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ESCWA

**Consolidation workshop:  
“Building Capacities in Developing Appropriate Green Technologies  
for  
Improving the Livelihood of Rural Communities in the ESCWA Region”**

Beirut, September 22, 2016

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# Objectives of the study

- 1- Overview of the current status of rural development in the sampled Arab countries,
- 2- Overview the policy framework in the selected countries and the progress toward the universally adopted Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), that ended in 2015, and the prospective Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),
- 3- Propose a detailed participatory approach for the successful introduction of new renewable energy technologies in rural Arab regions as part of development strategies.

# Arab Region indicators

- **25 % of population is poor – 70 % of them are rural**
- **90% dry lands – 100 Million people**
- High population growth rate - 1.8% (world average 1.2%)
- Scarce land and water resources (except for Sudan) – arid and semi arid areas
- Irrigation water withdrawal reaching critical situations in many countries

# Arab region indicators

- Illiteracy rates are high, especially for women: 50% of the women are illiterate
- Education: 50% of school-age children in rural areas are in school, compared to 85% in urban areas.
- Ratio of the economically inactive to economically active population — is the highest in the world. Because of its young age structure and low level of female labor force participation

# Energy resources: current status

- Many Arab countries are rich in energy resources,
- Many Arabs still lack access to electricity, specially in the least developed countries such as Yemen, Sudan, and Mauritania.
- Disparities in access to energy and related benefits, between and within Arab countries, lead to social inequality and perceived injustice that threaten social stability and security.

# Energy resources: current status

- Arab countries started to consider adoption of renewable energy sources
- High endowment with solar and wind energy



Improving living standards, health and environmental sustainability,  
Creating jobs and overall rural development.

Challenges: technical, financial and policy levels

# The socio-economic situation in the Arab rural population

- Arab achievements in fulfilling the MDGs as presented by the UN and the League of Arab States:
  - uneven achievements towards the Goals between countries as well at the sub-country level.
  - major achievements towards primary school enrolment and improved literacy
  - region still lags behind on reaching the target for fighting hunger, food security, access to water, improved sanitation in rural areas, and child and maternal mortality.
- Country specific and regional SDG progress reports are not yet available.

