

Conference on “Accessible Europe - 2019”

St. Julian's, Malta, 4-6 Dec 2019

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia



UNITED NATIONS

الاسكوا
ESCWA

e-Accessibility in the Arab Region: *Partnership Opportunities*

Outlines

- ✓ What is ESCWA?
- ✓ Status of e-Accessibility in the Arab Region
- ✓ Selected ESCWA Activities in disability
- ✓ Possible initiatives for cooperation
- ✓ Concluding remarks



Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

- Executive arm of UN Secretariat in the Arab region

Objective

- Enhance socio-economic development by fostering cooperation and integration on regional and sub-regional levels

Headquarter

- 1973-1982: Beirut
- 1982-1991: Baghdad
- 1991-1997: Amman
- 1997-now: Beirut

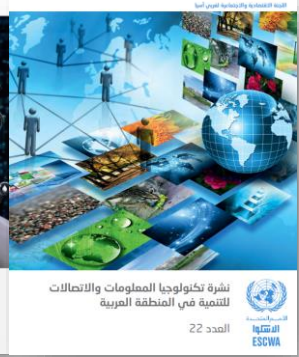
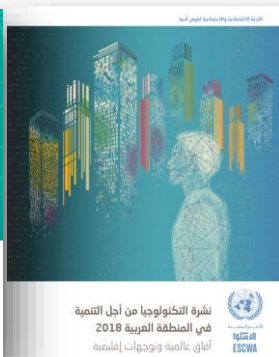
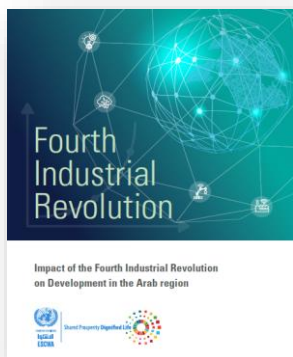


Membership: 18 Arab Countries



Studies and Reports

- Regional profile of **Information Society** in the Arab region
- Directives for **Cyber legislations** in the Arab region
- **Innovation policy** for sustainable development in the Arab region
- **e-Gov** strategies in the Arab region
- Transformation towards **Smart Gov** in the Arab region
- **Digital Economy** perspectives in the Arab region
- **Digital Technologies** for Development: Arab Horizon
- Impact of **4th industrial revolution** on the Arab region



Technical Cooperation Program

Advisory services to member states in several areas:

- ✓ Digital Gov
- ✓ e-Accessibility
- ✓ New Technologies
- ✓ Technology Indicators
- ✓ Innovation and Incubators
- ✓ Technology Transfer
- ✓ Cyber legislations
- ✓

En | Ar

الدخول

كلمة المرور * اسم المستخدم *

4FHPC

اطبع الأخرى أدناه *

الدخول

التصنيفات

التعاون الفني

جهات الاتصال الوطنية

المستشارون الإقليميون

عن شبكة التعاون الفني

الصفحة الرئيسية

كلمة ترحيب

يهدف برنامج التعاون الفني في اللجنة الاقتصادية والاجتماعية لغربي آسيا (اسكوا) الى الاستجابة الى اولويات الدول الاعضاء من احتياجات لتنمية وذلك من خلال تقديم خدمات استشارية والمساعدة في وضع السياسات للدول الاعضاء و تنفيذ ورشات عمل لبناء القدرات. تعتمد الاسكوا دليل الخدمات الاستشارية على اعضاء شبكة التعاون الفني في تنفيذ برنامج التعاون الفني في 18 دولة عضو في الاسكوا. ليعزيب

أحر الأخبار

ورشة عمل للاسكوا في جمهورية السودان حول "تعزيز منظومة نقل التكنولوجيا في السودان: الإطار القانوني والسبة المقترحة"

02.01.2018 | جمهورية السودان

ضمن إطار برنامج التعاون الفني الذي تضطلع الاسكوا بتنفيذه بالتعاون مع الدول العربية الأعضاء، وبناءً على الطلب المرسل من مدينة أفريقيا التكنولوجية في جمهورية السودان لتقديم الدعم الفني في تعزيز منظومة نقل التكنولوجيا والابتكار في السودان، قامت الاسكوا بتنفيذ ورشة عمل في الخرطوم يوم 27 كانون الأول/ديسمبر 2017. المزيد

اجتماعات عمل للاسكوا في جمهورية السودان حول: "إنشاء مرصد لمؤشرات تكنولوجيا المعلومات والاتصالات"

