

Assessing Sustainability Indicators in Algeria: Progress, Challenges, and Policy Implications

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Abstract:

This study explores Algeria's efforts to develop and enhance Sustainability indicators in line with the United Nations' sustainable development (SDGs). It adopts a descriptive and analytical approach, examining national strategies, government reports, and institutional planning documents from 2015 to 2022. The selected indicators were evaluated based on their alignment with the SDG framework, the availability of national data, and their consistency with public policies. The findings highlight Algeria's institutional commitment to Sustainability, but also point to several structural challenges such as inconsistent data collection, weak integration of indicators into policy implementation, and the absence of mechanisms to assess impact. The study concludes that a more coherent analytical framework and a transparent, methodical approach are needed to strengthen monitoring and accountability systems. It offers practical recommendations to support data-driven decision-making and ensure steady, long-term progress.

Keywords: Sustainability, sustainable development Goals (SDGs), development indicators, policy evaluation, Algeria.

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INTRODUCTION

The world has seen quick and significant changes in the social, economic, and environmental domains in recent decades, which have directly affected the development of nations all over the world. As a response to these changing problems, the idea of Sustainability has come about as a way to bring together social justice, economic growth, and environmental protection in a way that is both long-lasting and respectful for people now and in the future.

The United Nations' 2015 2030 Agenda for Sustainability is an example of this global vision. It gives countries a clear plan for how to achieve inclusive and integrated development by setting 169 specific goals in addition to 17 main ones.

Algeria is one of the countries that has shown a strong commitment to this path. The SDGs are now part of the country's national policies, and it has worked to create a complete system for keeping track of Sustainability indicators. The goal of this effort is to make development governance stronger and make life better for its people.

But there are problems that will get in the way of reaching these goals. Some of the problems are the complicated relationships between economic, social, and environmental factors, the difficulty of getting accurate data, poor coordination between institutions, and the absence of good monitoring and evaluation systems.

In light of the aforementioned, this study's main research question is:

- To what extent has Algeria succeeded in establishing and operationalizing an effective system for developing and monitoring Sustainability indicators in accordance with the requirements of the 2030 Agenda,
- and what are the main challenges hindering the effectiveness of this system?

This study intends to assess Algeria's system's preparedness and efficacy for creating and tracking Sustainability indicators, as well as the difficulties it encounters when compared to globally accepted standards. By comparing national documents (development strategies,

government reports, sectoral planning documents) with the international reference framework SDGs, United Nations indicators, UNDP reports, among others), the research uses a descriptive-analytical approach to diagnose the current situation and extrapolate trends. The years 2015–2022 are highlighted because they are thought to have been a crucial time when Algeria adopted the 2030 Agenda.

The study is broken up into three sections in order to fully address the subject. The evolution, principles, and aspects of Sustainability are covered in the first section in light of international conferences and international reports. The aspects of Sustainability are examined in the second section. The assessment of a few Sustainability indicator axes in Algeria is the focus of the third section.

Sustainability: Development, Theories, and Aspects in View of International Gatherings and International Reports

Two essential elements are included in the notion of Sustainability: sustainability as a temporal dimension and development as a process of change (Dagher & Others, 2008, p. 414). This idea came into being as a result of the increasing realization that development by itself cannot raise people's standards of living in a way that guarantees the benefits of development are distributed fairly. Recognizing the human being as the main goal of development and its impetus, the emphasis has shifted from the material aspect of growth to the human element.

Three major international conferences that focused on the idea of Sustainability were organized by the UN between 1972 and 2002. The concept of Sustainability evolved and expanded during the 2002 Johannesburg Summit, which followed the 1992 Rio de Janeiro Conference on Environment and Development and the 1972 Stockholm Conference, which addressed human environmental concerns.

The idea of limited natural resources and the need to take future needs into account were outlined in the 1972 report *Limits to Growth*, which was published by the Club of Rome. The Cocoyoc Declaration, which stressed the significance of honoring and meeting basic human needs, further developed the idea of Sustainability in 1974. Later, in

1980, the World Conservation Strategy document emphasized how important it is to strike a balance between environmental preservation and development activities.

Sustainability was defined by the International Institute for Environment and Development in 1982 as development that takes place within the natural and human environment's carrying capacity (Dagher & Others, 2008, p. 420). From the standpoint of developed countries, Sustainability means changing the social norms that are currently in place and taking decisive action to cut down on the use of natural resources and energy. Sustainability seeks to improve healthcare, education, and other vital services in order to curb rural-to-urban migration and stabilize population growth.

Sustainability is generally understood to mean meeting the needs of the current generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This definition was established by the World Commission on Environment and Development in its 1986 report, *Our Common Future* (Mandawi, 2003, p. 33). According to this report, Sustainability includes social aspects that guarantee equity and balance in meeting the needs of present and future generations, in addition to environmental and economic sustainability.

