

Social Expenditure Monitor in the News

ESCWA has developed a tool for governments to respond to their citizens' pressing development and socioeconomic needs. Called the Social Expenditure Monitor (SEM), this tool is designed to inform decision-makers – and the public – on the best way to allocate resources for the common good of society by identifying such development needs in a national context as higher health spending, employment assistance, social protection, education and others. The SEM responds to the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and is in line with trends on numerous Arab states. Already the Tunisian and Jordanian governments have adopted the SEM and discussions are ongoing with Kuwait and Palestine to follow suit.

Practically, the SEM uses data supplied by governments to assess through an established framework the expenditures on social programs prior to making suggestions on reallocation of resources. This is done in close consultation and collaboration with member States. An official launch of the SEM with the participation of the above governments and a number of global institutions is scheduled in Beirut on 24-25 June 2019.

- The Social Expenditure Monitor (SEM) is a pioneering tool for the Arab Region to assess their social policy spending and reallocate resources to the neediest sectors of development.
- The SEM is designed in collaboration with member States and contributes to the achievement of the SDGs.
- The SEM is an excellent tool that assists member States governments in crafting their annual budgets and making informed budgetary decisions.
- The SEM provides a comprehensive mapping of the social expenditures and informs governments about the best social policy choices for inclusive development.
- The SEM enables policy-makers to build scenarios about fiscal policy choices toward helping budget decisions more efficient and effective.