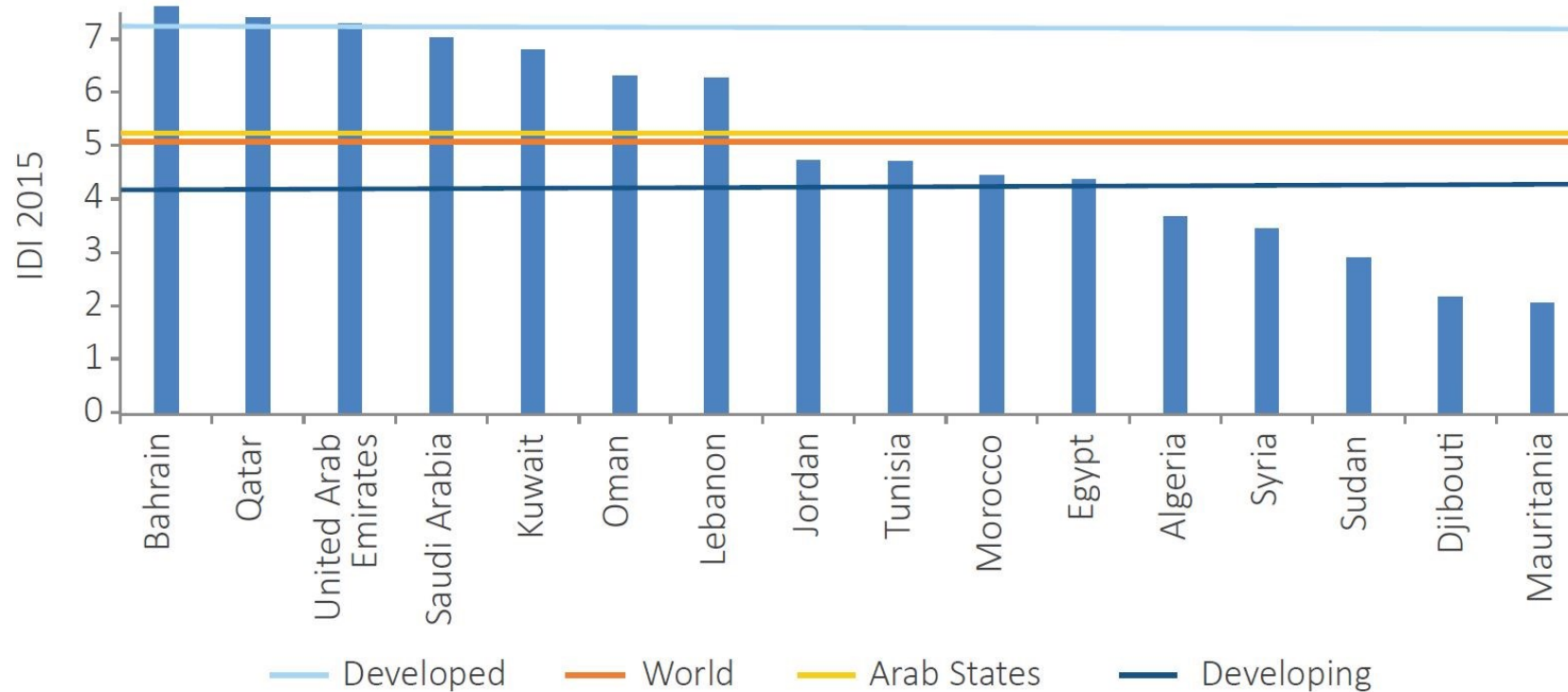# The ITU Regional Initiative on Smart Learning
