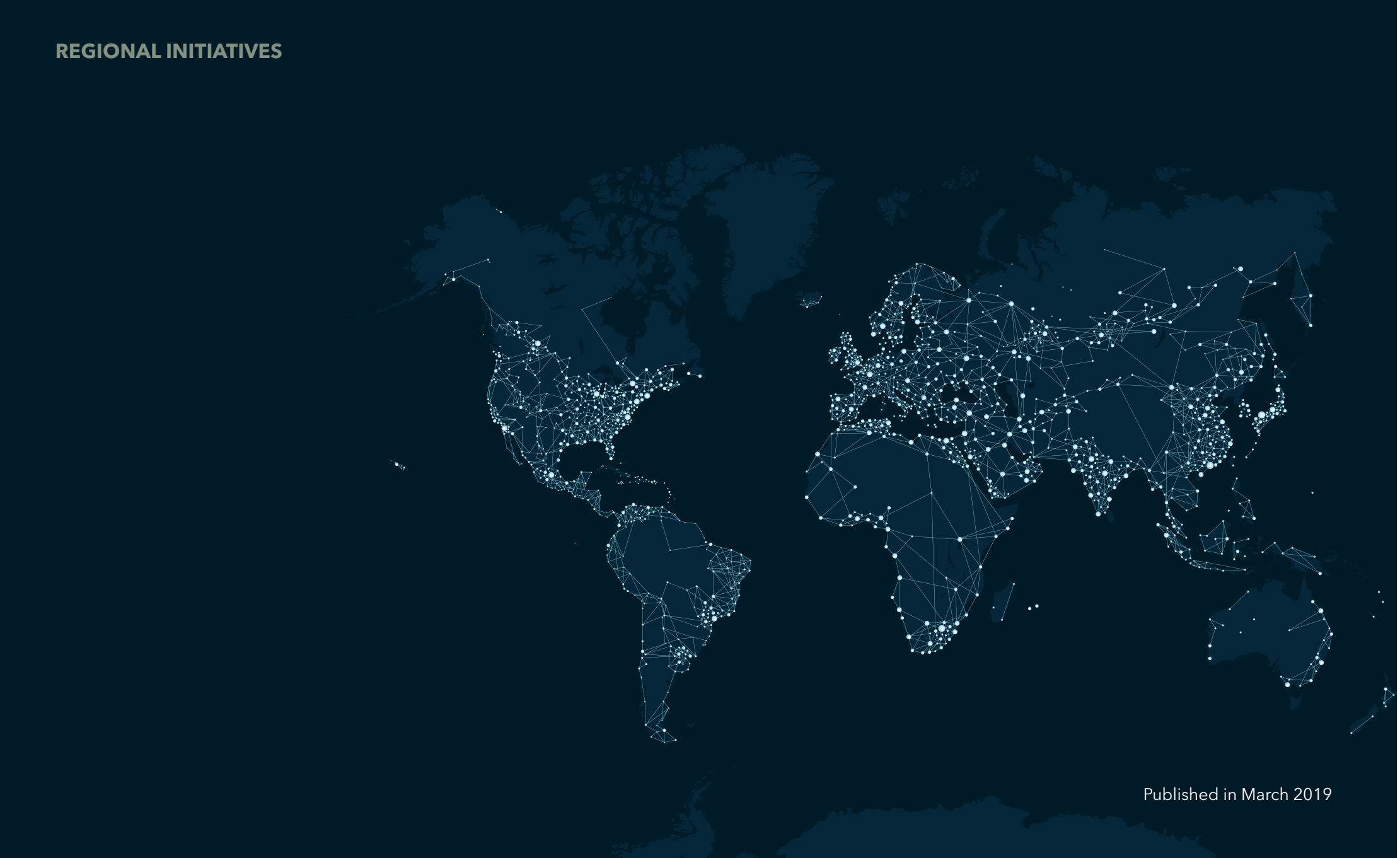
ARAB STATES

REGIONAL INITIATIVES

BUENOS AIRES ACTION PLAN 2018-2021



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Environment, climate change and emergency telecommunications; confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies; digital financial inclusion; Internet of Things, smart cities and big data; and innovation and entrepreneurship are the priority areas agreed by the Arab States region and on which ITU will focus in 2018-2021.