29.12.2017 | جمهورية السودان

ضمن إطار برنامج التعاون الفني الذي تضطلع الاسكوا بتنفيذه بالتعاون مع الدول العربية الأعضاء، وبناءً على الطلب المرسل من المركز القومي للمعلومات في جمهورية السودان لتقديم الدعم الفني في إنشاء مرصد لمؤشرات تكنولوجيا المعلومات والاتصالات في إدارة السودان، نظمت الاسكوا، ممثلةً بالسيد د. نزار العوا، المستشار الإقليمي في إدارة التكنولوجيا من أجل التنمية مهمة إلى الخرطوم يوم 26 كانون الأول/ديسمبر 2017 لعقد عدد من الاجتماعات مع الجهات الوطنية المعنية بمجال مؤشرات تكنولوجيا المعلومات والاتصالات. المزيد

الأنشطة المقبلة

نموذج طلب خدمة استشارية

نموذج الشروط المرجعية

نموذج مراجعة الخدمات الاستشارية والدعم الفني

مواقع متصلة

- ← برنامج الأمم المتحدة للتعاون الفني
- ← اللجان الإقليمية للأمم المتحدة والتعاون الفني
- ← حساب التنمية في الأمم المتحدة

www.tcpportal.escwa.org.lb

Status of the Arab Region



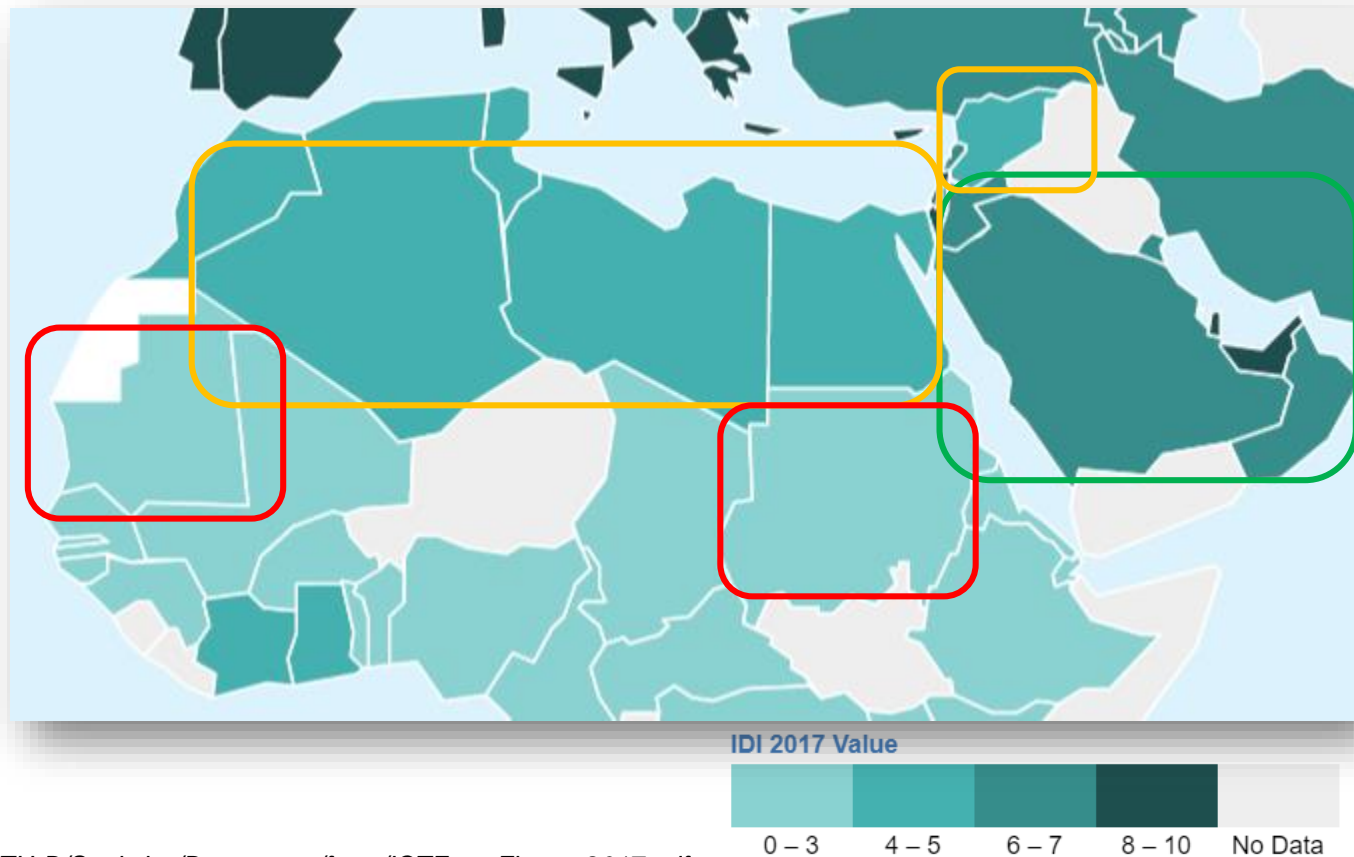
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Digital Infrastructure