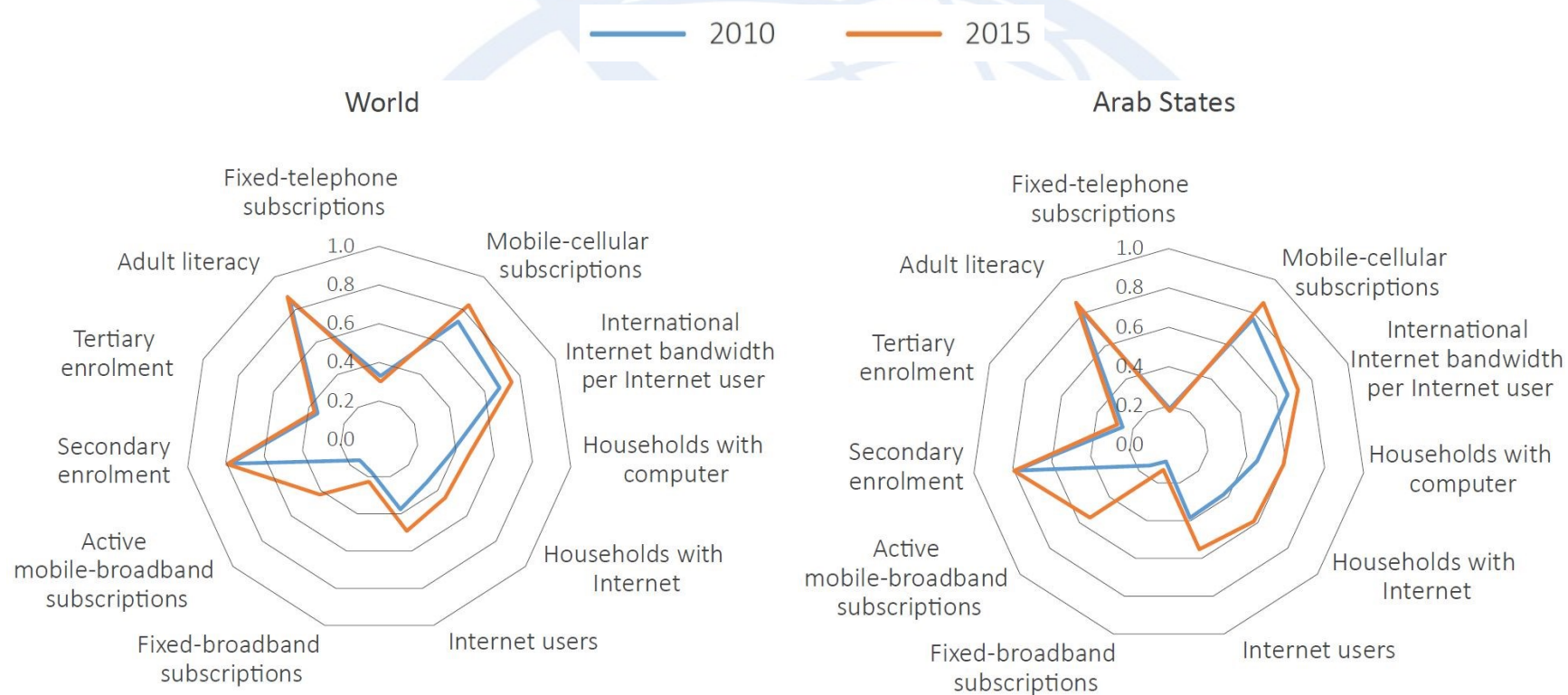
Mr. Karim Abdelghani, Programme Coordinator, ITU Arab Regional Office

