

Status of ICP 2024 Implementation in the Arab Region

ICP Inter-Agency Coordination Group (IACG) Meeting

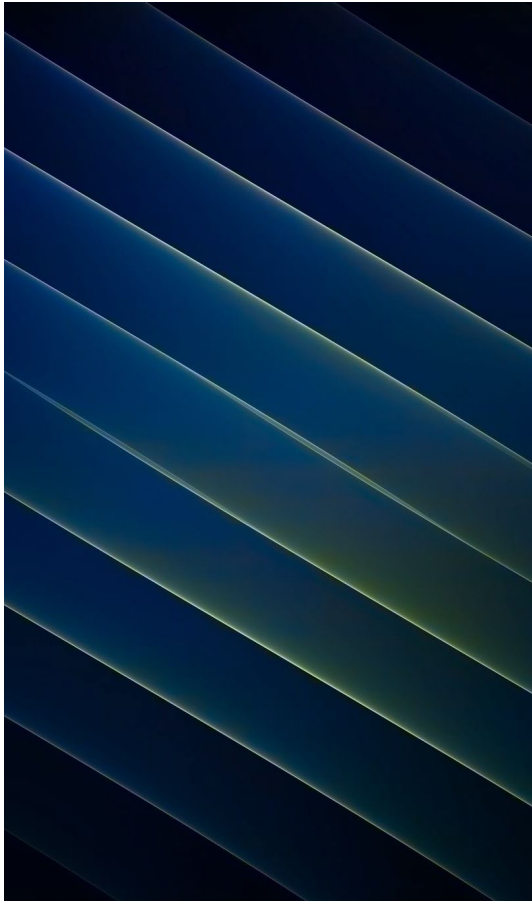
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Overview

- This presentation provides an overview of the status of the 2024 International Comparison Program (ICP) cycle in the Arab region. It covers country participation, the implementation structure, the progress of price and expenditure data collection and validation, the training and capacity-building activities undertaken, and the next steps planned for the coming months.

Country Participation Status



Bahrain

Egypt

Iraq

Jordan

Kuwait

Lebanon

Mauritania

Morocco

Oman

Palestine

Qatar

Saudi Arabia

Sudan

Syria

Tunisia

UAE

Implementation Overview

A total of 16 Arab economies are participating in the 2024 ICP Global cycle, which is coordinated by ESCWA as the Regional Implementing Agency for the Arab region.



The cycle officially began in the first quarter of 2024, when ESCWA distributed the updated regional survey materials to countries. These regional surveys are based on global surveys prepared by the World Bank but enriched with region-specific items to better reflect Arab economies.



By incorporating regional adjustments into the global templates before sharing them, ESCWA helps guarantee that the surveys better capture the region's consumption and expenditure patterns while remaining consistent with international standards.

ESCWA's Coordination and Technical Support

Throughout the cycle, ESCWA has maintained close and continuous coordination with national ICP coordinators to ensure smooth implementation.

This includes regular online meetings, clarification of methodologies, and country-specific technical assistance to help overcome challenges during data collection and validation.

Such engagement has strengthened national teams' capacity, improved the consistency and quality of the data submitted, and ensured adherence to agreed regional and global standards.

New Developments in 2024

- A major new development in the 2024 round is the piloting of the **PPP Production System**. The new tool is designed to increase efficiency, streamline workflows, and enhance data quality and accuracy of results across the entire PPP production process.
- The system supports the full life-cycle of the PPP process:
 - Item list management: the **ILMT**
 - Price data entry and intra-country validation: the **DET**
 - Inter-country validation of prices and calculation survey-level PPPs: the **Validation tool**
 - Management of non-price data (GDP expenditure weights, exchange rates, population)
 - Management and calculation of reference PPPs and application of productivity adjustment
 - Calculation of overall results at different levels of aggregation
- ESCWA used the Item Management List to develop the final regional HHC 2024 survey list with detailed specifications.

Rollout of the Data Entry Tool (DET)



As part of the 2024 cycle, the **Data Entry Tool (DET)** was rolled out to all participating countries for use in collecting and validating Household Consumption (HHC) price data.

The tool is an offline Java-based application that allows countries to enter prices, detect outliers, and validate data internally before submission to ESCWA.



To support countries in using the DET effectively, ESCWA organized a series of **online and physical training sessions** (both group-based and one-on-one) to guide national teams through data entry, validation, and export procedures. These trainings proved crucial in building capacity, especially given that the rollout coincided with staff changes and remote work conditions in several countries, but also to take feedback and improve the tool.



Based on the feedback from the first rollout, several meetings were held with the World Bank to discuss the challenges and limitations of the tool in order to enhance its efficiency. These meetings resulted in the incorporation of adjustments and further development of the tool to better address ICP-specific needs.



Countries have successfully used the DET to collect and validate their HHC data, marking an important milestone in the digital modernization of ICP operations in the Arab region.

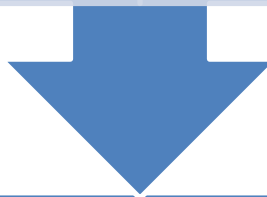
Status of Price Data Collection

By mid 2025, ESCWA had received price data for all surveys from nearly all participating countries.

11 countries have submitted **complete datasets** for the HHC and specialized surveys.

- Countries submitted validated HHC price data extracted from the DET
- Countries submitted excel files for the special surveys


5 countries (Mauritania, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and UAE) are still finalizing their submissions, mainly due to changes in their national ICP teams or delays in internal validation processes.




This progress reflects strong regional engagement and commitment despite the operational challenges of adopting new tools and workflows, as well as difficulties arising from staff turnover in some national ICP teams and ongoing conflicts in several member countries

Status of Expenditure Data (MORES)

Countries have submitted their MORES data up to 2022.