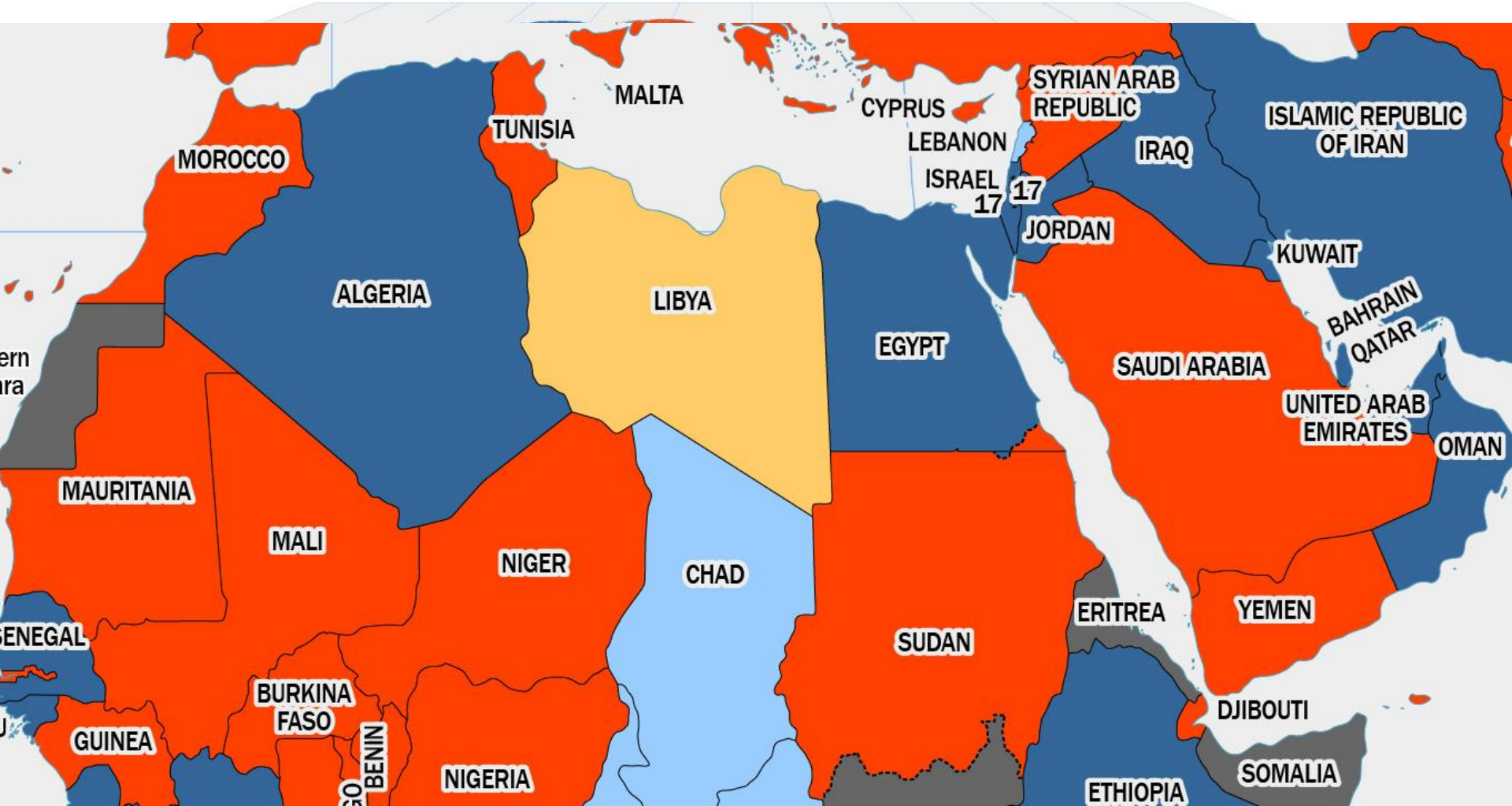
- **IDI:** ICT Development Index (ITU - 2017)
- Measurement: **Access - Skills - Use**
- 3 Categories: **High - Medium - Low**