Foreword

By Ebrahim Al-Haddad, Regional Director, ITU Regional Office for the Arab States

Member States participating in the World Telecommunication Development Conference in Buenos Aires 2017 (WTDC-17) adopted the following five regional initiatives for the Arab region: environment, climate change and emergency telecommunications; confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies; digital financial inclusion; Internet of Things, smart cities and big data; and innovation and entrepreneurship.

These regional initiatives span the priority areas on which stakeholders in the Arab region will focus over the coming four years. They cover strategic areas of critical importance for the development of the ICT sector in the Arab region, embodying a vision of bridging the digital divide between States within the region and between the Arab region and the rest of the world. Moreover, they build on the great achievements in the Arab information societies which we note with pride today.

The ITU Regional Office for the Arab States aims to stimulate greater interest among all relevant stakeholders in investing and contributing to these regional initiatives. As presented in this brochure, we have developed a detailed and ambitious plan for achieving the expected results set out by WTDC-17 over the coming four years. To implement this plan, ITU intends to earmark resources for these priority areas in the Arab region with the aim of attracting greater investment from donors and development partners. Strong partnerships with all relevant stakeholders in the region will help us to obtain great developmental returns in all sectors of society, and ultimately contribute greatly to the development of robust knowledge societies and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

The final report of WTDC-17 is available at: https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/WTDC/WTDC17/Documents/WTDC17_FinalReport_en.pdf"

Introduction

The mission of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) is not just about connectivity for connectivity's sake, but is more about promoting innovative uses of telecommunications/ICTs that fundamentally improve people's lives. This mission is reiterated in the final report of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-17), which took place from 9 to 20 October 2017 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, under the theme of "ICT for Sustainable Development Goals" (ICT④SDGs).

In preparation for WTDC 17, ITU held six regional preparatory meetings (RPMs) around the world in 2016-2017: in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, for the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS); Kigali, Rwanda, for the Africa region; Khartoum, Sudan, for the Arab States; Asunción, Paraguay, for the Americas; Bali, Indonesia, for Asia and the Pacific; and Vilnius, Lithuania, for Europe. Each regional preparatory meeting was preceded by a one-day Regional Development Forum.

The regions articulated their specific priorities in 30 regional initiatives – five per region for each of the six regions (Africa, Americas, Arab States, Asia-Pacific, CIS and Europe). These regional initiatives were endorsed by WTDC-17 and are featured in the Buenos Aires Action Plan. Regional initiatives are intended to address specific telecommunication/ICT priority areas, through partnerships and resource mobilization to implement projects. Under each regional initiative, projects are developed and implemented to meet the region's needs.

Reflecting the outcomes of the six regional preparatory meetings, WTDC-17 endorsed the following four objectives for ITU-D as the main focus of its work for the years 2018-2021:

Objective 1

Coordination: Foster international cooperation and agreement on telecommunication/ICT development issues

Objective 2

Modern and secure telecommunication/ ICT infrastructure: Foster the development of infrastructure and services, including building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs

Objective 3

Enabling environment: Foster an enabling policy and regulatory environment conducive to sustainable

Objective 4

Inclusive digital society: Foster the development and use of telecommunications/ICTs and applications to empower people and societies for sustainable development.

WTDC-17 also adopted the Buenos Aires Declaration reinforcing the political support for ITU's development mission and strategic objectives. As noted in this declaration, implementation of regional initiatives deserves high priority on the part of ITU-D. The declaration underlines how universally accessible, secure and affordable telecommunications/ICTs are a fundamental contribution towards the achievement of the action lines of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the development of the global information society and digital economy.

Through the four objectives above and the regional initiatives, ITU-D will adapt and reinforce the existing links between the WSIS action lines and the SDGs to continue to support global development.

2018-2021

Arab States - Regional Initiatives

Regional initiative 1

Environment, climate change and emergency telecommunications

OBJECTIVE

To raise awareness of and provide support in respect of major challenges in the field of environment, climate change and emergency telecommunications, establish regulatory frameworks, and take necessary measures to address the challenges in this field.

EXPECTED RESULTS

..... 1 .....

Issue policy guidelines, regulatory and technical frameworks and necessary measures, providing them with information to meet their needs pertaining to this initiative, specifically in the area of exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMF), emergency telecommunications and the management of electronic waste.

..... 2 .....

