Mapping South-South Cooperation Solutions in the Arab States
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H.E. Dr. Mansur Muhtar, Vice President, Sector Operations, Islamic Development Bank

The Islamic Development Bank (IDB), along with all other development institutions, are entering into a new era underpinned with the adoption of a new set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs, developed after much consultation, will require joint efforts in order to fulfill the persistent challenges of our Member Countries on the ground—related to poverty, access to health and education, food security, climate resilience, security and a host of other challenges. It is true that a lot of progress has been made in terms of fulfilling—albeit partially—the former Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), but conditions within this decade have vastly changed, exacerbating many of the difficulties that those who are already less fortunate face on a daily basis and delaying the achievement of the objectives that we are all pursuing in the development community.

In achieving the SDGs effectively, South-South Cooperation (SSC) should play a substantial role in addition to traditional North-South development approaches. It is vital that the development institutions pay particular attention to the related Goal 17—Partnership for the Goals—in order to enhance the role of SSC in fulfilling the SDGs. As a multilateral development institution that consists only of member countries from the South, the IDB will continue to dedicate more efforts and resources to be a key player in promoting SSC. The IDB has already been scaling up its technical cooperation program through an enhanced mechanism—Reverse Linkage—that promotes the sharing of expertise, technology and resources in a mutually beneficial exchange and through a sustainable approach. Furthermore, we are positioning our institution to be closer to our Member Countries by expanded field presence, and moving more heavily into developing additional partnerships with not only traditional development partners and donors, but also philanthropists, civil society and other key players that have a stake in the development of our Member Countries.

Our new strategic direction in the coming decade—to become a “Bank for Developers”—will naturally amplify our efforts in promoting SSC. This will come with the added task of developing platforms for enhanced partnerships and cooperation, as well as the need to identify further development solutions that can help solve challenges in other countries.

Such efforts are already underway. In 2014, the Islamic Development Bank partnered with the UN Development Programme and the UN Office for South-South Cooperation in order to prepare a report that outlined the existing mechanisms for SSC in the Arab Region. This report identified a number of development solutions in the region that can be shared among the countries of the South. After 3 years, the search for sustainable solutions that can help our countries attain a higher level of socio-economic development continues and we are pleased to support the second phase of this publication which highlights additional solutions identified in our Member Countries from the Arab region.

It is our hope that this report will help us advance a step further in reaching our goals of promoting SSC in our countries. As IDB, we will continue to participate and contribute to such efforts that highlight the work of our Member Countries in solving their development challenges and achieving the SDGs.
Almost four decades ago, in 1978, the global community adopted the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA). This was a turning point in the evolution of the Global South in that it formally established the objectives and principles of South-South cooperation. Over the past forty years, South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation have become catalytic instruments for achieving internationally agreed development goals.

In 2019 the United Nations will celebrate BAPA+40 with a High-level Conference, hosted by the Government of Argentina. This Conference offers an opportunity to assess progress made, identify challenges faced, and map a pathway forward for South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation in the context of sustainable development.

There has been radical transformation and rapid up-scaling during the last decade in the scope, scale and effects of collaboration between developing countries. This is particularly true for the Arab States. In recent years the Arab States have become increasingly active in the spheres of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation. In addition to participating in South-South initiatives, they have also taken a leading role in hosting global and regional Southern forums. These include the First Arab States Regional South-South Development Expo in Doha, Qatar in 2014, and the Global South-South Development Expo 2016 in Dubai, UAE.

This up-scaling calls for a creative and considered response from the global development system. As the global and United Nations system-wide focal point for South-South cooperation, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) embraces new challenges and opportunities, and dedicates its efforts toward supporting governments, civil society and private sector stakeholders, as well as all United Nations system organizations and other development actors towards achieving the 2030 Agenda through South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation.

I am pleased to present this publication, the second in an on-going series designed to map the development of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation in the Arab region. It is the result of close collaboration between my Office and the Islamic Development Bank. It highlights successful experiences emerging from Arab countries as they collectively work towards a more sustainable future – through implementing innovative approaches, and by building and strengthening partnerships within the region and beyond.

The report provides an overview of current South-South processes and modalities of cooperation in the region. It enables stakeholders to access to the huge reservoir of potential development solutions and successful experiences that have been tested in the region. All these solutions can also be accessed through the South-South World Mapping Portal (southsouthworld.org) supported by my Office. This report, and our on-going mapping, contributes to filling existing knowledge gaps and highlights Arab countries as important Southern voices and prominent solution providers.
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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>CIS</td>
<td>Commonwealth of Independent States</td>
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<td>CSO</td>
<td>Civil society organization</td>
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<td>EOU</td>
<td>Equal Opportunity Unit</td>
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<td>FAO</td>
<td>Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations</td>
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<td>GCC</td>
<td>Gulf Cooperation Council</td>
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<td>HIC</td>
<td>High-income country</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICT</td>
<td>Information and communications technologies</td>
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<td>IFAD</td>
<td>International Fund for Agricultural Development</td>
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<td>IDB</td>
<td>Islamic Development Bank</td>
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<td>LAS</td>
<td>League of Arab States</td>
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<td>LDC</td>
<td>Least developed county</td>
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<td>MIC</td>
<td>Middle-income country</td>
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<td>ODA</td>
<td>Official development assistance</td>
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<tr>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>OIC</td>
<td>Organization of Islamic Cooperation</td>
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<tr>
<td>RECs</td>
<td>Regional Economic Communities of African Union</td>
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<td>SDG</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goal</td>
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<td>SSDA</td>
<td>South-South Development Academy Egypt</td>
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<tr>
<td>SSC</td>
<td>South-South cooperation</td>
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<tr>
<td>SStC</td>
<td>South-South and triangular cooperation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSTC-ADFS</td>
<td>South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Agricultural Development and Enhanced Food Security</td>
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<tr>
<td>UAE</td>
<td>United Arab Emirates</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>United Nations Population Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>United Nations Children’s Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNIDO</td>
<td>United Nations Industrial Development Organization</td>
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<td>UNOSSC</td>
<td>United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation</td>
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I. Overview: Mapping South-South Cooperation in Arab States
I. Overview of the development of South-South and triangular cooperation in the Arab states

1. Introduction

This publication provides further insights into the context and current state of and trends in South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTrC) in the Arab region, striving to encourage all development partners to pay greater attention to the potential of this cooperation. The publication is a logical continuation of the first publication, “Mapping South-South Cooperation Mechanisms and Solutions in the Arab States”, produced in 2014 as a result of the consultations held during the Arab States Regional South-South Development Expo 2014 in Doha, Qatar. The publication is also the result of continued cooperation between the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB). It includes updates on the landscape of SSTrC in the Arab world and new implemented development solutions that have been documented over the last three years that may be shared among the countries of the South.

The overview section of the publication covers the countries and territories of the Middle East and North Africa, namely Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, State of Palestine, Sudan, Somalia, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Yemen.

Certain findings presented in the Overview are derived from the forthcoming UNDP/UNOSSC regional report “South-South Cooperation: Towards Sustainable Human Development in the Arab States”.

The solutions section of the overview high-

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lights a diverse set of Southern, home-grown and innovative development solutions as well as solutions that include South South cooperation (SSC) elements. The solutions are documented according to their relation to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) including: poverty eradication, agriculture and food security, public private partnerships, information and communications technologies (ICT), green economies, and economic growth, among others.

2. Sustainable Development Agenda and the context of South-South and Triangular cooperation

From the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio + 20) held in June 2012, to the 3rd Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa, held in May 2015, it was unanimously affirmed that equity and fairness must remain at the top of the international agenda as the world seeks to balance social, economic and environmental needs.

New momentum has built up in the wake of these challenges: on September 2015, the Heads of States and Governments and high-level representatives at the United Nations adopted the SDGs, a comprehensive set of universal and transformative 17 goals and 169 targets for the 2030 Agenda to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change by 2030.

As a traditional entry point to partnerships among developing countries, SSTrC is emerging in the international development scene as a tool to contribute to achieving the SDGs. The Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation 2011 recognizes the fundamental contribution of SSTrC to sustainable development, which goes beyond financial cooperation.

Historically, the Arab states have been supporters of SSC. The founding of the League of Arab States (LAS) in 1945, with the aim to strengthen ties between Member States and coordinate collaboration between them, safeguard their independence and sovereignty, and generally consider the affairs and interests of Arab states can be regarded as an early example of SSC in the Arab States region. The establishment of the Islamic Development Bank

Training in Tunisia on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Implementing the Agenda 2030, 6-7 April 2017. Source: UNOSSC
(IDB) in the 1975 whose membership consists of Arab States and other Islamic States, was also a substantial step in promoting SSC, especially since all the members of the IDB are from the economic South.

The cross-disciplinary, holistic and integrated nature of the SDGs requires innovative approaches and partnerships. Knowledge in all its forms has become an increasingly important element in policymaking and is often called upon to provide solutions to societal problems that hinder sustainable development. Revamped relations among different actors in the policy process has enabled exchanges and joint knowledge building, with the aim of enriching decision-making. In the Arab states region, just as in other regions dominated by weak governance, knowledge is not often used effectively in policy- and decision-making.

In order to capture the dramatic increase in the amount of knowledge and expertise in SSC, generated especially over the last decade in the region, the first-ever Arab States Regional South-South Development Expo in Doha, Qatar in 2014 showcased some of the success stories and shared experiences of more than 500 delegates from 45 countries. In 2016, the region hosted the Global South-South Development Expo (GSSD Expo) 2016 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE), to ensure a continuous platform for joint planning, consultation and evaluation of efforts to advance SSC in the region and beyond.

The 2030 Agenda comes at a time when the Arab States are currently facing a series of political, environmental, social and economic challenges on multiple fronts, as described in section 3 below. The experiences of other Arab States in tackling some of these challenges can serve as useful learning opportunities for achieving sustainable development.

3. National development priorities

For the purpose of this report, the countries of the Arab region comprise 18 Arab countries, namely, Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, State of Palestine, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. They are a space with close linguistic, political, historical and socio-cultural links, yet are heterogeneous in economic development, demography, population health status, inequality, political stability, history of conflict or war, and the presence of refugees or displaced populations.

Despite the significant progress made in some sectors and subregions, complex and interlinked economic, social, environmental and governance challenges still remain in achieving the SDGs. Further national and regional actions are needed in the context of a more effective national development and global partnership.

On the governance and political front, the post-2011 era including the Arab uprisings created ambitious demands for economic, political and social reforms, in particular, for job creation, enhanced governance and sustainable growth. Since then, economic development has continued to be strongly affected by political developments, be it domestic, regional or international.

The population of the Arab region has grown significantly in the past decades and exceeded
“The Arab region comprises a population of 355 million and some of the countries with the highest per capita income as well as some of the poorest countries across Asian and the African continents.”
406 million in 2016\(^4\), which aggravates challenges that the region has been facing for decades. Thus, job creation, particularly for women and youth, remains another development priority for the region (SDGs 5 and 8). In 2016, a high unemployment rate (12.6 per cent) prevailed among middle-income countries (MICs) and less developed countries (LDCs) of the region, with a total unemployment rate of 11.1 per cent, against the global rate of 5.7 per cent. The participation rate of women in the labour force in the Arab States reached only 25 per cent in 2016.

Unemployment is also related to a low level of education. Serious constraints to sustainable development across the region include: high illiteracy rates among youth (14-24 years of age, both sexes) reaching 9.26 per cent as well as student dropouts from primary education; the low enrolment of girls in comparison to boys; a deterioration of education quality; and a general mismatch between education curricula and the labour market's skill demands.\(^5\)

The Arab countries face major challenges in achieving gender equality (SDG 5), in decarbonizing their energy systems to fight climate change (SDG 13) and in conserving marine (SDG 14) and terrestrial (SDG 15) ecosystems.