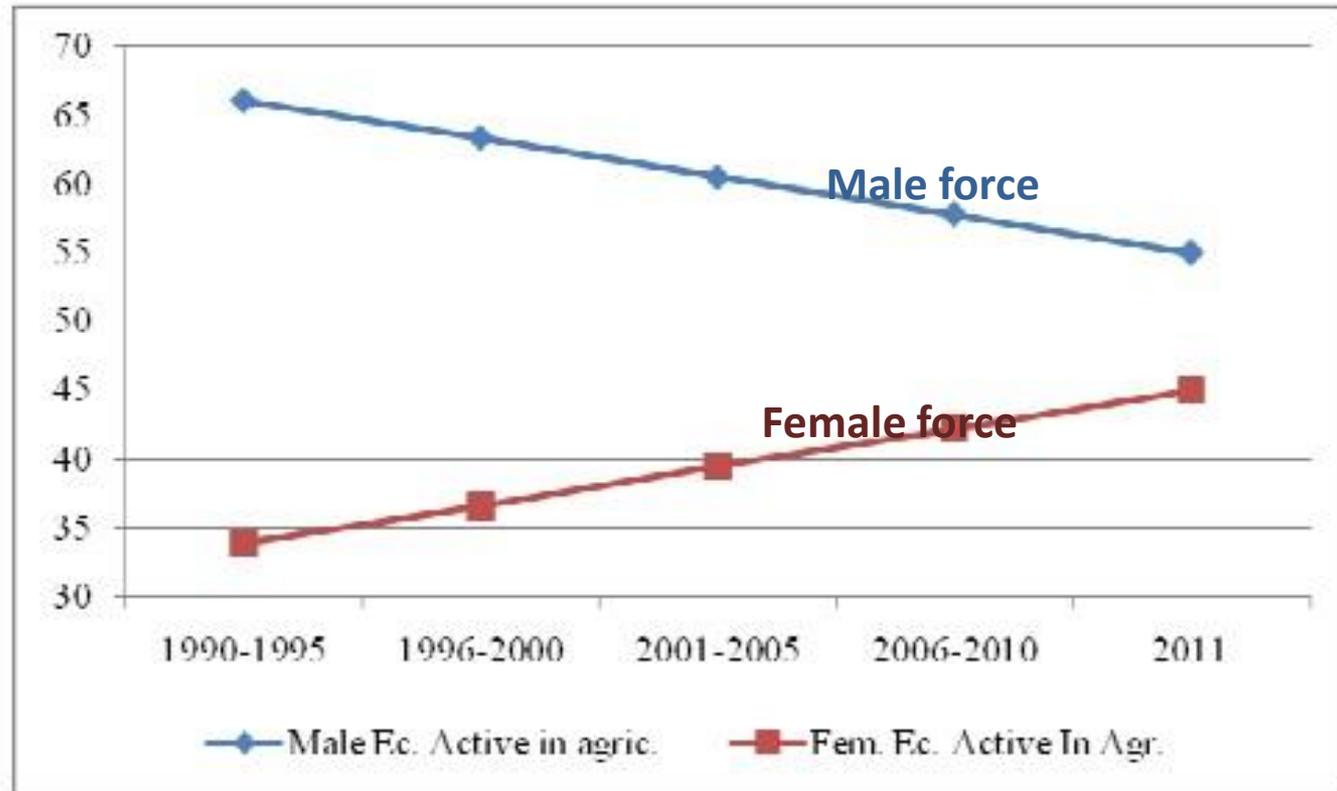
The first World SDG report was only released in July 2016. The report points to incomplete data across countries as all the adopted indicators are not yet universally tracked and recorded.
- The Rural Poverty Report points to a 14% increase in the number of hungry people in the Middle East and North Africa region following the 2008 food crisis. This was the largest regional increase in the world, which highlights the region's particular vulnerability to food insecurity.

Sources: UN and League of Arab States, 2013; IFAD, 2011.

# The socio-economic situation in the Arab rural population

- Recent reports show that the Arab countries are moving towards increased “urbanization driven by conflict, environmental degradation, severe droughts, and rural poverty”
- Large young population leaving the rural areas faces the challenge of high unemployment
- Increasingly, women are taking part in the work force as they become more educated. This raises the problem of securing jobs for all the new job seekers.