Launch training programmes on emergency telecommunications and the adverse effects of exposure to EMF and e-waste, find appropriate solutions to deal with these issues and formulate a model for making use of e-waste in a manner that supports development.

..... 3 .....

Develop information and communication technology (ICT) applications on the basis of which awareness campaigns and programmes can be launched concerning the risks of exposure to emf and the recycling and processing of e-waste.

PROPOSED
PROJECT
1

Regional E-waste Monitor
for the Arab region

PROPOSED
PROJECT
2

Deployment of a natural disaster early warning system in selected Arab countries

Note:
Implementation of these projects
depends on contributions
from potential partners.

Estimated budget

USD 600 000

Potential partners

ICT ministries, environment ministries, regulators, academia

Country or countries involved

All Arab countries

2018 ACTIVITIES

- Development of Model Policy and Regulatory Frameworks on use of Telecom/ICTs in Emergency and Disaster Management.
- Training workshop on e-waste and electromagnetic fields (EMF): policies and measurements.

2019 ACTIVITIES

- Development of policy guidelines on human exposure to EMF (model policy).
- Development of model national emergency telecommunication plans (NETPs).
- Validation training workshop on policy guidelines on human exposure to EMF.
- Validation and Implementation workshop on Model Policy and Regulatory Frameworks on use of Telecom/ICTs in Emergency and Disaster Management.
- Development and implementation of a pilot project on assessment of human exposure to EMF.
- Launch a campaign for the development of a "Green ICTs" application for the Arab region. The app will include awareness-raising information concerning the risks of exposure to EMF, e-waste management and use of ICTs in disaster management.

2020 ACTIVITIES

- Development of strategies and policy guidelines for the proper disposal or reuse of telecommunication/ ICT-generated e-waste and production of associated statistics.
- Development of national emergency telecommunications plans for specific countries.
- Validation training workshop on strategies and policy guidelines for the proper disposal or reuse of telecommunication/ICT-generated e-waste.
- Development and implementation of a pilot project on deploying early warning systems (EWS) in specific Arab countries.
- Launch a campaign for the development of a "Green ICTs" application for the Arab region. The application will include awareness-raising information concerning the risks of exposure to EMF, e-waste management and use of ICTs in disaster management.

2021 ACTIVITIES

- Development of policy guidelines on human exposure to EMF for specific countries.
- Development of national emergency telecommunication plans for specific countries.
- Development of strategies and policy guidelines for the proper disposal or reuse of telecommunication/ICT-generated e-waste for specific countries.
- Three-day training workshop on e-waste, EMF and emergency telecommunications.
- Development and implementation of pilot regional project on e-waste statistics.
- Development of policy guidelines on human exposure to EMF for specific countries.
- Development of NETPs for specific countries.
- Development of strategies and policy guidelines for the proper disposal or reuse of telecommunication/ICT-generated e-waste for specific countries.

Specific activities and proposed budget over the period 2018-2021

CAPACITY BUILDING

Implement awareness-raising and capacity-building activities on the environment, specifically on EMF, climate change, emergency telecommunications and e-waste.

Required amount (USD): 1 500 000

STUDIES

Develop and publish policy guidelines, regulatory frameworks, statistics/status reports, strategic plans and best practices on the environment, specifically electromagnetic field, climate change, emergency telecommunications and e-waste.

Required amount (USD): 500 000

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Provide direct technical assistance to countries in the Arab region to raise awareness and provide support on key challenges in the area of EMF, emergency communications and e-waste. The technical assistance will take the form of:

- A project on regional e-waste monitoring for the Arab region.
- Projects on deployment of natural disaster early warning systems in selected Arab countries.
- Projects on the assessment of EMF in selected Arab countries.
- National policy guidelines, regulatory frameworks, statistics/status reports, strategic plans and best practices on environment (EMF and climate change), emergency telecommunications and e-waste.

Required amount (USD): 1 500 000

Total 3 500 000

Regional initiative 2

Confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies

OBJECTIVE

To promote confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ information and communication technologies (ICTs), child online protection (COP) and combating all forms of cyberthreat, including the misuse of telecommunications/ICTs.

EXPECTED RESULTS

..... 1 .....

Issue policy guidelines, regulatory and technical frameworks and necessary measures, providing them with information to meet their needs pertaining to this initiative, specifically in the area of COP and combating all forms of cyberthreat.

..... 2 .....