The World Bank released a report in 2003 called "Sustainability in a Changing World." It talked about how to combine Sustainability with the income and productivity needed to cut poverty in developing countries. The report expands its focus to include creating jobs that pay well and making life better for about 3 million people who live on less than two dollars a day. In the next fifty years, the world's population is expected to grow by 2 to 3 billion people. These people are a part of that group.

The first debate about sustainability was mostly about how to protect the environment. Early efforts tried to find a balance between economic growth and protecting the environment so that growth could continue in the long term. After that, there was more focus on human sustainability because people were worried that too much focus on environmental issues might ignore the basic needs of people to

survive. Sustainability is a complete plan for building the future of the next generations by combining its three parts: economic, social, and environmental (Férone & Debas, 2003, p. 28).

1. Dimensions of Sustainability:

Sustainability includes many connected areas and is all about making real progress toward specific development goals. The main aspects of these dimensions are the economic, social, and environmental ones.

Figure N° 1: Interrelation of Sustainability Dimensions



Source: (Moussaoui, 2020).

1.1 The Economic Dimension of Sustainability:

The economic aspect is a key part of the idea of Sustainability. Its goal is to achieve ongoing and inclusive economic growth that takes into account social and environmental factors. This part is about increasing production efficiency, promoting innovation, and using clean and renewable energy sources. It also talks about using technology wisely in different economic sectors to make it easier to use natural resources in a way that doesn't hurt the rights of future generations (World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987).

This aspect also includes helping the shift to a circular and low-carbon economy by using more eco-friendly ways of making and using things, building infrastructure that supports the green economy, and encouraging investment in eco-friendly areas like clean industry, eco-friendly tourism, and eco-friendly agriculture ([United Nations Environment Programme \(UNEP\), 2011](#)).

Many international agreements, the most important of which is the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, have made it clear that economic growth alone cannot be used to measure Sustainability. Instead, it should be based on the idea of finding a balance between economic growth, social justice, and protecting the environment. In this light, the final declaration of the summit stressed the need to change the way the economy works in order to end poverty, narrow the gap between rich and poor, and make sure that natural resources are managed in a way that lasts.

To reach this balance, all stakeholders, including public authorities, the private sector, and civil society, need to work together on economic policies that are based on a strategic vision and long-term participatory development strategies ([Sachs, 2015](#)).

2.2 The Social Dimension of Sustainability:

The social aspect is an important part of the strategy for Sustainability. It wants to make sure that everyone, including people who are alive now and in the future, has the same chances. It also wants to promote social justice and social cohesion. This part is about more than just fighting poverty and vulnerability. It also includes making sure that everyone has equal access to healthcare, education, good jobs, good housing, gender equality, and fair wealth distribution.

In this instance, Sustainability is a means of striking a balance between the demands of economic expansion and the establishment of an equitable and just society that prioritizes solidarity and social cohesion. This is even more important because we need to make sure that public policies include marginalized groups, improve social protection, and make basic services more available. These are all important parts of social stability and long-term growth.

Also, the ethical challenge of Sustainability in the social

dimension is that we have to make smart choices that respect the rights of future generations and follow the principle of intergenerational equity. This principle says that resources should not be used up or choices about development should not be made that hurt future well-being (Sen, 1999).

In this light, social responsibility is a shared duty of the state, civil society, and the private sector to make sure that the transition to a more inclusive development model is fair and meets the needs of the present while also laying the groundwork for future justice.

2.3 The Environmental Dimension of Sustainability:

The environmental aspect is a key part of achieving Sustainability. It focuses on keeping the balance of nature, protecting biodiversity, and making sure that the natural systems that support human life can last (World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987). The main point of this is to protect the planet from rapid environmental degradation caused by intensive human activities by reducing pollution, using natural resources wisely, and adopting responsible patterns of production and consumption.

In this context, Sustainability aims to keep an eye on major industrial and urban activities, which are the main sources of pollution, and come up with good ways to deal with waste and leaks. It also backs policies that promote the use of renewable energy and other eco-friendly options in manufacturing. It is important to pay special attention to the extraction of non-renewable natural resources like minerals and fossil fuels because it is known that using them too much can throw off the balance of nature and make it harder for future generations to meet their needs.

This vision was implemented in Algeria through a series of legal and economic measures included in the Finance Laws of 2000, 2002, and 2003. These actions include giving businesses money to help the environment and charging them fees for gas emissions and industrial activities that hurt the environment. In 2001, this plan was put into action along with large campaigns to raise public awareness. These programs wanted to make sustainability a part of school lessons and encourage an environmental culture.

Technology has improved many things, such as farming and industry, but it has also made big environmental problems worse, such as global warming, water quality issues, and waste management issues. This situation has shown us that we need to quickly rethink our policies in all areas, but especially in tourism, which has been hurt by structural imbalances and a lack of clear rules. Because of these problems, national tourism organizations are calling for new ways of running things that focus on valuing natural and cultural resources and finding ways to balance economic growth with protecting the environment. This will make sure that resources are used in a way that benefits both present and future generations.