CRPD-Convention on the rights of persons with disability (2006)

■ Not Signed ■ Signed Convention ■ Signed Convention & Protocol ■ Ratified Convention ■ Ratified Convention & Protocol

As of 11 May 2016



All countries have signed or ratified CRPD

Ref. UNDESA-Map-449646 (2016)

Regional Challenges



- National policies/standards for e-Accessibility: **few countries**
- Data limitation: disability rates range **0.7% to 4.6%** of the population
- Loss in GDP due to low accessibility: **3%-7.7%**
- Financial resources: **>50%** of users buy assistive devices directly
- Service provision and delivery: **rare** initiatives for accessible services
- Trained **human resources**: few or rare training programs
- Products: **industry is limited**

Rise of injuries due to conflict
30% Region Countries



Arab region experiences (1/5)

Qatar

- National [policy](#) for e-accessibility (2011)
- Developed by **ICT Qatar Council**
- **Focus:** Enhanced [access to web sites](#), access to [telecommunication services](#), access to [Arabic digital content](#), access to [terminals](#) with general use (ATMs), increased use of [assistive technologies](#)
- **Rank #5 (out of 121):** G3ICT DARE (digital accessibility rights evaluation) index 2019



DARE Index Score Summary

Country Laws and Regulations:	25/25
Country Capacity to Implement:	20/25
Country Policies and Programs Outcomes by Areas of ICT Accessibility and Level of Implementation:	30/50
Total Score:	75/100



Arab region experiences (2/5)

- **Oman: #1** out of 121 (2019) – DARE index

DARE Index Score Summary

Country Laws and Regulations:	25/25
Country Capacity to Implement:	25/25
Country Policies and Programs Outcomes by Areas of ICT Accessibility and Level of Implementation:	31/50
Total Score:	81/100

- **Egypt: #27** out of 121 (2019) – DARE index

- Regional innovation centre for PwD (MoICT): capacity building, frameworks for e-accessibility, competitions,

DARE Index Score Summary

Country Laws and Regulations:	20/25
Country Capacity to Implement:	15/25
Country Policies and Programs Outcomes by Areas of ICT Accessibility and Level of Implementation:	22/50
Total Score:	57/100

Arab region experiences (3/5)

Morocco

Action plan 2017-2021: 6 Themes

- **Aim:** improve **coordination** among public entities in e-Accessibility
- **Track 2:** Universally Accessible Environment (ICT)

Law 97-13 (adopted in 2016)

- **e-Accessibility:** education, employment, transportation, and **ICT**



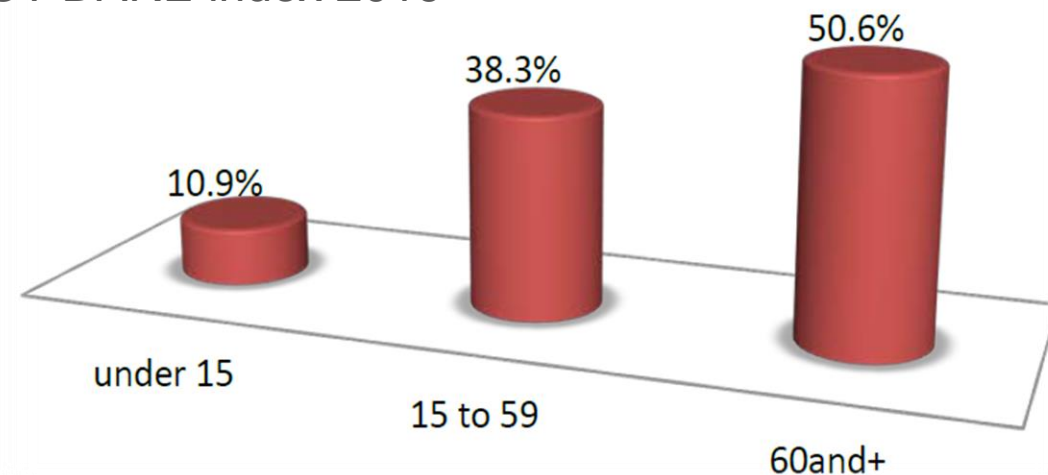
Arab region experiences (4/5)