With an average of 554 cubic metres of renewable internal freshwater resources per capita in 2014, which is nearly a quarter of the 2,068 cubic metres in 1962, the region also has the lowest freshwater availability of any region of the world.\(^6\) The scarcity of freshwater combined with declining availability of arable land, land degradation and worsening climate change (SDGs 13 and 14) have been negatively impacting food security across the region. Although 42 per cent of the Arab population is rural, agriculture, the primary occupation in rural settings, accounts for only 7 per cent of the Arab GDP. In the dryland countries of region, sustainable agriculture (SDG 2) and sustainable water management (SDG 6) are high-priority challenges. Food deficits are largely bridged by imports and an overexploitation of finite resources, which leaves the region vulnerable to shocks. Together with food security, undernourishment, which reached 9 per cent in 2015\(^7\), is another major challenge that the region must address immediately (SDG 2).

Finally, while energy resources such as oil and gas have become the backbone of regional trade and production, not all Arab States are energy-rich. Energy security is becoming a serious concern for oil-importing countries due to the volatility of oil prices and inefficiencies in use and production (SDG 7).

These challenges are exacerbated in the context of the Arab States affected by conflicts and instability. Home to the longest modern-day military occupation, the region has more recently witnessed varying degrees of violence, aggression and conflict in most of its countries, notably following the events of the Arab Spring in 2011.\(^8\) According to the Global Peace Index 2017, Middle East and North Africa is the least peaceful region in the world for the fifth successive year. The region's peace score worsened slightly as a result of ongoing conflicts in Syria and Yemen, which have involved numerous regional powers. The region now accounts for the largest number of refugees, both in absolute and relative terms. For some countries, recent crises have resulted in a loss of decades of development progress.

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In an unofficial SDG Index that ranks countries across the current state of progress towards the SDGs, Tunisia ranks 60th place, while Yemen ranks 140th among 149 ranked countries (see Figure 1).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Global Index Score (0-100)</th>
<th>Global Index Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>68.8</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bahrain</td>
<td>64.6</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt, Arab Rep.</td>
<td>64.9</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>56.6</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>66.0</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuwait</td>
<td>62.4</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>64.9</td>
<td>86</td>
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<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>66.7</td>
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<td>Oman</td>
<td>64.3</td>
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<td>Qatar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td>49.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Syrian Arab Republic</td>
<td>58.1</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunisia</td>
<td>68.7</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Arab Emirates</td>
<td>66.0</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yemen, Rep.</td>
<td>49.8</td>
<td>140</td>
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Figure 1. SDG ranking in the Arab region (2017)

4. South-South cooperation in the Arab States in the context of the SDGs

The engagement of the Arab states in SSC within the region and beyond have been recently surveyed by UNOSSC and reflected in the forthcoming regional report on SSC in the Arab States. According to the UNDP/UNOSSC regional report, nearly all Arab States have engaged in SSC, benefitting from over 110 bilateral, regional and multilateral initiatives since 2005.9 MICS in the North Africa subregion such as Tunisia, Morocco and Egypt are among the top destinations of Arab SSC (Figure 2). Outside the region, countries in Africa and Eastern Europe are the main destinations of bilateral Arab SSC.

9 The number is not indicative, but relates to those considered in the upcoming UNDP/UNOSSC regional report.
The report further confirms that Arab SSC typically involves MICs and LDCs (63 per cent). IDB, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, and the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Fund for International Development also concentrate their concessional resources on these countries and provide non-concessional export credits to richer countries.

Only 37 per cent of SSC exchanges within the Arab States and between the Arab States and other countries in the Global South involve fragile states, according to the UNDP/UNOSSC regional report. The India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation (IBSA Fund) is one of the vehicles through which SSC is provided to fragile states, particularly to Sudan and the State of Palestine, with a particular focus on poverty reduction. In the State of Palestine, the IBSA Fund provides basic health infrastructure in the country, while in Sudan, the Fund contributes to the development of labour-intensive infrastructure and links unskilled and semi-skilled youth to longer-term employment and livelihood opportunities.

According to the report, multilateral regional (28 per cent) and global (14 per cent) SSC initiatives were less frequently observed than bilateral SSC (58 per cent) between Arab States and with developing countries outside the region. The main actors in bilateral SSC are national governments. In multilateral regional SSC, civil society organizations and international organizations together with national governments are more involved in the process. In the case of global SSC initiatives involving Arab States, the main actors are primarily governments, followed by international institutions.

The report found that the Arab States participate in SSC initiatives towards achieving SDGs, such as peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16); decent work and economic growth (SDG 8); gender equality (SDG 5); zero hunger (SDG 2); and energy and environment (SDGs 5, 13 and 15).

In the area of peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16), specific areas for cooperation have included democratic governance (Bahrain, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia; Jordan and Sudan) and crisis prevention and recovery (Libya and Tunisia; Jordan and Yemen). Among the efforts towards peace and security in the region is Sudan’s support to cross-border security with neighbouring countries, including shared experiences with Libya on small arms control, peace and stabilization.
Also, the Lebanon Mine Action Centre and the Cairo Peace Centre are examples of institutions that have developed capacities for peace architecture such as in Libya, Sudan and Yemen where their de-mining authorities have received training and their government capacity has been strengthened to support peace.

Masdar is a subsidiary of the Mubadala Development Company in Abu Dhabi and hosts the World Future Energy Summit, which has provided a platform for sharing knowledge on renewable energy and sustainable cities with developing countries.

An illustrative example of how the Arab States have come together to tackle common challenges through a more institutionalized approach is the “Scaling Up of the International Fund for Agricultural Development’s (IFAD) Rural Youth Employment Interventions”, a regional dialogue among Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Yemen and the UAE to work on issues related to decent work and economic growth, with a focus on youth and women’s empowerment (SDGs 8 and 5). The programme seeks to increase youth employment and self-employment by building the capacity of local institutions to provide youth-inclusive financial and non-financial services to rural youth or the enterprises that employ them. The Arab States have also shared their experiences in employment programmes, business incubators, diaspora engagement for economic development, and small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) development. Recent examples include the Gender-Responsive Budgeting Centre of Excellence in Morocco for exchanges with practitioners, researchers and policymakers in countries such as Algeria, Tunisia and Mauritania as well as the regional platform for advancing equal opportunities for the economic participation of young women and recent female graduates in Arab States. The Tunisian Agency for Technical Cooperation also organizes tailor-made training and advanced courses for Southern professionals in fields such as women’s advancement, adult literacy, vocational training and the promotion of SMEs.

Concrete initiatives in the area of poverty reduction (SDG 2) include integrated water resources management and sustainable agricultural practices. Egypt has provided more than 250 short- and long-term experts to around 30 African countries to provide training and facilitation of knowledge-sharing in a variety of sectors, including water resources (e.g. hydraulic engineering and environmental hydrology for arid and semi-arid regions) and agriculture. The provision by Morocco of expertise and training from the National Office for Electricity and Potable Water was instrumental in assisting in the capacity development of the national water utility in Mauritania in yet another example of how vital the water sector is in SSC among the Arab States. In agricultural capacity development, Jordan has provided technical expertise in crop production, irrigation, marketing and livestock in Yemen, contributing to increased agricultural production and food security.

In order to address energy and environment priorities (SDGs 7 and 13), the Arab States have participated in exchanges on sustainable energy solutions, energy management information systems and disaster risk reduction. As of December 2016, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development executed 75 loan agreements with the Arab States in the energy sector. During 2015, the Saudi Fund for Development dedicated the largest share of projects and financing to the energy sector where three projects received about US$200 million, equivalent to 31 per cent of the portfolio.
The UAE has been particularly active in the field of renewable and alternative energy and clean technology.

SSC in Arab States is delivered mainly through training, study tours and other knowledge-sharing initiatives that help to build partners’ capacity to take the leadership of their own development pathways. Traditional SSC initiatives – mostly exchange visits and study tours – help partners to improve their institutional learning, yet it is difficult to measure the contribution of these ad hoc, one-off initiatives to sustainable development.

Arab SSC is increasingly prioritizing more structured capacity development initiatives through regular funding, long-term relationships, knowledge transfer and other instruments that support long-term impact beyond the project lifespan. Better-structured capacity development initiatives can further leverage the SSC approach in order to strengthen the contribution of Southern countries to sustainable development. Examples are internships for doctors in Egyptian hospitals, a community of practice for mine-action directors to exchange experiences, and other forms of internal exchange platforms and networks. A common starting point for more structured initiatives is the use of memorandums of understanding or partnership agreements that define the broader areas of cooperation and set the directions for the joint design of initiatives to address a specific development challenge.

Public-private partnerships and specialized funds also featured among the main instruments used to deliver Arab SSC. These instruments are reflected in the roles taken by different public and private organizations to deliver Arab SSC, the main ones being a partnership facilitator, technical assistance supplier, knowledge broker and co-financier. Examples of how these instruments are used in practice include: school feeding workshops and sharing of experiences between Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia; training courses in North African countries; and the visit by Moroccan and Tunisian delegations to the World Food Programme Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil to learn about Brazil’s best practices on school feeding programmes and social safety nets.

The Arab region also pioneered the South-South Development Academy-Egypt (SSDA) in 2014 to share the development experiences of countries of the South, based on common interests, and provide shared platforms of learning and knowledge-exchange among those facing similar development challenges. Chapter II further highlights SSDA-Egypt’s contributions to the exchange of information and experiences through research, documenting and sharing the development solutions in the region.

5. Models of Arab South-South cooperation

Figure 3. National models of SSC in the Arab States
Arab States are distinguished by their heterogeneity in many respects, which is reflected in how the Arab cooperation is conceived and delivered. These commonalities can also be found in the environment in which Arab SSC takes place through “models” of cooperation according to the upcoming UNOSSC and UNDP report 2017. These models further point to directions for more systematic approaches to the design, coordination and implementation of Arab SSC, enabling countries to address their national development challenges.

The Gulf Cooperation Council model comprises high-income countries (HICs) in the Gulf sub-region that make extensive use of modalities such as technical cooperation projects, material goods, concessional loans and infrastructure improvement, with a general push for soft-power enhancement through capacity development. Humanitarian assistance is also central to the model. In the past five years, the UAE has allocated US$708 million to assisting the world’s refugees and is the only non-Development Assistance Committee (DAC OECD) country to have joined the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Donor Support Group.10

With cooperation oriented more heavily towards infrastructure projects in sectors such as transportation, energy and water, there is a real opportunity for countries in this model group to align cooperation in infrastructure development with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The UAE is already integrating low-carbon goals into its outward cooperation strategies, including more than $400 million to expand renewable energy solutions in developing countries alongside efforts to reduce its own domestic carbon footprint. The UAE has also recently announced a $20 million commitment in support of entrepreneurship in Yemen, thus contributing to the Yemen Government’s efforts towards empowering young people and promoting social, economic and political stability in the country.11

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries also apply collective efforts in targeted development assistance. Thus, in 2012, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the UAE agreed to provide assistance to Morocco in the amount of $5 billion in the 2012-2017 period to build up infrastructure, strengthen the economy and foster tourism.

The Middle East and North Africa model is comprised mainly of MICs and LDCs in the Middle East and North Africa subregions12, sharing many similar features such as forms of engagement and thematic focus, as well as differences in levels of institutionalization, modalities used and funding sources.

Overall, the countries in the Middle East and North Africa are developing their domestic policy frameworks, institutional arrangements and operational tools for development cooperation (e.g. financial, information and knowledge platforms). Institutionalization has progressed more rapidly among Arab MICs, such as Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia. Effective national mechanisms have been established in the Arab countries for promoting SSC such as the Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development (EAPD), the Moroccan Agency for International Cooperation (AMCI) and the Tunisian Agency for Technical Cooperation (ATCT).

