) in North Africa and the Horn of Africa

Women and girls account for half of the world's population, thereby they account for half of its capabilities. In addition to being a fundamental human right, gender equality is essential for achieving peace in communities and unleashing the full potential of society. Moreover, women empowerment has proven to be effective in stimulating production and economic growth.

African women continue to suffer from not only widespread poverty, but also heavy workloads. In North Africa and the Horn of Africa, most of the states face major challenges to gender equality. Moreover, the initial development policies in several countries, known as the poverty reduction strategies, do not take into consideration the differences in income and power between men and women, which hampers the financing efforts for programs that help reduce gender inequality. The majority of African women are also still deprived of education and employment and have limited opportunities with regard to trade, industry and political participation.

First: The reality and challenges of the SDG 5 (Gender Equality) in North Africa:

A. Libya

The situation of women in Libya has not significantly improved since the fall of the Gadhafi regime, as they continue to be deprived of their fundamental rights and access to political participation, in addition to being underrepresented in formal state institutions. Only two out of 600 women, who ran

⁴⁹ Idem.



for multiple posts inside the country in the first national elections, became members of the National Transitional Council.

Moreover, the conflict and gender discrimination have had a huge impact on Libyan women and have limited their economic, political and social opportunities. The Corona pandemic has also significantly affected women, especially the breadwinners for their families, in health and material terms⁵⁰.

Since 2011 until now, Women in Libya have been facing an increasing difficulty in accessing employment. In addition, women's wages are three times lower than those of men and they often work in the public sector, mainly education and health. This disproportionate representation of women in the public sector makes them more vulnerable to infections.

Furthermore, women's movement in Libya is limited owing to insecurity. The customs of early marriage and confining women to their homes as wives and mothers are also widespread in Libya. Some parents believe that early marriage will provide a form of protection for their daughters from the outside world⁵¹.

Such belief was promoted by the extremist factions that came to power during the civil war. Libya is also witnessing a significant decrease in girls' education, as girls are only familiar with basic reading and writing skills. In addition, women cannot drive or travel alone in Libya.

The poor level of women's political participation and rights is due to the lack of solid legal frameworks. This is in addition to the fact that the current environment in Libya does not address crimes, such as violence against women and sexual and gender-based violence. The Libyan interim Constitutional Declaration and the draft of the new constitution also do not expressly address women's political rights. As such, these political rights of women are still under the same threats they faced before the quota system. The absence of significant steps towards the realization of women's political rights and the underrepresentation of women in the new political institutions as well as the lack of implementation mechanisms that guarantee the full participation of women indicate clear marginalization of women in Libya⁵².

B. Egypt

With regard to Egypt, the Global Gender Gap Report 2020 of the World Economic Forum shows that Egypt ranks 135th on the Global Gender Gap Index out of 153 countries covered by the report. Egypt also reached 102nd place on the Education Index by bridging the gender gaps through the expansion of the education system on the bases of access to and quality of education as well as taking into

⁵⁰ The Tahrir Institute for Middle East, Libyan Women and Political Participation: Ten Years Since the Revolution, April 2021, at: <https://2u.pw/nw2Cp>

⁵¹ Atlantic Council, How the exclusion of women has cost Libya, Nov 2019, at: <https://2u.pw/6IMXh>

⁵² Cordaid, WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN LIBYA. "WE HAVE STAMINA, BECAUSE OUR STRUGGLE IS OUR LIFE.", at: <https://2u.pw/fqLYF>



consideration the numerous education systems that correspond with the aspirations of the students, on the one hand, and the labor market needs, on the other hand.

Egypt has also reached the 85th place on the Education Index, which indicates the success of the legislations, policies and practices in Egypt in providing better health-care levels for women over time. Moreover, the programs on women and children's health and the initiatives for detecting non-communicable diseases and viruses should be also noted and commended, in addition to the provision of health insurance to an increasing number of beneficiaries, primarily women.

With regard to women's political participation, the Egyptian Parliament with its two chambers (Representatives and Senators) featured the highest representation of women in 2020 with 162 women, equivalent to 26% of the total members of the Parliament. Such proportion is consistent with the recent constitutional amendments that provide for women's representation by at least 25% of the members.

The proportion of women ministries has also increased to 25%, which is the largest in the history of Egypt. Moreover, Egyptian women occupy 45% of the posts inside the administrative apparatus of the state, which is higher than the global average of 32%.

In the context of the economic empowerment of women and the guarantee of their financial independence, the proportion of women who own bank accounts increased from 9% in 2015 to 27% in 2020, which reflects the degree of women's financial independency in Egypt. In addition, there is no discrimination between men and women in accessing credit and allocating lands for projects as well as the ownership of small and medium enterprises. Egyptian women also received 51% of the loans provided to small enterprises, while the proportion of women who defaulted on loans was less than 1%.

C. Tunisia

Tunisia has made considerable efforts with regard to girls' education. In 2020, 99% of girls enrolled in primary education. Moreover, women tend to reach higher levels of education than men do, as 63% of the higher education graduates are women compared to 37% of men.

Women's Literacy rate has also increased from 48% in 1994 to 65% in 2004 and then to 91% in 2019. Meanwhile, men's literacy rate has increased from 70% in 1994 to 83% in 2004 and then to 90% in 2019; thus, the increase in literacy rate is higher among Tunisian women.

Regarding government work, out of approximately 50,000 government officials in ministries, 59% were men and 41% were women. The Tunisian law has also finally repealed the article that allowed impunity for a rapist if he marries his victim. Such repealing, along with several other protective and preventive measures contained in the Integral Law, have significantly improved the legal protection



of women and girls in Tunisia. The Integral Law is the first Tunisian national law that expressly addresses violence against women in various forms- physical, sexual, psychological and economic- in addition to being the first comprehensive law of its kind in the entire Middle East and North Africa region⁵³.

D. Morocco

According to the US Agency for International Development (USAID), Morocco ranks 141st out of 149 countries with regard to women's economic participation and opportunities. Women account for 50% of Morocco's population, but they represent only 26% of the labor force. Such rate of women's participation in the labor force decreased by 6% between 1999 and 2010. Moroccan women remain a largely unutilized resource within the country.

Unfortunately, nowadays, most Moroccan women struggle to reach political leadership positions. Since 2019, only 81 women out of 395 have served as Parliament members. Thus, several activists demand more female representation in the Parliament and other positions of power.

The Moroccan Constitution addresses the issue of women rights, as Article 19 of the 2011 Constitution stipulates, "The man and the woman enjoy, in equality, the rights and freedoms of civil, political, economic, social, cultural and environmental character". Such Article serves as a general guarantee of gender equality in Morocco, in addition to further ratifications by the Parliament of Morocco with regard to this issue. However, there are some loopholes in the legal system of Morocco, such as the fact that the Moroccan Family Code "Moudawana" legitimizes forced marriage if a concession is made.

Although the Constitution of Morocco shows promise and progress, the conservative ideals remain common in the social institutions. This includes the male hierarchy of power and gender-based discrimination. Socially, reform and change are greatly needed, which often cannot be achieved through the Moroccan law or legislation.

As such, women struggle for equality in Morocco nowadays by seizing the opportunities, including those for education, economic and financial freedom and leadership positions, and occupying higher positions in society⁵⁴.

E. Algeria

Unfortunately, women in Algeria still struggle to guarantee their basic right to life. In fact, emerging data show an increase in the calls to domestic violence helplines since the outbreak of Corona pandemic. Since early 2020, more than 50 women in Algeria have been victims of femicide.

⁵³ Sarah Wolff, Gender equality in Tunisia: The EU's tripartite dialogue, 2021, <https://bit.ly/3BKQx64>

⁵⁴ MOROCCO: EQUALITY AND GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING, AFD, 2021, <https://bit.ly/3BEaA5Y>



Furthermore, the death toll is expected to increase because of the silence of the authorities and society that considers domestic violence a private household matter. Considered as “properties” of men, women are expected not to complain about their situation.

On paper, the Algerian laws are perfect, as the Constitution expressly stipulates, “All citizens are equal before the law.” The Constitution also stipulates that there shall be no pretext for discrimination on the basis of birth, race, gender, etc. In 2014, the Algerian authorities addressed sexual and gender-based violence by providing financial compensations for the female victims of sexual crimes committed by armed groups during the civil war in the 1990s. In 2015, a law was adopted that criminalizes violence by spouses and sexual harassment in public places.

Nevertheless, and despite all the advances in law, the status of women has been shrinking for over two decades-becoming almost non-existent- fed by poverty, femicide, domestic and sexual violence, social inequality and more. These continuous grievances are nurtured by traditional and cultural beliefs that men have the right to control women and girls, which makes them vulnerable to physical, emotional and sexual assault. Moreover, women who manage to defend their rights often find themselves economically disadvantaged and socially excluded⁵⁵.

Second: The reality and challenges of the SDG 5 (Gender Equality) in East Africa and the Horn of Africa.

A. Sudan

In Sudan, the differences in education between boys and girls are one of the most visible and clear forms of inequality. Girls are generally taught how to read and write, in addition to some basics and calculations and then they are taken out of school upon reaching puberty, which coincides with 6 years of primary school.

Women in Sudan do not have the same access to health care as men, which is reflected in the high maternal mortality rate. The maternal mortality rate in Sudan reached 750 per 100,000 live births, while the contraceptive prevalence rate among married women aged 15 and 49 years old reached 8%.

According to recent statistics, 87% of female labor force in Sudan is concentrated in the agricultural sector, of whom 78% to 90% are busy with family and household tasks, while only 10% engage in the modern sector.

One of the main restrictions on gender equality in Sudan is the need to obtain the necessary credit for running a farm. This credit is granted only to men by shop owners and traders. Furthermore, men

⁵⁵ Kahina Bouagache, Gender Equality in Algeria Requires an Immediate End to Violence Against Women, 2021, <https://bit.ly/2WYftYM>



are called “farmers”, while women are called “farm laborers”, even though both of them work in farms.

Forced marriage is also a widespread phenomenon in Sudan, as most marriages are arranged with members of the same tribe or relatives without the girl’s consent or knowledge. Moreover, female genital mutilation is also widespread, with wide variations based on geographical and tribal affiliation. A study found that although society is aware of the illegality and damage of such practices, child marriage and female genital mutilation are not of major concern to it⁵⁶.

