

# لمحة عن واقع الحكومة المفتوحة في المنطقة العربية

## Status of Open Government in the Arab Region – (Overview)

اللجنة الاقتصادية والاجتماعية لغربي آسيا



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# Presentation Schema

- Governance Features in the Arab region
- Relationship between OG and EG
- Participation of Arab countries in OGP
- OG and key ICT indicators for openness
- OG evaluation Criteria and indicators
- ESCWA Survey and Questionnaire divisions
- Selected results from ESCWA Survey
- Conclusions

# عباءة السرية والحكومة المفتوحة

## Cloak of secrecy and OG



ثق بي فلا  
تحتاج لأن  
تعرف

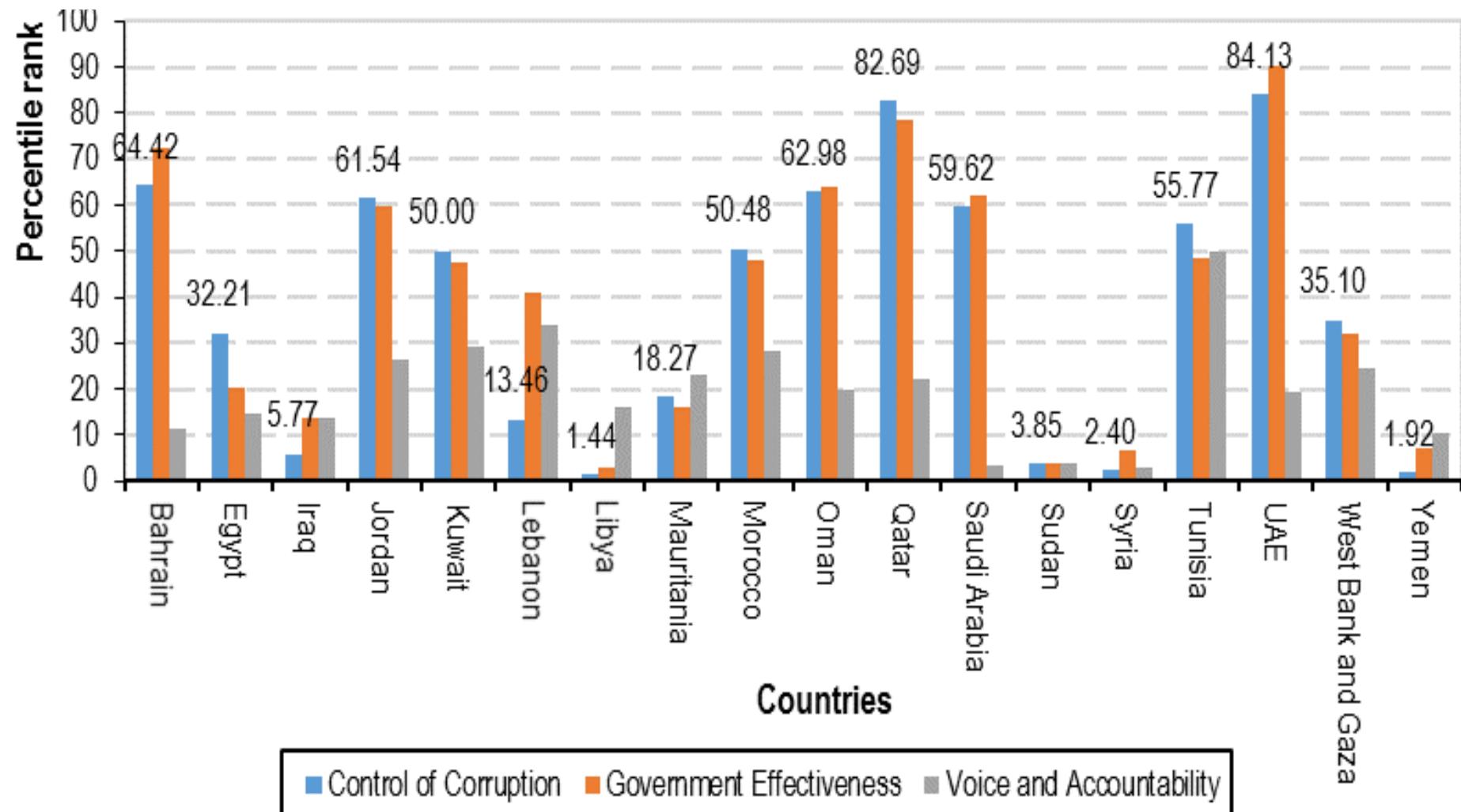
Government officials use cloak of secrecy to conceal what they are doing

- The open government seeks to achieve good governance,
- Openness is its most important features
- Removing the cloak of secrecy is a main issue in Open Government.