Institutionalization actions vary, including the establishment of development agencies and other entities responsible for coordinating SSC, development of policies and creation of specialized funds. The Regional Economic Communities (RECs) of the African Union are central to the SSC of both MICs and LDCs in the Middle East and North Africa model, yet RECs continue to lack capacity to operate and experience a number of challenges, including overlapping memberships, limited financing, uneven commitments and slow implementation. Capacity needs include staffing,

10 M. Evren Tok (2015). Gulf Donors and the 2030 Agenda: Towards a Khaleeji Mode of Development Cooperation
12 LDCs in the Horn of Africa such as Djibouti and Somalia are also considered in this model group.
Regional economic communities such as the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) also play key roles in defining and implementing Arab sustainable development priorities.

In the absence of a central “matchmaking” platform, countries in this model group tend to use a range of tools to provide and request knowledge and expertise from their peers, often leading to ad hoc, uncoordinated efforts. Morocco, together with partners outside the Arab region such as Mauritania, Gabon and Senegal, have established partnership agreements to foster more structured experience and expert exchanges, mainly on decentralization and local development, through knowledge networks.

A new South-South knowledge network already benefitting countries from Africa, Asia and Latin America is found at the Gender Responsive Budgeting Centre of Excellence, which offers sharing of experiences and communities of practice to support gender-sensitive public finance management and assessment of policies.

Finally, very few countries in this model group appear to have an overall national policy on SSC. For example, Tunisia has developed policy and institutional frameworks to guide SSC efforts to ensure a clearer mandate for SSC activities within the Government and to ensure that efforts are complementary.

The Fragile States model is comprised mainly of conflict- and post-conflict-affected countries in the Middle East, North Africa and Horn of Africa subregions. Countries in this model group have been participating in SSC mainly by requesting cooperation and still lack domestic capacities and institutions for articulating and assessing needs, developing specific programmes and projects, and managing the development cooperation contributed. Other impediments include limited information at the stage of needs matching and a need for wider participation of partner countries in programme and project development, which imposes constraints on the use of demand-driven approaches in SSC.

Regional models of South-South and triangular cooperation

At the regional level, Arab SSC is being undertaken through three models, namely, the Islamic Development Bank’s (IDB) Reverse Linkage (RL), Knowledge Platforms and Centres of Excellence.

Since its establishment, IDB has gained extensive experience in the implementation of technical cooperation and technical assistance projects and programmes, with the overall aim to develop capacity in its Member Countries, spanning the Arab countries and beyond. After a careful assessment of its technical cooperation interventions, the IDB scaled-up successful stories and best practices through the introduction of the RL mechanism in 2010. The RL model has been placed within the broader spectrum of SSC mechanisms that IDB adopts.

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**IDB Reverse Linkage** is a technical cooperation mechanism enabled by the IDB whereby Member Countries exchange their knowledge, expertise and resources to develop their capacities and devise solutions for their autonomous development. RL is primarily used as a modality for capacity development based on a country-country cooperation. It has no limitations on sectors, and its guiding principles are in line with those of the universally adopted SSC guiding principles, namely: respect for national sovereignty; national ownership and independence; equality; non-conditionality; non-interference in domestic affairs; and mutual benefit.

IDB facilitates these exchanges by: providing concessional loans, grants and other forms of financing; matching development needs and specific knowledge gaps; mediating the interests of partner countries; developing relationships and networks with, among and between producers and users of knowledge; and reusing the accumulated institutional learning in new initiatives facilitated by the Bank. The RL modality of the IDB is a tool used across its 57 member countries spanning multiple regions, including Arab countries.

**Reverse Linkage project between Burkina Faso and Morocco on water quality treatment**

Water resources are scarce in Burkina Faso, and water availability varies greatly between regions and seasons. The issue is further aggravated by water eutrophication (algae proliferation) in the dams and the limited know-how of the National Office for Water and Sanitation (ONEA) to control water quality in its plants. Burkina Faso expressed the need to the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) for capacity development for ONEA. Morocco was able to address water eutrophication in its dams through the use of a biological and cost-effective solution of silver cap. As an outcome of the Member Country Partnership Strategy –Morocco, an agreement was reached to capitalize on the development experience of Morocco to give support to another IDB Member Country, especially a sub-Saharan African country, and to collaborate accordingly with the Moroccan Agency for International Cooperation as a national coordinator in Morocco. The Moroccan National Office for Electricity and Potable Water (ONEE) was identified as the contributor of expertise under the reverse linkage pillar of the Member Country Partnership Strategy – Morocco.

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**Knowledge platforms and centres of excellence** make extensive use of information technology for knowledge-sharing and partnerships with the private sector. The South-South Youth Exchange mechanism, for instance, is based on a process of identifying thematic priorities for empowering Saudi youth and relevant exchange countries for given topics, identifying female and male youth from regions of the country, developing a rigorous agenda for exchange visits, and undertaking evaluation and follow-up to capture lessons learned and ways to integrate these lessons into local youth empowerment activities in Saudi Arabia. A Project Board oversees the exchange while various government and private-sector partners provide guidance, quality assurance and funding. It also serves as a basis for further SSC potential on specific topics of bilateral inter-
est among countries. This model is innovative because it applies information technology for knowledge-sharing and partnerships with the private sector.

6. Actors supporting South-South cooperation

International actors. Important international multilateral organizations that support SSC include the United Nations agencies, offices, funds and programmes, the World Bank, the IDB and other global and regional players. The United Nations system promotes and enhances SSTC through the complementarity of programmes and funding using the “Delivering as One” approach. There is evidence that key United Nations agencies are promptly working on SSC in their strategies and activities, such as United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), UNDP, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), FAO, IFAD and United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

UNOSSC is at the forefront of United Nations efforts to advance South-South cooperation and acts as a global and United Nations system-wide South-South advocate, coordinator and facilitator based on its mandate and functions as given by the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation of the General Assembly. Serving the region, UNOSSC is guided by its Regional strategic approach in providing advisory services and supporting the Governments in establishing national-level coordination bodies on South-South and triangular cooperation.

The Arab Regional Centre for Entrepreneurship & Investment Training (ARCEIT) was established under the banner of SSC through the joint efforts of UNIDO, the Bahraini Government, the Inter Regional Center the Bahraini Government and the Inter Regional Center for Entrepreneurship & Investment Training (IRC)-Government of India. It aims to strengthen the indigenous capacities of selected countries including in the Arab region to promote domestic investments and facilitate foreign direct investments.

UNIDO has been partnering with private business to implement development projects in poverty reduction through productive activities, trade capacity-building and environment and energy in the region. For example, UNIDO partnered with Hewlett Packard to address entrepreneurship and IT training needs in 14 training centres in Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and UAE through the Learning Initiative (LIFE), thereby fostering employment and the creation of enterprises. Under the project “Southern Mediterranean – Development of Clusters in Cultural and Creative Industries”, UNIDO is strengthening the formal private sector in Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia, as well as promoting regional cooperation in the southern Mediterranean.

With over 20 years of SSC experience, FAO has worked with Algeria, Egypt, Jordan and Morocco to provide solutions to support the mutual sharing and exchange of knowledge, good practices, policies and technology between and among countries in the global South. FAO examples of SSC facilitation include 85 Moroccan experts fielded in Burkina Faso, Niger and Djibouti, and both financial support and technical assistance from Morocco through a US$1 million general agreement signed with FAO for the benefit of African countries.

Since 2014, IFAD has been supporting the development of South-South “corridors” of technical exchange on water preservation technologies, cultivation of water-efficient crops and cattle-breeding in a number of countries in the Arab region, Eastern Europe and Central Asia under the framework of the South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Agricultural Development and Enhanced Food Security (SSTC-ADFS)
in cooperation with IDB and UNOSSC. Transfers from Arab States to Central Asia and Eastern Europe focus on sustainable water resource management; transfers from Hungary to the Arab States and Central Asia focus on biotechnology; and transfers from Turkey to the Arab States and Central Asia focus on management of agricultural cooperatives.

In 2015, UNICEF participated in the first International Conference of the Saudi Society of Adolescent Health in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and shared the lessons learned and good practices on how to reduce child obesity and increase students’ awareness of how to lead a healthy lifestyle using an active participatory approach. As a follow-up, UNICEF organized a study visit to Jordan for UAE officials from the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, and the General Women’s Union with a focus on Jordanian experiences with the child protection system, including with regard to violence, juvenile justice and coordination mechanisms.

Regional actors. Arab SSC has been historically expressed mainly through regional groupings, subregional organizations and political coalitions. The region has well-established cooperation mechanisms equipped with regional political and economic platforms that contribute even beyond the region, such as the LAS and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

In 1945, LAS was formed to coordinate closer collaboration between the Arab countries and to represent the affairs and interests of the Arab world as a whole. Ever since, LAS has made significant efforts towards political, economic, scientific, educational and cultural collaboration among its member states.

Cooperative arrangements at the regional level extend beyond the framework of LAS. In 1981, six energy-rich Middle Eastern countries — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, and Oman — established the GCC, a political and economic alliance, with the aim to coordinate, integrate and interconnect its mem-
Mapping South-South Cooperation Solutions in the Arab States

I. Overview

Ber states in all fields, strengthen ties between their peoples, and formulate similar regulations in various fields such as economy, finance, trade, customs, tourism, legislation, administration. It also fosters scientific and technical progress in industry, mining, agriculture, water and animal resources, establishes scientific research centres, sets up joint ventures, and encourages cooperation of the private sector.

The region has also witnessed increased regional efforts towards monetary and financial cooperation. Examples of trends in regional South-South monetary cooperation in the Arab world are the 22-member Arab Monetary Fund and the Inter-Arab Rating Company. The Arab Monetary Fund, established by the LAS in 1976, seeks to stabilize exchange rates, facilitate mutual convertibility among Arab currencies, coordinate national monetary policies, and promote investment flows and trade. In 1995, the Inter-Arab Rating Company was set up to promote local rating agencies in various Arab countries, with the eventual aim of moving to a single currency.

Global and regional changes in development led to the emergence of new regional actors in different sectors. In 1999, UAE founded the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, which recognizes and promotes major pioneering contributions to the environment and sustainable development. In 2016, the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment on behalf of the Government of the UAE hosted the Global South-South Development Expo (GSSD Expo) 2016 in Dubai under the overarching theme “South-South Cooperation: Towards an innovative Synergy for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. It was the first GSSD Exposition hosted by a country; the previous ones were hosted by United Nations entities.

Global and regional changes in development cooperation occurred dramatically in the wake of the global financial and economic crisis in 2007. These changes were also accompanied by an enormous decline in international funding for development; official development assistance (ODA) in most developed countries did not reach the committed ratio agreed in Monterrey 2002. Therefore, there is a growing need for alternative funding mechanisms from non-traditional partners.

One of the main changes in the international development cooperation landscape in recent years has been the substantial attention given to providers of development cooperation that are not members of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC). They are mostly MICs that are both recipients and providers of development cooperation. Their development cooperation is often rooted in the tradition of SSC. Arab countries, which have a long tradition of providing development cooperation, also belong to this group, together with several MICs and HICs in Central and South-East Europe.

During the past five decades, Arab assistance

through bilateral agencies and specialized funds has played an important role in global development finance. Three major Arab countries contributed to development for a total amount of $192 billion in the 1966-2016 period – Saudi Arabia (60.6 per cent), the UAE (29.6 per cent) and Kuwait (9.8 per cent).

Figure 4. Arab states, 1966-2016, by volume (US$ billion)

In 2015, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Kuwait were ranked among 30 largest providers of gross concessional financing for development.

