

# UNCT SWAP-Scorecard Assessment Results and Action Plan

United Nations Country Team

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

24<sup>th</sup> of May 2022



## UNCT-SWAP SCORECARD

<b>COUNTRY</b>	SAUDI ARABIA
<b>ASSESSMENT YEAR</b>	2021-started and finalized  2022- review and updated
<b>COORDINATOR</b>	GEEW's Inter Agency Advisory Working Group
<b>AGENCIES PARTECIPATING IN THE ASSESSMENT TEAM</b>	<p><b>2021-</b> the group comprised 16 representatives from the UNRCO, UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women, OHCHR, UNODC, IOM, UNICEF, UNHCR, ILO, WHO, UNHCR, UN Habitat, FAO, UNESCO and UNEP.</p> <p><b>2022-</b> the group comprised 16 representatives from the UNRCO, UNRCO UNWOMEN UNDP UNHCR UNICEF IOM UNESCO ILO FAO UNFPA WHO UNODC OHCHR UNHABITAT WORLD BANK</p>

The overall results of the UNCT- Swap Scorecard show that the UNCT in Saudi Arabia has achieved or exceeded minimum requirements in 14 of the 15 indicators. In 12 indicators has met minimum standards, in 2 indicators (2.1 and 2.2) has exceeded and in one indicator- 7.1 Gender results-scored as approaching minimum requirement. During the formulation of the result framework of the UNSDCF the UNCT, jointly with the counterpart, will focus on this specific indicator in order to improve the performance.

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## **BACKGROUND**

The UNCT SWAP-Scorecard is a globally standardized rapid assessment of UN country level gender mainstreaming practices. The framework is designed to foster adherence to minimum requirements for gender equality processes across the UN system set by the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG). The UNCT SWAP-Scorecard focuses on the performance of the UN system as a whole, rather than the achievements of any single agency.

By focusing on gender mainstreaming processes at the country level, the tool highlights the growing importance of interagency collaboration and coordination to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women (GEEW) results at the country level. The Scorecard was endorsed by the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), (now the UNSDG) in 2008 in response to the UN Chief Executive Board for Coordination 2006 Policy on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (CEB/2006/2) to establish an accountability framework for assessing the effectiveness of gender mainstreaming by UN Country Teams. The UN System Wide Action Plan for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UNSWAP) formed another part of the accountability framework, focusing on the implementation of the policy at the entity level. The Scorecard was revised in 2018 in tandem with the UN-SWAP to ensure greater alignment between the tools, and to reflect new guidance on common country processes in the context of the repositioning agenda of the United Nations Development System. The new versions are aligned further to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), recognizing the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment to SDG achievement and human rights attainment.

The Scorecard is an accountability framework that promotes improved planning, coordination, programming and results for GEEW at the country level, tied to support to Member States to achieve the SDGs. The Scorecard supports UNCT's in self-assessing and reporting on their standing with respect to a set of dimensions and performance Indicators, and based on review and analysis of UNCT processes.

The Scorecard is organized around seven dimensions that address key GEEW components: planning; programming and monitoring and evaluation; partnerships; communications and advocacy; leadership and organizational culture; gender architecture and capacities; resources; and results. Each dimension includes performance indicators, which UNCTs need to meet or exceed.



The UNCT in KSA initiated the SWAP-Scorecard process in February 2021 and provided an update in May 2022 highlighting the progress achieved by the UNCT.

## METHODOLOGY

The UNCT-SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard utilized a “Performance Framework Methodology”, a global standardized method to assess the UNCT progress on gender equality and be able to

compare countries and regions. As said above, the scorecard exercise is an opportunity for the UNCT to self-assess progress on interagency work on gender equality and women empowerment.

The UNCT in Saudi Arabia has initiated this exercise in February 2021 and updated it in May 2022. This is the first time for the UNCT to conduct this exercise. The outcome of the self-assessment was also used to review the Country Common Assessment- CCA- and to finalize the UNSDCF's results framework.

There were three key steps in implementing the scorecard:

1. Preparation and planning
2. Assessment
3. Reporting

#### 1. Preparation and Planning

As part of the preparation and planning for the scorecard exercise an external consultant was hired by the UNRCO to identify the various stakeholders and outline the process jointly with the UNRCO, the UNCT and the GEEW Inter Agency Advisory Working Group's members. The roadmap, roles and responsibilities and means of verification were identified and a timeline was set and endorsed by the UNCT.