Two surveys to collect data on the status of PwD in 2004 and 2014

Main results

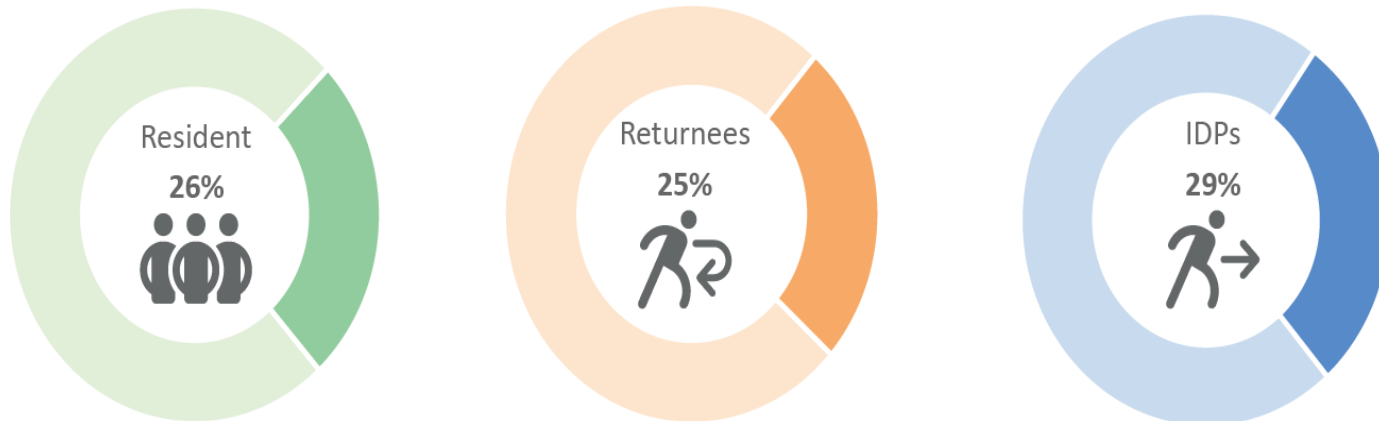
- Loss of GDP: 3%
- 13% only of persons with disability are employed
- 3.4% only of persons with disabilities use the computer
- 16.7% of persons with disabilities do not watch TV
- 37.5% of persons with disabilities need assistive technology
- Rank: #78 (out of 121) - G3ICT DARE index 2019



Arab region experiences (5/5)

Syria

- 2016 survey: **trauma and injuries**, non-communicable diseases
- **27%** of the population (12+) have a disability
- **62% of PwD** are **out of work** against **48%** for persons without disability



Prevalence of Disability, by population type

Selected ESCWA Activities



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Selected ESCWA Activities (1/5)



Valetta Declaration (April 2019)

- Malta: 1st joint meeting of the [Arab-European intergovernmental disability network](#) in April 2019, in cooperation with ESCWA and the League of Arab States (LAS)
- Creation of EU-Arab [Cooperation forum](#) in the field of disability rights (Valetta Forum)
- Approved by 9 Arab countries

IGED: Inter-sessional Group of Experts on Disability (2016)

Created on the request of governments in [2016 to:](#)

- Discuss [policy challenges](#) related to the implementation of CRPD
- [Exchange experience](#) across Arab Governments
- Mechanism to coordinate with EU [Disability High-Level Group \(DHLG\)](#)

Selected ESCWA Activities (2/5)

IGED ...