# Overview of Governance Features in the Arab region

- The success of many Arab countries in implementing e-government encouraged them to launch Open Government initiatives
- These initiatives initially focused on open data.
- By 2015, GCC, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia had developed and implemented open data initiatives
- The implementation level, functions, included services and available data vary, from static government data on web pages available in e-government to specialized web portals

- Government effectiveness,
- Corruption control
- Voice and accountability



- “Government Effectiveness” and “Corruption Control”; percentile ranking indicators are relatively high
- As for “Voice and Accountability”; Percentile ranking indicator (one of the key open government indicators) is still weak, probably because government executives dominate public discourse and policy-making

# Interdependence between e-government and the open government



The objectives of Open Government are greatly different from those of e-government:

- The basic objective of the open government is achieving good governance
- E-government Goals: increasing the effectiveness of government procedures, reducing their costs, re-engineering their procedures, submitting them electronically timely and accurately, integrating government and private sectors projects.

# Interdependence between e-government and the open government



However, there is significant intersection between e-government and open government in terms in means and data:

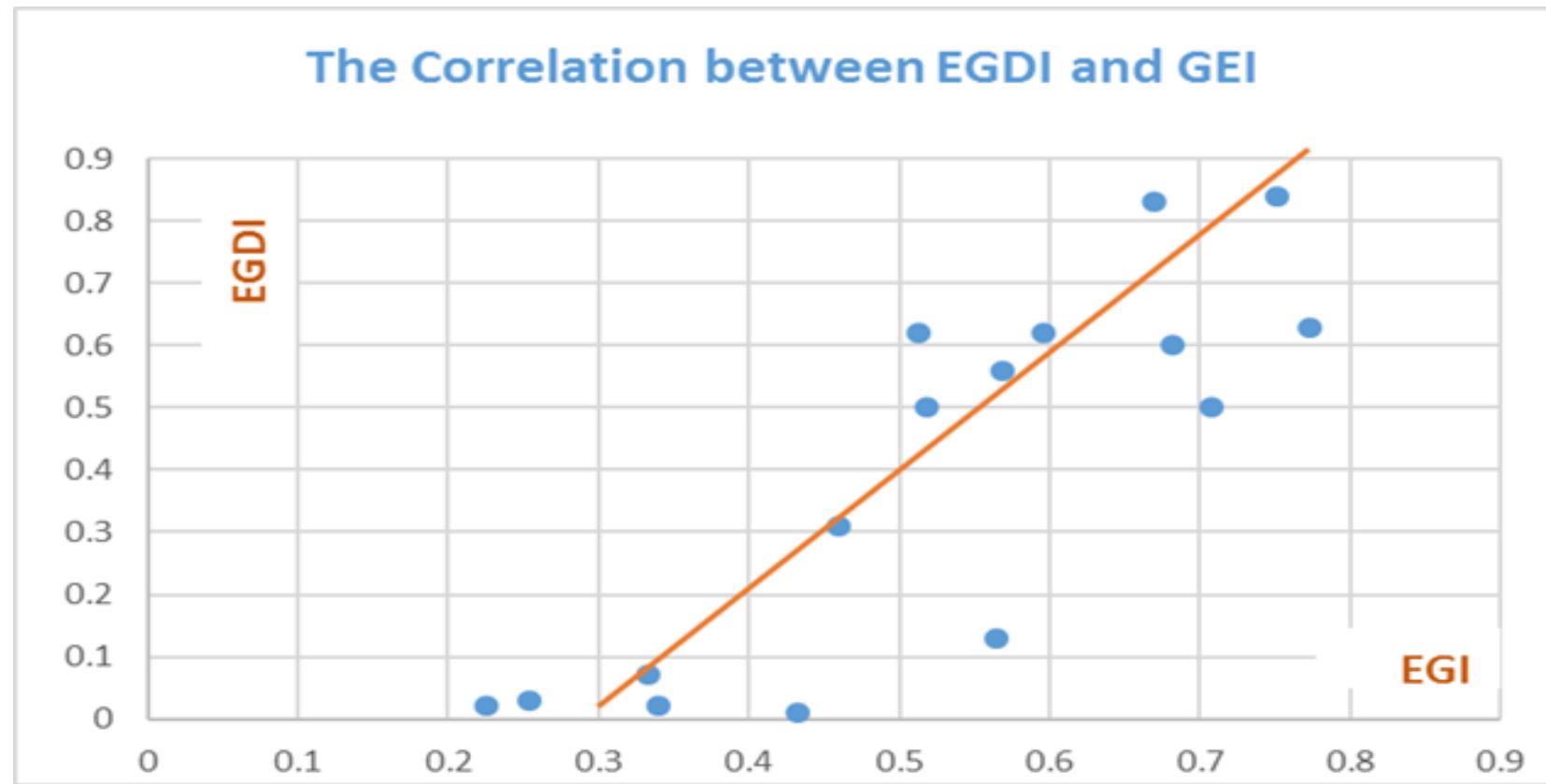
- Efficient e-government facilitates participation and open data, which are among the most important objectives of the open government.
- E-government raises the level of interaction between the government and its institutions and the stakeholders, insuring that stakeholders obtain better desired services.