# Population active in Agriculture:



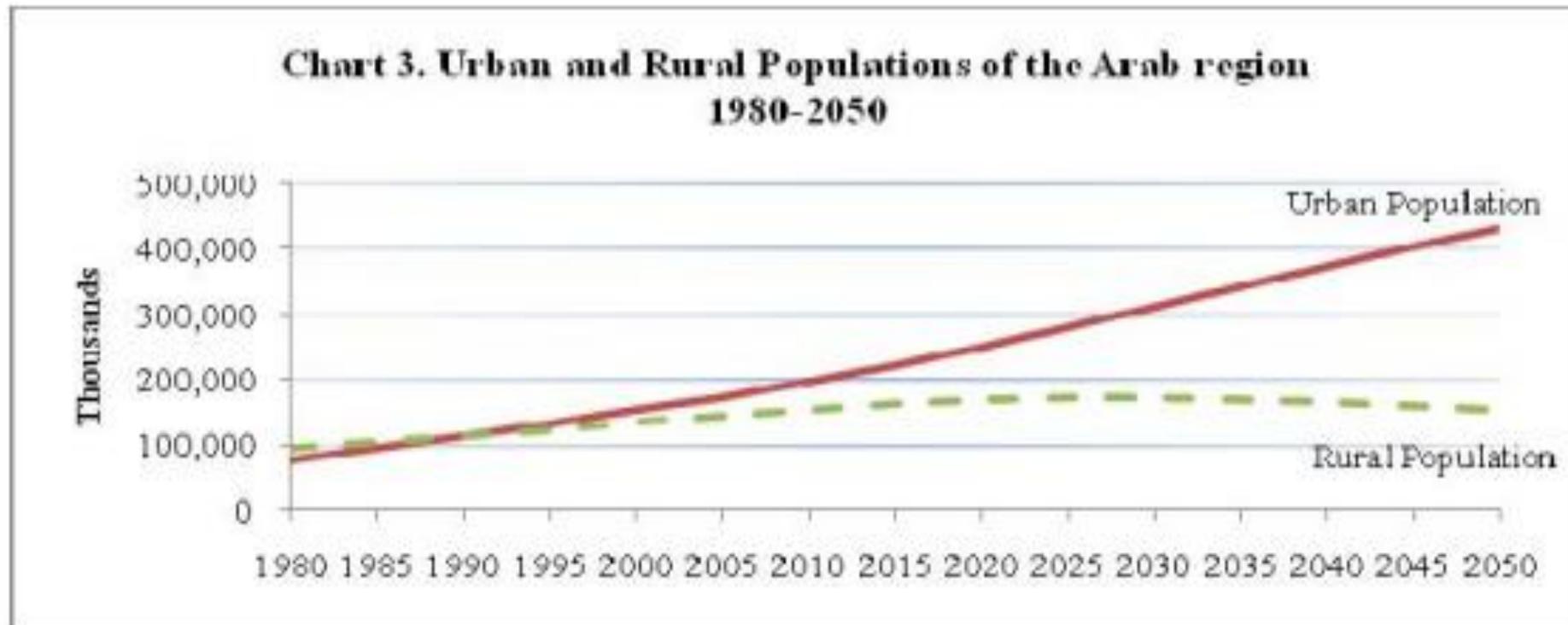
Source: Computed from FAO Statistical Database 2011.

Note: youth migration from rural areas to urban cities is increasing in the Arab world

# Future Trends

Urban population (% of total) in the Arab Region was last measured at 60% in 2014, according to the World Bank.

Average rate of growth of the urban population is 3.3 % per year, compared with 2.6 % for national populations.



Source: Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Population and Social Development Section, based on the United Nations 2008, World Urbanization Prospects: The 2007 Revision Population Database. <http://esa.un.org/unup/index.asp>.

# The socio-economic situation in the Arab rural population

- Conflict has afflicted many Arab countries with repercussions affecting the whole region due to refugee flows as well as due to the impact on trade routes thus disrupting food, health, energy and other vital supplies.



Reaching the MDG targets is challenging with some countries even regressing behind previous achievements.



Conflict lead to increased poverty as a main consequence since conflict countries witness major economic losses.



Besides conflict, certain Arab countries are considered as Least Developed Countries (Sudan Yemen, Mauritania), mainly due to lack of financial resources and weak infrastructure.

# Analysis of national strategies and policies

Overview of national strategies, policies and initiatives relevant to the socio-economic indicators for rural development

Rural development is addressed through different policies in the Arab countries:

- Most often a special consideration for rural development is integrated within the national agricultural policy.
- Certain countries targeted policies for rural development
- Others addressed poverty reduction policies.

All of these measures affect rural development as the rural communities in the Arab region rely mostly on agriculture as primary economic activity and most of the Arab poor are in the rural areas.