Continue to sharpen awareness of the strategies to be followed in regard to the technical research and educational materials that are to be provided to and used in the teaching of arab university students, in order to build confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs.

..... 3 .....

Protect arab children and young people from offensive and harmful content on the internet, particularly by helping to enact laws, legislation and strategies in this area and by raising the awareness of children and young people of the risks through awareness campaigns, workshops and training programmes, and making use of the arab regional cybersecurity centre.

..... 4 .....

Develop ICT applications to help protect children online and combat all forms of cyberthreat, in collaboration with relevant bodies.

..... 5 .....

Organize training courses and seminars on protecting critical telecommunication/ICT infrastructure.

..... 6 .....

Prepare training programmes and provide experts to specialized academic institutions to educate and instruct university students and academics in building confidence in the use of telecommunications/ICTs and exchanging experience in this regard.

..... 7 .....

Establish national computer incident response teams (CIRTS) in the arab region, with optimum coordination among them and between them and CIRTs in the other regions.

PROPOSED
PROJECT
1

Support selected countries in establishing their national CIRTs. These will include Palestine under Resolution 99 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference and one LDC.

PROPOSED
PROJECT
2

Assist French-speaking countries in COP and in dealing with COP challenges.

Note:
Implementation of these projects depends on contributions from potential partners.

Estimated budget

USD 3 200 000

Potential partners

ICT ministries, Arab CIRTs, regulators, academia, providers of critical infrastructure services

Country or countries involved

All Arab countries

2018 ACTIVITIES

- High-Level Regional Meeting for Building Partnership with academia in the Field of Cybersecurity.
- Technical assistance to selected Arab countries in the development and/or implementation of their respective COP action plans.
- ITU Regional Workshop on securing the critical infrastructure for financial Industry.
- Regional Cybersecurity Week for the Arab region:
  - Regional cyberdrill for the Arab region.
  - Regional Cybersecurity Summit.
  - Arab Cybersecurity Cooperation Team (ACCT) meeting.

2019 ACTIVITIES

- Development of strategies and guidelines for the proper technical teaching and research materials on building confidence and security in the use of ICTs.
- Launch a campaign for the development of a COP application for the Arab region. The app will include awareness-raising information concerning the risks facing children and potentially harmful content.
- Assistance to selected countries for the establishment of national CIRTs.
- Regional cyberdrill.
- Arab Cybersecurity Cooperation Team (ACCT) meeting.

2020 ACTIVITIES

- Training workshop for academia on the strategies developed by ITU for the proper technical teaching and research materials on building confidence and security in the use of ICTs.
- Training workshop on COP.
- Training workshop on critical infrastructure protection.
- Development of training curricula on building trust in the use of ICTs.
- Regional cyberdrill.
- Arab Cybersecurity Cooperation Team (ACCT) meeting.

2021 ACTIVITIES

- Assistance to selected countries on the development of cybersecurity policy and strategy.
- Launch a campaign for the development of a cybersecurity application for the Arab region.
- Regional academia meeting on cybersecurity.
- Regional cyberdrill.
- Arab Cybersecurity Cooperation Team (ACCT) meeting.

Specific activities and proposed budget over the period 2018-2021

CAPACITY BUILDING

- Implement capacity-building programmes to raise awareness on building confidence in the use of ICTs and on COP.
- Implement "Training-of-Trainers" (ToT) programmes for academia with the aim of helping to build confidence in the use of ICTs.
- Organize a series of events to provide a platform for sharing experiences among stakeholders, raising awareness, and tackling issues related to cybersecurity and COP.
- Organize "hackathons" to develop ICT applications contributing to building confidence in the use of ICTs including Internet safety for children.

Required amount (USD): 1 500 000

STUDIES

- Develop and publish studies including toolkits, policy guidelines, regulatory and technical frameworks, research and reports that will contribute to building confidence and security in the use of ICTs.

Required amount (USD): 200 000

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- Assist countries in establishing their national CIRTs and empower existing ones by ensuring optimal coordination among Arab CIRTs through annual regional drills.

Required amount (USD): 1 500 000

Total 3 200 000

Regional initiative 3

Digital financial inclusion

Digital Distributions and Sales
Three month idex

OBJECTIVE

To support and enable access to and use of digital financial services, using telecommunications and information technology, and achieve high levels of digital financial inclusion.

EXPECTED RESULTS

..... 1 .....