# Correlation between (EGDI) and (GEI)

(EGDI) E-Government Development Index

(GEI) Government Effectiveness Index

The correlation coefficient is 0.848



# Participation of Arab countries in Open Government Partnership (OGP)

- The participation of Arab countries in OGP is still modest.
- Only two countries, Jordan and Tunisia, out of twenty-two, are members of the OGP; i.e 10% of all Arab countries
- The participation of developing countries from comparable region, such as South and Central America, is about seven times that of the Arab region
- This may raise serious concerns regarding public awareness related to the importance and the need for government openness, and the lack of real political will for this openness.

# OG and key ICT indicators for openness

Some ICT indicators have important impact on Government openness:

- The impact of ICT on the access to basic services
- Access to digital content
- E-participation

# Impact of ICT on the access to basic services in the Arab region (World Ranking)



Country	2015	2016
United Arab Emirates	1	4
Qatar	2	8
Bahrain	21	26
Saudi Arabia	25	33
Jordan	35	43
Oman	37	50
Kuwait	93	71
Morocco	89	95
Tunisia	79	100
Egypt	94	108
Lebanon	139	117
Algeria	125	124
Mauritania	135	129
Yemen	136	..
Libya	143	..

The first five countries in the table have an indicator value higher than the regional average as well as the world average

# Access to digital content (World Ranking)

Country	2012	2013	2014
Qatar	33	27	<b>18</b>
United Arab Emirates	30	23	<b>20</b>
Bahrain	19	31	<b>38</b>
Saudi Arabia	42	43	<b>39</b>
Kuwait	70	54	<b>51</b>
Jordan	50	48	<b>54</b>
Oman	41	53	<b>75</b>
Egypt	100	100	<b>89</b>
Morocco	93	96	<b>99</b>
Tunisia	79	..	<b>110</b>
Lebanon	94	110	<b>115</b>
Yemen	114	121	<b>124</b>
Mauritania	129	124	<b>126</b>
Syria	121	..	..
Libya	..	131	<b>139</b>
Algeria	126	137	<b>144</b>