The legislation in Sudan is also strict with women, as it limits their rights in many aspects. The nature of such laws has seeped into Sudanese culture, which affected the quality and quantity of girls’ education for the worse. These laws include punishment for not wearing a religious garb in public places and the institutional discrimination against women. As such, if the moto and laws of the government are against women, the educational system will most likely be anti-women as well. In addition, Article 152 of the Sudanese Criminal Act justifies the arrest and whipping of women because of the way they are dressing. Rape victims often do not report the rape in fear of being prosecuted on charges of adultery⁵⁷.

Finally, the statistics of women who have been subjected to several forms of gender-based violence conclude that 12.1 million women and girls are victims of female genital mutilation, in addition to the fact that girls can get married legally from the age of 10 and that most women aged between 20 and 24 got married at the age of 18⁵⁸.

B. Somalia

Women and girls in Somalia face several challenges, as Somalia ranks 4th worldwide with regard to gender equality. The maternal and child mortality rates in Somalia are among the highest in the world. This is in addition to the prevalence of the phenomenon of early marriage.

An estimated 91% of women aged between 15 and 19 have been subjected to female genital mutilation, which has some physiological, sexual and psychological complications in the short and long terms. Moreover, gender-based violence is widespread in Somalia and is dominated by physical assault and sexual violence⁵⁹.

Women are also disproportionately burdened by the difficulties resulting from poverty, conflicts and the tribal culture that promotes hierarchy and strict patriarchal authority. Therefore,

⁵⁶ Relief Web, Voices from Sudan 2020: A qualitative assessment of gender-based violence in Sudan, Jul 2021, at: <https://2u.pw/6uofQ>

⁵⁷ The Borgen Project, TOP 10 FACTS ABOUT GIRLS’ EDUCATION IN SUDAN, July 2018, at: <https://2u.pw/4WVsU>

⁵⁸ DABANGA, Sudan one of worst countries for women’s rights: survey, Nov 2013, at: <https://2u.pw/24ewo>

⁵⁹ United Nations Population Fund, Somalia: Funding for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in humanitarian programming, June 2020, at: <https://2u.pw/oK4ir>



deep-rooted gender inequality is pervasive in Somalia. Somali women are either excluded from the decision-making process and ownership of assets or they act through a male guardian.⁶⁰

Moreover, Somalia has very high rates of maternal mortality, rape, female genital mutilation, violence against women and child marriage. Women's access to justice is limited within the formal, tribal and Sharia-based judicial systems. They also have limited access to economic resources and assets, in addition to their low participation in politics and areas of decision-making.

Somali women face some challenges that undermine their capacity for political participation and leadership. Women's political participation is still low; for example, there is only one female minister out of 28 ministers in Somaliland and only two female members in the Parliament out of 86. There is also a notable absence of women at the higher levels of government, such as managerial and department heads posts.

With regard to women's economic empowerment, they are generally at a disadvantage in the labor market and a large proportion of them work in vulnerable jobs. Nevertheless, women have achieved some economic gains and have worked in the sectors of employment and livelihoods that are traditionally occupied by men, especially since a large number of women are responsible for generating family income⁶¹.

The levels of violence in Somalia are still high, with displaced women and girls being targeted, in addition to a history of brutal attacks on female leaderships, women who speak out about gender-based violence and other men and women who defend these women. With regard to education, illiteracy rates among women in displaced communities are 76% and 59% for the non-displaced, compared to 60% for displaced men and 39% for the non-displaced⁶².

C. Djibouti

Generally, there are several forms of inequality in Djibouti, as men constitute the vast majority of the national labor force, while women are underrepresented in the government compared to them. In recent years, the government of Djibouti made great strides to improve women's lives through legislations, ratification of international treaties and cooperation with foreign government agencies. However, and despite all these improvements, there is still much more to do in order to guarantee women's rights in Djibouti⁶³.

With regard to household issues, there are some obstacles to the achievement of equality for women. For example, men can file for divorce without a burden of proof, while women must waive

⁶⁰ UN Women Africa, Somalia, at: <https://2u.pw/1rJeG>

⁶¹ Relief Web, Case Study: Somalia - Funding for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls in Humanitarian Programming, June 2020, Aug 2020, at: <https://2u.pw/OAXFG>

⁶² Idem.

⁶³ The Borgen Project, Women's Rights in Djibouti and What the Us Is Doing to Help, Oct 2020, at: <https://2u.pw/JYV89>



all their financial rights, and sometimes they are forced to pay compensations for their spouses. In addition, the high illiteracy rates among women in Djibouti (61%) limit women's access to justice and information about their rights and legal assistance.

Regarding domestic violence, the Penal Code of Djibouti criminalizes violence only in general terms and does not provide a specific legal protection from domestic violence. Although marital rape is an act of violence that is punishable by law and is a taboo, it is rarely prosecuted in Djibouti.

Female genital mutilation (female circumcision) is one of the major obstacles faced by women with regard to gender-based violence. There are several legal instruments in Djibouti that aim at eliminating female circumcision, such as Article 333 of the Penal Code and the National Committee for the Abandonment of Female Genital Cutting⁶⁴.

Nevertheless, female circumcision is still common. Since 2015 until this present time, an estimated 71% of women have been victims of female circumcision. In response to the continuing practice of female circumcision, the Ministry of Women and Family developed the National Strategy to Accelerate the Total Abandonment of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM/C) 2018-2022. This strategy aims at using radio, television, door-to-door campaigns, school curricula and prominent advertising strategies in order to effectively and rapidly eliminate such practice. However, this phenomenon remains persistent in Djibouti.

60.5% of women in Djibouti are illiterate and 19% of them are employed compared to 81% of men, which increases the number of Djibouti women suffering from the effects of poverty.

D. Eritrea

The Eritrean society strongly stresses on the domesticity of women, which confines their responsibilities to tending to husbands, children and home. During the liberation struggle, women were freed from their restrictive roles, which not only helped in bearing the burdens of war, but also helped carry the struggle forward over three decades⁶⁵.

Women assumed a variety of roles through a wide range of areas and services, such as medical, educational, administrative, agricultural, constructional and combat engineering. However, women's involvement in the military was not free of difficulties and resistance. Given the dominant prejudices and stereotypes, women went through a tough battle for recognition and equality. Furthermore, women in the lower ranks were integrated into the community lifestyle of the military culture in order to prove themselves through heroic acts in combat. They even took the appearance of their

⁶⁴ <https://2u.pw/CtWwm>

⁶⁵ The Borgen Project, GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH IN ERITREA, June 2020, at: <https://2u.pw/pCbiy>



male compatriots in uniformed shorts. Despite all this, women were unable to ascend to ranks, and thereby there were absent from the higher echelons of decision-making⁶⁶.

Moreover, there is a high prevalence of gender-based violence against female soldiers in Eritrea, as they are subjected to brutal treatment, abuse, torture, enforced servitude and sexual exploitation inside the training centers or in the military service, with impunity for the perpetrators for an indefinite period.

With all the violations and discrimination faced by Eritrean women, there are no institutional and legal mechanisms for asylum in order to ensure the protection and safety of women in service, which was one of the reasons that pushed women to flee from the country. Women who flee the country are highly vulnerable to gender-based violence and ill-treatment, as some survivors reported the traumatic trials and experiences, they have been through during their search for asylum.

E. Ethiopia

Women and girls in Ethiopia are severely disadvantaged compared to boys and men in several areas, including literacy, health, livelihoods and the fundamental human rights. They also have a low social status in their society and have no access to social support networks. The manifestations of discrimination in Ethiopia are numerous and serious⁶⁷.

With regard to health, women's morbidity rate is 75.5% compared to 25.5% for men, in addition to a maternal mortality rate of 50 per 100,000 live births. Adult HIV prevalence is 1.9% for women, against 1.0 % for men. All these ratios are indicators of the persisting gender inequality in the area of health and life expectancy⁶⁸.

Generally, poverty, malnutrition and the limited access to health-care services have had a negative impact on women's health due to the financial restrictions and cultural beliefs. Furthermore, contraceptive use among women is also low with 28% and only 10% of the births were carried out by qualified health personnel in 2020. This is in addition to the fact that 20% of women of reproductive age suffer from chronic malnutrition, with the problem being particularly exacerbated in rural areas⁶⁹.

Moreover, women account for 47% of the labor force in Ethiopia, with a very unequal participation. 68.5% of working women are unpaid family workers and 24.8% are self-employed. Women's illiteracy and inability to meet the initial payment required to obtain an agricultural credit reduced their access to credit facilities.

⁶⁶ ERI- Platform, Gender Equality in Eritrea, Mars 2018, at: <https://2u.pw/LKZon>

⁶⁷ UN Women, ETHIOPIA LEAVE NO WOMEN BEHIND, at: <https://2u.pw/qQmsF>

⁶⁸ Idem.

⁶⁹ USAID, GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT, Dec 2020, at: <https://2u.pw/v2Ukk>



Only 6% of rural women have access to credit and only 1% have vocational skills training. Despite the widespread participation of rural women in agricultural work, there is a firm belief that “women do not farm”, which underestimates their vital contribution to the main economic activity of Ethiopia⁷⁰.

Theme VI: The reality and challenges of the SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation for all) in North Africa and the Horn of Africa.

Access to clean and safe water resources is a prerequisite for the growth of local communities. Despite the fact that access to water and sanitation is often considered one of the fundamental human rights in developed countries, many people are deprived of such right every day around the world. The biggest factor extending human lifespan is the separation between drinking water and wastewater. The establishment of health infrastructures has contributed to the empowerment of local communities, and thereby contributed to the prosperity of economies, without the burden of waterborne diseases. Nevertheless, there is a huge number of about one billion people who still have no access to improved sanitation services, despite the fact that such services could reduce diseases and child mortality. There are plenty of examples of successful sanitation project in the underdeveloped world for which financial and engineering resources have been made available, proving that drinking water can be separated from wastewater in areas that historically lack these infrastructures. Although there are several challenges to ensuring adequate sanitation for all, the building of sanitation infrastructure is a crucial and necessary step towards achieving Goal 6 of SDGs.

Goal 6 of SDGs, formulated by the United Nations Working Group, presents an ambitious yet achievable task. Goal 6 involves “ensuring access to and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”. According to the UN, this goal can be achieved through the application of four principles: 1) Separation of drinking water from wastewater, 2) Access to and treatment of drinking water in order to remove the chemical and biological pollutants, 3) The protection and restoration of freshwater ecosystems and 4) Ensuring access to water and water rights⁷¹.