The main goal is to make Algeria a well-known tourist destination around the world that makes money from tourists from other countries. In this regard, the Ministry of Environment and Regional Planning has created a national environmental strategy based on a full report on the state of the environment in the country. The goal of this project, which was announced in all Algerian provinces, is to lower the risks that come with handling dangerous chemicals and special waste (Mayerfeld, 2008, p. 25).

3. Evaluation of Selected Axes of Sustainability Indicators in Algeria:

Algeria is working to strengthen the principles of Sustainability by setting up a national system for Sustainability indicators. The National Statistics Office and the National Observatory for Environment and Sustainability are working together on this project. The Statistics Office worked with the Regional Activity Centre for the Blue Plan in the Mediterranean (France) and the "MedStat" program to help gather and process these indicators. The goal is to make a complete database that will let people accurately assess the country's level of Sustainability and keep an eye on the problems it faces.

There are now 127 indicators, 61 of which are environmental. This shows how important the environmental aspect is to the Sustainability strategy. In addition, the National Observatory for Environment and Sustainability released a report in August 2010 that listed a set of approved indicators for assessing the current state of

Algeria's environment and Sustainability. There are three main groups of these indicators: protecting the environment, promoting long-term social development, and promoting long-term economic growth.

The next section shows and analyzes a few key indicators that show how countries are working on these issues. It does this using a broad methodological framework that is in line with international standards in this area.

3.1 Environmental Indicators:

Algeria's economic and social policy decisions are strongly correlated with environmental pollution. The state has responded by enacting a thorough environmental policy that aims to fortify the institutional and legal frameworks. To guarantee the successful execution of environmental protection initiatives, this strategy has been strengthened by the creation of specialized administrative bodies and the transfer of executive authority to local governments.

Using information from technical and official sources, a system of environmental indicators has also been established to track the environmental performance of the country. These initiatives show a strong institutional commitment to the goal of Sustainability.

3.1.1 Cultivated Agricultural Land:

Algeria has made significant efforts in the past few decades to prevent desertification and preserve agricultural land. Among the most significant projects is the "Green Dam" project. From the eastern border with Tunisia to the western border with Morocco, it travels roughly 1,700 kilometers. The goal of this project is to keep sand from getting into forests and farmland and to stop deserts from spreading. Since 2005, the government has also started a series of five-year development plans that include land reclamation projects and the growth of agricultural exploitation as part of a larger plan to ensure food security and long-term growth in rural areas.

Table 01 below shows that, despite these efforts, official data show that only a small amount of progress has been made in the area of cultivated agricultural land. The amount of farmland grew by 1.88 million hectares over the course of seven years, from 41.891 million hectares in 2010 to 43.771 million hectares in 2017. This is a small

annual growth rate that doesn't quite match the size of the problems and goals in agriculture.

Table N° 1: Development of Agricultural Land

Unit: Million Hectares

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013
Agricultural Land Area	41,891	42,443	42,499	42,889
Year	2014	2015	2016	2017
Agricultural Land Area	42,888	43,395	43,396	43,771

Source: (National Office of Statistics (ONS), 2021).

Based on the information above, it is clear that Algeria has not been able to meet the SDGs, especially Goal 2, which aims to end hunger and promote sustainable agriculture, and Goal 15, which aims to protect ecosystems and stop desertification. Even though there have been public policies aimed at the agricultural sector, the results in the field have been limited, especially when it comes to the actual growth of agricultural land. This shows that there are structural problems that have made it hard to turn announced strategies into real results.

This limit is caused by a number of factors that are all connected. The biggest one is that big housing projects have caused cities to grow without any rules, which has made agricultural areas smaller. There isn't enough money being put into things like irrigation, land development, and agricultural transport, which are all important parts of farming. There are also problems with the ways that reclaimed lands are improved and used, and there is no good way to keep an eye on them. The situation has gotten worse because the policies for agriculture, urban development, and the environment all overlap without any real coordination.

Given these problems, it is very important to review the national agricultural policy to make sure that land reclamation is real and long-lasting, and to find a good balance between urban growth and the needs of food and environmental security. This must be completely in line with the goals of the 2030 Sustainability Agenda.