The consultant, jointly with the GEEW Inter Agency Advisory Working Group, developed a questionnaire to map out the existing program and activities implemented by all the AFGs (UN agencies, Fund and Program) working in KSA. The questionnaire asked the UNCT members to report on the following: 1. Existing GEEW program, activities, objectives and target groups; 2. National Counterpart (Gov/CSOs or other); 3. Support provided with drop out menu (i. Integrated normative support; ii. integrated evidence-based policy advises; iii. Comprehensive & disaggregated data collection; iv. Capacity development & technical assistance; v. Convening of stakeholders across constituencies; vi. direct support and service delivery; vii. support functions) 3. Location; 4. Collection of disaggregated data; 5. Budget allocation for GEEW activities/objectives; 6. Specification of joint programming; 7. GEEW's priorities in the next 2-5 years. In addition to the UNCT-SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard, this mapping exercise was utilized to identify current programming, gaps and GEEW UNCT action plan for 2021 and 2022.

The planning and the assessment steps were complemented with a meeting with representatives and members of local CSOs at the UNRCO in 2021. These discussions and inputs provided valuable feedback for the GEEW Inter Agency Advisory Working Group.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May 2022 an additional consultation was organized by the UNRCO with the GEEW Inter Agency Advisory Working Group to update the scorecard.

## 2. Assessment

The collection and analysis of documents for verification started in February 2021 and was finalized in May 2021 and uploaded in the IMS system. Between February and May 2022, the scorecard was updated. The consultant has performed the assessment in full coordination with the UNCT, the UNRCO as well with a national expert, Mrs. Salma Al Rashid, to validate key information. Mrs. Al Rashid is a respected national expert, former Women 20/G20 Sherpa under the KSA G20's presidency and presently Chief Advocacy Officer at Al Nahda Society, the main CSO in the KSA working on GEEW.

The assessment of each of the 7 dimensions and 15 indicators areas was led by the GEEW Inter Agency Advisory Working Group, and coordinated by the UNRCO with the support of the external consultant. The advisory group had a collective responsibility to provide evidence and analysis to justify ratings attained across all indicators. The group comprised 16 representatives from the RCO, UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women, OHCHR, UNODC, IOM, UNICEF, UNHCR, ILO, WHO, UNHCR, UN Habitat, FAO, UNESCO and UNEP.

The final scorecard was presented to the members of the GEEW's advisory working group during a consultation held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May 2022 in Riyadh at the UNRCO. The members of the group endorsed the outcomes of the assessment.

## 3. Reporting

The consultant consolidated a short report and related presentation on the outcome of the scorecard exercise. The findings were shared with the UNCT for feedback and uploaded into the IMS system in 2021 and updated and shared in May 2022.

## **COUNTRY CONTEXT**

The United Nations (UN) has been actively working with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) since 1948. The United Nations Country Team (UNCT), led by the UN Resident Coordinator, is composed of all UN entities working in or with the KSA. There are currently 23 UN agencies, funds, and programmes (AFPs) in the UNCT. Thirteen AFPs are physically present in the KSA, three of which (OCHA, IOM, and WFP) exclusively support operations in Yemen. The ten AFPs with offices in the KSA are the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and World Bank Group (WBG). The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), International Organization for Migration (IOM), and World Food Programme (WFP) are also physically present in the KSA; however, these

three offices focus on supporting UN work in Yemen. The ten AFPs that operate through regional offices or headquarters in support of UN work in the KSA are the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), International Labour Organization (ILO), Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), United Nations Volunteers (UNV), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). In addition, the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) is active in the KSA, having opened its MENA regional office in Riyadh in May 2021. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is also present in the country. The UNWTO and ICAO are UNCT observers, as they have not joined the UN Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG).

The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022–2026 between the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Nations Country Team was launched at the start of 2019 and promotes a coherent and coordinated strategy to implement the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development while contributing to the attainment of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia’s Vision 2030. The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022–2026 has been agreed by the parties and presently under signatory by the Government of Saudi Arabia.

In the past six years in KSA, following the launch of the Saudi Vision 2030 (25<sup>th</sup> of April 2016), crucial reforms are going on in various sectors, including gender equality and women’s empowerment. The GEEW’s agenda was significantly advanced. Saudi Arabia’s G20 presidency has also contributed to accelerate some of these legislative reforms. It will be critical for the UNCT in the upcoming Cooperation Framework cycle (2022-2026) to support the Government of Saudi Arabia and the relevant CSOs in implementing the new policies and regulations and to continue the ongoing transformation.

