TUNISIA

CONTEXT (e.g. opportunities or enabling factors, risks or constraining factors)

In Tunisia, efforts towards the SDGs monitoring started in 2014 when the country was selected by UNDP as a pilot for an initiative to illustrate the measurability of SDG 16 in selected national contexts **during the drafting of the SDGs**. During this phase, a broad array of state and non-state stakeholders were invited to tailor the initial proposal of the Open Working Group for SDG 16 Targets and Indicators to the Tunisian context. The outcome of this process was the adoption of a **Tunisian Governance Goal (TGG)**, which had nine targets and 89 indicators. This proposal was refined in 2016, and the number of indicators was reduced to 34 based on a rigorous assessment of their relevance and measurement feasibility. One important outcome of the highly participatory process applied in this first phase was the replacement of the peace elements of the global SDG with a Tunisia-specific pillar on civil society's participation in the management of public affairs, which Tunisian stakeholders found critically important to support the democratic transition unfolding in the country.

During the first year of the SDG 16 National Monitoring Initiative, work focused on: i) **reviewing the initial set of indicators** of the TGG to align them to the official list of SDG indicator launched in early 2016 and reduce their number ; and ii) produce a TGG/SDG16 **baseline study** through a participatory analysis (including public institutions and civil society) based mostly on data collected by the Tunisian National Statistics Institute (NSI) through the 2014 Governance, Peace and Security (GPS) survey. During this phase a pilot initiative was conducted with the NSI to diversify the sources of data and monitor SDG16 trough social media analysis within the framework of a joint UNDP-UN Global Pulse initiative. The result of this pilot exercise was included in the baseline study.

More recently, activities under the SDG 16 National Monitoring Initiative are part of the efforts of the Tunisian Government supported by different UN Agencies and led by UNDP aimed at developing a first **SDG16 progress report** to be finalized in 2022. This phase includes interventions at the subnational level in a series of pilot regions and municipalities aimed at: i) informing the national reporting process; ii) elaborating specific SDG16 progress reports in the pilot regions and municipalities.

ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN

Step 1 - Definition of Indicators and Data Collection

- Collection of **baseline data** through the 2014 GPS survey mostly from the National Statistics Institute.
- Definition of a first set of 89 indicators of the contextualized SDG16/TGG.
- Conducted of a pilot to monitor SDG16 through **Big Data** through the use of social media analysis on corruption results were encouraging, showing fairly strong convergence between results obtained through social media analysis and survey data generated by the 2014 GPS survey.
- Reviewed the initial list of SDG16/TGG indicators combining international and national indicators
- A **baseline study** produced based on the 2014 GPS survey in 2016
- Conduct of the second edition of the **GPS survey** in 2017.

- Conduct of a SDG16 specific gap analysis identifying data sources for unpopulated indicators
- Conduct of a SDG16 survey in the region of Medenine in Southern Tunisia using the pilot SDG16 survey module (questionnaire and implementation manual) developed globally by UNDP Oslo Governance Centre, OHCHR and UNODC. Number of respondents – over 500.
- Conduct of the third edition of the GPS survey in 2021. The questionnaire of this edition was reviewed to incorporate a series of questions from the SDG16 pilot questionnaire. The sample was over 17 000.
-
- In 2022, work will focus on:
    - SDG/16 data collection in a series of pilot municipalities and the conduct of initiatives aimed at collecting citizen generated data through local civil society organizations (CSOs)
    - Ensuring the support to the NSO in testing the use of Big Data for SDG16 monitoring
    - Developing a GPS index to facilitate, among others, SDG16 monitoring

Step 2 - Stakeholder Engagement

- Government and civil society involved in the contextualization of SDG16 (including goal, target and indicator formulation). In this context, through a series of **technical workshops**, government, UN and civil society helped assess not just **data availability** but also **national relevance** of indicators
- Same actors as in start-up phase. Efforts made to increase participation from **Parliament** and, to a much lesser extent, private sector, but their involvement remained very limited.

Ongoing and planned work at the local level during 2021-2022:
- Participatory analysis of the results of the SDG16 survey in Medenine carried out by a **focus group** of around 15 representatives from public institutions and civil society from the region
- Supporting around 15 local CSOs in Medenine in the **participatory analysis of SDG16 survey** to elaborate a first **spotlight report** in the region (and in the country) based, among other, on the results of SDG16 pilot survey.
- Organization of a **policy dialogue** around SDG16 in Medenine to present the results of the **policy brief** and that will be enriched through the contributions of civil society and the findings of the spotlight report
- This exercise will be replicated in in a series of pilot regions and municipalities

At the national level 2021-2022 (ongoing and planned)
- Participatory review and contextualization of SDG16 in Tunisia (in 2014-2015) allowing to define a Tunisian Governance Goal with specific targets and indicators (through representatives of public institutions and civil society)
- Participatory analysis of the 2014 edition of the GPS survey (through a group of representatives of public institutions and civil society)
- Definition and set-up of a SDG16 **monitoring governance structure** composed of:
    - A steering committee with representatives from institutions, civil society, private sector and UN Agencies
    - 12 target groups composed of 6 to 10 representatives each from institutions and civil society supported by the different custodian agencies
- Support the target groups in the elaboration of policy briefs per target to inform the elaboration of the first Tunisian SDG16 report based, mostly, on the results of the 2021 GPS survey.
- Support CSOs in the elaboration of a national spotlight report based, mostly, on the results of the 2021 GPS survey