Smart Learning in the Arab Region
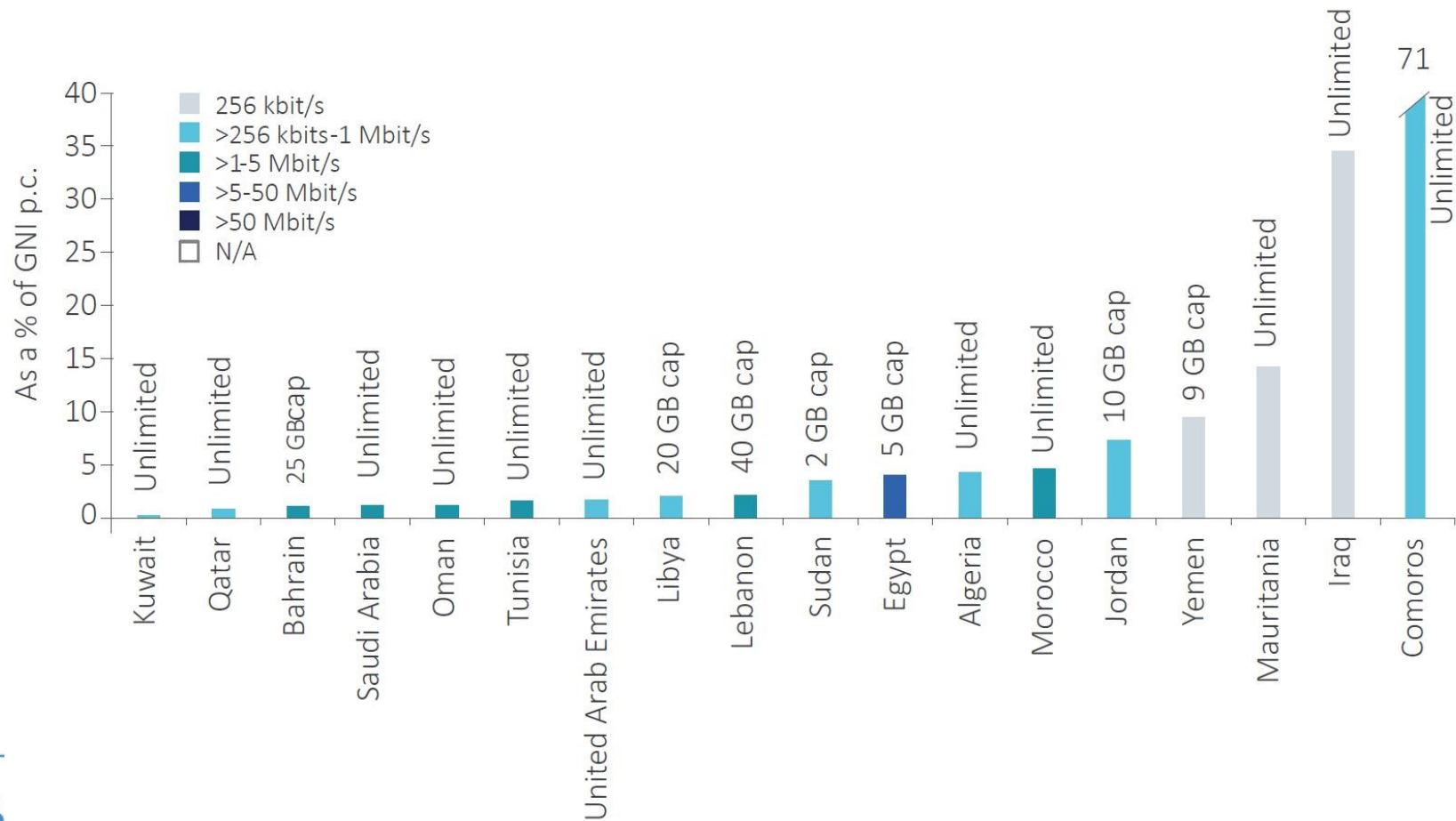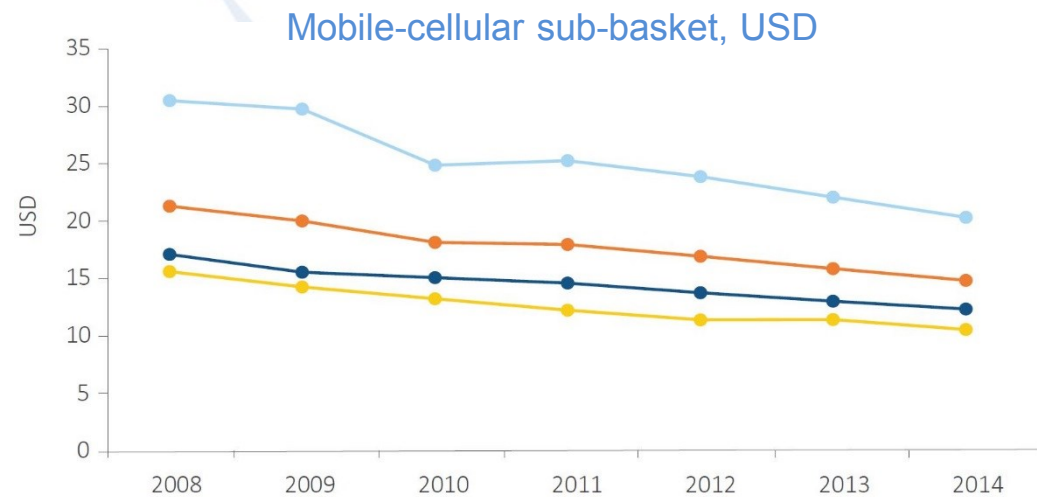
IDI values in the Arab States