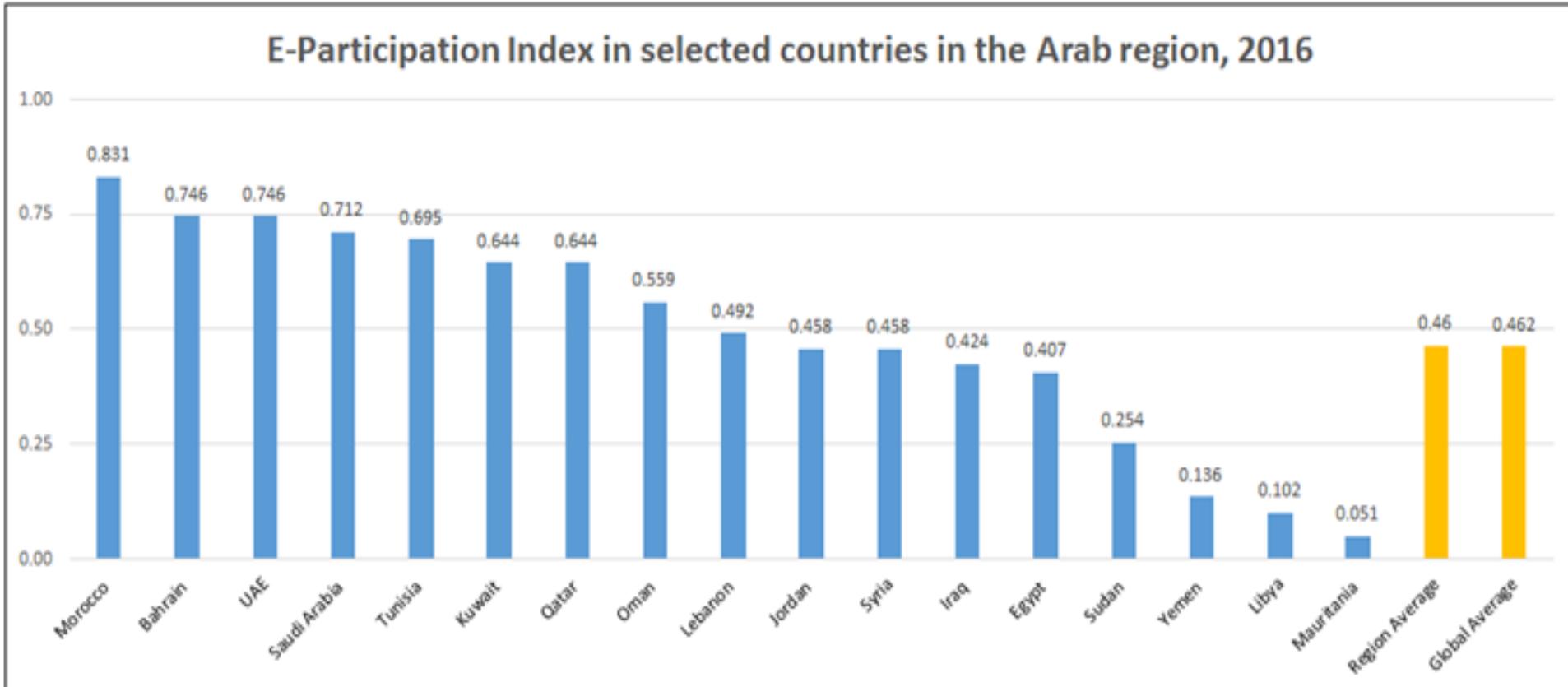
According to the  
World Economic  
Forum indicator for  
access to digital  
content

# E-participation

- E-participation is a new technology, but it plays an important role in facilitating the participatory process, because it aims at engaging citizens and stakeholders through ICT in policy-making, decision-making, making these services participatory and inclusive.
- E-participation is measured by the number of electronic channels provided by the government for citizens to participate in the public affairs and to consult with them
- The United Nations has adopted the E- participation indicator in its survey, since 2003,

# E-participation Index (World Ranking)

E-Participation Index in selected countries in the Arab region, 2016



# E-participation Ranking

Country	World Rank
Morocco	17
United Arab Emirates	32
Bahrain	32
Saudi Arabia	39
Tunisia	43

According to UN survey on E-government 2016, five Arab countries ranked among the top 50 best countries

# E-participation Ranking

Despite the severe crises in some Arab countries, such as Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Libya, during the last few years, some of these countries achieved significant progress in its ranking in list of participation index EPI:

- Syria jumped 66 places in this ranking, moving from site 164 in the 2014 index to the site of 98 in the 2014 index
- Iraq advanced 48 positions from 152 in 2014 to 104 in 2016.

# E-participation Conclusion

In conclusion, Arab countries have realized, during the last few years, significant achievements in E-participation. These achievements can be considered as a good step towards participatory and open government.

# Open Government Evaluation Criteria and Indicators

One of the most prominent efforts in this direction is that of **OECD**, which published the study entitled “Government at a Glance 2013”, using a set of quantitative and qualitative indicators, such as:

- Open data indicators
- Asset disclosure indicators
- Budget transparency Indicators
- Inclusion Indicators

# Open Government Evaluation Criteria and Indicators

- **World Justice Project** used in its Open Government Index 2015 a different approach to measure government openness based on the perceptions and opinions of the public and some expert in each country groups.
- Contrary to other theoretical approaches, this index highlights the views of ordinary people through their interactions with their governments
- **WJP** 2015 includes six Arab countries out of the 102 listed countries.