The revised expenditure data from 2021 and updated MORES covering 2023–2024 are expected to be received by the end of this year, completing the regional dataset required for the 2024 ICP cycle.



ESCWA will continue working closely with countries to review and validate the expenditure structures once these updates are received, ensuring that the data reflect the latest economic realities in each economy.

Regional Validation Process

The regional validation phase officially began with the first Regional Validation Meeting, held in Amman from 30 September to 2 October 2025.

During the meeting, ESCWA and national teams jointly reviewed the submitted price data from all surveys to identify and resolve data issues.



As part of this event, countries were also trained on the new online **Validation Tool**, a key component of the PPP Production System platform.

This tool allows countries to view, update, and correct their HHC price data directly and automatically online, promoting real-time collaboration between national coordinators and ESCWA.



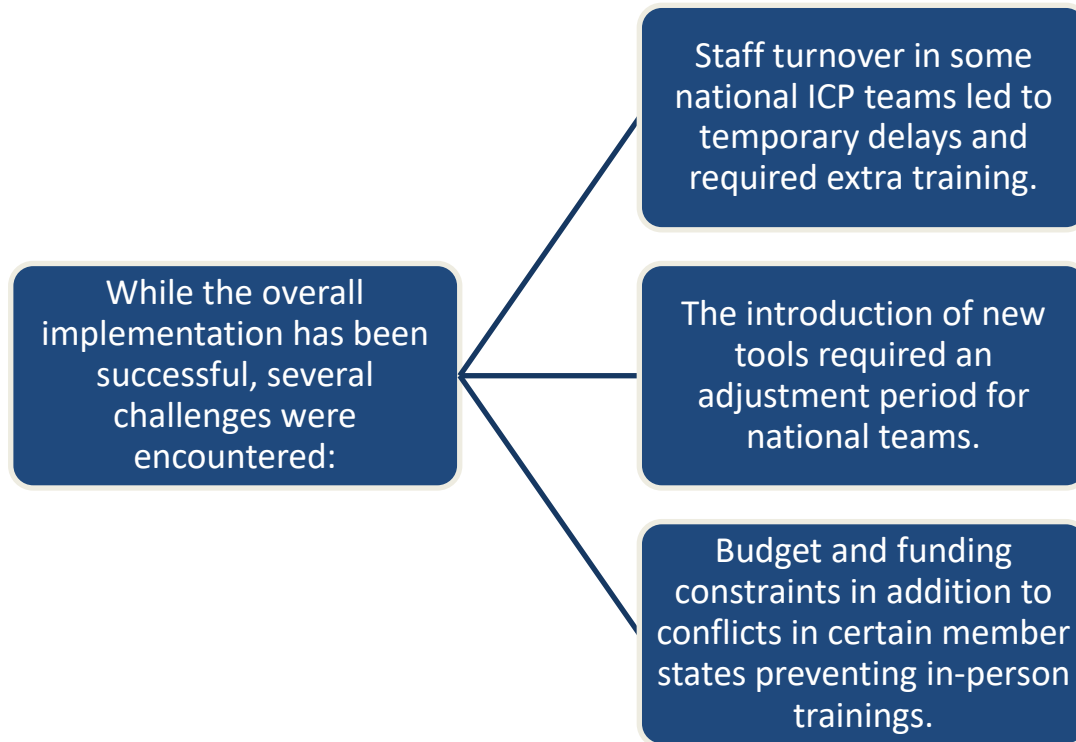
Following the meeting, countries are continuing to revise their data based on the validation feedback received and to finalize their datasets using the online tool as per agreed upon deadlines.

Workshops and Capacity-Building Activities

- As already mentioned, to support the 2024 ICP implementation, ESCWA has conducted several capacity-building activities, including:
 - In March 2025, ESCWA released its regional report entitled **“The Real Size of Arab Economies between 2017 and 2023”**. The report offers a comprehensive analysis of the results of the ICP, including purchasing power parities of Arab currencies from 2017 to 2023, revealing the real sizes of Arab economies and key economic indicators.
 - Several **Online trainings on the DET** for national teams were conducted early in the cycle and until lately in 2025, ensuring they could effectively enter and validate HHC data before submission.
 - In Sept/Oct 2025, the **Regional Validation Meeting in Amman** was conducted, combining a technical validation session with hands-on training on the online Validation Tool.
- Going forward, additional online sessions are planned to guide countries through the next stages of validation and data revision using the online platform.



Challenges and Lessons Learned



Despite these challenges, the combination of close technical follow-up, responsive support, and strong national commitment ensured that countries were able to progress effectively and submit high-quality data.

Next Steps

In the next months, ESCWA will focus on:

Ensuring that countries who sent incomplete datasets share their complete files.

Ensuring that all participating countries revise and update all their surveys after incorporating validation feedback.

Continuing the training and technical assistance on the online Validation Tool for HHC price data.

Receiving the revised and updated MORES datasets until 2024 and reviewing expenditure structures.

Upload the special surveys prices to the Validation tool and train countries to begin correcting prices directly on the tool

Key Takeaways

THE 2024 ICP CYCLE MARKS A SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD IN THE MODERNIZATION AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF THE PROGRAM IN THE ARAB REGION.

THROUGH THE ROLLOUT OF THE PPP PRODUCTION SYSTEM, ESCWA AND THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES HAVE STRENGTHENED THEIR CAPACITY TO PRODUCE RELIABLE, HIGH-QUALITY PRICE DATA.

WITH CONTINUED COLLABORATION AND TECHNICAL ENGAGEMENT, THE ARAB REGION IS WELL ON TRACK TO DELIVER ROBUST AND COMPARABLE PPP RESULTS FOR THE ICP 2024 CYCLE.



Thank You