In 2016, Saudi Arabia in collaboration with UNDP published a report, Partnership in Development and South-South Cooperation Official Development Assistance of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It highlighted the efforts by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the landmark Buenos Aires Plan of Action of 1978, which committed countries to the promotion of technical cooperation among developing countries. The report also highlighted the increase of Saudi Arabia’s assistance in the recent years. In 2014, Saudi Arabia was ranked first with its contribution of US$14.5 billion in financial development assistance (1.9 per cent GNI) and 4th in gross ODA among the top donors, after the United States of America, United Kingdom and Germany. Subsequently, Saudi Arabia was ranked 7th in
humanitarian assistance and 10th in ODA during 2005-2014.16

Saudi Arabia, through the Saudi Fund for Development, contributed to the efforts of Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Somalia, Sudan and Tunisia by financing projects and programmes in transportation and communications, agriculture, social infrastructure and various other sectors.

To support the Arab countries in achieving sustainable development in transportation, agriculture, telecommunication, energy, education and healthcare, and the water and sewage industry, the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development offers long-term loans with concessional interest rates and manages grant aid on behalf of the Abu Dhabi Government. In 2016, the contribution and participation of the Fund in the Arab region was estimated at nearly US$10.500 million.

As of December 2016, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development executed 345 loan agreements for a total amount of $10.985 million and administered 43 Kuwait Government grants for a total amount of $6.154 million for the development of 16 Arab States, mostly in transportation, energy, including power interconnection between Egypt and Saudi Arabia, and agriculture.

Qatar also provides a substantial contribution to support development assistance and focuses principally on the Arab world. According to the latest foreign aid report published by Qatar,17 in 2013, the main recipients of Qatari development cooperation were Syria, Morocco, the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Egypt and Yemen. The main sectors were humanitarian aid, construction, and multi-sectoral and budget support. According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Qatar channelled $72.7 million through multilateral organizations in 2015, mainly through the United Nations (90 per cent) and the IDB (10 per cent).

The philanthropic sector is also adding value to SSC, with organizations such as the Arab Foundations Forum (AFF) uniting philanthropic entities from across the region with a view to sharing lessons learned, exchanging ideas on best practices and providing opportunities for direct collaboration. The shared challenges facing Arab countries require social solutions that are scalable and replicable. Many regional foundations are addressing these needs through fora such as the Arab Foundations Forum (AFF), which allow them to share expertise and avoid “reinventing the wheel”.18

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7. Recommendations

This chapter summarizes the main findings of the overview and proposes recommendations to the SSC actors to effectively engage in systematically advancing this cooperation for supporting the governments and institutions in pursuing sustainable development priorities.

Challenges and opportunities for advancing South-South cooperation

1. The Arab region, despite being rich with untapped resources and despite all institutional supportive tools such as LAS and GCC, is encountering major challenges in terms of development. The region is subject to tensions and conflicts, and has become highly fragile, which requires greater coordination and cooperation among the countries, in particular the rich ones.

2. From a national development perspective, most of the MICs and LDCs in the region are facing fiscal and external deficits. These deficits are largely financed by transfers from the HICs, with only a small amount coming from the region’s long-standing partners in the North. Also, the war in Syria, the violence in Iraq and Libya, and more recently in Yemen, and the threat posed by Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Da’esh) expanding to neighbouring countries and regions are compromising the medium-term development in the entire region.

3. The economic and political complexities in the region also hinder the consolidation of the concept of SSC domestically and the degree of assimilation by decision-makers (UNDP/UNOSSC 2016). While some countries have structured funds and other mechanisms to provide their cooperation, the overall policy and institutional environment in the region is still nascent.

4. The critical barrier to the promotion and development of SSC in the region is the problem of national-level coordination and how it can be converted to strengthen and harmonize national visions in influencing the regional platforms as well the decision-makers.

5. The region needs comprehensive policies that go beyond countries to serve the region.

6. There is a lack of or inadequate access to financial resources; a short-term focus and disconnection between SSC initiatives and the local reality; a non-inclusive approach; and insufficient political support. These challenges are particularly critical in countries suffering from prolonged conflict and political instability, such as Somalia, Syria, Iraq, Libya and Yemen. While Arab HICs mainly face policy challenges related to aligning SSC with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, MICs’ and LDCs’ challenges relate primarily to institutional and operational issues such as funding and coordination. Fragile States, such as Iraq, Libya, State of Palestine, Somalia and Syria also struggle with limited capacity to articulate development needs into sound SSC initiatives, thus affecting their own capacity to demand expertise from other countries. The Arab States have identified innovative ways to respond to these policy, institutional and operational challenges.

7. Revamped relations among different actors during the policy process can allow for the exchange and creation of knowledge, and further enrich decision-making. While all countries have development experiences to share and to learn from, the Arab States still need to further strengthen SSC as a concept and provide the enabling environment for SSC.
**Recommendations for strengthening policy, institutional and operational structures in advancing SSC**

**At the policy level**

1. Expand ongoing efforts to develop a broadly accepted definition for SSC at the national and regional levels, including how SSC principles concretely apply in the Arab region, the financial and delivery modalities used, and the frameworks for measuring SSC financial and knowledge flows.

2. Mainstream SSC in national governments and regional institutions and groupings such as the LAS, GCC and RECs, based on the experience of countries and international organizations that have already taken steps in this direction.

3. Design national policies and institutional frameworks to guide SSC efforts and ensure integration and complementarity of SSC activities in all governmental entities.

4. Provide regular reports of SSC financial and knowledge flows as well as the results achieved for enhanced visibility, transparency and accountability.

5. Secure regular funding for SSC cooperation mainly in countries affected by oil price volatility.

**At the institutional level**

6. Map commitments by countries, the mechanisms through which funding is disbursed, how organizations can access these mechanisms, and potential barriers to assess, disburse and execute the funding.

7. Strengthen institutional development and capacity building for SSC at the national level, and ensure the cohesion of the vision and the mainstreaming of the SSC agenda at the regional level. It will be imperative to establish national focal points to monitor the strengthening of institutional capacity.

8. Take stock of all the financial resources available for SSC from various regional and national sources.

9. Improve availability of and access to financial resources for SSC, including through public-private partnerships and specialized funds (mainly in crisis and post-conflict-affected countries).

Source: High-level Ministerial Meeting of the SSTC-ADFS partnership initiative.
Dubai, U.A.E., 30 October 2016, UNOSSC
10. Secure SSC trust funds to ensure the sustainability of SSC initiatives and address concerns over constrained financing and monitoring.

11. Enhance coordination among fund providers and create institutional and regulatory frameworks.

12. Address the capacity needs of RECs and national institutions for conducting SSC, including resource mobilization, coordination of activities, knowledge sharing, and the monitoring and evaluation of projects, programme and plans.

13. To satisfy growing demands among Southern partners for knowledge sharing and learning, identify and accumulate a stock of information on the scale and impact of SSC, which is currently very limited.


8. Conclusion

Due to the rapid recent emergence of the countries of the South, the new challenges of the development states and the current transformation within the region, the modality and the concept of SSTrC will play a catalytic and effective role in balancing development among the countries of the region. The current mechanisms and the growing interest among the Arab countries and the regional groupings in SSC represent a great opportunity for SSC to grow and expand in the region.

To comply with the concept and principles set in the Nairobi outcome documents for SCC, a new approach is needed at the regional level. In addition, rich countries, represented by the GCC, have to address all of these challenges through new approaches, particular to developing countries and countries of post-conflict countries.

Arab innovators, with their new ways of thinking, change the lives of the people in own home countries by creating solutions tailored to the realities of local environments. These solutions have the potential to benefit people in countries facing similar challenges to sustainable development through adaptation to a local context and replication.
II. Solutions on the UNOSSC Solutions Mapping Portal
II. Solutions on the UNOSSC Solutions Mapping Portal

The South-South Cooperation Solutions and Mechanisms Mapping Portal was developed in response to the demand of Arab countries in the First Arab States Regional South-South Development Expo 2014, with support of the IDB and UNOSSC. Starting with the Arab States in 2014, the portal was expanded further to Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in 2015, thus facilitating intra- and interregional cooperation and the cross-fertilization of ideas for sustainable development. The mapping portal provides access to the growing number of Southern mechanisms and solutions where the SSC element is in place, as well as home-grown solutions that have a great potential to be transferred to other Southern countries. This tool ensures a “one-stop-shop” access to practical, easy-to-use expertise on the broad range of development solutions in the Arab States, Europe and CIS regions to be used by government agencies on SSC, as well as United Nations agencies, funds and programmes active in the regions. Since its establishment, the portal accumulated 186 mechanisms and solutions – 107 from the Arab States and 79 from Europe and CIS. From January 2016 to July 2017, the portal received over 6,500 visits, including 5,300 first-time visitors.

This chapter presents development solutions from Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Morocco, State of Palestine, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia, and Yemen, which were documented within the two last years and covers solutions with an element of SSC, as well as home-grown solutions with a potential for replication. The chapter incorporates varying types of solutions presented by Algeria, Morocco, and Sudan at the knowledge exchange workshops organized within the SSTC-ADFS partnership initiative framework jointly supported by IFAD, IDB and UNOSSC. The chapter also features contributions of SSDA Egypt in documenting Egypt’s development solutions by sharing seven successful examples.

Development actors, including the public and private sector, civil society and academia, as well as international agencies can share their successful practices by filling in the solution profile template. Once solutions documented in this template are placed on the portal, they will be available to potential partners interested in replicating or supporting exchanges between countries and institutions. The UNOSSC, within its core services, strives to facilitate matchmaking to transfer solutions, providing its support in finding partners, appropriate frameworks and opportunities for launching new projects, as well as incorporating proposed initiatives into ongoing projects. An example of such an opportunity is the MEVA Horticulture Mobile Application solution from Uzbekistan, which was presented and documented within the SSTC-ADFS project. It is currently in the process of adaptation and transfer to other countries participating in the project.
Joint ventures for agriculture development

Country: Algeria
Thematic areas: Agriculture, Public-Private Partnership

Solution: Since enacting Ordinance No. 09-01 of 22 July 2009 on the Supplementary Finance Act for 2009, Algeria has been implementing the Public-Private Partnership programme to stimulate investments in agriculture by transforming farms into joint ventures.

Goals and objectives: The solution aims to:
- rehabilitate and increase production capacity, including of basic seeds and plant and brood stock for strategic sectors;
- improve managerial conditions;
- introduce innovative techniques.

Implementation: Under the guidance of the Ministry of Agriculture, 174 pilot farms in 155,368 ha were selected and reorganized into joint ventures based on the following guiding principles for the partnership:
- production of quality genetic material and inputs needed for agricultural development;
- development of agricultural investment with partners in accordance with national economic legislation;
- prioritization of activities to preserve the national genetic heritage;
- prioritization of the needs of the national market.

Partnership was adopted through:
1. a call for competition, carried out in two phases:
   - a call for expressions of interest to obtain a short-list of candidates with technical references and proven financial capacities;
   - an invitation to tender, sanctioned by an evaluation of offers and business-plans (amount of the investment, its nature, the duration of the investment, the method of financing, the destination of the production and the foreseeable benefits).

2. an initiative of the Minister of Agriculture and after informing the Prime Minister (President of the State Participation Council), in cases where a partnership project fulfills the following requirements:
   - has national importance;
   - has a proven technological benefit;
   - contributes to a significant satisfaction of domestic demand for inputs or agricultural products dependent on imports;
   - that the earlier call for expressions of interest is declared unsuccessful.

Seventeen pilot farms were the subject of a partnership agreement in dairy cattle breeding, aviculture, arboriculture, market gardening. The amount of investments committed is estimated at DZD 8 266 999 000 (equivalent of US$72,768,270 in 2017).

