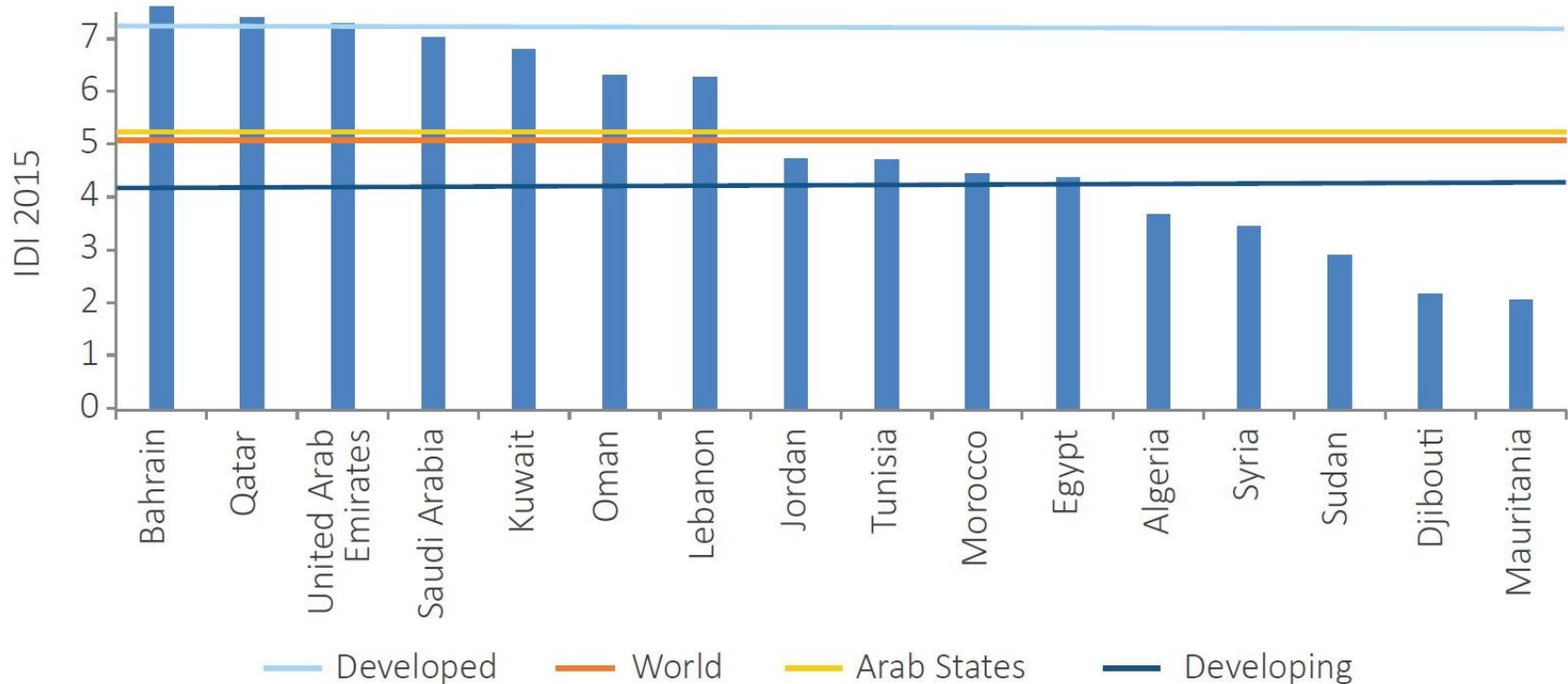




# The ITU Regional Initiative on Smart Learning

Mr. Karim Abdelghani, Programme  
Coordinator, ITU Arab Regional Office

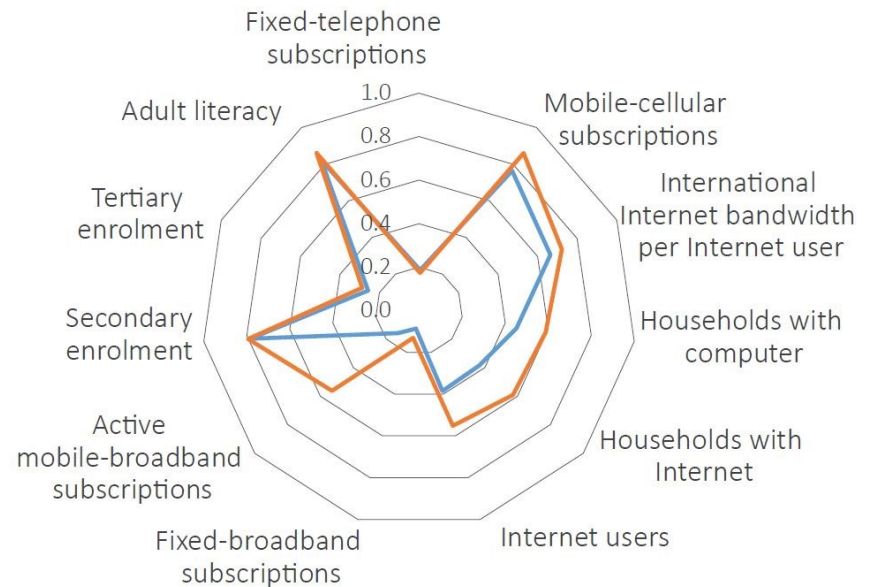
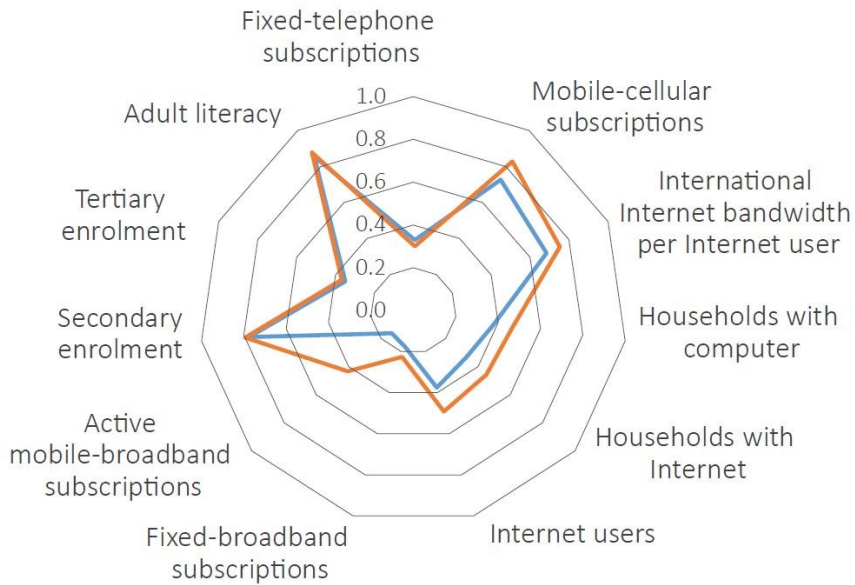
# IDI values in the Arab States