Despite the facts mentioned above, there are several challenges to the achievement of Goal 6 of SDGs in different regions of the world, foremost among which are the Horn of Africa and North Africa regions. In addition to the water scarcity of these two regions, people continue to suffer from other problems, such as safe sanitation, speedy and effective water access and the average of price per liter of freshwater. This report seeks to highlight those challenges to the achievement of Goal 6 in the aforementioned regions, while outlining the successful regional experiments and the current situation of projects aimed at achieving such goal.

First: The reality and challenges of the SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation for all) in North Africa.

⁷⁰ UNICEF, Gender equality and women empowerment in Ethiopia, 2019, at: <https://2u.pw/MhTtN>

⁷¹ Benjamin Walsh, Crisis in the Horn of Africa: Are we seeing the Normalisation of Food and Water Insecurity?, 6 APRIL 2017, Future Directions, available at: <https://www.futuredirections.org.au/publication/crisis-horn-africa-seeing-normalisation-food-water-insecurity/>



The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) is the most water-scarce region in the world. This region is home to about 6% of the world's population but has access to only 2% of the renewable freshwater in the world, with 12 of the world's most water-scarce countries. The average water availability per capita is less than 1,200 cubic meters per year, which is six times less than the global average of 7,000 cubic meters per capita per year⁷².

Moreover, the water availability per capita is expected to drop to alarming levels in the coming decades due to the growing population, unsustainable water management and use and rapid economic growth. By 2050, two-thirds of North African countries might have less than 200 cubic meters of renewable water resources per capita per year, meaning lesser amount of drinking water, which is the lifeblood. In other words, maintaining the current economic model will put future generations in danger.

Water resources per capita in the region represent one-sixth of the global average and they continue to decline. In MENA, each country suffers from groundwater depletion, with very high rates of surface and ground water withdrawals. Thus, agriculture is struggling to compete for water with industry and other sectors⁷³. Furthermore, the climate, which is largely arid to hyper-arid and highly variable, is changing with an increased frequency of droughts.

The MENA countries are the first countries to develop practices and institutions to manage scarce water resources during arid climates. Nevertheless, in some countries, the distortions in policies and institutions have resulted in the failure of water management systems to signal any potential water shortages. In some cases, these countries encouraged the excessive exploitation of resources by not implementing the incentives to reduce water consumption and promote its conservation. As a result, the current water crisis has reached an unprecedented level and requires coordinated responses across the region⁷⁴.

Children and students in schools have been largely affected by such status of Goal 6. Although there are no specific details about the situation of water, sanitation and hygiene in schools, some studies revealed that children do not have access to equitable and adequate water, sanitation and hygiene facilities that meet the minimum required standards in more than 50% of schools. These inadequate facilities negatively affect the learning environment, cause a number of children to drop out of school and reduce school retention rates. Despite the lack of detailed information, water, sanitation and

⁷² FAO, Solutions to water challenges in the Middle East and North Africa region, 2020, available at: <http://www.fao.org/fao-stories/article/en/c/1150870/>

⁷³ Ibid

⁷⁴ Ibid



hygiene facilities are far from optimal, resulting in poor infection prevention and control, which significantly affects women and children⁷⁵.

These sub-optimal water, sanitation and hygiene services continue to be a handicap for children in North Africa to reach their full development potential. In addition, being the caretakers of their families, women and girls continue to shoulder the greater burden of these suboptimal services in the region⁷⁶.

82% of the wastewater in North Africa is not recycled. Water recycling provides a huge opportunity to meet the demand for water in the region. The region will also suffer from the largest expected economic losses from climate-related water scarcity, estimated at 6.14% of GDP by 2050. This in addition to the fact that the total water productivity in the region is less than half of the global average. Despite its water scarcity, North Africa has the lowest water tariffs in the world and the highest proportion of GDP (2%) spent on public water subsidies.

Drought risks are also increasing and are likely to disproportionately affect the poor. About 60 percent of the surface water resources in the region are transboundary. Furthermore, all countries share at least one aquifer, highlighting the importance of cooperative management of common water resources.

These recent developments compound the impact of decades of rapid population growth, urbanization and agricultural intensification. In addition, more than 60% of the region's population is concentrated in places affected by high surface water pressure, compared to the global average of about 35%. The report also warns that climate-related water scarcity is expected to cause economic losses estimated at 6-14% of GDP by 2050, the highest estimated losses in the world⁷⁷.

A. Libya

Libya is the most prominent case in the region due the ongoing Libyan civil war since 2014. The violence, lack of proper maintenance and poor financing of the water pipelines in Libya have caused the water level to drop from 1.2 million cubic meters to only 800,000 cubic meters. This water crisis in Libya poses a serious threat not only because the current amount of water is insufficient for most of Libya, but also because experts expect that Libya will need 8 billion cubic meters of water annually by 2025⁷⁸.

Currently, nearly four million Libyan citizens do not have access to safe drinking water due to diseases, such as cholera, diarrhea and hepatitis A that afflict children because of the lack of clean

⁷⁵Smart Water, Water and sewage projects in Middle East and Africa worth \$133bn, says new report, 2020, available at:

<https://smartwatermagazine.com/news/smart-water-magazine/water-and-sewage-projects-middle-east-and-africa-worth-133bn-says-new>

⁷⁶ Ibid

⁷⁷ Ibid

⁷⁸ <https://www.borgenmagazine.com/libyas-water-crisis-affects-millions-nationwide/>



water. Libya relies on groundwater reserves to provide stable and adequate water supplies. However, with the population growing at a rate of 1.38% in 2020 and the monthly decrease in rainfall of 20.92 mm since the 1950s, groundwater alone has proven insufficient for the nation.

Furthermore, The Libyan civil war has also led to numerous water interruptions, destroying the lives of millions across the country and leaving nearly two million people without water for days. April proved to be the worst month for the country, as many Libyans were left without water for nearly 20 days amid the Coronavirus pandemic. Citizens in Libya suffer from severe water shortages resulting from the ongoing war in Libya and the misuse of water systems⁷⁹.

B. Egypt

Efforts are being made in Egypt to address the demand for water at a critical time of increasing need for water driven by the growing population, intensive agricultural activity and several urgent challenges. Egypt has access to about 90% of the water supplies from the Nile River, with an annual share of about 55 cubic meters, which has not changed since 1954. The rest of the supplies, about 0.5 billion cubic meters, come from non-renewable groundwater, leaving the country in a water deficit, since it needs at least 90 cubic meters annually in order to cover such deficit.

With regard to infrastructure, significant progress has been made in respect of the access to drinking water in Egypt (from 90% in 2015 to 97% in 2019), access to sanitation (from 50% in 2015 to an estimated 70.6% in 2019) and the proportion of treated wastewater (from 50% in 2015 to 68.7% in 2019)⁸⁰.

C. Algeria

Algeria suffers from arid climatic conditions and water scarcity due to the desert nature of the country and the climatic risks of drought or floods.

In the context of addressing these arid conditions in Algeria, 80 dams have been built with a storage capacity of more than 8.3 billion cubic meters, in addition to 5 dams under construction with an additional capacity of 300 million cubic meters, 2,800 wells to provide water in remote areas and 11 large desalination units. Algeria carried out all these development projects between 2018-2020 towards achieving Goal 6 of SDGs (clean water and sanitation).

D. Morocco

⁷⁹ Ibid

⁸⁰ Ministerial Dialogue Investing in water, sanitation and hygiene: country practices, 2020, <https://bit.ly/3h3HMMA>



Among the positive developments that are already taking place in the MENA region are Morocco's efforts at the national level in groundwater management and Egypt's renewed focus on enhancing domestic accountability for water supply and sanitation services, particularly in underserved rural areas. The real challenge is the mainstreaming and acceleration of these positive innovations across the region, which require a "new awareness of water" among citizens that recognizes that addressing water scarcity is the responsibility of all, whether farmers, companies, groups or individuals⁸¹.

Second: The reality and challenges of the SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation for all) in East Africa and the Horn of Africa.

A. Somalia

In Somalia, the numbers of displaced persons due to water shortage as of November 2020, with more than 83,000 people, prove that the efforts made by the federal government in Somalia are not bearing fruit.

Somalia's water resources always dry up at a rapid rate with a looming drought intensifying, leaving 70% of families across the country without access to safe drinking water. Moreover, thousands of children now rely on emergency water trucks and unprotected wells or are forced to leave their homes in search of water.

With regard to Goal 6 indicators in Somalia, the proportion of the population using at least basic drinking water services has reached only 40%, which is a small percentage that represents a major challenge for Somalia.

Furthermore, the proportion of the population using at least basic sanitation services is 16%. Thus, one can imagine the scale of the deprivation of sanitation services and the use of primitive methods suffered by more than three quarters of the population in Somalia, despite the fact that access to sanitation is not an insurmountable luxury⁸².

B. Eritrea

Although Eritrea has approximately 16 to 20 inches of rain annually, nearly half of the country's population does not have access to clean water. As of 2020, about 80.7% of Eritreans lack access to basic water services, which has an impact on some aspects, such as the damage to natural water resources. The lack of access to clean water forces the Eritreans to use public water resources, such as rivers and streams, to perform their daily activities, since they do not have accessible water

⁸¹ WB, Beyond Scarcity: Water Security in the Middle East and North Africa, 2017, available at:

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/water/publication/beyond-scarcity-water-security-in-the-middle-east-and-north-africa>

⁸² UN: Over 83,000 Somalis displaced due to water crisis, Anadolu Agency, 2021, <https://bit.ly/3BTk39P>



resources in their homes. As such, these public water resources become contaminated over time, which could lead to fatal diseases.

This is actually the de facto situation of Eritrea. According to UNICEF, diarrhea is the primary cause of death for children under the age of five in Eritrea⁸³.

C. Djibouti

Water in Djibouti is precious because of its scarcity, due to the lack of a permanent source of water bodies in the country, such as rivers or freshwater lakes. Therefore, Djibouti relies heavily on deep groundwater tables.

With regard to the access to sanitation services as part of Goal 6, 78% of the population in Djibouti still lack improved latrines. Furthermore, there are large disparities in access to such service between urban and rural areas, as 70.4% of the urban population have access to sanitation facilities compared to only 16.4% of the rural population⁸⁴.

D. Ethiopia

Agricultural activity is the largest consumer of water in Ethiopia. An estimated 93% of all the water withdrawals in the country (surface and ground water) are for agricultural use, which is much higher than the global average of 70%. However, water withdrawals for agriculture represent only 4% of the total available renewable water resources in the country.