IDI progress in the Arab States

Fixed-broadband prices in the Arab States

As a % of GNI p.c.

Legend:
- 256 kbit/s
- >256 kbits-1 Mbit/s
- >1-5 Mbit/s
- >5-50 Mbit/s
- >50 Mbit/s
- N/A

Countries (left to right): Kuwait (Unlimited), Qatar (Unlimited), Bahrain (25 GB cap), Saudi Arabia (Unlimited), Oman (Unlimited), Tunisia (Unlimited), United Arab Emirates (Unlimited), Libya (20 GB cap), Lebanon (40 GB cap), Sudan (2 GB cap), Egypt (5 GB cap), Algeria (Unlimited), Morocco (Unlimited), Jordan (10 GB cap), Yemen (9 GB cap), Mauritania (Unlimited), Iraq (Unlimited), Comoros (71, Unlimited)

Mobile-cellular prices continue to fall

Mobile-cellular sub-basket, USD

and the service is becoming more affordable

Mobile-cellular sub-basket, % GNI pc
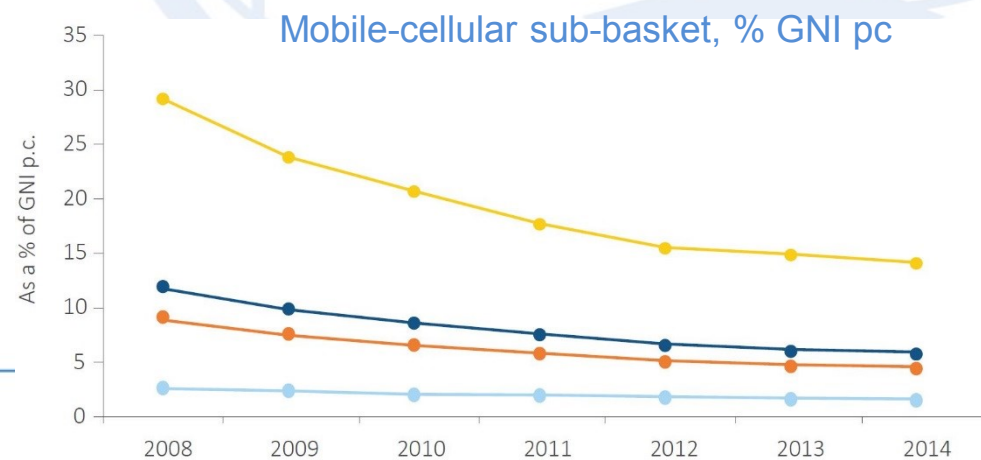
Report on Smart Learning in the Arab Region

In collaboration with ALECSO, the presents observations and an assessment of the readiness of countries in the Arab region to embrace smart learning in terms of:

- development of national strategies
- existing policies
- projects at various levels of government

The report is available as an Annex to the Guidelines on Formulating National Strategies for Smart Learning

Scope & Methodology of the study

- The study covers all 22 Arab countries.