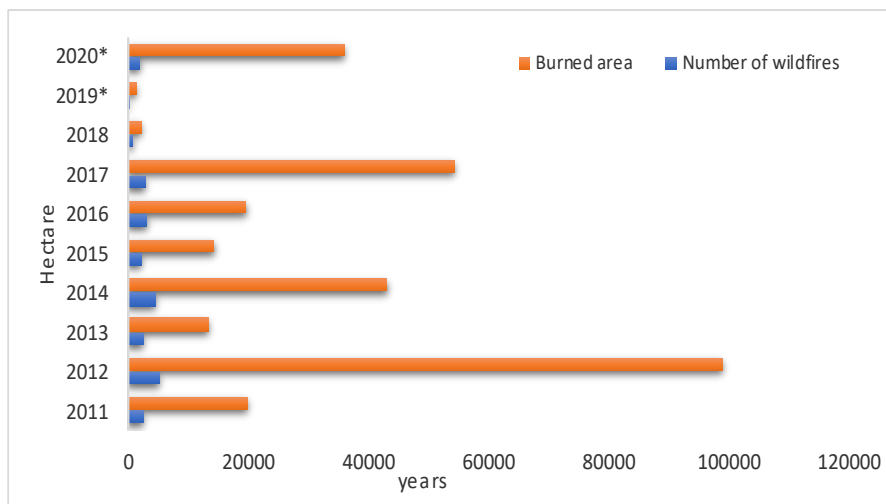
3.1.2 Forest Resources:

One of the best signs that the government is serious about protecting the environment and biodiversity is the care and

development of forests, which includes protecting wildlife and stopping illegal logging, poaching, and other activities that harm the environment. Algeria has a lot of forests, covering about 42,240 square kilometers, or 1.5% of the total land area. It also has a lot of different kinds of plants and animals.

The Ministry of Environment has started many projects to protect the environment, but these have not been enough to make Algerian forests grow a lot. Protecting forests from repeated fires is the main problem in this area because they are a major threat to this natural wealth.

Figure N° 2: Percentage of Forest Fires



Source: (National Office of Statistics (ONS), 2021; Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), 2019).

It is clear from the information we have about Algeria's forests that the SDGs related to the environment, especially Goal 15, which is about protecting land ecosystems and preserving biodiversity, have not been fully met for the following reasons:

- High rates of forest fires: On average, there are more than 2,500 forest fires a year, with the most in 2012, when there were more than 5,000. These fires have destroyed huge areas

of forest and made natural habitats for animals less suitable, which is a direct threat to biodiversity and the ecological capacity of forests.

- Not enough preventive measures: Even though the Ministry of Environment has worked hard and started a number of projects, these measures have not been enough to make sure that forest cover can grow or be kept in good condition. This lack of resources for firefighting and the absence of effective monitoring and surveillance systems are to blame for this shortfall.
- Unregulated logging and overhunting are still threats. These activities harm forest ecosystems and reduce biodiversity, which shows how hard it is to enforce environmental policies and pass the right laws.
- Limited forest cover: Only about 1.5% of the country's land is covered by forests, which is a small amount compared to countries that have made a lot of progress in protecting the environment. This restriction makes the ecosystem less able to handle more development pressures.

Even though work is still being done, the ongoing loss of forest wealth and the recurrence of fires show that the biodiversity and ecosystem protection goals for Sustainability are still not being fully met. So, the next step is to make preventive strategies stronger, make sure there is enough money, and create strict monitoring systems to make sure that forest resources are protected and preserved in a way that lasts.

3.1.3 Gaseous Emissions (Carbon Dioxide CO₂):

This indicator comes from the gases that factories and diesel engines release into the air. Pollution like this is mostly found in big cities and industrial areas, but it is usually lower in rural and desert areas.

Table N° 2: Rate of Gaseous Emissions

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
CO ₂ Emissions (kilotons)	134,934	139,024	147,735	156,273	154,654

Per Capita Emissions (metric tons)	3.6	3.7	3.8	4	3.8
Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	
CO ₂ Emissions (kilotons)	157,704	164,534	170,582	161,563	
Per Capita Emissions (metric tons)	3.8	3.9	3.9	3.7	

Source: (World Bank, 2024).

The change in carbon dioxide emissions in Algeria is an important sign of how well the country is doing in terms of the environment, especially with regard to Goal 13 of the SDGs, which is "Climate Action." Table 02 shows that total carbon emissions generally rose from 134,934 kilotons in 2012 to a peak of 170,582 kilotons in 2019. They then fell slightly in 2020 to 161,563 kilotons.

The rise in per capita emissions from 3.6 metric tons in 2012 to 3.9 metric tons in 2019 means that each person is having a bigger effect on the environment. This trend shows that we still rely heavily on fossil fuels and that there haven't been any big changes in how we consume and produce things. The drop in 2020 can't be directly linked to domestic climate policies; instead, it was caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which caused a huge drop in economic and industrial activity around the world.

Data that is available shows that Algeria has not yet reached its climate-related SDGs. The main reason for this shortfall is that carbon dioxide emissions keep going up, which means that there aren't any effective or strict measures in place to cut emissions or switch to clean energy sources. Also, the increase in per capita emissions goes against the goal of lowering the carbon footprint around the world. There are also not enough clear signs of a structural energy transition, and there is not enough investment in renewable energy. All of these things make it very hard for Algeria to keep its climate promises as part of the Sustainability agenda.