# WJP Open Government Index 2015 ( for Arab Countries)

Country	Overall Index	Ranking
Tunisia	0.51	59
Morocco	0.51	60
United Arab Emirates	0.48	69
Jordan	0.46	76
Lebanon	0.45	81
Egypt	0.42	91

# ESCWA Questionnaire on Open Government

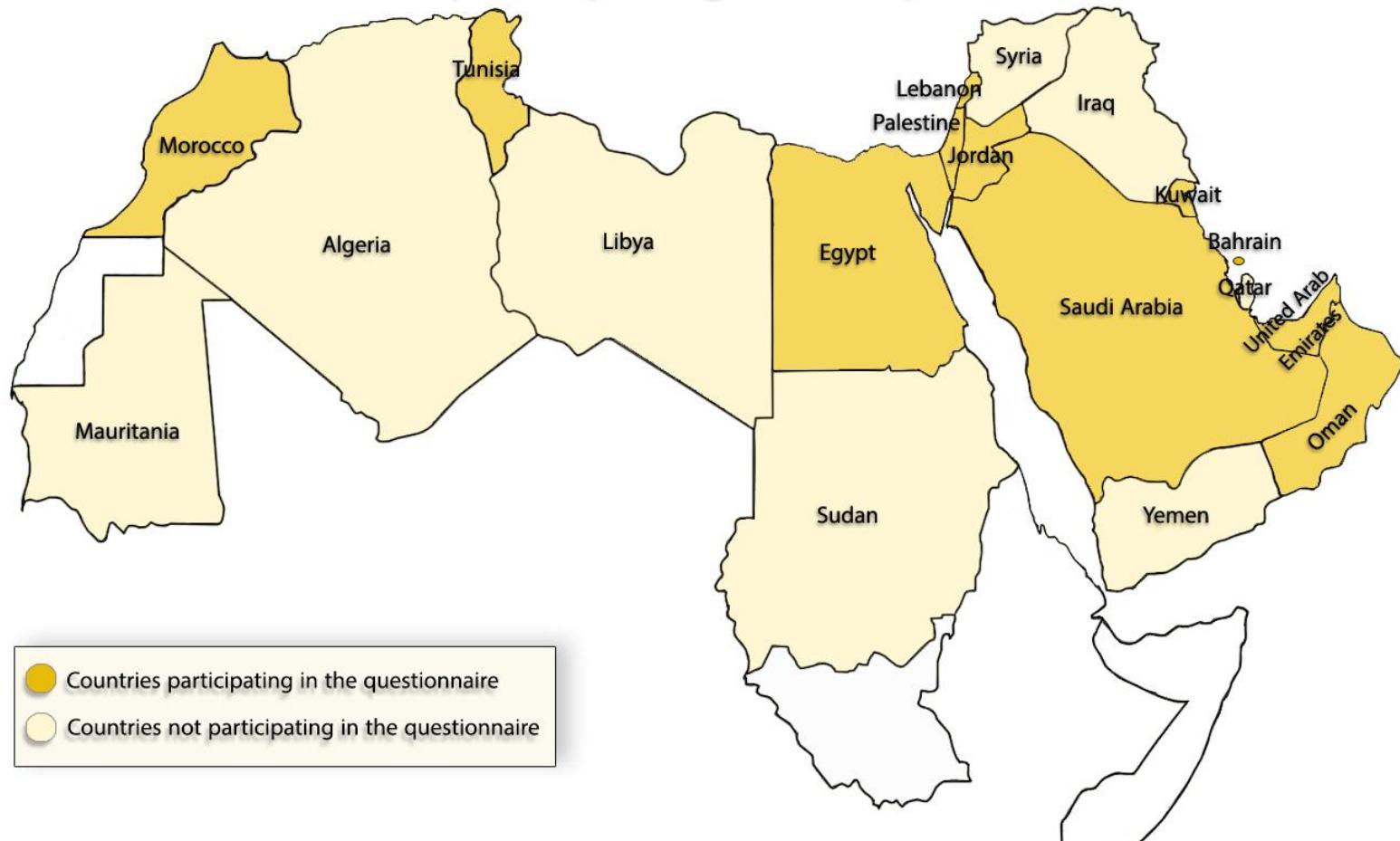
- ESCWA has prepared a special questionnaire to explore the status of open government policies, strategies and legislation in ESCWA member countries
- It was addressed to ministries, departments, public bodies and government economic institutions, to other concerned public bodies in the countries of the Arab region and to some policy and strategy experts in those countries .
- The questionnaire consists of seven parts, is related to an aspect of open government.