Although Ethiopia has relatively abundant water resources, it is considered a “water-stressed” country due to the rapid population growth over the past decade. Estimates of annual renewable groundwater range from 13.5 to 28 billion cubic meters, of which only about 2.6 billion cubic meters are currently exploitable.

The natural variability of rainfall patterns and distribution, interspersed by severe weather conditions, has caused many areas of the country to suffer from conditions of severe water scarcity and chronic food insecurity. On the other hand, floods constitute a major problem in some parts of Ethiopia.

The lack of water infrastructure compounds the impact of the unpredictable nature of rainfall in the country. Although Ethiopia has achieved its Millennium Development Goal of having 57% of potable water, lowering the number of people deprived of safe water by half since 2011, access to sanitation facilities is still significantly low (only 28%).

⁸³ Water for Eritrea, Technik ohne Grenzen e.V, 2021, <https://bit.ly/3BKZIU3>

⁸⁴ DJIBOUTI: AFD finances the extension of the capital’s sanitation network, afrik21, 2021, <https://bit.ly/3DXskv1>



Thus, despite the availability of all those water resources in Ethiopia, it still suffers from insufficient access to potable water and sanitation services, in addition to poor hygiene practices that negatively affect health and nutrition. Diarrhea is one of the primary causes of death for children under five years of age in Ethiopia as well⁸⁵.

Theme VIII: The reality and challenges of the SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) in North Africa and the Horn of Africa.

Speaking of inequalities in Africa, there are several forms of this phenomenon, including inequality between men and women in jobs or between strata of society in the level and quality of services provided to them. In fact, basic services such as education, health and other services are unequally provided between urban and rural areas.

First: The reality and challenges of the SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) in North Africa

A. Egypt

The participation of Egyptian women in ministerial and government positions has increased from 12% in 2017 to 25% in 2021. In addition, women's share in Parliament seats increased to about 28% in 2021, compared to only 2% in 2013.

However, there are many challenges that are still facing the path of reducing gender inequality in Egypt. Despite the better representation of women in the government and the public sector, the proportion of women employed in the private sector does not exceed 18% of the labor force. Furthermore, on average, women earn 34% less than their male counterparts⁸⁶.

B. Tunisia

In Tunisia, the rate of income inequality has remained at 10.9% since 2010 without any improvement⁸⁷ and the poorest families in the less wealthy areas receive lower quality of education⁸⁸. Furthermore, inequality in social and economic status is more evident in Tunisia than gender inequality, particularly in the rural areas of the country. The Global Gender Gap Index of Tunisia stands at 0.6440, and it ranks 124th out of 153 countries worldwide⁸⁹.

C. Algeria

⁸⁵ Water in Ethiopia, usaid, 2020, <https://bit.ly/3DWBjNh>

⁸⁶ worldbank, Gender Equity Seal: A Key to Strengthening Egypt's Private Sector
<https://bit.ly/3xoSz9c>

⁸⁷ wid, Tunisia
<https://wid.world/country/tunisia/>

⁸⁸ wilsoncenter, Poverty, Inequality and Corruption: Explaining Variation in Educational Quality in Tunisia
<https://bit.ly/37lNgNq>

⁸⁹ country economy, Tunisia- Global Gender Gap Index <https://bit.ly/3xotPxZ>



The Global Gender Gap Index of Algeria stands at 0.63⁹⁰, ranking 132 out of 153 countries worldwide. The gender disparity in the country was particularly wide in terms of political empowerment, as women's political participation was very limited. The number of women deputies in the Parliament decreased from 120 deputy in 2017 to only 34 in the new parliament elected in June 2021 within the new election law. This means that the proportion of women in the Algerian Parliament decreased from 26% to 8%. Furthermore, the number of women in the government of Prime Minister Aymen Benabderrahmane decreased to 5 women compared to 6 women in the previous government.

D. Morocco

In Morocco, poverty rates in rural areas increased by five folds, from 3.9% to 19.8%, and by 14 folds in urban areas, from 0.5% to 7.1%, due to the closures because of the Coronavirus outbreak⁹¹. In addition, female participation in the labor market is only 24.9 %⁹².

Persons with special needs, who make up 6.8% of Morocco's population (2.3 million people), are among the country's most vulnerable groups. An estimated two-thirds of them do not receive any social protection. Moreover, the majority of those persons with special needs face great difficulties in accessing the care they need. This is in addition to the fact that nearly two-thirds of children with special needs do not attend school, even though education is compulsory until the age of thirteen in Morocco. Meanwhile, the unemployment rate for persons with special needs is six times higher than the normal rate⁹³.

Second: The reality and challenges of the SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) in the Horn of Africa.

A. Sudan

Persons with special needs face great difficulties in enrolling in public schools, due to the difficulty of integrating them into these schools and the lack of the necessary school environment for receiving them. One of the difficulties facing this group of people with motor, mental, visual and auditory disabilities is the delayed integration process in public schools. At the same time, there are only two public schools for people with special needs in the Sudanese capital.

The education sector is also a prominent example of gender inequality in Sudan, as manifested by the variances between the literacy rates of girls (40%) and boys (60%). In addition, there are about 7 girls to 10 boys in primary education and about 5 girls to 10 boys in secondary school. Women also constitute only 12% of the teachers in the country⁹⁴.

⁹⁰ statista, Gender gap index in Algeria in 2020, by sector <https://bit.ly/3lxCFY2>

⁹¹ moroccoworldnews, COVID-19 Has Worsened Social Inequality in Morocco, March 28, 2021

⁹² Isdb, COUNTRY GENDER PROFILE MOROCCO <https://bit.ly/3fuzzQs>

⁹³ azickia, Disability and Pandemic in Morocco: reducing inequalities to build a more resilient society <https://bit.ly/3xu2cDv>

⁹⁴ borgenproject, WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN SOUTH SUDAN <https://bit.ly/3A8WWak>



B. Somalia

In Somalia, illiteracy rates among women in displaced communities are 76% and 59% for the non-displaced, compared to 60% for displaced men and 39% for non-displaced men⁹⁵.

Moreover, the old gender norms are still prevalent in the Somali society, as only 27% of women-headed households have received any form of formal education compared to 41% of men-headed ones. One of the gender-based persistent inequalities in Somalia is the fact that certain types of jobs, such as nursing and cooking, should be only done by women and that they cannot assume powerful social positions⁹⁶.

C. Djibouti

Djibouti has a more positive indicator, which is that women represent 26.2% of the parliamentary seats⁹⁷. However, on the other hand, 60.5% of women are illiterate. Moreover, women occupy only 19% of the labor market compared to 81% for men, increasing the number of Djiboutian women suffering from the effects of poverty⁹⁸.

D. Ethiopia

Rural women are struggling in Ethiopia, as they do most of the agricultural work but are rarely paid or recognized. Gender-based violence is also a major problem, with many women having no access to community resources because 80% of Ethiopia's population live in rural areas with poor infrastructure. Furthermore, Women also suffer from systematic discrimination with regard to land ownership, education and the justice system⁹⁹.

Although the primary school enrollment rate for girls in Ethiopia has increased from 21% to 91% in the past three decades, only 35% of university students are female and 5% drop out in the first year. The majority are unable to transfer to secondary schools and universities due to distance, personal security and economic challenges.

Although the primary school enrollment rate for girls in Ethiopia has increased from 21% to 91% in the past three decades, only 35% of university students are female and 5% drop out in the first year of college. The majority of girls cannot transfer to secondary schools and universities owing to the long distance, personal security and economic challenges¹⁰⁰.

⁹⁵ reliefweb, Case Study: Somalia - Funding for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls in Humanitarian Programming, June 2020 <https://bit.ly/3Agn8zX>

⁹⁶ care-international, 10 years after Somalia famine, country is once again on the brink of crisis with women and girls hardest hit <https://bit.ly/3A2T0Ia>

⁹⁷ unwomen, Djibouti <https://bit.ly/3rSqtIP>

⁹⁸ usaid, GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT <https://bit.ly/2WVGg7Y>

⁹⁹ borgenproject, THE STATE OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN ETHIOPIA <https://bit.ly/3yqtfkC>

¹⁰⁰ usaid, GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT <https://bit.ly/3fyVC8N>



E. Eritrea

Women represent a reasonable rate of 22% of the Eritrean parliament¹⁰¹. However, on the other hand, other groups are being persecuted. In late March 2021, 35 Christians were arrested in Eritrea for holding prayer meetings. These recent arrests dashed hopes for a change of heart about Christians in that country. Such arrests took place during an army raid on a chapel built by 23 women in the capital city of Eritrea, Asmara¹⁰².

In February 2021, a deacon at St. Mary of Zion Church, the most sacred Ethiopian Orthodox church in the country, said that Eritrean soldiers stormed the church on November 28 during prayer time and they shot hundreds of worshipers. The killing continued for hours on the streets outside. An estimated 800 people were killed, including worshipers in the church and civilians outside the church¹⁰³.

Theme IX: the reality and challenges of achieving the SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) in the countries of North Africa and the Horn of Africa

The African continent has been suffering from many crises and conflicts for a long time, which makes it difficult to achieve the sustainable development goals. Since the United Nations developed the development plan in 2015, most African countries have tried to achieve them, with the aim of providing an advanced and stable environment for current generations, and ensure the protection of future generations.

The extent of achieving the sixteenth goal can be measured by referring to its indicators and targets, especially since North African countries have been suffering from instability for a long time, especially Libya. It has suffered for a decade from the security situation deterioration due to the Libyan crisis. It affected its internal stability and neighboring countries negatively. The terrorism phenomenon and the spread of armed groups are a challenge in achieving the sixteenth goal of the sustainable development goals for the Horn of Africa countries. For example, South Sudan and Somalia are the first fragile and least peaceful countries due to terrorist operations. It impacts on impeding the achievement of sustainable development goals in general. The previous items can be dealt with in some detail as follows:

First: The reality and challenges of the SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) in the countries of North Africa

The biggest challenge for North African countries in achieving the sixteenth goal is the instability and low levels of security resulting from the Arab Spring revolutions. It has been clearly noted that

¹⁰¹ idea.int, Eritrea <https://bit.ly/3jreGqy>

¹⁰² releaseinternational, RELIGIOUS FREEDOM HOPES DASHED IN ERITREA AS 35 MORE CHRISTIANS ARRESTED

¹⁰³ theartnewspaper, Ethiopian heritage under attack as reports of massacre emerge, 25th February 2021 <https://bit.ly/3vWmHc3>



the indicators of peace and security have decreased, the level and indicators of crime have increased, and the rates of corruption and bribery have also increased, and this can be clarified as follows:

a. Libya

The Libyan crisis, which began nearly a decade ago, resulted in the chaos that caused the spread of armed militias and terrorist groups that affected the security and stability of Libya and the security of neighboring countries. The Libyan crisis has become a predicament for all the parties involved in it. Despite the current attempts at stability, it has not changed Libya's global rank in the list of unstable countries. The crime index in Libya reached 61.78% until January 2021, while the security index reached 38.22%.