3.2 Social Indicators and Human Development:

The 2017 Human Development Report from the Economic and Social Council says that even though the living standards of Algerians have gotten better and work is still being done to improve people's lives, some social indicators still show differences and even regression in some areas. This shows how important it is to make social policies work better in a way that is more integrated and long-lasting.

3.2.1 Education Indicator:

Education is a basic human right and a powerful tool for ending poverty, promoting social justice, and boosting economic growth. It is also a key part of achieving Sustainability. Because of this, Algeria has always made rebuilding its education system a top priority since gaining independence. The country has done this through a number of programs aimed at making education available to everyone, fighting illiteracy, and increasing enrollment at all levels of education.

A. Adult Literacy:

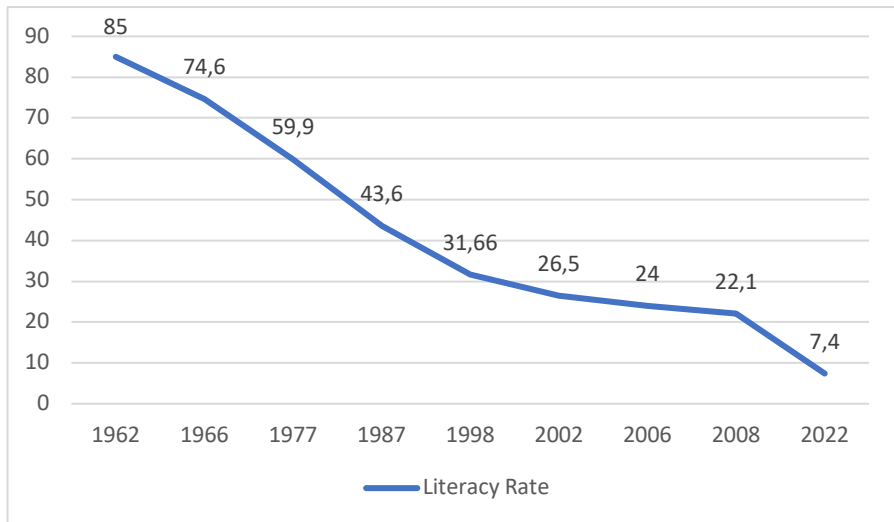
Getting rid of illiteracy is one of the most important steps toward full human development. The literacy rate is an important measure of a country's progress in education and social equality. According to historical records, Algeria's education system was weak when it gained independence in 1962, with an illiteracy rate of about 85%. This was mostly because French colonial rule systematically denied people the chance to go to school.

The most recent statistics from the National Office for Literacy and Adult Education show that the illiteracy rate has dropped to 7.4%. This is thanks to ongoing national efforts to fight illiteracy, such as the 1963 national campaign, the Functional Literacy Project, and the National Literacy Strategy's adoption in 2007.

Algeria's literacy policy has mostly helped women, people who live in rural areas, and people between the ages of 15 and 49. The strategy used a participatory approach that got people and things working together through strong partnerships between different government ministries and civil society. Since 2008, these efforts have led to the enrollment of more than 4.96 million students, 87% of whom are female. More than 3.52 million students have graduated, with a success rate of about 71%. Even though there are still structural

problems, this progress is a big step toward meeting Sustainability Goal 4.6, which says that all young people and a large number of adults should be able to read and write by 2030.

Figure N° 3: Evolution of Literacy Rate



Source: (Ministry of Health & (ONS), 2008).

B. Enrollment Rates in Education:

The gross enrollment rate at different levels of education is an important number that shows how well the right to education is being realized. It shows how well the state can provide educational opportunities for everyone.

- Primary Education: The enrollment rate has stayed high, reaching 112.47% in 2007 and 108.34% in 2022. This shows that the government is trying to make sure that all children go to school and that there are enough places for them to do so.
- Secondary Education: The rate grew a lot, going from 73.52% in 2007 to 105.93% in 2022. This shows that more students were enrolling in secondary education than in primary education.
- Higher Education: Enrollment has gone up a lot, from 18.35%

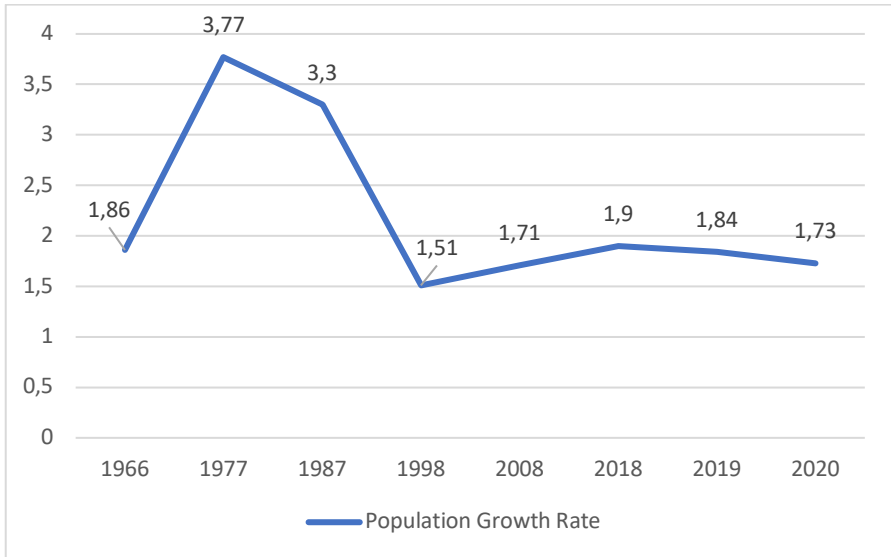
in 2003 to 54.18% in 2019. This shows policies aimed at increasing the number of courses offered at universities. The 2010–2014 plan included setting up thousands of schools and providing 600,000 educational seats.