# ESCWA Questionnaire (composition)

- Part I: Open government policies and strategies
- Part II: Policies and strategies for openness and transparency,
- Part III: Open data,
- Part IV: Open Government Portal and Technologies
- Part V: Open government legislation and regulations,
- Part VI: Open government use and spread
- Part VII: Open government challenges.

Eleven ESCWA countries responded officially to the questionnaire distributed geographically as shown.

### Countries participating in the questionnaire



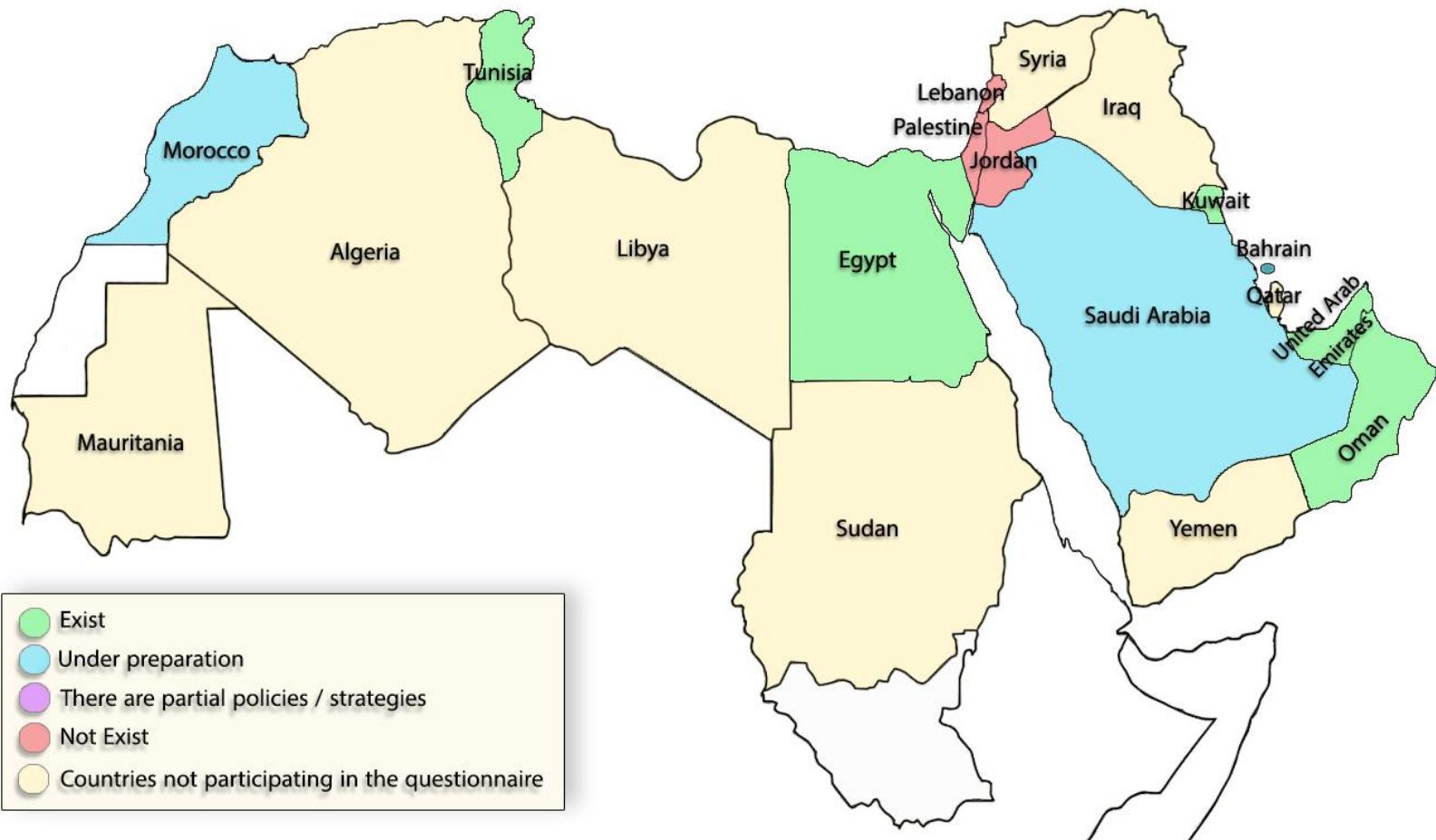
# Questionnaire Outputs (OG policies and strategies)