Achievements: The pilot farms have shown the following rates of investment return:
- <200%: 2 farms
- From 50 to 100%: 3 farms
- From 20 to 49%: 3 farms
- From 1 to 19%: 5 farms
- 0%: 4 farms.

Based on the successful implementation of joint ventures in the pilot farms, the National Agriculture Policy confirms that public-private partnership is a new driver of agricultural growth and encourages cooperation and partnership as a privileged tool for the transfer of know-how and technical assistance.

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South-South Knowledge Exchange and Coordination Workshop on Livestock Development, Algiers, Algeria, 21-23 March 2016. Source: UNOSSC
SIRMA – A network to support local irrigation systems

Country: Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Near East and North Africa
Thematic area: Agriculture

Solution: Irrigated Systems in North Africa (SIRMA) is a partnership-based skills network, which is part of a collective of 23 Platforms in Partnership for Research and Training for the development of irrigation systems contributes to the global debate on irrigation.

Goals and objectives: The solution supports local irrigation systems in three countries of the North Africa, namely Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia, and contributes to the global debate on irrigation by developing and strengthening a multidisciplinary network with 60 researchers, teachers and PhD students from North Africa and France.

Implementation: The solution contributes to the development of irrigation systems through:
- reinforcement of irrigation associations and agricultural cooperatives by building expertise in collective irrigation management through professional training;
- training of scientists and engineers on problems and solutions in irrigation management in various countries and situations;
- production of sound and critical research and studies on the major issues faced by irrigated agriculture in the Mediterranean region;
- formulation of policy recommendations on the management of water resources.

SIRMA serves as an expertise hub and a bridge between the major agricultural engineering universities in North Africa and local irrigation associations, irrigation managers and policy makers. The essential feature of the solution is direct involvement of local farmer organizations in developing new solutions in water and irrigation management in partnership with researchers and water and irrigation managers.

Achievements: The solution has proved that the capacity building of farmer organizations has a direct impact on the management of irrigation systems (allocation, distribution, application), and, in general, a multiplier effect in other domains related to agricultural production and local development.

Budget: The estimated budget for the solution is US$1.4 million required for the networking and development of: (i) professional training for irrigation associations; (ii) common training modules at the BSc and MSc levels; and (iii) action research.

Partners: International Centre for Agricultural Research for Development (CIRAD), Institute for Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine Hassan II (IAV), National School for Agriculture Meknes (ENAM), National High School for Agronomy Algiers (ENSA), University Centre of Khmis Miliana (CUKM), National Institute for Rural Engineering, Water and Forests, Tunis (INRREF), National Institute for Agronomy of Tunis (INAT), Institute for Research for Development, Marseille (IRD), National Research Institute of Science and Technology for Environment and Agriculture (IRSTEA), Mediterranean Agro-Nomic Institute of Montpellier (CIHEAM), Paris Institute for Technology for Life, Food and Environmental Sciences (AgroParisTech), National Institute of Further Education in Agricultural Science, Montpellier (SupAgro).

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Irrigated systems in the Maghreb. Source: SIRMA
The National Model for the Integration of Women’s Needs in Development

Country: Bahrain
Thematic area: Women’s empowerment

Solution: The National Model for the Integration of Women’s Needs in Development is a national guide for developers of policy and general strategies, legislators and programme implementers. It lays out the general framework for these stakeholders to ensure a sustainable integration of Bahraini women in the development process. The model is comprised of four main themes – policies, budgets, knowledge management and measurement of effect.

Goals and objectives: The solution aims to achieve a balance that bridge the gaps and guarantees equity of national opportunities for men and women. It also specifies the roles and responsibilities of various sectors in line with the national strategy to achieve sustainable outcomes to meet women’s needs and provide them with equal opportunities.

Implementation: The Supreme Council for Women (SCW) was established in 2001 as the authorized official body responsible for all women’s affairs and has developed the National Strategy for the Advancement of the Bahraini Women, which aims to close the gender gap. Actions have been taken to transform the Strategic Plan to Implement the National Strategy for the Advancement of the Bahraini Women (2013-2022).

UNDP supported the establishment of Equal Opportunity Units (EOUs) in various ministries, government institutions and private sector entities, and joint action with the Ministry of Finance to prepare budgets that are responsive to the needs of women. Currently, there are more than 20 EOUs with staff dedicated to ensure gender equality in their respective organizations. Capacity-building activities were conducted for staff working in government EOUs; full training modules were developed, and staff received training over a period of six months. Staff of the EOUs were introduced to various concepts, from basic definitions of gender mainstreaming and its terminology, to the concepts and application of gender-sensitive and gender-responsive budgeting (GRB).

The concept of GRB was also introduced to Parliamentarians under the model. A GRB workshop was organized where concepts and approaches were presented to the Members of Parliament. Emphasis was placed on the equitable distribution of resources among all groups in society, highlighting the empowerment of women for achieving sound economic governance through the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women and Millennium Development Goal targets.

Outcomes: EOUs have proven their viability, which resulted in a Civil Service Bureau resolution of 19 September 2013, directing ministries to form permanent equal opportunity committees. This is considered a significant step towards achieving equal opportunity in these institutions, in the promotion of the culture of integration, as well as in increasing awareness on the principles of equal opportunity.

Partners: Supreme Council for Women (SCW), Parliament of Bahrain, Bahrain Institute for Political Development (BIPD), Ministry of Social Development.

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Secretary General visits Capital Crafts Center in Bahrain. Source: UNDP in Bahrain
Cairo Bus Routes

Country: Egypt
Thematic area: IT/ICT

Solution: Cairo Bus Routes, a new website map on public transportation in Cairo.

Goals and objectives: The solution was created and launched in the beginning of 2015 by Tristan Thomas, residing in Cairo, with the aim to provide free information to the public on public transport in Cairo, Egypt.

The solution is a free companion to quickly and cheaply moving around the capital city where the traffic is chaotic. With updated information and new routes added every week, it is a guide to the Cairene streets.

Implementation: Cairo Bus Routes features English and Arabic bus numbers, published routes of all listed buses, detailed prices, etiquette, hand signals and services on buses. Through this free service, it is possible to see all available bus routes – both public buses and minibuses, stops and numbers; there are even images of what they look like. Furthermore, anyone can contribute to it and one is free to use and copy it (CC BY-SA). It is available on iTunes and Android.

Achievement: The eventual aim of the solution is to have every public and private bus in Cairo documented and mapped, and to become the preeminent source of Cairo bus information.

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Source: Cairo Bus Routes
Educate Me Learning Model

Country: Egypt
Thematic areas: Education, Poverty Reduction

Solution: Educate Me Learning Model is a learner-centered, skills-based educational model that develops children’s knowledge skills and values. The model incorporates global 21st-century skills, values drawn from local communities, and standards from the Egyptian national educational system and develops curricula for children ages 4-12.

Goals and objectives: In Egypt, public education is not always affordable for poor families and does not fulfill its role in children’s development. The solution aspires to redefine education in Egypt by developing and delivering a self-directed learning programme for children that empowers them to pursue their dreams.

Implementation: In 2010, a small group of young Egyptians started a fundraising initiative to bring financially underprivileged children from an underprivileged neighbourhood in Giza governorate back to school. Shortly after, the initiative became Educate Me, a non-profit foundation. The model is implemented directly in preschools and primary community schools that Educate Me launched in underprivileged areas in Egypt where this model is tested and perfected, and from which best practices are generated for replication on a larger scale. Educate Me also builds the capacities of public school teachers through its professional development journeys carried out in public schools across the country, thus disseminating the model and best practices on a wider scale.

School children are empowered with skills and values they need to survive and grow in the 21st century, and are also put on the path towards self-actualization. Thus, children:

• become aware of their identities, beliefs and desires, as well as of their potentials and limitations;
• make choices that are aligned with this awareness, maximizing their potential and that of others;
• take action to fight for what they want and reflect on what they have accomplished on their path towards fulfilling their potential and that of others.

The model was first implemented in Talbeya and later expanded to other schools in Cairo and Giza.

Achievements: In 2015, Educate Me took the first steps towards extending its unique educational model nationwide by establishing a community school and has developed its teacher training programme in schools and educational facilities around Egypt. The model received a number of awards, including the Ashoka Innovation Network Challenge Award, December 2010, and the King Abdullah II Award for Youth Innovation and Achievement, May 2013.

Replication: The Learning Model can be replicated and contextualized in other developing countries in need to build the all-inclusive educational system by incorporating 21st-century skills. These skills are applicable to any educational system. Every child needs these skills in order to cope in today’s global world, with values drawn from local communities and the nation's own literacy standards.

Budget: The model is cost-effective, relying primarily on resources from local communities. The programme only needs a safe and child-friendly physical space for classrooms. Facilitators are hired and trained from communities where the programme operates and learning materials can be recycled. The major cost items are a space and human resources.

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HarassMap

Country: Egypt
Thematic areas: Women Empowerment, Gender Equality, Gender-Based Violence

Solution: HarassMap is an award-winning, volunteer-based initiative to build a society that guarantees the safety of all people from sexual and gender-based violence.

Goals and objectives: The solution works to create an environment where sexual harassment is not tolerated by convincing bystanders and institutions to stand up to sexual harassment before or when they see it occur. By taking a collective stand against sexual harassment, the aim is to create social and legal consequences that discourage harassing behaviour and seriously reduce it.

Implementation: HarassMap was launched in December 2010, concurrently with the release of ‘678’, a landmark feature film about sexual harassment. The starting point was to use the online reporting and mapping technology to support an offline community mobilization effort to break stereotypes, stop making excuses for perpetrators, and to convince people to speak out and act against harassment.

The HarassMap is based on Frontline SMS and Ushahidi – free software that can be linked together to make an anonymous reporting and mapping system for harassment. It uses online reports and maps them to show people the scale of the problem and to dispel myths about, and excuses for, sexual harassment, such as how women dress or sexual frustration.

Using evidence from online reports and communications campaigns to respond to the excuses people make for harassers, volunteers from all over Egypt go into their own neighbourhoods to motivate a critical mass of bystanders to stand up to harassers, changing the social norm in the street. The solution also recruits “Safe Areas Partners” and supports them in enforcing a zero-tolerance policy against sexual harassment in their spaces, such as shops, cafes, vehicles or universities, as part of our Safe Schools and Universities, Safe Areas and Safe Corporates programmes.

Achievements: Sexual harassment has evolved from being a taboo topic to one that is being widely discussed and tackled by a new crop of independent initiatives. More women are also speaking up about their experiences and reporting incidents to the police. HarassMap has partnered with Cairo University – the largest university in Egypt – to adopt and implement an anti-sexual harassment policy at the university. The HarrasMap was awarded with the World Summit Youth Award (2011), the Deutsche Welle Best of the Blogs (BOBs) award for “Best Use of Technology for Social Good (2012)”, the Cairo University Recognition Award and many others.

Replication: The HarassMap team has cooperated with activists in 25 countries to adapt the initiative and offer technical help. This cooperation has led to the creation of similar initiatives in seven other countries, including in Palestine and Bangladesh.

Partners:
Cairo University, Megakheir (TA Telecom), Goethe Institute in Cairo, Ushahidi, International Development Research Centre (Canada), GIZ (Germany), local anti-sexual harassment initiatives, Nijel (United States).

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Clickfunding model: Turning Egyptian Web Users into Philanthropists

**Country:** Egypt  
**Thematic areas:** Crowd Funding

**Solution:** Clickfunding model is an innovative method of providing social media users with the simplest method of contributing to real change and development. Simply through the click of a mouse or tap of a screen, users can contribute to raising funds; the more interactions made, the more funds are allocated to an initiative.