According to the data, Algeria has made a lot of progress in enrollment rates at all levels of education, especially in primary and secondary school. This is in line with the sub-targets of Sustainability Goal 4. This includes lowering the number of people who can't read and write, getting more people to sign up for school, and making it easier for people to get to college and vocational training. Even though there has been progress in numbers, there are still qualitative problems that need to be solved. To make sure that education is inclusive, fair, and long-lasting, we need to do more to improve the quality of education, lower the dropout rate, strengthen skills development, and better align educational outcomes with the needs of the labor market.

3.2.2 Population Growth Rate:

The population growth rate is an important demographic measure that shows how populations change over time and what they will look like in the future. It also helps us understand the problems that come with providing basic services to the population, like health care, education, housing, and job opportunities.

Figure N° 4: Population Growth Rate



Source: ¹ (National Office of Statistics (ONS), 2021).

Algeria's population grew by 1.73% in 2020, thanks to a high fertility rate (3.1 children per woman) and a mostly young population (about 54% of the population). This shows that reproductive health and quality of care have improved. This is in line with Sustainability Goal 3. This mix of people gives us a chance to get a "demographic dividend" that can help end poverty and boost the economy (Goals 1 and 8). To take advantage of this potential, though, we need to make sure that education, jobs, and vocational training are all covered by strong policies. So, this demographic advantage is only useful if the state can turn it into a long-term productive force instead of letting it become a burden because of poor planning.

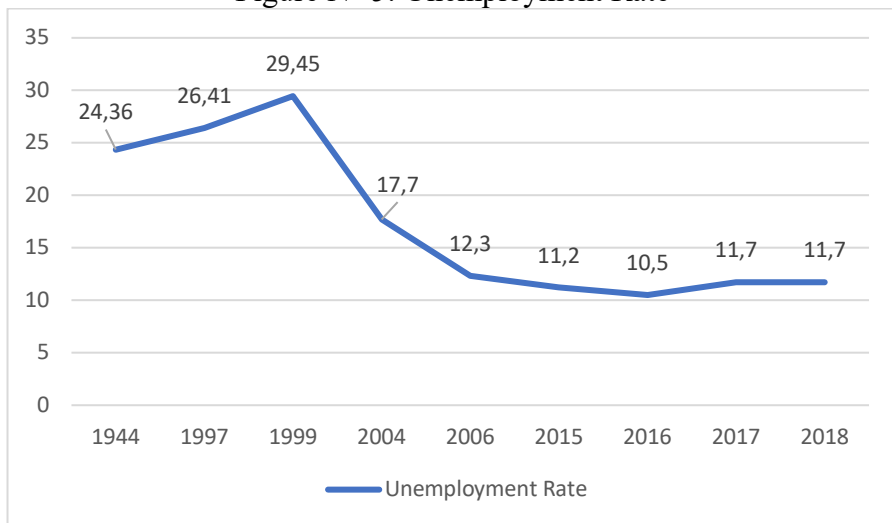
3.2.3 Unemployment Rate:

The unemployment rate is a very sensitive social and economic indicator that shows how well the economy can create enough jobs, especially for young people and college graduates. Algeria had high levels of unemployment in the 1990s, peaking at 29.3% in 1999. This was because of a number of things, such as the closing of public businesses, privatization, and rapid population growth. After 2004, the unemployment rate started to drop slowly, thanks to higher oil

revenues, the introduction of temporary employment programs, and the economy getting better overall. By 2016, it had dropped to 12.3%.

But this improvement didn't last, and in 2018, unemployment rose again to 11.7%, especially among young people and college graduates. The limited effectiveness of temporary employment policies and the weak diversification of the national economy are to blame for this resurgence. As a result, the labor market can't absorb the extra workers.

Figure N° 5: Unemployment Rate



Source: (National Office of Statistics (ONS), 2020).

In this situation, Algeria faces a big challenge with Sustainability Goal 8, which is about "Decent Work and Economic Growth." Even though people are still trying, the unemployment rate is still too high for Sustainability. This shows how weak the job market is, how ineffective employment policies are, and how there is no clear plan that connects vocational training, promoting innovation, and encouraging productive investment.