The data of the report was collected through:

- A comprehensive review of literature

- A survey aimed at collecting data from the Ministries of ICT and Ministries of Education.

- Responses received from:

  - Ministries of Information Technology: Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Sudan

  - Ministries of Education: Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Sudan, United Arab Emirates

Observations and Analysis

- Smart learning initiatives in the region are primarily government initiatives, with some public-private partnerships and minimal involvement of non-governmental organizations.

- Most initiatives convey a willingness to provide citizens with the benefits of digital advancements although some have failed to reach their desired goals.

- National level smart learning strategies currently in existence in few countries: UAE, Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar.

- Several national-level pilot project plans but majority are isolated efforts - not yet materialized into large implementations.

- there are strategies already in place in many countries for online lessons and assessment in schools, web-based tools and platforms for enhancing educational experience..

- Majority of countries reported having or are in the process of placing policies in various aspects related to smart learning, such as data privacy, accessibility, 21st century competencies, open education resources, mobile devices and social media in education, teacher innovation, and teacher training.

Observations and Analysis

- Efforts concentrated on formal learning settings; informal learning not a priority at least in next few years.

- Wireless infrastructure in schools a priority area in several countries.

- Countries showed great interest in new technologies utilized in education ex: Big Data, Cloud Computing, etc.

- Digital content development is seeing efforts underway for content repositories, authoring tools for digital content development and evaluation tools for assessing quality of the developed content.

- Survey revealed that while training programs for technology leadership have received attention in some countries, many others identify them to be future activities.

Some of the Recommendations of Study

- Policy Development
- Content
- Capacity Building
- Smart Classroom Infrastructure

The ITU Arab Regional Initiative on Smart Learning

Objectives 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
- Guidelines on Formulating National Strategies for Smart Learning
- Study on Deployment of Computing Devices in Schools

2016
- Capacity building program in the field of Smart Learning
- Guidelines on Formulating National Plans for Eradication of Digital Illiteracy
- Assistance to countries on formulating national strategies in smart learning
- Prepare for Regional High Level Conference on Smart Learning

2017
- Regional High Level Conference on Smart Learning
- Capacity building program in the field of smart learning
- Assisting to countries in formulating national plans to eradicate digital illiteracy

Guidelines on Formulating National Strategies on Smart Learning

- While there is increased awareness about smart learning in Arab countries, significant differences exist in the preparedness at both national policy and implementation level.

- A highly systematic and determined action plan is needed at national level to achieve any significant impact of smart learning.

- Countries therefore need to formulate national strategies for smart learning.

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.

Modules of the Guidelines

- Overview
- Preparation
- Vision, Mission, Aims and Goals
- Scenarios and Modeling
- Strategy Selection and Formulation
- Documentation
- Action Plan
- Monitoring Implementation and Evaluation

Guidelines on Formulating National Strategies on Smart Learning

- The advanced draft of the guidelines is now available on the Smart Learning Forum website for the stakeholders to download and review.

- Comments and feedback are most welcome before the 31st of January 2015.

- The guidelines will be published in the first quarter of 2016 and will be translated into Arabic

Study on Deployment of Computing Devices in Schools

- This study is a joint study between the ITU, Intel and Millinium@edu

- The purpose of this study is to conduct a comparative analysis of the different device types that can be deployed in schools

- This study will be a useful tool for policy makers, procurement officers, project planners, and school management

- It is planned to be published in the first quarter of 2016 and will be translated into Arabic

Key Questions for the SL Forum

| What world will our students exit their schools into? | What skills will they need to be successful? | How can ICTs contribute to an education system that fits the requirements of the 21st century? | What should we do Regionally to promote Smart Learning in the Arab Region? |

THANK YOU

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