About reducing forms of violence, the crime level recorded a high rate of 65.32%, while the percentage of robbery fears also increased to 54.09%. Violence, assault, and armed robbery spread by 65.99%, and the rate of facilities and property subjected to vandalism and destruction reached 60.88%¹⁰⁴.

About the security indicators; Insecurity spread in Libya, especially at night, the security percentage at night reached 31.31%. During the day, it was 54.77%, which is very low; it reflects the deterioration of the security situation in Libya.

As for the Libyan Peace Index, Libya ranked 156 out of 163 countries in the Global Peace Index for 2021¹⁰⁵, a difference of one place from 2020, where it ranked 157. Although there is a very slight positive difference between the two years, Libya is still among the country's lowest peace in the world¹⁰⁶.

About significantly reducing corruption and bribery in all its forms, the corruption percentage and bribery index reached 72.32% in Libya until January 2021¹⁰⁷. And it ranked 173 in terms of perceived levels of public sector corruption out of 180 countries. It also ranked 17th in terms of the degree of corruption globally in 2020¹⁰⁸. The increase in the rank is noted between 2019 and 2020, as it ranked 168th in perceived levels of public sector corruption out of 180 countries; it is an increase in corruption¹⁰⁹.

As for ensuring public access to information and protecting freedoms, the human rights situation has deteriorated, negatively affecting freedoms in Libya, which reached a score of 9/100 in 2019-

¹⁰⁴ Numbeo, *Crime in Libya index*, Last update: January 2021. link: <https://bit.ly/2LBrYnN>

¹⁰⁵ The Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP), *Global Peace Index 2021 report*, June 2021, <https://bit.ly/3f1bv7w>

¹⁰⁶ The Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP), *Global Peace Index 2020 report*, June 2020, <https://bit.ly/3y9TonJ>

¹⁰⁷ Ibid, <https://bit.ly/2LBrYnN>

<https://bit.ly/3BESCB7>¹⁰⁸

<https://bit.ly/3BHg7JW>¹⁰⁹



2020. It also affected the right to political freedom, which scored a score of 1/40, and Internet freedoms 50/100 in 2020¹¹⁰.

Many Libyans did not participate in public life; discussion freedom and personal expression were reduced due to the ongoing hostilities, the kidnappings, killings of activists, politicians, and journalists, intimidation, and detention. The civil war and related violence by criminal and extremist groups also made reporting abuses dangerous¹¹¹.

The Libyan media was characterized by partisanship, and it produces content that tends to favor one of the country's political and military factions and not others. One of the most prominent incidents was the photographer killing in January 2019 while covering the clashes between militias south of Tripoli. To avoid danger, many journalists and media outlets have stopped doing their work and most of them have fled the country. Even about academic freedom, there are no laws that guarantee academic freedom in Libya. The armed conflict destroyed many university facilities, and students that allied with militias intimidated professors¹¹².

b. Egypt

Over the past ten years, Egypt suffered almost from terrorist operations, which have caused widespread insecurity and stability in the country. Terrorism has affected human rights and security in Egypt. The Egyptian government combated terrorism, which affected the high rates of security indicators in Egypt, which reached 53.21%, while the crime indicators also 46.79%. In the context of curbing all forms of violence, the crime level in Egypt reached the average level, which is 46.31%. However, the percentage of fears of being exposed to theft increased to 47.82%, the violence percentage, assault, and armed robbery decreased to 38.95%, and the facilities and property percentage subjected to vandalism and destruction increased to 47.34%.

In Egypt, the security percentage was 52.31% at night and 79.90% during the day; it reflects the security situation stability¹¹³.

However, despite the efforts of the Egyptian state to combat terrorism and attempt to spread peace, Egypt ranked 126 out of 163 countries in the Global Peace Index for 2021¹¹⁴, which is a low rank, a difference of 4 ranks from 2020, where it ranked 130. Despite the presence of a very slight positive difference between However, Egypt is still among the countries with low peace¹¹⁵.

¹¹⁰ Freedom house, *Libya report 2020*.link: <https://bit.ly/3iGJCTf>

¹¹¹Ibid: <https://bit.ly/3iGJCTf>

¹¹²Ibid: <https://bit.ly/3iGJCTf>

¹¹³ Numbeo, *Crime in Egypt index*, Last update: July 25, 2021.link: <https://bit.ly/3eVJG0t>

¹¹⁴ Ibid, <https://bit.ly/3f1bv7w>

¹¹⁵Ibid, <https://bit.ly/3y9TonJ>



About curbing corruption and bribery, the rate of corruption and bribery reached 74.67% it is a very high rate¹¹⁶, it ranked 117th in terms of perceived levels of public sector corruption out of 180 countries. It also ranked 33 in terms of the degree of corruption globally in 2020¹¹⁷, after it was ranked 106 globally in 2019. In terms of the degree of corruption in 2019, it reached 35¹¹⁸. That reflects the poor situation in Egypt, the lack of transparency, and the spread of corruption.

c. Algeria

Algeria is witnessing a state of security instability due to terrorist groups, which have led to the spread of insecurity and high crime rates. About the reduction of all forms of violence, the crime index in Algeria increased to 51.92% until July 2021. The security index reached 48.08%, and the level of crime in Algeria reached an average level of 51.28%. Fears of being exposed to theft were a high rate of 51.88%, and the percentage of violence, assault, and armed robbery also changed to 46.45%, which is an average rate. The rate of exposure of facilities and property to sabotage and destruction is 57.33%.

The security rate in Algeria was 37.62%, which is a low percentage; it was 65.51%¹¹⁹ during the day. Algeria ranked 120 out of 163 countries in the Global Peace Index for 2021¹²⁰, a difference of 3 ranks from 2020, where it ranked 117. Despite a very slight positive difference between the two years, Algeria is still among the countries with medium peace¹²¹.

About reducing corruption and bribery, it reached 78.18%,¹²² which is a very high rate. Algeria ranked 104th in terms of perceived levels of public sector corruption out of 180 countries, it ranked 36th in terms of the degree of corruption globally in 2020¹²³. Compared to 2019, Algeria ranked 106 globally 2019, and the degree of corruption in 2019 reached 35¹²⁴.

About ensuring public access to information and protecting freedoms in Algeria, the human rights situation has deteriorated negatively and has affected public freedoms, which reached a degree of 32/100 in the years 2019-2020. It also affected the right to political freedom, which was 10/40, and civil liberties 22/60 in 2020¹²⁵.

In fact, in April 2020, the Algerian government obstructed the work of some private media such as Maghreb Emergent, Radio M, and Intelligent. In August, L'Avant-Garde Algérie's website also became

¹¹⁶ Ibid: <https://bit.ly/3eVJG0t>

¹¹⁷ Ibid <https://bit.ly/3BESCB7>

¹¹⁸ Ibid <https://bit.ly/3BHg7JW>

¹¹⁹ Numbeo, *Crime in Algeria index*, Last update: July 25, 2021.link: <https://bit.ly/371NdWW>

¹²⁰ Ibid, <https://bit.ly/3f1bv7w>

¹²¹ Ibid, <https://bit.ly/3y9TonJ>

¹²² Ibid, <https://bit.ly/371NdWW>

¹²³ Ibid, <https://bit.ly/3BESCB7>

¹²⁴ Ibid <https://bit.ly/3BHg7JW>

¹²⁵ Freedom house, *Algeria report 2020*.link: <https://bit.ly/3iGJCTf>



inaccessible from within the country. In December news websites such as Tariq News, Chehab Press, UltraSawt, TSA Algiers, and Twala were blocked.

The Algerian government has also carried out several arbitrary arrests and interrogations of journalists who are covering demonstrations or those close to the protests. Many foreign correspondents were expelled from Algeria in 2019, but no incidents were reported in 2020.

As for academic freedom in 2019, the government suppressed protests by students when they called for political reforms, so the authorities used force and violence to break up demonstrations. Practice within the classrooms has also been restricted by the authorities, where academic work is influenced by the countries censorship over locally published and imported books.¹²⁶

A. Tunisia

Although Tunisia had achieved what other countries failed to do in 2011, such as the peaceful transition to democratic rule after the Tunisian Revolution, the legacy of the previous regime such as lack of transparency and absence of parliamentary oversight remained, making it urgent to reform the security sector as a whole. With regard to reducing all forms of violence, the crime index in Tunisia had reached 44.05% by July 2021, the security index had reached 55.95%. and the average level of crime in Tunisia was 44.19%, and the average rate of fear of theft was 48.45%.

As for the percentage of violence, assault and armed robbery, it was a small percentage, approximately 35.42%, and the rate of exposure of facilities and property to vandalism and destruction was 45.21%, which is an average percentage. As for the security rates in Tunisia, they were moderate, as the percentage of security at night reached 1%, which is a fairly average rate, while during the day it reached a high rate of 72.33%.¹²⁷

With regard to the peace index in Tunisia, Tunisia ranked 98 out of 163 countries in the Global Peace Index for the year¹²⁸ 2021, moderate peace, a difference of 4 ranks from 2020, where it ranked 92, and despite the presence of a very slight positive difference between the two years, Tunisia remains among the middle-peace countries.¹²⁹

With regard to the reduction of corruption and bribery, the percentage of corruption and bribery in Tunisia was high at rate of 71.33%¹³⁰, while Tunisia ranked 69th in terms of levels of corruption in the public sector out of 180 countries, and 44th in terms of the degree of corruption worldwide in

¹²⁶ Freedom house, *Algeria report 2020*.link: <https://bit.ly/370G5de>

¹²⁷ Numbeo, *Crime in Tunisia index*, Last update: July 25, 2021.link <https://bit.ly/3eTgF5Q>

¹²⁸ Ibid, <https://bit.ly/3f1bv7w>

¹²⁹ Ibid, <https://bit.ly/3y9TonJ>

¹³⁰ Ibid, <https://bit.ly/371NdWW>



2020¹³¹, compared to 2019, Tunisia ranked 74th in the world in 2019, and 43th in terms of corruption in 2019.¹³²

As for ensuring public access to information and the protection of fundamental freedoms, Tunisia generally enjoys a positive situation in human rights, reaching a level of 71/100 in 2019-2020, as well as the right to political freedom 32/40, civil liberties 39/60 in 2020 and Internet freedom 64/100.¹³³

The Constitution guarantees freedom of opinion, thought, expression, media and publication. Therefore, freedom of the press has improved in recent years. Several news outlets have been established on the Internet since the 2011 revolution, and also in 2018 Tunisia signed the International Declaration on Information and Democracy, which defines the basic principles of the global information and communication space.

