

How are the sustainable development goals set?

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In our previous articles discussing the definition of sustainability and its relationship to the charitable humanitarian sector and the associated challenges, we mentioned the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations. The UN has emphasized the importance of activating these goals and measuring their real-world achievement, establishing specific targets and purposes for each of the seventeen goals. In total, there are 169 targets for these goals, each with 1 to 3 indicators that measure the achievement of these “targets.” For example, the first goal, which is “to end poverty in all its forms everywhere,” has 7 targets. The first of these is “to eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere by 2030,” which is currently



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measured by the number of individuals living on less than \$1.25 a day. Its performance indicator is “the proportion of the population living below the international poverty line, classified by sex, age group, employment status, and geographical location (urban/rural).” This pattern applies to each goal. Overall, there are 304 indicators measuring the achievement of these seventeen goals.

Arab countries have established an indicator system to assess the achievement of the SDGs, comprising 105 indicators, each assigned a specific score (0-100) and a color from traffic light signals (green, yellow, orange, or red) to indicate performance. These indicators aim to measure the progress made toward achieving the SDGs, highlighting gaps in both implementation and data in Arab countries, and making this information available to those interested in sustainability in the Arab world.

It is important to note that these goals were selected in a “democratic” manner, as stated by the UN, with 193 countries participating in their formulation, along with many global civil society organizations. The UN emphasizes this point to highlight the inclusivity of these goals and the consensus surrounding their content and relevance.

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