# The need for participatory development and transfer of knowledge

Efforts to develop and to modernize and transfer knowledge and technologies often with the support of the international community failed

- Deficit in communication between decision-makers and the promoters of development, on the one side, and the beneficiary community on the other.
- Local communities have more or less directly resisted those external interventions which have “rained down” on them from on high without their concerns, needs, vision or opinions

**Therefore:**

**Participation and communication with all stakeholders is an essential factor in the development process and strategic planning**

*Have we enough research and development recommendations?*

*Are we giving people the information they need?*

# Multi-Stakeholder Participatory Policy Formulation and Action Planning (MPAP)



MPAP is a practice that brings **together all major stakeholders in a process of joint** situation analysis and action planning

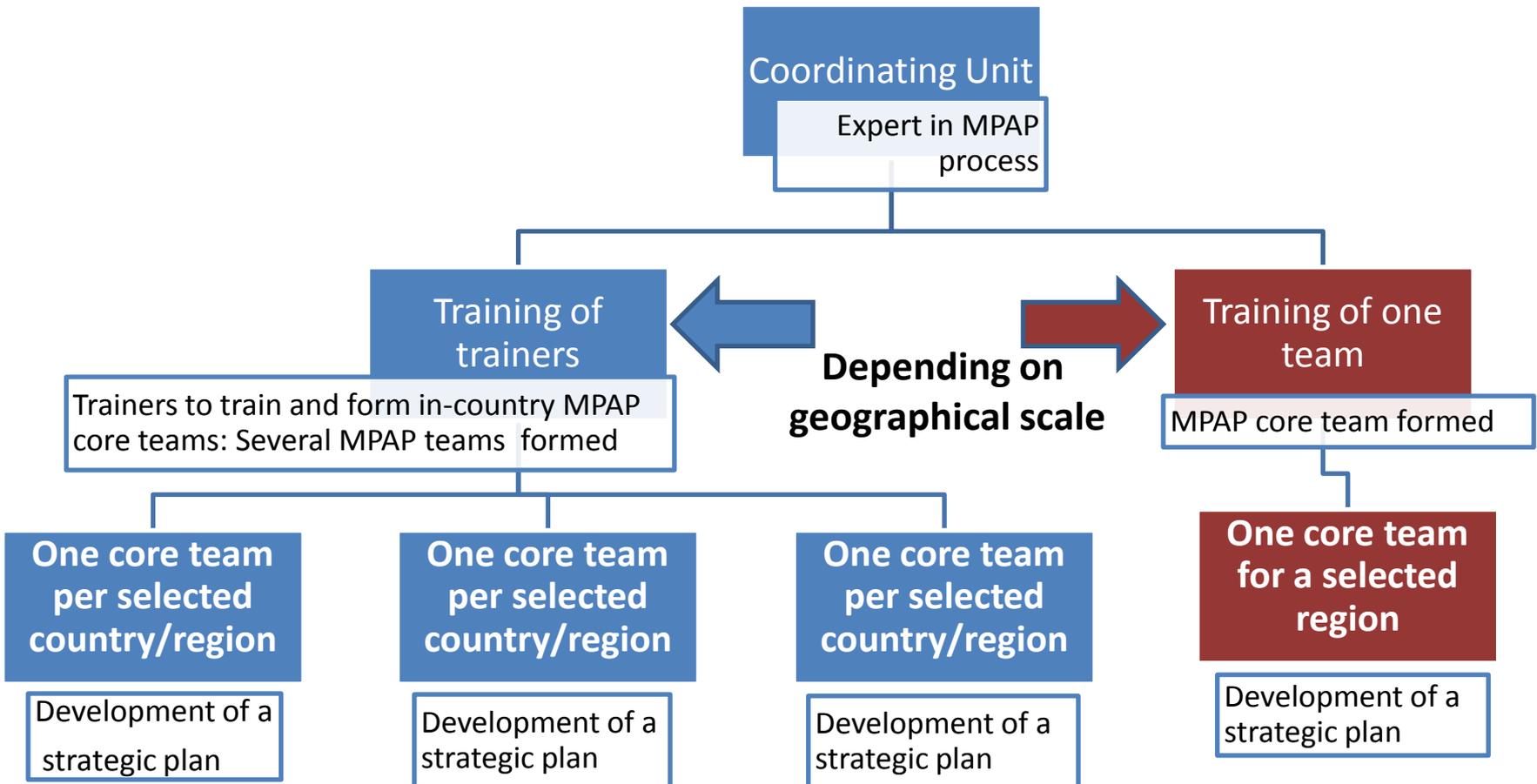
- Important element of processes of policy design, action planning and implementation.
- Collaboration among people and organisations from a diversity of backgrounds (producers, NGOs, research institutes, local and national governments etc).