Prepare studies to evaluate the status of digital financial inclusion and determine needs at national and regional levels, and to benefit from international experience and best practices, while clarifying the link between financial inclusion, financial stability, financial integration and consumer protection.

..... 2 .....

Raise awareness of the concept, practice and benefits of digital financial inclusion, in addition to presenting the dimensions of digital financial services in terms of ensuring and facilitating access to all financial services, and how to use them, as well as the quality of services, confidence, security and reliability.

..... 3 .....

Provide advisory and technical support and the necessary training programmes to foster coordination between ICT service regulators and providers, on the one hand, and financial service regulators and providers, on the other, so as to achieve integration and convergence between the two sectors.

..... 4 .....

Develop guiding regulatory and legal frameworks to stimulate and encourage the adoption of digital financial inclusion and establish public-private sector partnerships to ensure the protection of user privacy and data confidentiality and promote confidence and security in digital financial services.

..... 5 .....

Attract financial and technical support from donor and funding entities and regional and international stakeholders to help achieve the objective and results of this initiative, at the request of those arab states that so wish.

PROPOSED PROJECT

Support selected countries in creating an enabling environment for digital financial inclusion.

Note:
Implementation of this project depends on contributions from potential partners.

Estimated budget

USD 600 000

Potential partners

ICT ministries, ministries of finance, central banks, regulators, the World Bank, academia, providers of financial services

Country or countries involved

Three Arab countries

2018 ACTIVITIES

- Assessment study of digital financial inclusion in the Arab region.
- Digital Financial Inclusion Forum.
- Web accessibility training for financial institution.
- Assist countries in the Arab region on digital financial inclusion policies.
- Formulate a project on digital financial inclusion in collaboration with interested stakeholders in the Arab region.

2019 ACTIVITIES

- Digital Financial Inclusion Forum.
- Web accessibility training for financial institutions.
- Assist countries in the Arab region on digital financial inclusion policies.
- Implement a project on digital financial inclusion in collaboration with interested stakeholders in the Arab region.

2020 ACTIVITIES

- New assessment study of digital financial inclusion in the Arab region.
- Web accessibility training for financial institutions.
- Assist countries in the Arab region on digital financial inclusion policies.
- Formulate phase 2 of the project on digital financial inclusion in collaboration with interested stakeholders in the Arab region.

2021 ACTIVITIES

- Web accessibility training for financial institutions.
- Assist countries in the Arab region on digital financial inclusion policies.
- Implement the project on digital financial inclusion in collaboration with interested stakeholders in the Arab region.

Specific activities and proposed budget over the period 2018-2021

CAPACITY BUILDING

- Implement capacity-building programmes on various issues pertaining to creating an enabling environment for digital financial inclusion in the Arab region.
- Organize a high-level conference with the objective of promoting partnerships and sharing experiences among stakeholders regionally on digital financial inclusion.

Required amount (USD): 800 000

STUDIES

- Publish various studies including toolkits, guidelines, research, regulatory frameworks and reports that will focus on providing knowledge to stakeholders regionally on specific issues pertaining to digital financial inclusion.

Required amount (USD): 300 000

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- Provide technical assistance to countries in the Arab region with the objective of empowering governments to create enabling environments for digital financial inclusion in the Arab region.
- Partner with key stakeholders to implement regional projects that will promote digital financial inclusion in the Arab region.

Required amount (USD): 2 000 000

Total 3 100 000

Regional initiative 4

Internet of Things, smart cities and big data

OBJECTIVE

To raise and spread awareness of the importance of future challenges in the era of the Internet of Things (IoT) and big data, and how to address such challenges; establish regulatory frameworks and take measures to help cope with the rapid changes in the field of telecommunications and information technology; and work to ensure the transition to smart cities and communities (SCCs).

EXPECTED RESULTS

..... 1 .....

Formulate strategic and operational plans and regulatory frameworks to cope with IoT and big data technology and formulate a road map for the arab region for the transition to SCCs by developing the telecommunication infrastructure to deliver the broadband services to support their various applications and services.

..... 2 .....

Promote technical cooperation and the exchange of expertise between the arab countries in the area of IoT, big data and SCCs, study the impact thereof, whether positive or negative, and take advantage of global experience.

..... 3 .....