**Goals and objectives:** The Clickfunding Model was established in January 2014, in the aftermath of the January 25 Revolution, when the founders of Bassita, an Egyptian web-based start-up that focuses on social and environmental causes, recognized the lack of interaction between Internet users and development causes, and decided to narrow this gap by creating a short-cut for traditional funding processes. Their aim was to provide a funding mechanism. The Bassita team developed the first Clickfunding model in the world, which aims to transform everyday web-users into web philanthropists through the click of a mouse.

**Implementation:** Bassita’s website hosts short videos on specific and easy-to-fund causes, each of which is connected to a sponsor. When the video reaches the targeted amount of points (calculated based on views, likes, shares, tweets and comments), the sponsor funds the cause. The Bassita Clickfunding model is unique from other funding models, because the Internet user is not asked to fund a cause, but to watch and interact with a video on the Internet. In order to accomplish its mission, Bassita works in collaboration with four main categories of stakeholders:

- a foundation or other social initiative that approaches Bassita to help to promote a particular campaign or cause;
- the sponsor who funds the cause when the video reaches the targeted amount of visibility;
- Bassita’s team of community partners, who support the dissemination of the video on their platforms, internal newsletters, as well as their social media outlets;
- the Internet user: by sharing, commenting and liking, he or she allows the cause to receive funding while creating visibility for the sponsor.

**Achievements:** Bassita has carried out its first project in collaboration with Baraka Fashion to deliver eyeglasses to artisans in Khalta, a village in the governorate of Fayoum. The campaign was successful; the video released by Bassita about the cause received 10,000 views, and Baraka Fashion provided 1,000 eyeglasses to artisans in rural communities. Among many other success stories is Water Life, a video showing the comedian Maged al-Kedawny, together with the Arabic hashtag “A click connects to water”, which was viewed on Facebook more than two million times in three days after the campaign’s launch in February, resulting in 1,000 water connections in Upper Egypt.

Bassita won the Young Innovators Award under the umbrella of Nahdet El Mahrous. In January 2015, Thinkers and Doers, an international forum at the Arab World Institute in Paris, recognized Bassita as one of the most impactful projects in the Middle East. It also won the 2015 Orange Prize for African social ventures and the INJAZ Al-Arab Young Entrepreneurs competition in 2016.

**Replication:** Bassita has teamed up with Neotec Advertising, a Tunisian startup operating since 2015 in the ICT sector, and proposing digital solutions in the fields of publicity and event planning, to bring Clickfunding to Tunisia.

**Partners:** European Union, Mobinil

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II. Solutions

Mapping South-South Cooperation Solutions in the Arab States

Source: UNDP in Egypt
Safe disposal of agricultural waste in Egypt

Country: Egypt
Thematic area: Agriculture

Solution: Safe disposal of agricultural waste in Egypt is a project employing and training male and female youth to work as environmental ambassadors in the field.

Goals and objectives: The solution seeks to minimize the use of chemical fertilizers in agriculture that have been excessively used in planting all kinds of crops over the years.

Implementation: The project started in 2014, with the support of local community development associations in six villages in Minya Governorate and the engagement of village youth in creating compost units and providing training to farmers on the safe disposal of all kinds of agricultural waste and the best use of compost in agriculture.

The programme includes awareness raising on the potential harm of fertilizers on health, the environment and the sustainability of agriculture, and on the importance of composting for sustainable and environment-friendly agricultural production. The programme empowers young men and women by involving them in training and knowledge and skills implementation. One thousand farmers in Abokokras and Malawy Districts of Minya Governorate were trained on the sustainability of the units by youth trainers in the villages and, consequently, 1,000 compost units were built with available local materials, including disposable waste from water channels.

Achievements:
- decreased input production costs for farmers by replacing the use of conventional chemical fertilizers with disposed manure: a 30 percent decrease in the first season; 50 percent in the second season; and 60 percent in the third season;
- better knowledge of housewives in the safe collection, conveyance, storage and disposal of manure;
- better household hygiene;
- farms and irrigation channels cleaned from waste;
- water easily delivered to farms and reduced amount of water loss;
- public expenditure for cleaning and maintenance of irrigation channels reduced;
- better life environment: risk of diseases caused by agricultural waste in streets decreased.

Budget: US$86 per person to train.


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BECAUSE: The Umbrella for social causes in Egypt

Country: Egypt
Thematic areas: IT/ICT, Social Development

Solution: BECAUSE is an online platform that connects the for-profit and non-profit sectors in the Middle East.

Goals and objectives: To bridge the gap between the tens of thousands of different development initiatives in Egypt that are working in social development, Bright Creations, a digital creative agency launched BECAUSE in December 2013.

Implementation: BECAUSE is a platform and online magazine that provides information on the work of social innovators, corporate social responsibility programmes, civil society organizations (CSOs) and charities, with the aim of facilitating collaborations by writing profiles on interesting projects carried out by each organization. BECAUSE reveals what the organizations can offer as well as their needs. BECAUSE sheds light on all the different work carried out by all entities working in the development field in Egypt, with the aim of bringing them altogether under one platform so that they may learn about one another, connect, interact, join forces and collaborate.

The platform targets entities working in the field of development. Articles provide stakeholders with in-depth information on the work of these entities as well as ways of contacting them. It also indicates how to volunteer. The platform includes an easy-to-navigate menu that is linked to other platforms in the development field. Furthermore, the inclusive atmosphere provided by the website ensures that no party feels left out. BECAUSE covers environmental work in and outside the country, which extends to readers in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, as well as other countries in the Middle East and North Africa region.

Achievements:
- over 200 articles written on more than 15 different causes;
- provides information on the work of over 60 companies, 70 non-profit organizations (NPOs) and 50 social businesses;
- a peak of 2,000 unique visitors in a day;
- a great deal of interest from different parties including Ashoka Arab World, Ice-ribh and other NGOs and private sector companies;
- a growing BECAUSE network of NGOs, social business and companies;
- readers drawn from Saudia Arabia, UAE and other countries in addition to Egypt.

Partners: BECAUSE platform operates under the umbrella of BridgEgypt, a CSR and communications consultancy.

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Information Technology Institute (ITI) – EDUEgypt Solution

Country: Egypt
Thematic areas: Education, IT/ICT, Employment

Solution: Education Development for Universities in Egypt (EDUEgypt) is a national training initiative that provides undergraduate training using soft skills, language abilities and technical competence. It enhances the skills of Egyptian university graduates and prepares them for local and global marketplaces.

Goals and objectives: The solution aims at bridging the gap between the university students’ skills and the required competencies by the information, communication and technology (ICT) job market. It targets senior students in Egyptian universities for an optional training programme that is not part of students’ academic studies, promising them numerous job opportunities in the outsourcing industry on the successful completion of the EDUEgypt Programme.

Implementation: The solution was implemented in 16 Egyptian universities covering 57 faculties as a result of a cooperation protocol between the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) and the Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE), signed in December in 2007. The EDUEgypt Programme is carried out once a year in the 16 Egyptian universities.

Achievements: After seven years of implementation, the following outcomes were achieved:
- the lives of 43,500 trainees were impacted through training opportunities across Egypt, which provided them with qualifications for job opportunities that would increase their income; 11,000 lucrative job opportunities (through six employment fairs) per year for graduates;
- an average employment rate of EDUEgypt graduates of 65 per cent;
- trainees’ attendance exceeding 82 per cent during the academic year;
- cooperation with 16 Egyptian universities in 55 faculties for the implementation of a training initiative;
- through EDUEgypt’s orientation sessions, more than 100,000 university students, academics and students’ parents now aware of the outsourcing industry and its impact on the national economy;
- more than 100,000 Egyptian students assessed as a part of EDUEgypt admission exam;
- qualification of 500 Egyptian certified trainers (who delivered 10,875,000 training hours inside the Egyptian universities) and equipped with the latest training techniques and methodologies.

Partners: The MCIT, the Information Technology Industry Development Agency (ITIDA), ITI, the training industry, the MoHE, Egyptian universities, the ICT industry.

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Source: Pixabay
Kenana Online

Country: Egypt
Thematic areas: Education, IT/ICT

Solution: Kenana Online is a repository of locally pertinent information that helps citizens in rural and underprivileged areas to improve their standards of living.

Goals and objectives: In order to support rural-urban integration into a knowledge society, to empower communities through the provision of easy access to the information they need, and increase their future and career opportunities, the Egyptian Ministry of Communication & Information Technology (MCIT) launched Kenana Online jointly with UNDP in 2007.

The objective is to increase the useful Arabic E-content available on the Internet, support citizens in rural and urban areas to use information technology to improve skills, career, income, health, agriculture and knowledge, and help communities move towards the knowledge society.

Implementation: Kenana Online work scope depends mainly on two major strategies:
- Networking and partnership by building a network of community partners from NGOs, academia, universities and the private sector as well as experts and entrepreneurs in every targeted field. In parallel, each partner participates in establishing a promising information society and implicitly encourages activities related to networking, business opportunities and e-marketing;
- Community mobilization by developing a set of public activities that are mainly directed towards raising awareness using Kenana Online features and services. The aims of these activities is to mobilize the Arabic-speaking people to actively participate in enlarging Kenana Online knowledge networks, and enhancing the specialized free e-content.

Kenana Online provides user-friendly online applications that allow users to build their online knowledge base to provide their communities with knowledge and advice in their respective fields of expertise. These services include: business directory system, websites and blogs creations services, Internet marketing tools (newsletters, classified ads), customer relations management.

Achievements: The solution contributed to the establishment of the knowledge society in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region by leading and moderating the generation and management of credible and specialized knowledge portals and developing the social mindset for using ICT to acquire knowledge on sustainable community development. The following outcomes were achieved:
- 1,390,000 pages published on the Internet;
- 1,000 page added daily/ 30,000 per month;
- 37,000 daily visits;
- 46,000 unique daily visitors.

Partners: The Italian Cooperation, the Ministry of Agriculture, General Authority for Fish Resources Development, the Ministry of Social Solidarity, Egypt Arts Academy, the Egyptian Association for Persons with Special Need, Dreamers of Tomorrow Association.

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Masr Works (Masr Ta3mal)

Country: Egypt
Thematic areas: Education, IT/ICT, Youth Development, Employment

Solution: Masr Ta3mal (“Egypt Works”) is an initiative that focuses on developing the skills of Egyptian youth to increase their chances of employment.

Goals and objectives: The main aim of Masr Ta3mal initiative is to provide a full employability eco-system, to empower the youth of Egypt and to help them achieve their goals in employment. The Masr Ta3mal initiative targets the largest youth segment, which is 15-29 years of age.

Implementation: The Egyptian Ministry of Youth and Sports institutionalized youth career centres offer:
- career coaching online and offline sessions to define personal skills and professional interests of youth, and to create career development plans;
- online diplomas and courses in IT, languages, business and soft skills;
- the Job Matching tool to connect youth with employers;
- entrepreneurial online and offline training to introduce entrepreneurial thinking to Egyptian youth and to build the capacity of Egyptian young entrepreneurs;
- civic engagement activities to raise the awareness about extracurricular activities for students and the importance of volunteering for fresh graduates and young professionals through the Masr Ta3mal mentorship programme and the Masr Ta3mal Youth Programme;
- IT centres to provide IT training for youth to help them increase their efficiency and productivity;
- business and career centres to provide career development and to align youth education with demand in the labour market;
- entrepreneurship centres to instill problem-solving skills, entrepreneurship and management capacity and the value of self-employment.

Achievements:
- 67 physical Masr Ta3mal centres established in 26 governorates, 80 IT centres in 27 governorates, and 13 newly initiated business centres;
- access to programme benefits provided for 1,121,135 participants and upskilled 30,976 youth;
- over 16,000 job opportunities created and 2,000 entrepreneurs impacted;
- new human resources deployed at youth community centres: 323 career guides operating at 54 centres, 850 digital literacy trainers, 230 Build Your Business trainers and 70 job scouts;
- 993 entrepreneurial beneficiaries;
- peer-to-peer learning provided for 2,000 youth in the Masr Ta3mal youth groups across nine universities;
- 350 students trained on social entrepreneurship to raise the awareness among 15,000 students about social entrepreneurship.