- Almost all the Arab states do not have a clear or complete OG policy or strategy, in the strict sense
- However, most of them have national plans to implement many aspects of open government.
- Tunisia, Jordan and Morocco are the countries that have the most comprehensive integrated plans

# Questionnaire Outputs

## (existence of OG policies/strategies)

Open government policy / strategy exists



# Questionnaire Outputs (Concepts included in OG)



## Concepts included in open government

# Questionnaire Outputs (openness and transparency policies)

- All the countries participated in ESCWA questionnaire, except Jordan and Lebanon, replied that they had a transparency strategy.
- Many of these responses seem to be Inaccurate.
- However certain Arab countries have adopted remarkable initiatives in using ICT for transparency and openness.
- Dubai Smart City initiative is the best example.

# Questionnaire Outputs

## (transparency policies- anti-corruption)

- Jordan, Tunisia, Kuwait and Egypt have formed anti-corruption entities to coordinate efforts to promote integrity.
- Egypt and Morocco have also developed anti-corruption strategies.
- Tunisia may be one of the most prominent Arab countries that have taken concrete steps in promoting integrity.
- Tunisia's new Constitution enshrines the principles of promoting public sector integrity and combating corruption.
- Citizens can report cases of corruption online as well as access through a private portal to information on anti-corruption policies.

# Questionnaire Outputs



## **(Objectives of openness and transparency policy)**

# Questionnaire Outputs

(targets of openness and transparency policies)



The main targets of the policy and strategy of transparency and openness

# Questionnaire Outputs

## (openness and transparency policies- Capacity)



Capacity that a policy or strategy aims at transparency and openness to be strengthened by government officials

# ESCWA e-government-survey-2015 (Open data)



The majority of Arab countries launched initiatives to open public official information to all citizen, *to a certain degree*, within the framework of their implementation of e-government program.

Country	Classification according to maturity level
Tunisia	Emerging initiatives and in the process of progress
United Arab Emirates	Unilateral initiatives
Morocco	Emerging initiatives and in the process of progress
Saudi Arabia	Unilateral initiatives
Jordan	Initiatives with limited capabilities
Bahrain	Unilateral initiatives
Egypt	Initiatives with limited capabilities
Qatar	Unilateral initiatives
Yemen	Initiatives with limited capabilities

# Questionnaire Outputs (Open data- element of data)



# Questionnaire Outputs (OG portal and Technologies)

- According to the survey results, all Arab countries participating in the survey, except Lebanon and Palestine, have open data portals.
- However, it is likely that some of these answers are not accurate enough and that the intended portals in the responses relate to public portal gates rather than open data portals

# Questionnaire Outputs (OG portal – nature of Data placed)



## The nature of data placed on open government gates

# **Questionnaire Outputs**

## **(OG portal – type of Data available)**



# Questionnaire Outputs

## (OG legislation and regulations)

- Tunisia is the leading Arab country in matter of legislations for open government. It has issued the following important legislations:
- The new Constitution that ensures the right to access public information, and the law on the right to access public information,
- The decree on the involvement of public administration and stakeholders in the evaluation of public services
- The decree on the participatory approach to administrative procedures governing the conduct of economic activities
- The order for the Practice and Review of Economic Activities,

# Questionnaire Outputs

## (OG legislation and regulations)

- Legislations on the right to access public information has been adopted in Jordan, Oman, Lebanon, Morocco Egypt and Yemen.
- Also legislations for the privacy and protection of personal data was also issued in Jordan, Bahrain and Oman.

# Questionnaire Outputs

## (policy level challenges facing OG)



The most important challenges facing the development of open government initiatives at the policy

## level

# Questionnaire Outputs

## (technology level challenges facing OG)



The most important challenges facing the application and development of government policies are open at the technological level

# **Questionnaire Outputs**

## (organizational level and institutional level challenges facing OG)



The most important challenges facing the application of open government policies at the institutional and organizational level

# **Questionnaire Outputs**

## **(cultural level challenges facing OG)**



The most important challenges facing the application and development of the government's open policies at the cultural level

# Questionnaire Outputs

## (funding level challenges facing OG)



The most important challenges facing the application of open government policies on the level of funding

# **Questionnaire Outputs**

## **(legal level challenges facing OG)**



The most important challenges facing the application and development of government policies are open at the legal level

# Thank You

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