However, there have been some violations in the past. Some journalists have faced pressure and intimidation from government officials regarding their work, especially those who cover the news of the security forces and are subject to harassment and arrest. Moreover, in April 2020, a blogger was convicted of insulting a government official after he posted a video criticizing the distribution of food items related to COVID-19 in Tunisia on Facebook, so he was sentenced to suspended imprisonment, and another blogger was accused of causing a disturbance for posting a video of a demonstration in the same month.

In July 2020, commentator Taoufik Ben Brik received a one-year prison sentence for defamation and insulting public officials, after criticizing the authorities' treatment of the presidential candidate Nabil Karoui in October 2019, and in November 2020, a blogger was sentenced to two years in prison for criticizing the public prosecutor in a Facebook video posted earlier.¹³⁴

Second: The reality and challenges of the SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) in East African countries and the Horn of Africa.

The countries of the Horn of Africa suffer from the unlimited spread of the phenomenon of terrorism, which represents the biggest challenge for these countries in achieving the sixteenth goal, as achieving peace and reducing violence is one of the most important goals required to achieve the goal, as armed violence and terrorism directly affect the inclusion of the Horn of Africa countries

¹³¹ Ibid, <https://bit.ly/3BESCB7>

¹³² Ibid <https://bit.ly/3BHg7JW>

¹³³ freedom house, Tunisia report 2021, <https://bit.ly/3l0Lc5n>

¹³⁴ Freedom House, Tunisia report 2021, <https://bit.ly/2UKKDSF>



within List of countries with low peace in the world, and the above can be explained in detail as follows:

The countries of the Horn of Africa suffer from an unlimited spread of terrorism, which represents the biggest challenge for these countries in achieving the sixteenth goal as Achieving peace and reducing violence is one of the most important goals required to achieve the goal. Armed violence and terrorism directly affect the inclusion of the Horn of Africa countries in the list of countries with low peace in the world, and the above can be explained in detail as follows:

A. Sudan

In the Sudan, after Omar al-Bashir's regime and his National Congress Party were overthrown in 2019, Sudan was ruled by a transitional government in which military and civilian leaders share power so that national elections can be held. However, the security situation in the country is unstable owing to violence involving security forces, other armed groups and rival ethnic communities in many parts of the country. In terms of reducing all forms of violence, the Sudan's crime index reached 42.34% by June 2020, and the security index reached 57.66%.

The level of crime in the Sudan has reached a low rate of 36.78%, fear of theft has reached an average of 41.78%, the rate of violence, assault and armed robbery also fell to 34.91%, the rate of destruction of installations and property to 53.03%, and the rate of night security in the Sudan was high at 62.72% while during day it reached 78.57%¹³⁵

As for the Sudan Peace Index, the Sudan ranked 153rd out of 163 countries in the GPI in 2021¹³⁶ and 2020¹³⁷, which is a very low ranking that clearly reflects the low security situation in the Sudan, which has affected the inclusion of the Sudan among the least peaceful countries in the world.

With regard to reducing corruption and bribery, the percentage of corruption and bribery increased to 78.95%, as Sudan ranked 174th in terms of perceived levels of public sector corruption out of 180 countries, and ranked 16th in terms of the degree of corruption globally in 2020, and compared to 2019, it has Sudan ranked 173 globally in 2019, and in terms of the degree of corruption in 2019, it reached 16.

In terms of reducing corruption and bribery, the percentage of corruption and bribery rose to 78.95%,¹³⁸ with Sudan being ranked 174th in terms of levels of public sector corruption among 180

¹³⁵ Numbeo, Crime in Sudan index, Last update: June, 2021. link: <https://bit.ly/36XdDcn>

¹³⁶ Ibid, <https://bit.ly/3f1bv7w>

¹³⁷ Ibid, <https://bit.ly/3y9TonJ>

¹³⁸ Ibid, <https://bit.ly/371NdWW>



countries, and ranked 16th in terms of the degree of corruption worldwide in 2020¹³⁹, compared to 2019, Sudan ranked 173rd. In terms of corruption in 2019, it reached 16¹⁴⁰

As for ensuring public access to information and the protection of fundamental freedoms, the security situation has had a direct impact on the overall human rights situation, affecting public freedoms, which reached a score of 17 out of 100 in 2019-2020, as well as political freedom, which only scored 2 out of 40, civil freedom 15 out of 60 and internet freedom 30 out of 100 degrees, which are too low for the minimum that are supposed to be provided.

Although the Interim Constitution of the Sudan guarantees freedom of the press, there are some laws that contradict this Constitution, primarily the Information Crimes Act of 2007, the Press Act of 2009 and the National Security Act of 2010, which clearly restrict press freedoms and the 2018 law on combating cybercrime was amended to increase prison sentences in July 2020.

In December 2020, more than 80 government media workers accused of loyalty to the Bashir regime were expelled. In July 2000, the army announced that it had appointed a commissioner to file legal proceedings against Internet journalists insulting the armed forces and critical reports were deleted. In May 2020 two reporters were harassed by intelligence officers in Northern Darfur to investigate and report on the government's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁴¹

B. Somalia

For three decades, Somalia has been suffering political crises and security threats in which civil war between clans and tribes has played a significant role, and was exacerbated by international and regional interventions. The Somali scene has appeared to be insecure in the face of the Al - Shabaab terrorist attacks as the "Shabaab" terrorist movement in Somalia has increased the security situation in the country since its inception¹⁴². In terms of reducing all forms of violence, and crime index in Somalia it reached 55.29% as of July 2021, and the security index reached 44.71%.

Where the level of crime in Somalia reached the average level, which is 55.91%, and fears of robbery increased to 60.53%, and the percentage of violence, assault and armed robbery reached 58.04%, which is an average percentage, and the rate of exposure of facilities and property to sabotage and destruction became an average of 57.46%, and the percentage of Security at night in Somalia reached 44.49%, which is a fairly average rate, while during the day it reached 50.00%.

The average level of crime in Somalia was 55.91%, fear of theft rose to 60.53%, violence, assault and armed robbery reached 58.04% which is considered as an average percentage. Exposure to vandalism

¹³⁹ Ibid, <https://bit.ly/3BESCB7>

¹⁴⁰ Ibid <https://bit.ly/3BHg7JW>

¹⁴¹ Freedom House, Sudan report 2021, <https://bit.ly/2WvHQ0d>



and destruction of installations and property became average at rate of 57.46% and the night security rate in Somalia was 44.49%, which was fairly average, and during the day it was 50.00%.¹⁴³

As for the peace index, Somalia ranked 158th out of 163 countries in the¹⁴⁴ 2021 GPI which is very low, in fact it is the same ranking as Somalia in 2020, which reflects the continued deterioration of security in Somalia and the lack of effective steps to control terrorism and remove Somalia from the list of the least peaceful countries in the world.¹⁴⁵

With regard to the significant reduction of corruption and bribery, the percentage of corruption and bribery rose to 68.42%, Somalia ranked 179th in terms of perceived levels of public sector corruption out of 180 countries, it ranked 12th in terms of the degree of corruption worldwide in 2020¹⁴⁶, compared to 2019, Somalia ranked 180th globally in 2019, and in terms of the degree of corruption in 2019 it reached 9th.¹⁴⁷

In terms of ensuring public access to information and the protection of fundamental freedoms, the human rights situation in Somalia has clearly deteriorated, affecting, of course, public freedoms at 7 out of 100 in 2019 and 2020, and the degree of political freedom at only 1 out of 40, as well as the situation with regard to civil liberties at 6/60 in 2020.

Although the interim constitution guarantees the freedom of journalists, they regularly face harassment, arbitrary arrest, slander and violence. In 2020, radio journalist Abdel-Wali Ali Hassan was shot dead by two gunmen near his home in Afgoye in February, after he received threats related to his work. The National Intelligence Agency also arrested Radio Heijcy journalist Mohamed Abdelwahab Nour in March 2021 and charged him with murder and affiliation to Al-Shabaab group, but he was acquitted by a military court in 2020. Also in March 2020, Puntland police arrested a journalist who was making a survey on the government's response to COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁴⁸

In April 2020, security forces arrested the CEO of Goobjoog Media Group, Abdelaziz Ahmed Ghorbia, for using social media to criticize the government's performance in its response to the pandemic, and Abdelaziz was sentenced in July to six months in prison and a fine for spreading false news.¹⁴⁹

b. Eritrea

In Eritrea, the Eritrean regime is stigmatized as undemocratic, as no national elections have been held since independence from Ethiopia in 1993. The People's Front for Democracy and Justice (PFDJ),

¹⁴³ Numbeo, Crime in Somalia index, Last update: July 25, 2021. link: <https://bit.ly/311EdJg>

¹⁴⁴ Ibid, <https://bit.ly/3f1bv7w>

¹⁴⁵ Ibid, <https://bit.ly/3y9TonJ>

¹⁴⁶ Ibid, <https://bit.ly/3BESCB7>

¹⁴⁷ Ibid <https://bit.ly/3BHg7JW>

¹⁴⁸ Freedom House, *Somalia report 2021*, <https://bit.ly/370ObTa>

¹⁴⁹ Freedom House, *Somalia report 2021*, <https://bit.ly/370ObTa>



headed by President Afwerki, is the only political party, and therefore political life is restricted all the time. As to reducing all forms of violence, crime index in Eritrea reached 21.44% until April 2021, while the security index reached 78.56%.

The crime rate in Eritrea declined to 36.7%. As to fears of robbery, it decreased to 21.15%, and the percentage of violence, assault and armed robbery also dropped to 15.38%, which is a very low rate. The security rate in Eritrea increased at night, reaching 75.00%, while during the day it reached 81.25%.¹⁵⁰ With regard to the Peace Index in Eritrea, it ranked 136th out of 163 countries in the Global Peace Index in 2021¹⁵¹ and 2020¹⁵², which reflects the poor security situation in Eritrea and the absence of any positive progress during the year.

