

GCC-STAT experience on working on the SDGs prepared for:

**The Sixth Meeting of the Inter-Agency and
Expert Group on Sustainable Development
Goal Indicators (IAEG – SDGs)
Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain
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Official site: <https://gccstat.org>

GCC-STAT:

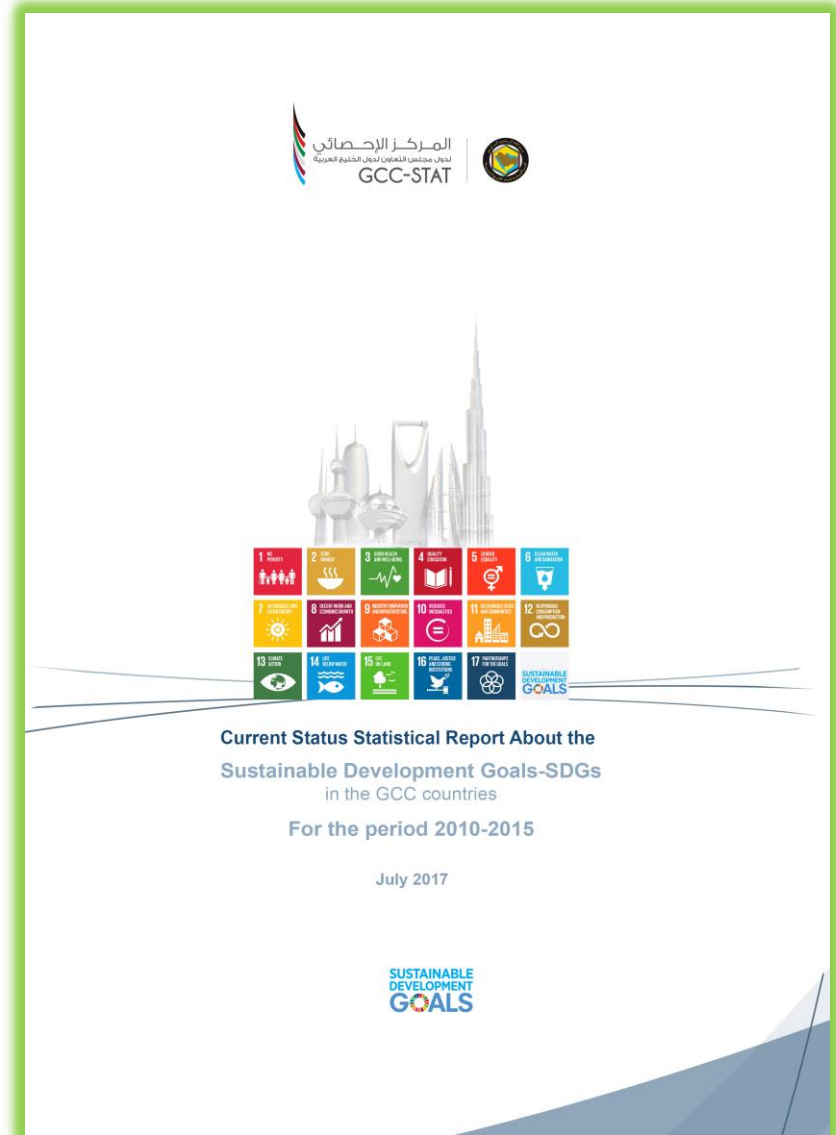
The Statistical Centre for the Cooperation Council for the Arab Countries of the Gulf (“GCC-Stat”) was established in June 2011 to provide a common official pool of statistics and data for the member states of the Cooperation Council for the Arab Countries of the Gulf (short form is Gulf Cooperation Council or “GCC”).

Dissemination

1. Producing the first statistical report

Titled: “The Current Status Statistical Report about the SDGs 2010 – 2015”

2. Currently working on 2016 report



Capacity building

The GCC-STAT provides technical support to the member states and to its local staff through:

a) Field visits to the member countries to:

- Provide tailored technical support upon request from the member states
- Work with countries on measuring the availability of SDGs indicators data
- Ensure wider participation from different stakeholders within the country

b) Regional training workshops – at the GCC region level:

- To ensure common understating of the indicators among all countries
- To exchange experiences between the participants

c) e-mail and audio visual calls:

- Holding the periodical meeting of the Indicators Standing Committee
- Answer specific questions from countries

d) Internal seminars and coordination with the GCC-STAT staff to:

- Increase the awareness among all the staff members about the SDGs indicators
- Discuss specific issues which need more elaboration

Planning

- **GCC-STAT prepares annual work plans for the SDGs as a stand alone project covering statistical work, training, and regional and international coordination**
- **All statistical units include the relevant SDGs indicators of their programs in their annual plans**
- **The GCC-STAT keeps the door open for any additional requests from countries at any time during the year.**

SDGs indicators grouping

For operational purposes, and to ensure the homogeneity of the participants, we, at GCC-STAT classified the indicators into three main categories:

- **Population and Social indicators**
- **Economic (including agriculture indicators)**
- **Environment indicators**

Taking into consideration that some indicators are considered as cross cutting ones, which can be classified in more than one category

SDGs indicators data availability

- **Two methods were used for investigating the availability of the indicators data in each country:**
 - a) Asking countries by using special templates, either through field visits or by email, about the availability of the data (4 alternatives: available/can be provided/not available/no information/not applicable/provided by international organizations).**
 - b) Asking countries to provide GCC-STAT with the available data to prepare the report.**

The main finding was that there are discrepancies between the answers in the templates and in reality about the data availability.

Benefiting from the UN SDGs database

- As a first step in preparing the current status report 2010 - 2015, we extracted the GCC countries' data from the UNSD SDGs database:
<http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/>
- Then we asked each country to review its data by keeping the option for amendments, and to provide us with any additional data they have.

The major reaction by countries was that they cannot endorse all UN data, because they weren't aware about the estimation methodologies

Thematic reports

- **GCC-Stat will prepare thematic reports for the GCC countries. But, this requires availability of enough data about each theme indicators**
- **GCC-STAT encourages individual countries to prepare thematic reports with more in-depth analysis for their data**

- **Regional and international coordination**
- **GCC –STAT participates in all regional and international meetings when it is possible**
- **There is continuous coordination between GCC –STAT and the region representative in the IAEG-SDGs to reflect the GCC region views in the group discussions**

Indicators tabulation designing

- **To ensure the consistency in the tabulation plan for the statistical reports we at GCC-STAT designed the dummy tables for all SDGs indicators indicators**
- **The designing mechanism took into consideration that each table should reflect the exact meaning of the indicator, with all background socio-economic variables as per stipulated in the introduction of the SDGs deceleration and in the phrase of the indicator itself.**

Challenges

- **The incomplete metadata depository about the SDGs indicators**
- **The limited data availability about the SDGs indicators**
- **Increasing the awareness about the SDGs indicators at the national levels**
- **The increase demand on the statistical indicators increases the burden at the statistical offices**
- **Increasing the coordination among the different producers of statistics at the national level**
- **Many new SDGs indicators require more training on their methodologies**
- **The delay in data submission leads to delay in producing the reports**
- **In some cases there is difference between the concepts and definitions at the national and international levels**

Thank you