Organize a high-level forum on IoT and big data to discuss the main challenges, such as security, privacy and system compatibility, and the most prominent solutions, including digital object architecture; invite experts from industry to address the forum, and hold a side meeting on the fringes of the forum with industry and the private sector.

..... 4 .....

Get access to key studies, research and expertise on IoT and smart cities, including big data for arab states, on a page devoted to the initiative on the website of the arab regional office, and help those arab states that so wish to obtain advice in this area.

..... 5 .....

Build arab capacities in the uses of big data as a supplementary or alternative method and low-cost resource for measuring Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators, while enhancing the capacities of stakeholders to implement and analyse big data to measure key development indicators.

..... 6 .....

Construct secure infrastructures to store the enormous amounts of data needed to create a smart environment.

..... 7 .....

Identify and make use of existing centres of excellence and research and study centres in the Arab States to provide experts and expertise in the areas of the initiative; enter into cooperative partnerships and agreements to help raise the level of availability of broadband services in the Arab States; and use IoT and big data for development, formulate smart city indicators and measure progress on a regular basis.

PROPOSED PROJECT **1**

Organization of IoT-based services applications hackathon for regional development

PROPOSED PROJECT **2**

Assist two countries in promoting big data for the health sector through capacity-building programmes and a pilot project

Note:
Implementation of these projects depends on contributions from potential partners.

Estimated budget

USD 200 000

Potential partners

ICT ministries, regulators, academia, industry, providers of smart services and equipment

Country or countries involved

All Arab countries

2018 ACTIVITIES

- Regional Forum on Emerging Technologies.
- Annual Forum on the Internet of Things, SSCs and big data for regional development.
- Assessment study on the big data ecosystem in the Arab region.
- Workshop on creating an enabling environment for big data.
- Formulate a project on big data for development with interested stakeholders in the Arab region.
- Centre of excellence (CoE) training courses on IoT and big data.

2019 ACTIVITIES

- Regional Forum on Emerging Technologies.
- Develop strategic plans and regulatory frameworks to keep up with the age of the Internet of Things and big data and develop a road map for the Arab region to shift to smart cities and communities.
- Assist countries in the Arab region on policies to create enabling environments for big data.
- Annual Forum on the Internet of Things, SSCs and big data for regional development.
- Develop a platform for sharing the relevant studies and reports on IoT and big data.
- Organization of IoT-based services applications hackathon for regional development.
- Workshop on creating an enabling environment for big data.
- Implement a project on big data for development with interested stakeholders in the Arab region.
- CoE training courses on IoT and big data.
- Development of regional smart city key performance indicators and progress measurement.

2020 ACTIVITIES

- Regional Forum on Emerging Technologies.
- Develop strategic plans and regulatory frameworks to keep up with the age of the Internet of Things and big data and develop a road map for the Arab region to shift to smart cities and communities.
- Assist countries in the Arab region on policies to create enabling environments for big data.
- Annual Forum on the Internet of Things, SSCs and big data for regional development.
- Develop a platform for sharing the relevant studies and reports on IoT and big data.
- Organization of IoT-based services applications hackathon for regional development.
- Workshop on creating an enabling environment for big data.
- Implement a project on big data for development with interested stakeholders in the Arab region.
- CoE training courses on IoT and big data.
- Development of regional smart city key performance indicators and progress measurement.

2021 ACTIVITIES

- Regional Forum on Emerging Technologies.
- Develop strategic plans and regulatory frameworks to keep up with the age of the Internet of Things and big data and develop a road map for the Arab region to shift to smart cities and communities.
- Assist countries in the Arab region on policies to create enabling environments for big data.
- Annual Forum on the Internet of Things, SSCs and big data for regional development.
- Develop a platform for sharing the relevant studies and reports on IoT and big data.
- Organization of IoT-based services applications hackathon for regional development.
- Implement a project on big data for development with interested stakeholders in the Arab region.
- CoE training courses on IoT and big data.
- Development of regional smart city key performance indicators and progress measurement.

Specific activities and proposed budget over the period 2018-2021

CAPACITY BUILDING

- Develop training activities and organize capacity-building activities in addition to a high-level forum on IoT and big data with different themes for smart city development.
- Promote the exchange of expertise between the Arab countries in the areas of IoT, big data and smart cities and communities.

Required amount (USD): 400 000

STUDIES

- Develop status report/opportunities and challenges on the use of IoT and big data for sustainable development in the Arab region.
- Develop strategies, policy and regulatory frameworks on the promotion of big data and IoT particularly for development.