As for significantly reducing corruption and bribery, the percentage of corruption and bribery decreased to 36.54%,¹⁵³ and Eritrea ranked 160th in terms of public sector corruption out of 180 countries, and ranked 21st in terms of the degree of corruption globally in 2020¹⁵⁴ and compared to 2019, Eritrea ranked 160 globally in 2019, and in terms of the degree of corruption in 2019, it reached 23.¹⁵⁵

With regard to ensuring public access to information and protecting basic freedoms, the deteriorating security situation has affected the human rights situation in the country. Eritrea reached only two degrees in public freedoms out of 100 in 2019 and 2020, and only one degree in political freedom out of 40, and one degree of civil liberties out of 60 during 2020.

In terms of media freedom, the government has shut down all independent media since 2001, and only Eritreans have outlets for coverage from outside the country, including the BBC, Paris-based Radio Irina and Asina satellite TV. 16 journalists have been arrested due to their secret journalist work in Eritrea since 2001.

In general, freedom of expression is severely restricted due to fear of government informants and the potential for arbitrary arrest and detention of any opposition broadcasts. Authorities regularly block access to social media platforms and close internet centers and cafes. Activists have used online platforms and protests to oppose the government as part of an anti-government campaign in 2020. Members of this campaign are subject to government censorship and harassment.

The second Topic

¹⁵⁰ Numbeo, *Crime in Eritrea index*, Last update: April 2021, link: <https://bit.ly/3wYBmU5>

¹⁵¹ Ibid, <https://bit.ly/3f1bv7w>

¹⁵² Ibid, <https://bit.ly/3y9TonJ>

¹⁵³ Ibid, <https://bit.ly/371NdWW>

¹⁵⁴ Ibid, <https://bit.ly/3BESCB7>

¹⁵⁵ Ibid <https://bit.ly/3BHg7JW>



An analytical vision of the reality of sustainable development in North Africa and the Horn of Africa

Theme I: North African countries

Although North African countries suffer from challenges to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, in 2020, they were the most advanced African countries in developmental efforts despite the direct and indirect impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on development efforts in all African countries.

Therefore, by comparing the countries of the north with those in the horn of Africa, northern countries were the most fortunate in achieving short-term development plans in 2020, except for Libya, which has been working since 2020 until now on making political reforms to unite Libya on a declared and specific roadmap to avoid the scourge of war. Therefore, indicators in Libya are stable between 2019 - 2020.

Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco were able to achieve good results in 2020 and overcome some challenges such as reducing poverty rates and obtaining a good score in the global food security index (in relation to the goal of total eradication of hunger). Unfortunately, Algeria has an increase in its international poverty rate between 2019 and 2020. This indicates that Algeria has been greatly affected by the pandemic. As for Libya, its food security index has not improved, which confirms, as mentioned above, the country's focus on political efforts. Indicators of extreme poverty also relapsed in Algeria and increased dramatically in 2020.

The health system in the northern countries needs many reforms; beginning of the facilities to the medical cadres, the increase in government spending on the health sector and the provision of greater support to the citizen to help him obtain the necessary health services. Yet, Sudan has the worst health sector; it struggles to face and overcome the challenges of the collapse of the infrastructure of the health system and the shortage of health personnel, in addition to the decrease in the proportion of the population covered by health care.

As for education, the issue of education is one of the core issues adopted by all development plans in all North African countries. Although the results of these plans may seem insignificant, all northern countries in this context have the determination to improve the educational system, ensure making it accessible to all groups of society and overcome obstacles to all educational levels until university.

Women in North Africa enjoy good rights and equality with men in many northern countries. They participate in governmental jobs, obtain equal opportunities in almost all sectors, as well as health care, except in Sudan, where women still suffer from societal and customary restrictions. Sudanese women still suffer from inequality and discrimination.



Finally, North African countries suffer from a high corruption index as one of the indicators of the sixteenth goal. Despite the differences in the ranks of the northern countries on the index, this indicator indicates that corruption in North Africa is significant and that it affects all countries of the North without exception.

Theme II: the Horn of Africa and East Africa

The first challenge facing the countries of the Horn of Africa is war. These wars that the countries of the Horn of Africa are waging prevent citizens from feeling the results of sustainable development due to the absence of the main reason for achieving development efforts, which is the existence of security and safety.

The war in Somalia and Ethiopia drained the infrastructure in the two countries, leaving a significant impact on health and education facilities and the general atmosphere in which the citizen does not feel any achievement offered by the state except for the continuation of the conflict and the exacerbation of political differences.

Even Eritrea, which was far from the war, has plunged itself into the Tigray and Ethiopia war. Eritrean citizens see no good from this war; it just depletes their resources and preoccupies the state's officials, who ignored achieving the sustainable development goals in pursuit of personal gains.

The Third Topic

The challenges facing the countries of North Africa and the Horn of Africa

So that the countries of North Africa and the Horn of Africa would achieve the sustainable development goals, they face many challenges, which can be described in details according to each country as follows:

Theme I: North African countries

a. Egypt

Egypt faces the following challenges in order to achieve the sustainable development goals:

- 1- The family size in Egypt contributes to poverty, which highlights the challenge of the increasing population growth that is not commensurate with the available resources.



- 2- Although obtaining a job reduces poverty, informal employment does the otherwise.
- 3- The high prices of food items is one of the most important factors of poverty in Egypt.
- 4- The high value of food products and the prices of food chains prevent citizens from obtaining the required amount of basic food, due to reasons related to importing food, which makes the cost of that import high, or due to the import of intermediate goods that are used in the production of main food stuff; which raises the price of the products.
- 5- The shortage of skilled workers is a challenge facing agricultural producers and processors, which negatively affects the productivity and competitiveness of the entire food chain.
- 6- Weak investment in sectors related to food, which affects the quantity supplied and the competition to obtain it.
- 7- Limited water resources, especially in light of the escalating crisis regarding the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam and the distribution of water among the Nile Basin countries

These challenges affect not only the SDG 1 of eliminating poverty, but also other development goals. For example, just as not getting a job is one of the most important reasons for the increase in poverty rates in Egypt, the high unemployment rates also hinder the achievement of the eighth goal related to good work. It confirms that achieving one of the development goals leads to achieving the rest of the goals.

The challenges of the third goal in Egypt are the rise in household spending, as the family spends an average of 6,408 pounds on health services. It makes the results of the efforts to achieve good health care and well-being unfelt because of the personal costs of spending on the health aspect of the family. The percentage of household spending has increased from 9.9% in 2018 to 10.4% in 2020.

One of the challenges facing Egypt is the shortage of workers in the health sector. The General Syndicate of Physicians records in Egypt says that the total number of doctors who are still on the job in the government sector is 188,535, at a rate of 1.88 doctors for every thousand citizens. The number of doctors in the government and private sectors is 212,835, at a rate of 2.1 doctors for every thousand citizens. There are more than 120 thousand doctors who work abroad out of 220 thousand doctors. More than half of the registered doctors have left the country, which is a huge number and not repeated in any developing country. According to the global average, it should be a doctor for 350 citizens. But in Egypt, there is one for every 800 citizens. In 2019, doctors and nurses number in Egypt reached 1.2 doctors and 2.2 nurses per 1000 citizens. It is lower than the global average of 1.5 doctors and 3.4 nurses.

b. Libya

Libya also faces some challenges to achieve the targeted national plans for the 2030 development plan, such as:

- 1- The inability to obtain the data to assess the goal indicators and its achievement.



- 2- The growing conflict in Libya has led to poor food supplies in Libya. Millions suffered from hunger to the point that it is considered one of the 18 largest countries suffering from hunger.
- 3- The war in Libya, the armed conflict that lasted from 2011 to 2020, and the mercenaries in Libya to support the conflict sides led to the health infrastructure collapse; many hospitals were closed, which led to the deterioration of the medical sector services, which were fragile from the ground up even before this war.
- 4- The illegal immigrant crisis that swept Libya after the war as a result of the security weakness had a health dimension. Most of these migrants represent a burden on the health system in Libya, which hardly provides health services to its citizens. Migrants are burden on the state; they need treatment for their diseases and injuries.
- 5- The war has had a considerable impact on medical personnel; Libya has been suffering from a severe shortage of medical personnel. Hospital workers and health care facilities were targeted, which resulted in a significant shortage of health workers and their ability to care for patients.
- 6- Lack of financial resources that impede the implementation of sustainable development plans in the health sector and the achievement of the third goal of good health and well-being. In addition to the political division that hinders the management of the health system in an integrated manner, because every part of the country is subject to the rule of a specific party, and there is no specific administration with a vision.

c. Morocco

The health sector is one of the worst affected in Morocco, and the successful development of which is consistent with the objectives of the third goal, and among the challenges facing it are the following:

One of the main challenges that Morocco faces in achieving sustainable development goals is the inadequacy of the medical staff.

- 1- The availability of medical staff is subject to regional variations, especially for some medical specialties, such as cardiology and endocrinology. More than 50% of Moroccan cardiologists and endocrinologists work in Rabat, Casablanca, and neighboring regions only, and the rest of the country suffer from a shortage of these cadres.
- 2- Morocco also suffers from high mortality rates due to fatal diseases among poor families
- 3- The population's lack of knowledge about human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and insufficient access to treatment in medical facilities
- 4- The health sector represents only 5.8% of Morocco's GDP from the budget. The Abuja Declaration recommends 15%, and the World Health Organization recommends 10%) and this



will make it possible to reduce the burden of health spending on families who directly bear this decrease.

- 5- Even with an increase in that budget, this will not reform the health system because the health system needs many reforms, according to the Health Care Center. The country should implement a strict financial control system to improve budget efficiency and reduce resource waste¹⁵⁶.

d. Algeria

The health sector in Algeria is one of the most collapsed sectors in Algeria, which faces many challenges, including:

- 1- The south states are the most affected areas in Algeria in the medical aspect, as they are sprawling in the Sahara Desert. The lack of specialized doctors, the difficulties of distance to reach the northern states, and the lack of decent ambulances mean increased suffering.
- 2- The Algeria public health care system ranked 173 among the safest health care systems out of 195 countries due to the fragility of programs for diseases prevention, health insecurity through the local production promotion, and control of the supply of health products.
- 3- Restricting private clinics and private sector hospitals to the wealthy class only. Increasing disparities in the quality of care provided by the health care system to Algerians in different social and economic classes.
- 4- The high rate of women's mortality, the lack of children and newborns receiving the necessary care.
- 5- Increase in mortality rate resulting from chronic diseases.
- 6- The spread of the phenomenon of medical cadres emigration, so the number of workers in the public health sector became less than workers in the private sector, although hospitals in the private sector serve a few groups of the population.

e. Tunisia

Tunisia suffers from many challenges both on the economic and political levels. On the economic level, Tunisia suffers from the lack of health and educational facilities in rural areas, as the infrastructure in Tunisia needs to make additional efforts for its development and the fighting of spreading corruption and bribery.