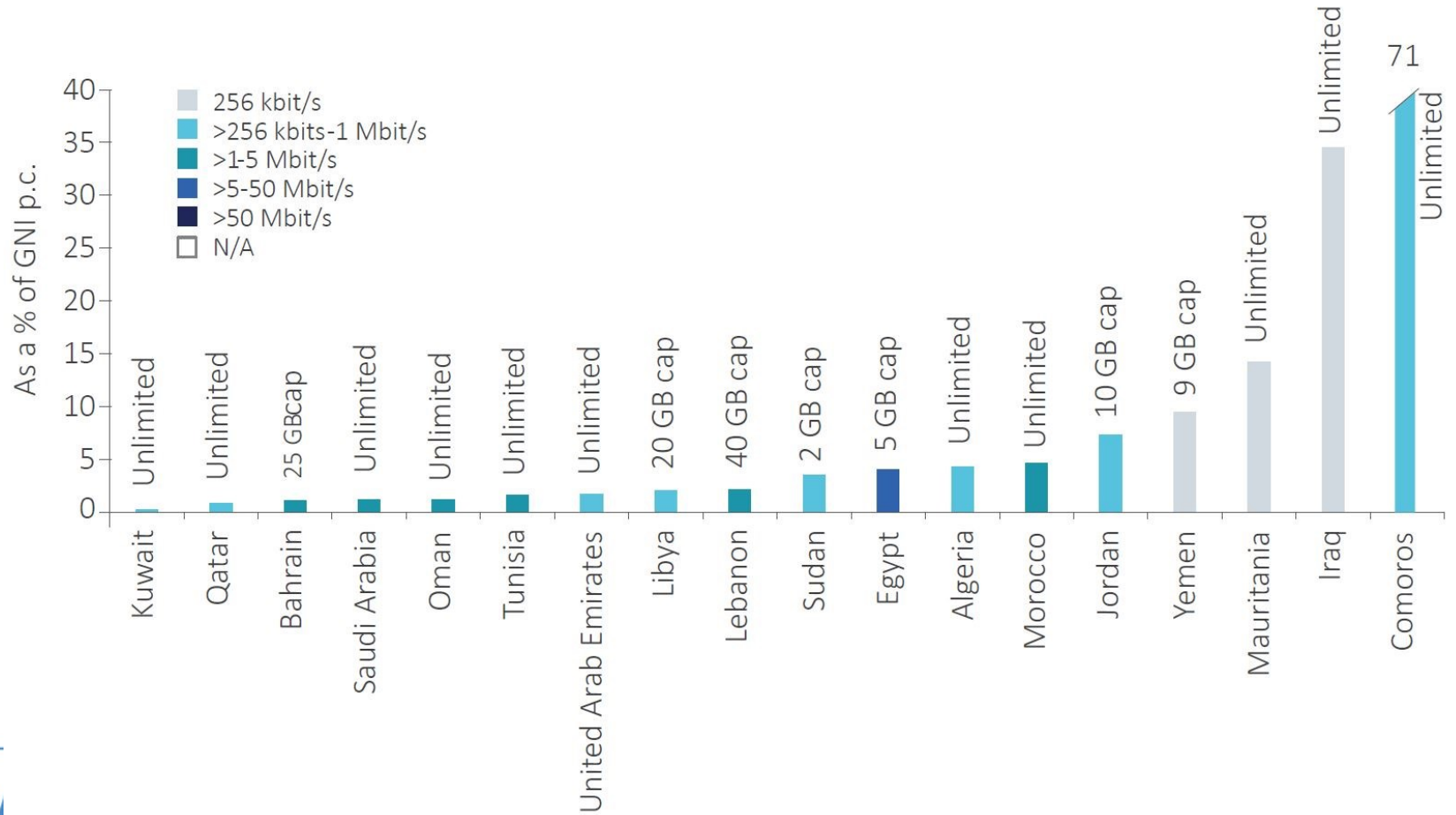
# IDI progress in the Arab States

— 2010 — 2015

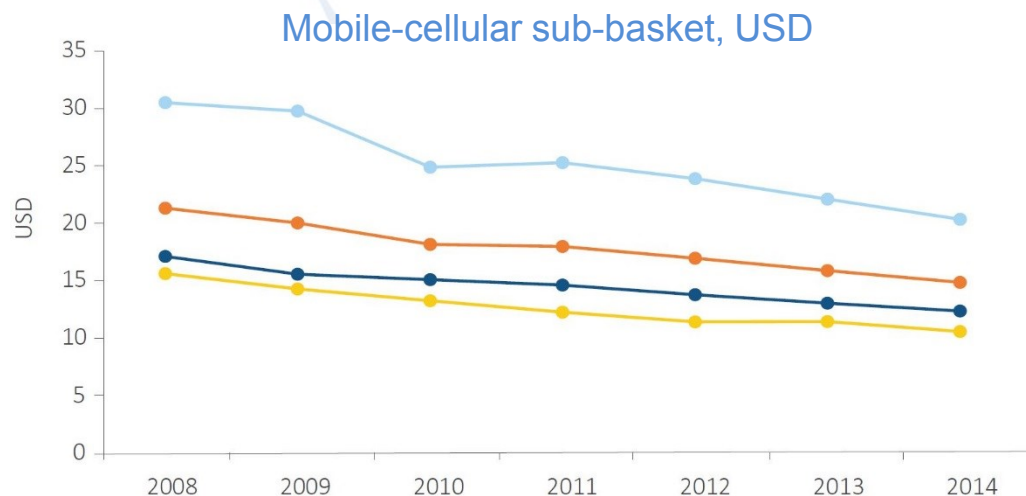
World Arab States



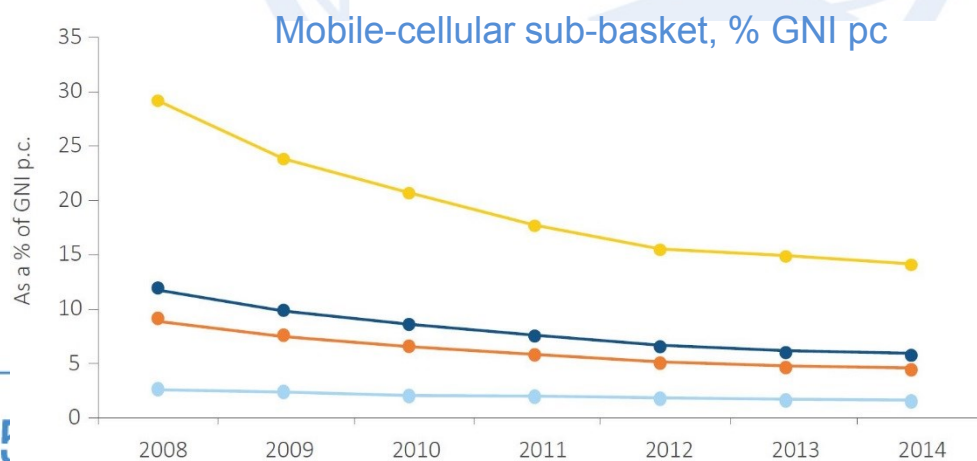
## Fixed-broadband prices in the Arab States



## Mobile-cellular prices continue to fall



and the service is becoming more affordable



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# Smart Learning Regional Initiative

The World Telecommunication Development Conference held in Dubai, UAE in 2014 adopted five Arab regional initiatives (or priority areas that regional offices would work on until the next WTDC in 2017) one of which was Smart Learning. The WTDC set the following objective and expected results:

**Objective:** To bring about a shift from traditional methods of teaching in schools and universities, using books and paper-based sources, to smart learning with the use of tablet computers, the latest software and modern telecommunication/ICT techniques to provide access to a range of academic information, resources and subject matters.