The Algerian labor market has a lot of problems, but one of the biggest is that most jobs are temporary and unstable. This is made worse by the fact that the national economy isn't very diverse. Also, the fact that the education system doesn't always meet the needs of the

job market makes it harder for the economy to take in new graduates.

The government has tried to make employment indicators better, but the unemployment rate, especially among young people, is still far from the goals. The main reason for this is that the employment programs that were put in place were not structural, which means that economic policies need to be changed in a big way. Reforms like these should include broadening the economy, helping new businesses get started, making sure that vocational training systems are in line with market needs, and giving people and businesses in other countries reasons to invest. These steps are necessary to make job opportunities that will last and be stable.

3.3 Health Indicators:

Improving public health stands as one of the foremost priorities of Sustainability, as articulated in Sustainability Goal 3, which aims to “ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.”

3.3.1 Life Expectancy at Birth:

The life expectancy at birth indicator in Algeria has gotten a lot better. It went from 70.18 years in 2000 to 76.3 years in 2020, which is almost six years longer over the course of two decades. This increase is due to better healthcare, lower death rates, and better socioeconomic conditions, such as higher per capita GDP and stable social conditions. This progress is a partial success in reaching Sustainability Goal 3 and shows that the country's health policies for prevention and treatment are working.

3.3.2 Under-Five Child Mortality Rate:

The number of children under five who died in Algeria has dropped a lot, from 44.9 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1992 to 21.3 deaths in 2020. Even though this is a small improvement, the rate is still high compared to other countries, especially when it comes to neonatal mortality (0–28 days). This is because maternal healthcare services are still lacking, there isn't enough specialized medical equipment, and the quality of health services varies from region to region. So, Algeria has made progress in this area, but it hasn't reached its goal yet, especially when it comes to lowering the number of babies and infants who die.

3.3.3 Population with Access to Sanitation Facilities:

Due to significant advancements in basic infrastructure and real efforts in public service delivery, the percentage of Algerians with access to sanitary facilities increased from 80.7% in 1992 to 87.6% in 2015. But this progress is still insufficient to attain full coverage, particularly in vulnerable communities and rural areas where gaps in quality and availability still exist. Consequently, universal access has not yet reached its full potential. This emphasizes the necessity of sustained funding for the sanitation industry, with an emphasis on national coverage expansion, service sustainability, and quality maintenance.

3.3.4 Population with Access to Safe Drinking Water:

The percentage of Algerians who can get clean drinking water has dropped alarmingly, from 91.7% in 1992 to 83.6% in 2015. Some of the main reasons for this regression are more people moving to cities, cities growing unevenly without enough infrastructure development, not enough investment in the water sector, and a worsening water scarcity crisis marked by chronic water stress.

This drop is a direct threat to public health and shows that the goals that were set have not been met. This shows that the country's water policies need to be changed right away, with a focus on making sure that the drinking water is sustainable, easy to get to, and of good quality.

Table N° 3: Health Services

Year	Life Expectancy at Birth ¹	Population with Access to Safe Drinking Water ² (%)	Population with Access to Improved Sanitation Facilities ² (%)	Under-Five Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births) ¹
1992	67.21	91.7	80.7	44.9
1995	68.12	91.2	81.7	52.5
2000	70.18	89.5	83.6	39.7
2005	74.6	87.7	85.3	35.5
2010	76.3	85.7	86.6	27.5

2015	77.1	83.6	87.6	25.7
2020	76.3	—	—	21.3

Source: ¹ (National Office of Statistics (ONS), 2020; World Bank, 2024).

- General Obstacles in Algeria's Health Sector: The geographical imbalance in the distribution of healthcare facilities is the primary structural challenge facing Algeria's health sector. Access to care is uneven between coastal, interior, and desert regions as a result of this discrepancy. In addition, the healthcare system has structural, administrative, and organizational problems in addition to inadequate specialized and preventive care, especially in rural areas.

Algeria has not yet fully achieved Sustainability Goal 3, which aims to promote well-being and ensure healthy lives. This is despite improvements in some areas, such as longer life expectancy at birth and lower child mortality rates for children under five. Concerns about indicators continue, especially when it comes to getting safe drinking water and specialized medical care.

To achieve long-term health development, we need to improve health equity by making sure that facilities and services are distributed more fairly, investing more in health infrastructure, upgrading medical equipment, and improving the training system. Also, including health in regional development policies is necessary to make sure that reforms are complete and long-lasting.

3.4 Economic Dimension:

Algeria has been putting more and more emphasis on its economy since 2000, when the national economy was in bad shape. These included high unemployment, rising external debt, low economic growth rates, and rising inflation. So, the government made economic improvement its top priority by putting in place a number of programs to make the country's economy stronger. One of the chosen indicators in this case is:

3.4.1 Gross Domestic Product per Capita:

One of the most important economic indicators for figuring out how strong a country's economy is and how well its people are doing

is GDP per capita. It also serves as a standard against which to measure progress toward the SDGs, especially Goal 8, which is about "promoting sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth."