Required amount (USD): 300 000

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The technical assistance will take the form of:

- Organization of IoT-based services applications hackathon for regional development.
- Assistance to countries in developing a road map for the transition to smart cities and communities.
- Promotion of technical cooperation and use of global experience on IoT, smart cities and big data.

Required amount (USD): 2 500 000

Total 3 200 000

Regional initiative 5

Innovation and entrepreneurship

OBJECTIVE

To build capacities and raise awareness concerning the culture of innovation and entrepreneurship, in particular for youth and women's empowerment, with the aim of harnessing telecommunication/ information and communication technology (ICT) tools to launch projects and undertake economic activities that focus on job creation.

EXPECTED RESULTS

..... 1 .....

Formulate national and regional mechanisms and strategies to stimulate and enrich the culture of innovation in telecommunications/ICT in the region, including relevant best practice.

..... 2 .....

While creating centres of creativity and new institutions, encourage and develop the role of existing institutions and incubator programmes that support micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in the telecommunication/ICT field to enable young people to set up their own enterprises, and take advantage of best practice in this area.

..... 3 .....

Train young people of both genders to take advantage of ICTs to promote the culture of innovation and entrepreneurship.

..... 4 .....

Stimulate young people and students to be creative and innovative in developing Arabic-language applications.

..... 5 .....

Develop innovative ways of holding regional meetings, workshops and conferences electronically.

..... 6 .....

Strengthen and build the capacity of human resources and help to coordinate among training centres, research centres, incubators, institutions and institutes, while encouraging the exchange of expertise at regional and international levels.

PROPOSED
PROJECT
1

Develop and implement an ICT vocational training cycle enabling young people to acquire digital skills in line with the needs of the ecosystem.

PROPOSED
PROJECT
2

Develop a structured platform for cooperation between technoparks and technology incubators, and assist innovative companies in developing and reaching new markets.

Note:
Implementation of these projects depends on contributions from potential partners.

Estimated budget

USD 2 200 000

Potential partners

ICT ministries, youth ministries, regulators, academia

Country or countries involved

All Arab countries

2018 ACTIVITIES

- Assist countries on their innovation journey: situational analysis of the ecosystem.
- Formulating guidelines for strategy and priority projects.
- Training on entrepreneurship and ICT skills.

2019 ACTIVITIES

- Assist countries on their innovation journey: road map, toolkits.
- Training on entrepreneurship and ICT skills.
- Needs assessment for a personalized Arabic content for professionals involved with technoparks, incubators, and so on.
- Training on innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem.
- Development of national strategies on digital innovation and entrepreneurship.

2020 ACTIVITIES

- Organize an "Innovation Challenge".
- Assessment and promotion of regional "flagship" projects.
- Training on entrepreneurship and ICT skills.
- Facilitate the exchange by unifying the standards, key performance indicator (KPI) definition and practices among Arab countries incubators and others.
- Training on innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem.
- Designing and developing a collaborative platform.

2021 ACTIVITIES

- Develop a sharing system among membership for best practices and innovative projects.
- Promote collaboration among Arab institutions and incubators that support micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.
- Training on entrepreneurship and ICT skills.
- Organize a high-level event to promote the development of Arabic language applications.
- Training on innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem.
- Training of coaches and mentors (experts).

Specific activities and proposed budget over the period 2018-2021

CAPACITY BUILDING

- Build capacities and raise awareness on the culture of innovation and entrepreneurship through the development of training programmes for Arab entrepreneurs and managers of entities supporting entrepreneurs.

Required amount (USD): 200 000

STUDIES

- Studies on ecosystems and opportunities for startups and MSMEs to prosper in an increasingly competitive world.
- Develop an advocacy and resource mobilization plan and identify potential sponsors and supporters for sponsoring/funding/ cooperation.

Required amount (USD): 50 000

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- Develop and implement an ICT vocational training cycle enabling young people to acquire digital skills in line with the needs of the ecosystem.
- Assist countries in developing a structured platform for cooperation between business incubation programmes.
- Empower national and regional institutions to assist MSMEs in establishing overseas partnerships and sales presence and provide access to the resources and intelligence necessary to meet specific business goals.

Required amount (USD): 2 000 000

Total 2 250 000

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