## **FINDINGS BY DIMENSIONS and INDICATORS**

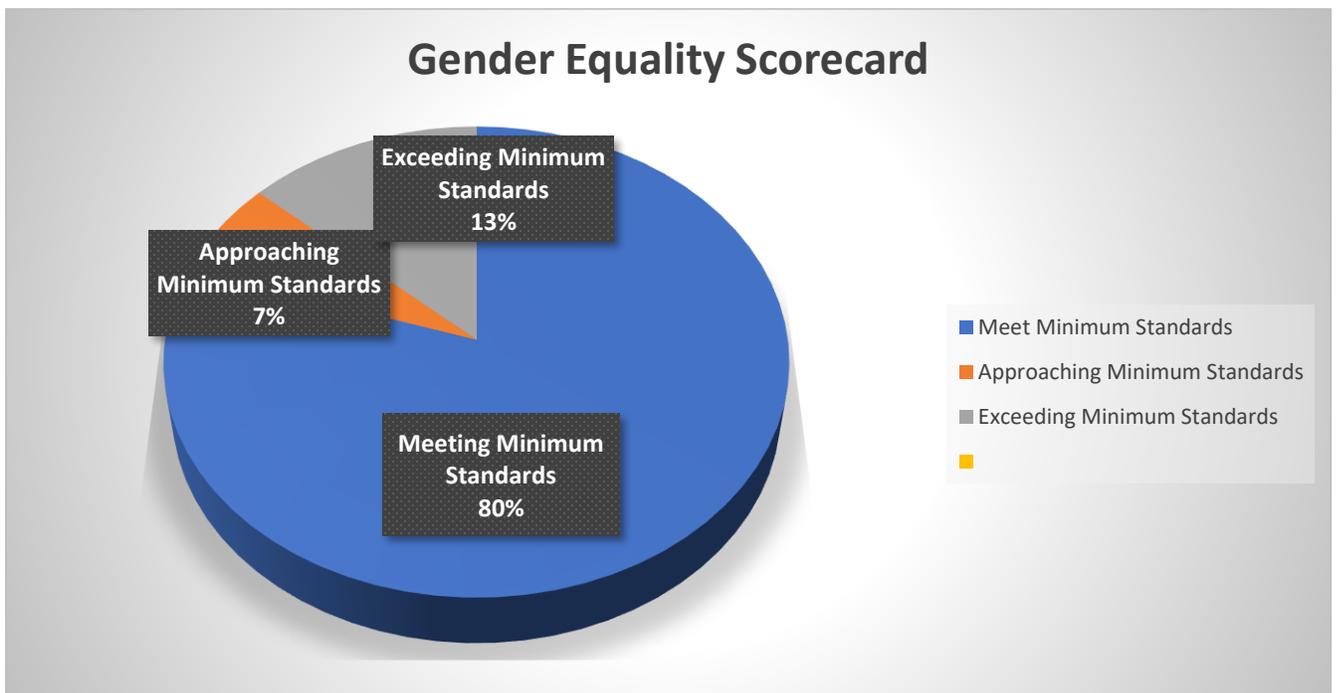
The work of the consultant was carried out in full consultation with the UNRCO, the UNCT and the UNCT/GEEW Inter Agency Advisory Working Group. The expert has worked closely with Mrs. Salma Al Rashid to validate key information. Mrs Al Rashid is a respected national expert, former Women 20/G20 Sherpa under the KSA G20’s presidency and present Chief Advocacy Officer at Al Nahda Society, the main CSO in the KSA working on GEEW.

The findings presented below reveal the scoring for each indicator across the seven scorecard dimension areas in KSA. The rating system consists of four levels as follows:

- Meeting Minimum Standards
- Approaching Minimum Standards

- Exceeding Minimum Standards

UNCTs should be aiming to ‘meet minimum requirements’ across all indicators as outlined in the UNSDG guidance. ‘Meeting minimum requirements’ should be seen as a starting point from which UNCTs may work toward deepening their efforts to ‘exceed minimum standards’, thereby achieving better results and serving as leaders on gender equality. A score of ‘approaching minimum requirements’ is achieved to recognize effort already underway and to highlight where further action is required. The criteria for each indicator determine which score is allocated, as per guideline.



The overall results of the UNCT- Swap Scorecard show that the UNCT in Saudi Arabia has achieved or exceeded minimum requirements in 14 of the 15 indicators. In 12 indicators has met minimum standards, in 2 indicators (2.1 and 2.2) has exceeded and in one indicator- 7.1 Gender results-scored as approaching minimum requirement. During the formulation of the result framework of the UNSDCF the UNCT, jointly with the counterpart, will focus on this specific indicator in order to improve the performance. See below a table summarizing the scorecard results by indicator:

Dimensions & Indicators	Approaching Minimum Standards	Meets Minimum Standards	Exceeds Minimum Standards
<b>1. Planning</b>			
1.1 CCA			
1.2 UNDAF Outcomes			
1.3 UNDAF Indicators			

<b>2. Programming and M&amp;E</b>			
2.1 Joint Programmes			
2.2 Comm/Advocacy			
2.3 UNDAF M&E			
<b>3. Partnerships</b>			
3.1 Engagement with Govt			
3.2 Engagement with GEEW CSO			
<b>4. Leadership and organizational culture</b>			
4.1 Leadership			
4.2 Organizational Culture			
4.3 Gender Parity			
<b>5. Gender Architecture</b>			
5.1 Gender coordination mechanism			
5.2 Gender Capacity development			
<b>6. Resources</b>			
6.1 Resource tracking			
<b>7. Results</b>			
7.1 Gender results			

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<sup>i</sup> UNCTAD is the only AFP operating through a headquarters without a regional office for the MENA region.