# **Conducive framework for a participatory development process for investment in appropriate green technologies in rural areas in the region: national and/or community level**

## Multi-stakeholder Policy Formulation and Action Planning

- rural development involves a large diversity of systems and related actors (e.g. local community actors, public institutions, private sector) and
- touches on a large number of rural management areas :
  - e.g. land use planning,
  - environmental management,
  - infrastructure,
  - economic development,
  - public health, social and community development,
  - housing programs and
  - crisis management.

# General scheme of the MPAP process



# MPAP Road Map

## RESULTS



**Defining workplan  
& procedures**

- (1) **Local MPAP facilitating team formed and trained**
- (2) Work-plan elaborated
- (3) Communication, participation and monitoring strategies defined
- (4) Basic agreement by local government and other key actors to embark on a MPAP

**Situation Analysis  
Policy Narrative**

- (1) **Situation Analysis** (stakeholder inventory; policy review; selection of target areas and/or communities.
- (2) **Policy narrative**

**Multi-Stakeholder Forum  
Strategic Agenda**

- (3) **Multi-stakeholder Forum** on “renewable energy and rural development” set up
- (4) **Strategic Agenda** on “renewable Energy and rural development” formulated

**Operationalization**

- (5) **Operational action plans elaborated for:**
  - Designing specific projects
  - integration of renewable energy and rural development into institutional programs and budgets
  - Institutionalization

**Implementation**

- (6) **Implementation**
  - Projects implemented
  - Results, outcomes and impacts monitored and lessons learned
  - Existing strategies adapted and new ones put in place

# Operationalisation

Once the Strategic Agenda has been developed and formally adopted, this phase is the operationalization of the agenda and includes:

- participatory planning, design, and budgeting of pilot projects
- Institutionalization: plans and regulations on renewable energy and rural development and their integration in institutional programs and budgets

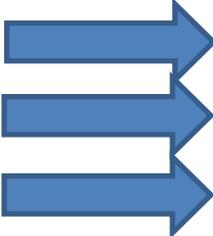
# Operationalisation

- **Project planning and design:** participatory formulation of specific projects with local communities and other local actors:
  - Studies; Documentation of “good practices” in rural development; Establishment of a “resource centre”,
  - Training and technical assistance for locals,
  - Projects enhancing access to infrastructure development (small-scale processing plants with renewable energy, etcetera),
  - Projects enhancing access to water / irrigation techniques/safe reuse of wastewater,
  - Projects enhancing access to credit: groups savings and credit schemes, institutional micro-credit systems, crowdfunding...
  - Projects regarding the development of information and communication materials, and training.

# Operationalisation

## ➤ Institutionalisation

- ensure the sustainability and consolidation of the renewable energy and rural development and program beyond the period of a given grant or political administration and to plan for future up-scaling of the renewable energy and rural development program:



working with a small group of beneficiaries,

working with a larger number of people;

in one or a more regions

Institutionalizing the actions within a formal entity (ex the municipal structure) and including it in the strategic development plan of the targeted areas.

# Gender mainstreaming along the MPAP process

*Integration of gender mainstreaming in development of the Strategic Agenda and project formulation should be taken into consideration:*

- application of gender sensitive tools in **situation analysis** will deliver more detailed information on women's circumstances, which will be vital to the further implementation of the local activities
- integration of gender mainstreaming in development of the **Strategic Agenda**: formulation and implementation of gender-affirmative actions, that will make a difference in women's lives.

# Scoping existing local rural development platforms and related institutions and stakeholders

Main platforms and websites related to rural development in general and agriculture in particular.

