

Special Session 6

Health preparedness in the Arab region: SDG target 3.d audit findings and proposed actions

Wednesday, 15 March 2023, 11 a.m.–12.30 p.m. Beirut time



Background and objective

The COVID-19 crisis brought to the forefront the importance of health emergency preparedness, as stipulated in SDG target 3.d. Effective response to the pandemic – response that left no vulnerable group behind – depended significantly on the resilience of national public health systems and the capacity to detect risk.

Now that the pandemic is almost behind us, it is essential to look back at the performance of national public health systems in the region from a preparedness and leave no one behind perspective, and identify concrete actions to be taken so that Arab countries are better prepared for the next pandemic. It is also critical to expand the discourse at AFSD and other platforms in ways that emphasize accountability and evidence-based policy making including through a focus on audits.

Recognizing the importance of the issue, Supreme Audit Institutions in several Arab countries undertook in 2021-2022 a collaborative audit of target 3.d. Audits were coordinated by the Arab Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (AraboSAI) and supported by the INTOSAI Development Initiative. Acting on the findings of these audits can improve the strength and resilience of health systems in the region.

The session aims to:

- Highlight, compare and discuss findings of SDG target 3.d audits performed in Arab countries;
- Identify priority actions, including at the regional level, for building strong and resilient national public health systems in Arab countries;
- Emphasize linking evidence-based policy making on the SDGs to public spending.

Questions to be addressed

- What do SAI audits of SDG target 3.d tell us about health emergency preparedness in Arab countries? Were any groups left behind?
- How do findings from the Arab region compare to those from other world regions where similar audits have been conducted?
- What actions, including at the regional level, are critically needed to build strong and resilient national health systems? What resources and partnerships can make these actions possible?

Moderator

- **Jana El Baba**
Sustainable Development Officer
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Panelists

- **Housseem Eddine Guezzi**
Rapporteur, SDG Audit Committee,
AraboSAI
- **Loubna Slaoui**
Magistrate, Supreme Court of Audit,
Morocco
- **Rajaa Mohamed Hassan Syed Ahmed**
Director, Performance Review
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- **Ziad El Khatib**, Assistant Director of
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- **Arshana Shirsat**
Deputy Director General,
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INTOSAI Development Initiative
- **Dalia Samhour**
Regional Manager, Emergency
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This Special Session will be organized as a hybrid event. To participate over Zoom, please register [here](#). Those physically present at the UN House can attend the session in Committee Room I (CR-I), B1 floor.



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