Partners: Ministry of Youth and Sports, UNDP, Silatech.

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Yomken

Country: Egypt
Thematic areas: Innovations, Crowd Funding

Solution: Yomken is an open innovation and crowd-funding platform for the Arab world to address industrial, environmental and societal challenges.

Goals and objectives: Yomken tries to bridge the gap between the challenges faced by micro and small-scale entrepreneurs working mainly in low-tech and informal manufacturing industries (designing new products and upgrading current products and production process), and the innovative ideas and skills of potential problem solvers (graduation projects, innovative solutions from recently graduated engineers, designers and researchers seeking jobs).

Implementation: In 2012, Istebdaa’ Inc., a non-profit company, launched Yomken, which provides two main services:

• a platform for participatory innovation, where a specific challenge, which can range from product design to the building of small-scale machines for manufacturing, is posted online, and solutions are sought from the extended web community.
• a marketplace for innovative projects, patents and market research to link with financial tools such as crowdfunding to get support and/or investment. Also potential solutions are posted by problem solvers, capitalizing on the “wisdom of the crowd”. A group of volunteer experts review the proposed solutions to choose the best one for implementation.

Yomken offers other services in:
1. innovation management: consulting on technology and innovation management; follow-up and evaluation of projects; and an economic analysis at the micro, intermediate and macro level; workshops and data analysis using social network analysis tools, econometrics and other advanced tools; and
2. open innovation services: design, management of innovation competitions in product design ideas and matching.

Achievements: 78 projects and inventions have been funded to solve specific challenges in society, such as the Egyptian cotton machine and the foldable bike. Five different training modules were established by Yomken for students, innovators and potential entrepreneurs.


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Youth Employment Generation

Country: Egypt  
Thematic areas: IT/ICT, Employment

Solution: The Youth Employment Generation Programme in Egypt established a mechanism to bridge the gap between private sector companies and youth, and increase opportunities for youth to access internships and enter the job market with the needed skills.

Goals and objectives: The solution addresses the mismatch between the skills demanded by the private sector and youth skills in order to provide youth with the necessary vocational, IT and soft skills to increase their employment prospects.

Implementation: The solution was implemented from 1 April 2012 to 30 June 2013 by Egypt ICT Trust Fund (ICT-TF), in cooperation with the Japanese Government. It consisted of two main components:

- the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) component, which aims to increase the effectiveness and improve the profitability of 1,500 MSMEs owners and entrepreneurs through the integration of ICT in their business operation, through two main techniques: (i) direct MSMEs: the programme conducts awareness sessions, provides training of trainers (TOTs) and builds the capacities of MSMEs; and (ii) indirect MSMEs: the programme builds the capacities of MSMEs through SMEs self-learning toolkits. This component is based on holding a competition on the best social entrepreneurship ideas to successfully implement their projects and includes networking and mentorship services, providing TOTs to ICT-TF trainers;
- the vocational training and the internship component, which helps young men and women by setting up a mechanism to connect them with private sector companies to increase their chances to access internship opportunities and join the job market. The programme starts with a labour market survey in each governorate to determine the targeted jobs and train both partners; a study of “Marketing Demand Analysis” was conducted at the national level.

Outcomes: The solution benefitted 2,172 MSMEs, 137 social entrepreneurs and 487 fresh graduates across Egypt: 60 per cent of MSMEs trainees, who were trained face-to-face, applied the acquired ICT skills, and 38 per cent of MSMEs trained virtually through Kayanak developed their own web-page to market their projects. In addition, 80 percent of trained entrepreneurs applied the acquired ICT and social entrepreneurship skills or used the networking and mentorship services, and 90 per cent of vocational trainees obtained employment opportunities that require ICT skills.

Partners: Egypt ICT-Trust Fund (Egyptian Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, and UNDP Egypt), Japan Government, Egyptian Ministry of Youth, Egyptian Ministry of Investment (Bedaya), Social Fund for Development (SFD), Education for Employment (EFE) and local NGOs.

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The National System of Identification and Animal Traceability (SNIT)

Country: Morocco  
Thematic areas: Agriculture, livestock development

Solution: The Système national d’identification et traçabilité animals (SNIT, National System of Identification and Animal traceability) is a tool for the management of animal diseases and food safety traceability.

Goals and objectives: Animal diseases represent a major constraint to production, trade and livelihoods in developing countries. Animal movement and the livestock trade, within and between various countries in the Arab region, are the major means of transmitting and spreading transboundary animal diseases. The solution aims to follow livestock from one point in the supply chain to another, either backwards or forwards.

Implementation: In 2003-2004, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fishing of Morocco initiated the project to introduce SNIT. The project was supervised by the National Office for the Safety Food Products (ONSSA) and was subject of a tripartite convention (Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, ONSSA, the Moroccan Interprofessional Federation of Milk (FIMALAIT), where the modalities of implementation of this programme and the respective commitments of the parties were defined. The SNIT software was proposed by Digidelta Software.

The development of the SNIT underwent three stages according to the contract terms established by ONSSA:

- supplying the identification equipment and material, as well as the IT solution in a standard version;
- developing specific functionalities, installing, configuring and implementing all the resources solicited and integration tests;
- providing training for the local agents and operational assistance.

The solution allows to trace the history of each animal, including movements and events throughout its life through electronic chips (radio frequencies). Each animal now carries a pair of ear tags with a unique 16-digit dialing. This information can be retrieved at any time, in the form of reports or dashboards to enable decision-makers to take appropriate action. This software allows the registry of animals identified with visual and electronic ear tags – not only all the data referring to the animal, but also of its breeder/owner, the farm, its sanitary conditions and other relevant information. The software is prepared to work in the avian sector, where the breeder can choose how to manage his animals including sanitary information.

All the information stored in the database is available to a user according to his/her level of permission, maintaining data transparency and security. SNIT:mobile was developed to function on devices with the operating system Windows CE and synchronizes with the central database in three different ways: directly with the application SNIT; by using SNIT:Transfer, which is a desktop application; and via 3G, directly from the mobile devices.

Achievements: By integrating this identification formula, Morocco is now aligned with international standards and effectively improves health programme management and production performance control. Morocco is the first and only country in the north of Africa to have a system capable of ensuring traceability.

Budget: The system costs MAD120 million (equivalent of $12,7 million in 2017).

Partners: Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, ONSSA, FIMALAIT, Digidelta Software

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Kufr Abboush Agricultural Development Cooperative

Country: State of Palestine
Thematic areas: Agriculture, rural development

Solution: Kufr Abboush Cooperative is a model of collective farming for better quality products and access to markets.

Goals and objectives: A lack of a consistent quality of olive oil and lack of marketing were main concerns prior to the solution. The solution aimed to reduce vulnerability of local communities through enhancing food security and building local capacities, including capacities of rural women.

Implementation: The solution was conceived in 2010 after village farmers expressed a need to improve the marketability of their olive oil. Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA developed the solution and partnered with the MA’AN Development Centre, a local Palestinian agency working in two rural areas, the Tulkarem area in the northern West Bank, and Khan Younis area in the southern Gaza Strip, to implement it with the support of the Australian Government. Kufr Abboush is one of the targeted seven villages that have been identified as areas of extreme poverty and food insecurity, and that have suffered from the conflict-related damage to infrastructure and associated social impacts, and loss of land and livelihoods. Kufr Abboush was among the most productive of the olive oil-producing villages in the northern part of the West Bank, but farmers needed higher-quality produce to attract better prices for their harvests.

The cooperative members enhanced their capacity through:
- training on better harvesting and storage techniques for olive oil;
- training on new organic methods to fight olive flies and leaf disease infection, which affect the quality and quantity of the olive oil;
- composting and environmental workshops.

To be more efficient and effective, the cooperative organizes olive harvesting in groups of 60-65 farmers (members of the cooperative as well as other farmers from neighbouring villages). The cooperative supports local rural livelihoods not only through training, but also by identifying the current and future needs and problems of farmers. For example, the farmers are keen to buy olive presses and packaging machines to process the olive oil locally and to market and export it.

Achievements: A cooperative started its activities with ten farmers and now has 22 farmers, including six active women members. In a short time, the cooperative has made tremendous advances; the outcomes enabled the farmers to produce more than ten tonnes of the extra-virgin and organic olive oil in 2014.

Budget: US$10,000 per cooperative.

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Photovoltaic (PV) micro grids power in a remote village in Palestine

Country: Palestine

Solution: Photovoltaic (PV) rural electrification is a solar electrification and pumping system based on three micro-grids with solar generation.

Goals and objectives: The solution provided electricity to cover the electricity needs of production, domestic power demand, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) school that also served as a local clinic, and the illumination of the streets of Birin in the district of Hebron, Palestine in order to improve the agriculture and livestock systems of the Bedouin community and the quality of life of the inhabitants.

Implementation: In 2015, Trama TecnoAmbiental (TTA), an international consulting and engineering firm, with financial support of the Spanish Cooperation Agency and co-funding from the partners involved, introduced solar electrification and pumping to Birin.

With a mixture of clustered and scattered buildings in the village, the solution is based on a combination of a solar PV micro-grids and individual PV micro power plants under the same operation scheme. The micro-grids are composed of the PV generator (without diesel generator backup), which supplies an alternating current combined with a micro power plant with a battery storage and a battery inverter. The energy supply depends on the resource availability, the solution’s capacity and the technical conditions of the area, thus ensuring that the limited solar resource is shared without conflicts.

For energy management, the solution uses the TTA's award-winning electricity dispensers meter (Winner of the Off-Grid Experts Awards 2015), with a project-tailored tariff system to ensure a rational electricity supply and that equipment operates within safe technical thresholds. The tariff concept is the Energy Daily Allowance (TTA’s patented EDA tariff) aimed to keep electricity consumption within a certain range, thus strengthening its control and avoiding overconsumption. The flat rate tariffs, fixed for consumption level (between 825 Wh/day and 1,650 Wh/day for households), are pre-contracted and decided with community.

Achievements: Thirty-six families benefitted from household electrification, and the whole community benefitted from the electrification of community buildings, i.e. the school and the centre for community productive activities. To reach all dwellers, a combination of technical solutions was implemented through solar micro-grids to supply the 26 interconnected families and communal services, in addition to the ten individual installations for the houses located further from the nucleus. All users remain under the same operation scheme, which eases the operation and maintenance of the system, and is not exclusive to the village nucleus.

Partners: The Spanish Agency for International Development (AECID), Servicios Energéticos Básicos Autónomos, Spain (SEBA), the Energy Research Centre of the An-Najah University, Palestine (ERC) and the Union of Agricultural Work Committees, Palestine (UAWC).

Budget: EUR100,000

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Combination of agro methods for rural farming in Somalia

Country: Somalia  
Thematic areas: Agriculture, Rural Development

Solution: Combining agro-methods for rural farming is a technique that includes traditional farming methods and advanced methods from both indigenous agriculture and agriculture introduced by European settlers.  
goal and objectives: Somalis had traditionally engaged in rainfed, dryland farming with irrigation from Jubba and Shabelle Rivers, and collected rainwater. Applying new modern techniques and technologies in local conditions incurs a high cost, which impedes agricultural development. The solution aims to increase the production and food security of poor farming households.

Implementation: In 2014, the Hamdi Organization for Relief and Development, with support from the Diaspora Programme and the Danish Refugee Council and from own funds, implemented a solution to support 60 rainfed farms in both lower and middle Shabelles, in particular Bananey village and Cadayley village from Jawhar and Afgoye districts, respectively. The communities and local authorities were mobilized and informed about the project objectives, activities, selection criteria and entitlement.

