

ESCWA NEWS 18-22 FEBRUARY 2019

18-19 FEBRUARY 2019

BEIRUT, LEBANON

Multidimensional Inequality in the Arab Region

ESCWA and the [Economic Research Forum](#) organized a regional Expert Group Meeting (EGM) to discuss the forthcoming report 'Rethinking inequality in Arab States'. Participants reviewed findings on disparities in health, education, and living standards, disaggregated spatially, socio-economically and by gender. The meeting considered political economy drivers of inequality, and will inform ESCWA's support to national efforts towards the SDGs, notably goals [1](#), [8](#) and [10](#).

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Shelter Accessibility for Survivors of Violence

ESCWA held an EGM to discuss a forthcoming regional publication on availability and accessibility of shelters for women and children surviving domestic violence. This first-of-its-kind study provides insights on available shelters, services, and governing frameworks. The EGM drew on the experience of international experts from civil society, academia, and governmental agencies, whose first-hand knowledge of shelter provision shed light on the social and legal context.

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Land Governance in the Arab Region

ESCWA and the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) held a planning session on "Advancing the Land Governance Agenda in the Arab Region" for experts from the UN system, the World Bank, NGOs and international development organizations. Discussions covered the status of land governance in Arab countries and SDG progress. Participants expressed concern with the region's significant lag in land registration and governance, agreeing that more consistent efforts are required to achieve SDG [16](#).

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21 FEBRUARY 2019

BEIRUT, LEBANON

International Mother Language Day

For the first time, ESCWA marked International Mother Language Day with a celebration of poetry, proverbs, and songs recited in staff members' many native tongues. Prizes were awarded for polyglot staff, and a survey found that 24 languages and 8 dialects of Arabic are spoken at ESCWA!

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