World Bank data show that this indicator changed a lot in Algeria between 1992 and 2021. It was unstable and had different growth rates, as shown in Table 04:

Table N° 4: GDP per Capita

Year	Gross Domestic Product (billion USD)	GDP Per Capita (USD)	Growth Rate of GDP Per Capita (%)
1992	48	1,794.62	-0.54
1995	41.76	1,466.54	1.83
2000	54.79	1,780.38	2.35
2005	103.2	3,131.33	4.46
2009	137.21	3,898.48	-0.21
2012	209.06	5,610.73	1.41
2014	213.81	5,516.23	1.66
2015	165.97	4,197.42	1.65
2020	145.74	3,354.15	-6.73
2021	163.47	3,700.31	1.7

Source: (World Bank, 2024).

Based on the data above, Algeria's per capita GDP growth was slow in the 1990s. This was mostly because of the effects of the 1986 oil crisis and the worsening security and social conditions at the time. At the start of the new millennium, though, the country had an oil boom that helped it. Between 2000 and 2014, GDP doubled and per capita income went from \$1,780 to \$5,516. Even though this growth happened, the rate stayed below the Sustainability Goal 8.1 target of 7%. After 2014, indicators fell again because oil prices fell and the COVID-19 pandemic had an effect. By 2020, per capita income had dropped to \$3,354, showing how vulnerable growth is when it depends on hydrocarbon revenues.

Given this, it's clear that Algeria hasn't reached the goals of Goal 8. This is mostly because the economy is based on rent and there isn't enough real diversification in productive sectors. Also, the effect of

growth on the labor market and social equity in terms of development is still weak. To support sustainable human development, we need to make structural changes that include diversifying sources of growth, supporting productive sectors (agriculture, industry, technology), improving the investment climate, connecting education to jobs, and strengthening good governance.

3.4.2 External Debt and Debt Indicators:

One important sign of a country's long-term financial and economic health is its ability to keep its external debt levels in check. It is also directly related to reaching Sustainability Goal 17, especially Target 17.4, which says that developing countries should be able to manage their public and external debt in a way that is sustainable through good policies.

One of the biggest economic problems Algeria faced was external debt, which reached about 25% of GDP in 2004, a high level for a rentier economy that relied on hydrocarbon exports.

In the years that followed, things got a lot better in this area thanks to financial reform programs and paying off inherited debts, as shown by the following data:

Table N° 5: External Debt and Debt Indicators

Designation	2010	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Medium and Long-Term Debt	3758	1760	1197	1863	1893	1723
Short-Term Debt	1778	1975	1823	1986	2096	2319
Current Debt as % of Gross Domestic Product	3.4	1.7	1.8	2.4	2.4	2.3

Source: (National Office of Statistics (ONS), 2019)

Algeria did a great job of managing its external debt from 2010 to 2018. The amount of medium- and long-term debt went down from \$3.8 billion to \$1.7 billion, and the debt-to-GDP ratio went down from 3.4% to 2.3%. This shows that the government is better able to manage its external debt and that its finances are in good shape. But short-term debt went up to \$2.3 billion because people were relying more on imports to meet their needs. This trend shows that domestic production is weak and that we still depend on other countries.

Algeria has made some progress in lowering its debt burden, but not as much as Sustainability Goal 17.4, which is about making sure that debt is sustainable. However, this achievement is not likely to last because debt is not being used effectively for productive projects and there are no structural reforms in the economy. Even though there are good signs that external debt is going down, the economy is still weak and relies on imports, which makes it hard to fully reach this goal.

CONCLUSION:

An assessment of Sustainability indicators in Algeria reveals significant progress in several areas particularly in health, where improvements are evident in rising life expectancy and reduced child mortality rates. There has also been relative stability in some key economic indicators, such as GDP per capita and a reduction in long-term external debt. These accomplishments demonstrate the state's efforts to raise living standards generally and to fortify social and economic infrastructure.

Algeria still faces a lot of problems on its way to long-term growth, though. The country's heavy reliance on oil and gas revenues, the labor market's vulnerability due to high unemployment, especially among young people, and a lack of economic diversification, which puts the stability of the national income at risk, are the main ones. Also, differences in access to basic services like drinking water and sanitation still affect the quality of life for vulnerable groups.

Algeria needs to come up with a complete plan for long-term development that includes structural changes to boost economic diversity, raise the quality of public services, and create jobs that will last for a long time. In addition to economic goals, development policies must also take social and environmental factors into account to make sure that progress is balanced and strong enough to handle future problems.

Getting Algeria to reach Sustainability is still a difficult goal that requires everyone to work together, including the public and private sectors. It also needs strong political will and clear plans. Algeria can only make sure that all of its citizens have a better quality of life and protect its resources for future generations by working together.

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