## Expected results

Assistance to the countries in the following:

- Eradication of digital illiteracy in the Arab region
- Finding smart and low-cost computing devices, either with the support of Arab governments or by concluding agreements with manufacturers to provide such devices
- Development of Arab educational e-content for schools and universities in the Arab region.

# Key Activities

**2015**

- ITU/Alecso Smart Learning Forum 14-16 December 2015
- Formulate guidelines on Formulating National Strategies for Smart Learning
- Draft study on Deployment of Computing Devices in Schools

**2016**

- Cooperation Agreement with the Mohamed Bin Rashid Smart Learning Programme to deliver a capacity building program in the field of Smart Learning from the period 2016-2017 (first workshop 5-7 December 2016)
- Prepare for Regional High Level Conference on Smart Learning
- Workshop on Digital Transformation (Rabat, Morocco 8-10 Nov.)
- Pilot project on education for refugees

**2017**

- Assistance to countries on formulating national strategies in smart learning
- Mobile Learning Policy Reviews with UNESCO
- Capacity building program in the field of smart learning
- Palestine pilot project on smart learning
- Education for refugees regional project
- Organize High Level Conference on Smart Learning to adopt regional action plan

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# High Level Event on Smart Learning

- One of the recommendations adopted in the ITU/Alecso Forum was to organize a regional high level conference to adopt a regional action plan on smart learning.
- The goal of this High Level Event is to help accelerate progress towards national and regional education priorities, in line with the Education 2030 agenda and broader Sustainable Development Goals.
- The setup of the high level event, will be a joint Ministerial meeting between the Ministers of ICT and Education in addition to a high level forum open to all relevant stakeholders. The event will be held in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2017.
- The high level event will target adopting a regional action plan for smart learning that would aim at creating enabling environments where all stakeholders can contribute positively to transforming education systems using ICTs.
- In addition regional projects, investments and key activities are envisaged to be announced by all interested stakeholders during the high level event.
- The Council for Ministers of ICT have adopted a decision to organize this joint Ministerial meeting and currently coordination is being done to get a similar approval by the Ministers of Education. Preparations will start in the beginning of 2017.



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# Cooperation Agreement with Mohammed Bin Rashid Smart Learning Programme

- This cooperation agreement was signed on the 19th of May 2016 with the vision to share the UAE best practice in this field to the countries of the Arab Region.
- Through this agreement four workshops (2 physical and 2 virtual) will be organized in 2016 and 2017 with the following objectives:
  - To raise awareness and build capacities on national policies and implementation strategies for Smart Learning.
  - To promote and suggest best practices in Smart Learning based on the MBRSLP.
- The targeted participants of the programme will be Two representatives (ministry of education or affiliated agencies in the area of ICT in education) from at least fifteen countries in the Arab region and other selected countries.

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# Cooperation Agreement with Mohammed Bin Rashid Smart Learning Programme (Cont'd)

- Main themes for the workshops:
  - How to develop and sustain a national policy and strategy
    - A step by step approach based international best practice
  - Key success factors in Strategic delivery of a Smart Learning national plan
    - Lesson learned from based international best practice
  - International collaboration to support Policy, Strategy and Delivery
  - The role of research and pilots
  - Engaging with Public and Private sectors in Smart Learning
- The Dates of the four workshops are yet to be determined.

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# Guidelines on Formulating National Strategies on Smart Learning

- The Guide provides a framework and methodology for the development of national strategy for smart learning, action plan and monitoring framework.
- It is targeted for use by the Ministries of Education and the Ministries of ICT for various countries in Arab region.
- The Guide is developed as part of the ITU Arab Regional Initiative on Smart Learning, in partnership with the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) and Intel.
- The Guide is developed within the context of various international declarations made by the world leaders to improve educational opportunities for world citizens.
- The Guide also aligns with the aims and objectives of the International Telecommunication Union and the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization.

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# Guidelines on Formulating National Strategies on Smart Learning

- An advanced draft of the guidelines was presented at the Smart Learning Forum held in December 2015.
- An expert review is currently being set up to review and improve the guidelines.
- New partners are welcome to join by appointing experts to join the team in formulating these guidelines.
- The guidelines will be published in the first quarter of 2017 and will be translated into Arabic.

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**THANK YOU**

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