- Organization of a policy dialogue in the region of Medenine to review the initial set of policy briefs developed to analyze the results of the SDG16 pilot survey (including representatives from public institutions, civil society and private sector from the national and subnational levels) - Organization of a series of policy dialogues at the national level to review the policy briefs per target. - Replication of the initiative in other regions and municipalities.
Step 3 - Institutionalisation / Scorecards - Development of a **scorecard**, which categorizes indicators into three groups: those measuring "results" (of state efforts to improve governance); those measuring "capacities" (of state actors to implement policies, legislation and programmes); and those measuring people's "perceptions" (of progress in tackling any given issue). - A **policy gap analysis** supplemented the Tunisian scorecard and mapped existing SDG16-related national strategies and policies onto the specific targets and indicators of the Tunisian Governance Goal. The aim of this exercise was to design a monitoring dashboard that would link SDG16 data to relevant national policy frameworks and make it easy for policymakers and other stakeholders to track progress in implementing these national commitments of relevance to SDG16. - Reviewed indicator list available - End of 2021 - Elaboration of a first model of **Tunisian SDG16 scorecard for the region of Medenine**. The scorecard will include information on existing data (mostly from the SDG16 survey), policies being implemented related to SDG16, bottlenecks hindering implementation and recommendations for SDG16 acceleration in Medenine - Connecting SDG16 reporting with national and sub-national development planning. - Developing action plans using UNDP's SDGs Accelerator and Bottleneck Assessment (ABA) tool.
Other:

RESULTS (e.g. immediate effects, results after a year, observed effects on other policy areas)
- Increased **capacities** by national and sub-national institutions and civil society to collect data and report on SDG16 - Increased **availability** of data on SDG16 indicators and development of a sustainable SDG16 data collection system, especially through the GPS survey - Increased **understanding** of challenges related to SDG16 achievement in the region of Medenine and alignment of interventions from, among other, UNDP to address the challenges (ongoing) - Development of a contextualized methodology on SDG16 participatory reporting and planning easily replicable at the national and sub-national levels.
LESSONS LEARNED, RECOMMENDATIONS & TIPS (e.g. challenges and success factors, do's and don'ts)
- *Reporting especially through participatory analysis* is a very effective way to "hook" stakeholders towards SDG16 achievement. This is also the case of the spotlight reporting exercise, as a means of engaging civil society. - The *sub-national (regional) dimension* is a good entry point for pilot initiatives due to its manageable scale.

- *The three phases are not chronological*: Tunisia, conscious efforts were made from the outset to involve civil society and the private sector in the development of the indicator framework.

- *Social media analysis* could serve as a useful methodology for real-time monitoring of selected SDG targets. When collecting baseline data, the Tunisian pilot tested the use of Big Data to monitor the corruption target through social media analysis. The results were encouraging, showing fairly strong convergence between results obtained through social media analysis and survey data generated by the Governance, Peace and Democracy household survey conducted by the NSO of Tunisia.

- Securing *high-level political ownership* to ensure collaboration between data-producing government institutions is important. Throughout the pilot project, the high-level representation of executive agencies (such as the President's Office in Tunisia) proved effective in addressing institutional resistance to data sharing as per the timeline and format specified in the national indicator metadata sheets. Strong ownership and active engagement at the most senior level of government is also essential in securing the high-level attention and financial resources required if national SDG16 scorecards are to influence decision-making at the highest level and have meaningful impact on people's lives on the ground.

- *Contextualization is important for national ownership but can then prove to be challenging* when ensuring international comparability and adoption of global tools and resources.

- Full scale work on SDG16 planning, monitoring and reporting requires *substantial financial and technical resources.* These were not initially available in Tunisia. They were as of 2019.

- The policy brief approach is a good way to help institutions and civil society to develop synthetic analyses and concrete recommendations related to SDG16 achievement.

- The ABA methodology is practical to identify concrete and quick-win solutions that contribute to SDG16 acceleration.

- The private sector (and especially start-ups) can help to adopt a non-traditional perspective to the understanding of the context and in the identification of innovative solutions.

Recommendations:
- Ensure national ownership and leadership with a clear national counterpart
- Ensure the full engagement and (technical) leadership of the National Statistics Office
- Think of sustainability from the outset
- Adopt an approach based on partnerships both at the national and global levels, especially with the different UN Agencies capitalizing on their role as custodians of the different SDG16 indicators
- Adopt a multilevel approach (national, regional and local) to maximize impact.

USEFUL RESOURCES

(e.g. recommended tools or experts, template ToR)

- First phase TGG report (French and Arabic)
- 2016 Baseline Study
- Concept note on the elaboration of the first Tunisia SDG16 report

Recommended experts:

On data:

- Marie Laberge for Governance Statistics
- Rajeev Malhotra, for Human Rights indicators

On participatory analysis:

François Roubaud and Mireille Razafindrakoto from IRD Paris. They lead the Ecole GPS

CONTACT for further information:

Eduardo Lopez-Mancisidor, eduardo.lopez-mancisidor@undp.org