On the political level, the government in Tunisia is facing terrorism-related challenges that encounter its path in achieving sustainable development goals. The smuggling of cross-border weapons is another challenge facing Tunisia, as it threatens its security and stability and fuels conflict areas in the



regional neighborhood. Smuggling and parallel trades are security and economic challenges, as they are linked to terrorism. The security of its neighboring countries is also low, which directly affects Tunisia's internal stability.

Although Tunisia, the democratic country in North Africa, witnesses constant progress in civil and political liberties, the government sometimes carries out some violations against journalists in pressure and intimidation when they perform their work. It poses a challenge for Tunisia to achieve public access to information and protect freedoms.

Theme II: the Horn of Africa and East Africa

a. Sudan

Sudan is currently going through multiple crises. The dire economic situation in Sudan, which is characterized by high inflation rates, exacerbates chronic underdevelopment and poverty. The inflation rate reached 269 percent until December 2020 and is expected to continue due to the free depreciation of the exchange rate. That means a significant increase in the food baskets prices in Sudan, which deepens the dilemma of poverty in society.

People also leave school in search of work so that they can support themselves and their families. While higher education is a reason to get a well-paid job, those poor people do not have time to wait, which leads to persistence in poverty.

The health sector in Sudan also has some challenges, which are:

- 1- Lack of necessary health care for newborns impacts nurseries; it leads to a high death rate among newborns.
- 2- The lack of health care centers commensurate with providing the required health services to citizens, which motivates them to finance their health needs with their own money and to resort to private sector hospitals, which imposes heavy financial burdens on them.
- 3- The emigration of doctors and scientific competencies, the public hospitals destruction, health services privatization, health plans, and studies absence, and the situation worsened further as a result of the spread of Corona.
- 4- The harsh conditions that doctors and health staff suffer from, whether in terms of housing problems, living, deportation, and non-disbursement of financial benefits for months affected the stability of work in health care centers, diagnostic clinics, and hospitals. It leads to the exit of a number of those centers that stop providing their medical services and most hospitals stop providing emergency services.
- 5- The economic conditions in the country will affect the dilapidated health system and the epidemics that extended throughout 2020, from cholera in the Blue Nile State to Corona, which created additional burdens on health services.



b. Somalia

Somalia faces challenges, suffers from high rates of poverty and unemployment, a dilapidated health system as a result of poverty, and the conflict between the federal government and the armed youth movement.

- 1- In Somalia, acute and chronic under nutrition among children is prevalent, in addition to a high infant mortality rate.
- 2- Tuberculosis, an airborne disease, is widely spread in Somalia and usually affects the poorest segments of the population. It has one of the highest infection rates among the countries of the world. In Somalia, many epidemics such as malaria are endemic due to poor water and sanitation facilities (less than 45% of the population has access to improved water sources)
- 3- The internal displacement as a result of the conflict in Somalia had a direct and indirect impact on the medical sector. For the direct effect, the medical personnel transfer from their residential surroundings as displaced persons to other areas made the density of medical personnel in one place and their absence in another place.

Qualified health workers have moved from the country's less secure rural areas to safer urban areas. That led to an unbalanced distribution of health workers between rural and urban areas and between public and private health facilities; a consequence of this is poor access to services for people living in rural or nomadic areas.

The Coronavirus pandemic has shown that the health system in Somalia cannot absorb patients due to the lack of facilities, medical efficiency, and laboratory equipment.

- 4- The spread of corruption and mismanagement in official institutions.
- 5- The spread of customs that represent oppression against women's rights, such as refusing to educate girls, marrying minors, and leaving girls to work at an early age to support the family.

c. Ethiopia

Ethiopia has many challenges in sustainable development, and it suffers on the economic and political levels. Economically, although the federal government devotes many media trumpets to glorify the development projects established by the government, in reality, we find a delay in the economic aspect, and we are not talking here about the announced figures about the size of these projects or their revenues. Rather, what is meant here is answering a question: Do these projects serve sustainable development goals?

The answer will be no; the evidence for this is that Ethiopia still has challenges in sustainable development indicators. Its people suffer from poverty, hunger, food insecurity, and the lack of access to quality education equally, also, the collapse of the health system in Ethiopia, so the cost of



obtaining health care increases, and poor families incur the trouble. In addition, workers in the medical sector lack experience and training.

At the political level, political divisions are destroying development efforts, and the war in Tigray deprived the citizens of the region of their most basic rights, which is access to food resources, and they are now threatened with famine and annihilation in poverty.

d. Eritrea

Although Eritrea has overcome some obstacles such as illiteracy and poverty, the health sector in Eritrea has many challenges such as:

- 1- The shortage of medical personnel in Eritrea, there are currently about six doctors and 75 nurses for every 100,000 people. Most health care providers in Eritrea are in urban areas. 80% of the population living in rural areas is often overlooked from accessing such health care.
- 2- Malaria is a public health concern in Eritrea. Given the total population, 70% of them live in areas at risk of contracting this disease.
- 3- Private healthcare facilities are few and far between. While private physicians are found in rural and urban areas, they are expensive and serve a small population percentage.

Conclusion

Underdevelopment is known, among other definitions, as a vicious circle that if the state falls into its traps, would attract the remaining factors of underdevelopment. Likewise, development is a vicious circle that if the state intended, with well-studied plans, to achieve one of its goals, would directly affect the rest of the development goals in different ways. To put it more clearly, consider the following example: If the state developed a four-year plan to eradicate poverty and made considerable efforts to implement those development plans in cooperation with the state institutions, the state's poverty index would decrease. As a result, those who overcame poverty will be able to educate their children (achieving Goal 4 / Quality Education), allow both males and females to obtain education equally, (achieving Goal 5 / Gender Equality), and obtain decent work that would sustain their families (achieving Goal 8 / Full Employment and Decent Work with Equal Pay).

In light of the above, it can be said that Development is a vicious circle. Therefore, the issue of sustainable development receives international and local attention among countries, and international and local institutions encourage national efforts to achieve these goals and achieve a dignified and just life for all citizens.



At the conclusion, NGOs Major Group for Africa presents a set of recommendations to the countries under study, in the hope of promoting sustainable development and leaving no one behind.

1- Countries need to take a set of policies and procedures that revolve, in general, around increasing the estimated public expenditures for health, development and pensions in order to allow an opportunity to expand the scope of development projects, improve services, facilitate access for citizens, and launch a set of social initiatives that would mitigate the effects of economic reform programs and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

2- Countries must adopt a set of policies that would reset and regulate population growth rates in a manner that is in line with the productive capacities of countries and their development efforts, so that the fruits of sustainable development can be reaped.

3- Countries need to adopt a set of development policies to improve education, and up-date its outputs to keep pace with the labor market, as education rates contribute to eradicating poverty and reducing unemployment rates, thus increasing incomes and improving living standards.

4- Providing medical facilities that are commensurate with all groups as well as the availability of good medical staff and treatment in those facilities, giving the health sector a top priority in the state budget, which reduces the family's burden in spending on health services provided to them.

5- Countries need to increase production capacities, support small and medium enterprises, facilitate their administrative and legal procedures, and provide them with financial and technical support, as they may contribute to increasing the ability to support, raise incomes and improve living.

6- Countries shall tend towards expanding opportunities for private sector participation, increasing its economic and development activities, and making way for civil society and its social and solidarity role.

7- Sustainable water management in the agricultural sector should include strategies and policies to develop irrigation efficiency, put in place systems for managing groundwater in a sustainable way, encourage farmers to grow crops with higher economic returns per drop of water, reduce food loss and waste, encourage sustainable consumption of cereals, and strengthen the resilience of vulnerable groups and farmers to food price and climate shocks.

8- Giving priority to coherent policies aimed at bridging the gap between rural and urban areas, especially for young people, taking into account the reasons for the migration of young



people, encouraging public and private investments, and granting funds to support agricultural transformation with the aim of creating job opportunities for the young generation, in addition to strengthening the food system in order to achieve a comprehensive rural transformation that will be able to create job opportunities for the unemployed, and thus reduce the levels of emigration of young people, especially in the rural world.

9- The responsible authorities should develop programs that focus on supporting women's self-employment and their startups, while combating the stereotypical image of women in order to enhance their participation in the private sector and "non-traditional" fields.

10- The necessity of taking measures to ensure the integration of gender equality and the empowerment of women and combating gender-based stereotypes in order to empower Libyan women to contribute to achieving peace and security in Libya, within all future projects, operations and initiatives aimed at achieving stability in Libya.

11- Work must be done to enhance the status of women in the countries under study through media campaigns that highlight the importance of the quota in protecting women's rights, in addition to campaigns that highlight the role of women in local councils.

12- The need to strengthen the role of civil society to work on issues of gender-based violence through providing legal assistance and awareness-raising efforts and providing other services in terms of changing the mentality of society and addressing some of the root causes of gender-based violence.

13- NMGA believes that it is the responsibility of civil societies in these countries to spread awareness of the importance of uniting and integrating all groups and sects of society to achieve peace and justice, through forums to document and consolidate the importance of unity in building peace.

14- Given the importance of the role of women and youth in building peace in societies, the different groups and peoples should cooperate with civil society and participate in raising awareness of the meaning of peace and justice and their role in achieving sustainable development goals.

15- In light of the suffering of the countries of the Horn of Africa from the spread of terrorist operations to a greater degree than their spread in the countries of North Africa, NMGA calls on the governments and armed forces in the countries of the Horn of Africa to work on strategic plans to encircle the outposts of terrorist groups and impose their control over their areas of focus.



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16- The idea of tribalism spreads in the countries of the Horn of Africa clearly, which affects the discriminatory practices between tribes in the same country, and thus these countries are vulnerable to conflict quickly and the spread of instability and security chaos, so the peoples of the Horn of Africa must work to strengthen the idea of nationalism over tribalism by promoting dialogue through holding discussions, joint forums and exchanging views to unite peoples and promote peace.