



International Telecommunication Union

Telecommunication Development Bureau

“Capacity Building on (ICT & Climate Change, Smart Sustainable Cities, Emergency Telecommunications and E-waste)”

Location(s)	Countries in the Arab Region
Expected duration	2 years
Estimated Budget	Total: USD 150,000
Implementing Agency	International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
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Brief Description:

The aim of this project is to strengthen the Human and Institutional Capacity of the countries in the Arab Region in areas of Climate Change and ICT, ICTs generated E-waste management, Smart and Sustainable Cities and Emergency Telecommunications in order to maximize the benefits of ICTs for socio-economic development. The HCB activities of the project will build on already existing Human Capacity Building materials in these areas and that have been developed by ITU and could use the current ITU Arab Centre of Excellences Network to implement the training activities within the project.

1. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The last decade has seen a recorded some remarkable growth in the ICT sector in the Arab countries. There have been significant changes in the regulatory and policy area, which has seen the emergence of Competitive markets, increased penetration of telecommunications, greater usage of Internet and generally lowering the telecommunications services tariffs. These developments have coincided with greater investment in regulatory and legislative frameworks and institution building.

In the ITU ICT Development Index (IDI) 2015, the Arab countries have the second average rank of 5.03 following Europe region. The top ranked countries in the region are the Bahrain, Qatar, UAE and Saudi Arabia, all featuring among the top 50 economies worldwide. Four countries from the region (Bahrain, Oman, UAE and Saudi Arabia) are among the most dynamic countries worldwide in terms of IDI improvements between 2010 and 2015, and they registered the highest rank increase among the countries in the Arab region.

The ICTs are playing a crucial role in the sustainable development, green sustainable resource efficient economy, e-waste, smartest sustainable city and protection of the environment. The efficiency and availability of emergency telecommunication services help save people lives and reduce the devastating effects.

Linking ICTs development to emergency telecommunications, disaster management and environmental protection opens opportunities for countries to attain sustainable development through the access and use of telecommunications/ICT services to stimulate economic growth of all nations and thereby for saving lives of all citizens from the poverty, reducing risk and protecting environment.

During the last World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC2014), which was held in Dubai, UAE, from 30th of March to 10th of April 2014, five regional initiatives were introduced and adopted by Arab countries. The purpose of these regional initiatives is to highlight the countries needs and focus efforts in the region over the course of years (2015-2017) on these priority areas. One of these initiatives in the Arab region is entitled: "Use of telecommunications/ICTs for smart and sustainable development and protection of the environment". This proved that there is a high demand in the Arab region for use of ICTs for the transition to smart and sustainable development in various relevant spheres and creating a knowledge society are vitally important to the Arab region. A skilled and educated workforce will enable the region to develop this vibrant knowledge society and use the ICTs

as main river for sustainable development.

2. Overall Objective

The objective of this project is to strengthen the Human and Institutional capacity of the countries in the Arab Region in various relevant spheres of sustainable development, in order to maximize the benefits of use of ICTs for Smart and Sustainable Development.

Specifically, the project aims at:

- Developing and delivering the human and institutional capacity activities in areas of Emergency Telecommunications, E-Waste, Smart and Sustainable Cities and ICT and Climate Change adaptation in the region.
- Raising the awareness and use of ICT tools for Smart and Sustainable Development.
- Build the capacity to response to disaster in the region

3. Project Strategy

Based on the above objectives, the project will aim to utilize the regional and ITU resources and develop current training resources within each of the beneficiary countries. These resources may be countries experiences training facilities, human expertise and content.

The focus for the Human and Institutional Capacity Building activities that will be implemented under this project will be guided by the regional priorities reflected in the Arab Regional Initiative “Use of telecommunications/ICTs for smart and sustainable development and protection of the environment”.

These priority areas are:

- 1) ICT and Climate Change
- 2) E-waste
- 3) Smart and Sustainable Cities and
- 4) Emergency Telecommunications.

The project will build on already existing materials in these areas and that is being developed by ITU and could use the current ITU Arab Centre of Excellences Network to implement the project activities.

The project will seek to encourage and promote the online mode for training, and in this regard, will make the adoption of e-learning as a key objective and a strategy. It also provides the opportunity to access the wealth of expertise and content resources that the ITU has in areas that covered by the project.

4. Expected Results

- Human and institutional capacity activities in areas of Emergency Telecommunications, Smart and Sustainable Cities and ICT and Climate Change in the region developed and delivered,
- Awareness for use of ICT tools for Smart and Sustainable Development raised in Arab region.
- Capacity built to response to disaster risk reduction in the region.
- Online activities in project priority areas delivered.

5. Indicators

- 1 training for each priority training area mentioned above delivered per year;
- 20 participants from Arab region per course are trained, 10 of them are females;
- At least 50 % of training interventions delivered as e-learning by end of the project;
- A core team of regional and local training/subject matter experts for each programme developed (Train the Trainers model).

6. Activities

Successful implementation of the trainings programs in the project will be achieved by focusing on following main project pillars:

- 1) Strengthen the Human and Institutional capacity of the countries in the Arab Region on regional priorities reflected in the Arab Regional Initiative “Use of telecommunications/ICTs for smart and sustainable development and protection of the environment”. These priority areas are:
 - ICTs and Climate Change
 - E-waste
 - Smart and Sustainable Cities and
 - Emergency Telecommunications.

The following key activities will be undertaken:

- Hiring of experts to conduct the training activities of ICTs and Climate Change and Smart and Sustainable Cities;
- Hiring of experts and consultants for content development and training delivery of e-waste and emergency telecommunications;
- Identification of the training institutions to deliver the project HCB activities;
- Identification of the resource requirements to be mobilized under the project;
- Conduct trainings in the respective priority areas in response to the identified needs;
- Monitoring and evaluation of project implementation;

7. Inputs

The project implementation will depend on the successful mobilization of resources (human, material and financial). It is envisaged that the project will require funding to the tune of **USD 150,000**. This amount to be used for capacity building in identified areas.

Project funding will be raised from private and public sources within the Region, as well as international funding institutions.

ITU:

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION: ITU will provide skills, Identifying experts and consultants in the region to work with and care and diligence to ensure the success of the project.

Beneficiary Countries:

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION: Hosting training programs conducted under the project and Promoting the program in the region.

Partners:

Cash CONTRIBUTION: The Partners will provide funding support for the implementation of the project.

8. Risks

The risks include failure to raise the funding resources required to finance this project. This risk could be mitigated by using the ITU wide network of partners through which this project could be sold. ITU also has in-house capabilities for fundraising activities and it is the intention to activate these capabilities for this project.

Furthermore, political instability in the Region may militate against resource mobilization efforts or even implementation. In addition, lack of support for the project at national and regional level may hamper the implementation.

9. Sustainability

A train the trainers component has been incorporated in the project implementation to ensure that an Adequate regional capability will be developed within the region. The project also will use the current ITU Arab CoEs Network to deliver the activities in the future.

10. Management

The project will be managed by the ITU Project Manager in close collaboration with country counterparts and partners yet to be identified, as well as representatives from regional organizations and some beneficiary countries.

The ITU shall be the implementing agency, and shall be responsible for the recruitment of project experts.

11. Budget

The proposed budget of the project is \$ USD **150,000** and this includes expert recruitment's, training materials developments and travel.