- **Regional platforms**
- **Country platforms**
- **Crowdfunding platforms**

# Regional platforms

**Rural Poverty Portal:**

Powered by the [International Fund for Agricultural Development \(IFAD\)](#), the [Rural Poverty Portal](#)

**International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI):**

Website: <https://www.ifpri.org>

**REN 21 Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21<sup>st</sup> century** <http://www.ren21.net>

**Vercon Model - Africa, Asia, Middle East, Latin America, and Central and Eastern Europe:**

[The Virtual Extension and Research Communication Network \(VERCON\)](#) is a conceptual model developed by FAO since 2000

**MENARID – Middle East North Africa Region:**

<https://menarid.icarda.org/Projects/MARACSMO/SitePages/Home.aspx>

**ECOMENA – Middle East North Africa Region:**

Website: <http://www.ecomena.org/water-energy-food/>

**Arab Development Portal (ADP) – Arab Region:**

Website: <http://arabdevelopmentportal.com/node/6142>

**Regional Knowledge Network on Systemic Approaches to Water Resources Management (R-KNOW) – Arab region:**Website: <http://www.rknow.net/index.php/en/>

It includes a special section on the Water Food and Energy

**Arab Forum for Environment and Development (AFED) – Arab region:**

Website: <http://www.afedonline.org/en/>

**The Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services GFRAS**

Website: <http://www.g-fras.org/en/world-wide-extension-study/africa/northern-africa/tunesia.html>

**KariaNet is a regional network for the management and sharing of knowledge in agriculture and rural development in the Middle East and North Africa region.**

- Established by IFAD and IDRC
- Currently managed regionally by ESDU
- Network covers now **10 countries** in the MENA

Languages: Arabic and English

**10 countries: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Morocco, Palestine, Sudan, Tunisia, and Yemen**

# Country level platforms

## **Kenana Online - Egypt:**

Website: <http://kenanaonline.com>

## **KarmSolar - Egypt:**

Website: <http://karmsolar.com>

## **African – Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO) - Jordan:**

Website: <http://aardo.org/aardohomepage/English/about.html>

## **National Agricultural Information System – Jordan:**

Website: <http://www.nais-jordan.gov.jo/Pages/index.aspx?lang=EN&DId=0&I=0&CId=0&CMSId=8>

## **MA'AN Development Center – Palestine:**

Website: <http://www.maan-ctr.org/page.php?id=51bay20922Y51ba#goals>

## **The Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem/Society - Palestine:**

Website: <http://www.arij.org/about-arij/background/vision-vision.html>

## **Institut National de la Protection des Végétaux - Algeria:**

Website: <http://www.inpv.edu.dz/presentation-de-linpv/>

## **Institut Technique des Grandes Cultures (ITGC) – Algeria:**

Website: <http://www.itgc.dz>

## **Groupement de développement agricole (GDA) – Tunisia:**

Website: <http://www.loiret.chambagri.fr/groupements-gda.html>

# Crowdfunding platforms

The crowdfunding platforms are models of platforms developing to support initiatives and projects worldwide.

**Zoomaal:** is a Lebanese-based platform, supporting local projects,

Zoomaal has raised venture capital from investors in important Arab markets, including Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Lebanon. Zoomaal is a client of Crowdfund Capital Advisors, a U.S.-based advisory firm.

**Aflamnah:** is a Dubai-based platform that helps independent filmmakers, artists, scientists, students, innovators, thinkers in the MENA region.

Aflamnah offers a combination of the Kickstarter/Indiegogo models, in that there is a US\$110 upload fee to post the project to their site, then they ask for a 6% commission on the money raised and don't penalize those who haven't reached their target goal with extra fees. It also lays out a structure of tiers and rewards for donating money to a project, just as any other crowdfunding site.

Aflamnah recently added script translation services to its offering. The company also plans to launch service that makes film trailers to help people pitch their videos online in certain countries.

Website: <http://www.aflamnah.com>

**Thank you**