Needs assessments of the target area were carried out by the Hamdi’s team together with community representatives and the local administrations to identify the most vulnerable farming households. Thirty farming households were selected from each village based on the pre-designed criteria, validated and vetted by the community elders. The 60 farms were registered and provided with agriculture inputs, including seeds, land preparation facilities, farming tools, storage facilities and fertilizers, and were trained in farming techniques.

Achievements: The overall result of the post-monitoring distribution survey indicates that the project improved the food security of the target community, with the following outcomes:

- 94 per cent respondents were satisfied with the distributed farming tools, inputs and training in farming techniques provided by the Hamdi Organization for Relief and Development.
- 94 per cent of the training was relevant and added value to their farming knowledge such as on plant spacing, farming methodology, harvesting and fertilizer usage methods.
- The yield received was satisfactory: 16 kg of maize seeds produced 400 kg of maize; 4 kg of bean seeds produced 200 kg of beans and 4 kg of cowpea seeds produced 150 kg cowpeas.
- 94 per cent of the respondents confirmed that the farming input distributed improved their food security and enabled to go beyond their consumption cereals.
- The post-distribution monitoring indicated that 92 per cent of the respondents increased their income and were able to save income from their production.

Partners: Danish Refugee Council, local administrations of Bananey village and Cadayley village

Budget: US$50,000.00. Targeting 100 households through the above agriculture support costs only $500 per farming household, since every family was allocated 1 ha through traditional rainfed farmland.

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Reintegration of former Al Shabab Fighters

Country: Somalia
Thematic areas: Governance and Peacebuilding, Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism

Solution: The Drop the Gun, Pick Up the Pen initiative is a pioneering model of reintegration for former Al-Shabaab combatants launched by the Elman Peace and Human Rights Centre (EPHRC).

Goal and objectives: The solution aims to rehabilitate and reintegrate thousands of young women and men who were being co-opted into clan militias by the warlords and Al-Shabaab, and reinsert them back into their societies with non-violent behaviour and alternative livelihoods.

Implementation: Potential defectors are discouraged from disengagement even if they no longer adhere to Al-Shabaab’s ideology, objectives or methods, because they do not believe communities will accept them or they that will receive fair treatment from the security services. By changing the attitudes of communities and security services towards disengaged combatants, re-humanizing them, showing that in the long term the risk of not reintegrating is greater than the risk of reintegrating, and creating tangible opportunities for them to positively contribute to society, potential defectors will be more confident about life after Al-Shabaab.

Ultimately, a successful reintegration programme is the strongest counter-narrative, and a disengaged combatant who has undergone the full process of the disengagement to reintegration into society will be the most credible voice.

The organization drew from its lengthy experience in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration to design a three-tiered community-based model to disengage, rehabilitate and reintegrate Al-Shabaab combatants, which has been tried and tested in numerous regions of Somalia.

Achievements: To date, no graduates from the project have rejoined Al-Shabab, according to the centre’s managers. The project is now scaling up.

Replication: Given the uniqueness of the innovative community-based approach, UNDP plans to work with Elman to replicate this model in other contexts in Africa.

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Mapping South-South Cooperation Solutions in the Arab States

Source: UNDP in Somalia
Child Friendly Community Initiative in Sudan

Country: Sudan
Thematic area: Rural development

Solution: The Child Friendly Community Initiative (CFCI) is an integrated, cross-sectoral and community-based approach inclusive of local culture and customs to provide basic services in health and education.

Goals and objectives: The solution is used to achieve sustainable improvements in local communities, especially in the lives of rural children and women in nine states, and targets 2,328 of the most vulnerable communities in the most affected war areas.

Implementation: The solution was launched in 1993, then called the Child Friendly Village Initiative (CFVI); the model evolved and became the Child Friendly Community Initiative in 2002. The solution provides basic services in health and education, with health centres and classrooms constructed and furnished in a number of communities, and nutrition provided to children. In the area of community empowerment, all communities were trained and awareness was raised. By developing and strengthening human and institutional capacity, this approach enabled and empowered 70 localities and 1,600 communities to prevent and manage conflict, and to plan, implement, manage, monitor and sustain basic social and economic services.

Achievements:
- 100 per cent of the populations in 150 communities, an average of 525,000 people (estimated 3,500/community), have access to agricultural and livelihood support;
- 50 per cent of the community, an average of 262,500 people, benefitted from natural resources conservation interventions and water harvesting interventions for agriculture and livestock;
- 75 per cent of the communities, an average of 420,000 people, benefitted from farming (agriculture and livestock) inputs and extension services;
- 150 schools, with an average of 36,000 students (40 students/class; six levels), benefitted from school gardening and school feeding programmes; and 300 vulnerable youth benefitted from income-generation activities;
- One million people (23 per cent of the population) have access to improved drinking water sources;
- 5 per cent of the population have access to improved sanitation facilities, and 60 per cent, to hygiene education;
- 60 per cent of the population have access to primary health care services including child and maternal health/nutrition care;
- one million children have access to quality and child-friendly basic education and the same number were retained through school feeding.

Partners: The Government of Sudan, local communities, UNICEF

Budget: The budget per community for the integrated development package (health, education, and water and community empowerment) is US$30,000. Since 2002, the Government has invested in the initiative with an amount of US$6.7 million, which is 23 per cent of all expenditures; communities have contributed US$5.6 million (19 per cent); UNICEF, US$5.8 million (20 per cent); and other partners, US$10.8 million (37 per cent).

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Knowledge Transfer through Expatriate Nationals

Country: Sudan
Thematic area: Health

Solution: The Sudanese for Knowledge Transfer through Expatriate Nationals (SPaKTEN) model is a national programme that works under the umbrella of the Secretariat of the Sudanese Working Abroad (SSWA), within its general mandate for the welfare of the nation. It recruits highly skilled expatriate Sudanese professionals to transfer their acquired experience requested by Sudanese stakeholders through: serving as short-term advisers, and providing technical expertise, policy advice and research to different Sudanese authorities, ministries, universities and other institutions.

Goals and objectives: The main purpose is to transfer knowledge and skills to the home country through experts and qualified expatriates. The model was internationally introduced by UNDP to reduce the adverse effects of the brain-drain phenomenon.

Implementation: The solution is based on the mobilization of skills of female and male Sudanese national expatriates and experts living abroad who volunteer to return home for short periods of time to share the expertise they gained abroad with research, academic, training, and public and private institutes. Since 2006 the programme has been organizing two medical convoys each year, each consisting in ten national volunteer doctors. The convoys visited towns and surrounding villages in the most needy states in the country. Each convoy treated a population of around 5,000 patients, twice a year, i.e. 10,000 people/year. The convoy provided medical consulting services and medical treatment in addition to surgical operations. All medical services, drugs and consultations are free, with the support of SPaKTEN and the Federal Ministry of Health as well as other donations. The programme also includes people with special Needs, support in term of equipment and tools relevant to people with disabilities.

Achievements: This model created significant shifts in the perceptions and traditional practices in the country. It also encouraged the mobilization of national experts working abroad to share their experiences and bring knowledge and skills inside the country. The programme mobilized annually more than 30 national doctors working abroad to visit the country and share their experiences and knowledge, and provide medical consultancy and treatment for more than 10,000 people at a low cost. The programme established two strategic partnerships in the health sector: (i) between the Association of Sudanese Doctors practising in United Kingdom and Ireland, and the Secretariat of Sudanese Working Abroad; and (ii) between the Sudanese practising in the Netherlands, the Temporary Return of Qualified Nationals (TRQN) in the Netherlands, and the Secretariat of Sudanese Working Abroad. This partnership trained 50 midwives in the far North State where such services are badly needed. In addition, training was provided to professional doctors equipped with 50 bags of medical kits.

Replication: SPaKTEN is part of the solution applied in many developing countries, including Sudan.

Budget: The cost of two medical convoys was US$60,000 ($1,500 per doctor for 15 days x 40 doctors). All doctors are national expatriates and pay for their own costs and accommodation; the project only covers travel and accommodation out the capital.

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Measuring and monitoring SDG 16 through social media analysis

Country: Tunisia
Thematic areas: Governance, anti-corruption

Solution: Measuring and monitoring Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 through social media analysis is an approach to use social media to better understand citizens’ perceptions of government.

Goals and objectives: The solution aimed at measuring and monitoring perceptions on the different topics covered by SDG 16 (corruption, human rights, public administration, crime) as a means to monitor these different targets and see to which extent this could provide a value added to other more traditional statistical analysis methods based on household surveys and administrative data.

Implementation: The project started in July 2015 within the framework of a UNDP cross-regional (Europe and CIS and Arab States) initiative aimed at piloting the use of Big Data for development, in cooperation with the Tunisian National Statistics Institute, the main national partner of the initiative.

Achievements: The solution showed a correlation between results on the perception of corruption and those of the household survey carried out by the National Statistics Institute in October 2014 on Governance, Peace and Democracy (GPD). In effect, both the social media analysis tool and the household survey showed a negative perception of corruption of around 70 per cent of the respondents during the same period (September-October 2014). This correlation suggests that social media analysis could be an interesting complement to household surveys and administrative data to ensure real-time monitoring and measurement of the SDGs. Analysis is still ongoing in order to see whether this same correlation exists with other targets covered by the 2014 GPD Survey.

The initiative has enabled the National Statistics Institute to become a member of the global task force on Big Data and SDGs. It has also motivated the institute to start planning the set-up of an internal unit on Big Data.

Budget: The support received through the Innovation for Development initiative included both seed funding and in-kind contributions, mainly through the expertise of the UNDP colleagues in the Regional Hubs of Amman and Istanbul, and Global Pulse.


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The Balqees Initiative in Yemen

Country: Yemen
Thematic area: Women’s Empowerment

Solution: The Balqees Initiative (TBI) is a leadership development and community-level awareness-raising programme targeting women and youth from Mareb. It was implemented by the Partners for Democratic Change in Yemen (formerly called Partners-Yemen) in 2010.

Goals and objectives: The overall goal of TBI is to establish a network of women leaders possessing the capacity, resources and skills necessary to raise local awareness on key development topics.

Implementation: In order to build a network, TBI trains influential women in rural Yemen in leadership, facilitation and conflict management skills, as well as critical development topics such as health, youth empowerment, education and entrepreneurship. TBI establishes a network of key development actors with the capacity, resources and skills necessary to deliver messages and ideas that reinforce positive values and enforce stability in Yemeni society.

Initially, 25 women leaders were recruited and trained in community engagement and basic health, education, and economic development best practices. These women were then responsible for training an additional 240 women from their local communities, who hosted 4,000 community outreach events throughout Mareb on relevant education, health and economic development topics reaching over 30,000 women and youth. The TBI team was able to turn the presence of male escorts (muhrams) at the training for women from a challenge into an asset by providing separate training sessions for the men, transforming potentially suspicious male relatives into advocates for women’s role in development.

Achievements: Within the first year of implementation, the following was achieved:
- women were involved as primary and secondary leaders see themselves as stakeholders and drivers of development and community-level change;
- male escorts were incorporated into the programme, resulting in their willingness to support their female relatives in the programme and tell other men about what they learned from it;
- increased knowledge of primary leaders: the 50 Social Facilitators showed an average improvement of 41 per cent between pre- and post-test scores on the subjects of leadership, facilitation, conflict management, education and youth empowerment, entrepreneurship and health;
- overall health benefits: an increase in vaccinations in the communities.

The project was extended into the Shabwa region with the aim to reach an additional 30,000 women and youth through the local women leaders.

Partners: the U.S. Embassy in Yemen, Ministry of Local Administration (MOLA) and the Governorate of Mareb

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