Modality

- Consists of **governmental policy experts** from all 18 member countries
- Meetings: around **twice per year** on specific topics
- Some sessions are hosted by member countries
- **Civil society** movements are greatly involved in the work of the group

Discussed themes (3 meetings 2016-2018)

- Article **19**: **deinstitutionalization** of PwD (live independently)
- Article **27**: inclusion of PwD in the **labour market**
- Article **31**: **Data** and statistics
- Article **33**: institutional set-up and **monitoring mechanisms**



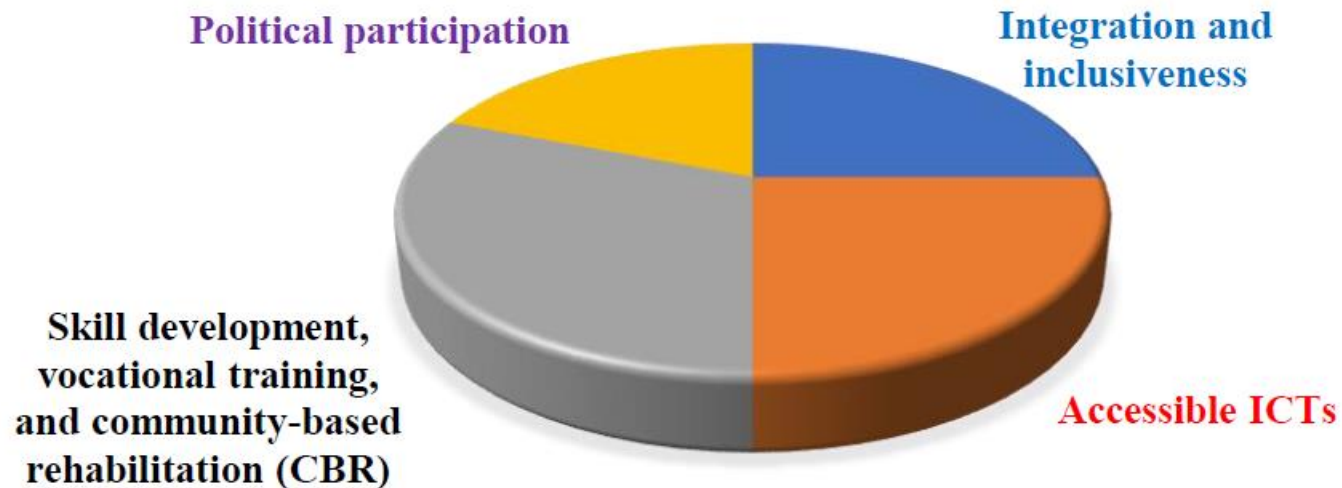
Selected ESCWA Activities (3/5)

IGED ...

Plan

- Meeting will take place in [Cairo in December 2019](#)
- Focus on [disability assessment](#) and determination procedures

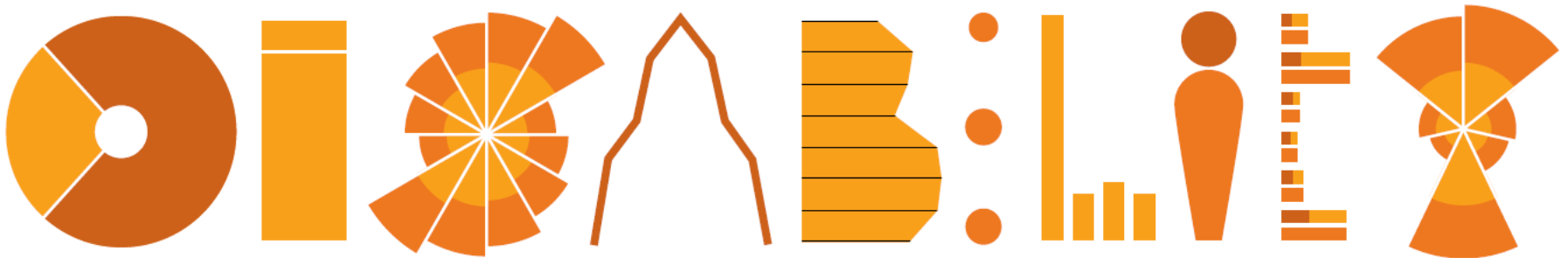
Additional thematic areas



Selected ESCWA Activities (4/5)

Upcoming activities

- UN [Disability SWAP](#) (System-Wide Action Plan): 2019
- UN [Regional project](#) “Inclusion of PwD in the [labour market](#)”: 2020-2023
- Development of [Arab disability Indicator](#) Framework: improve reporting on PwD across SDGs



Selected ESCWA Activities (5/5)

Technical Assistance

- Member states have requested **technical assistance** on e-inclusion and assistive technology for persons with disabilities (Morocco, Syria)



Potential Cooperation



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Potential Initiatives for Cooperation

- Development of **National Policies for e-Accessibility**
- Development of **National Guidelines for e-Accessibility**
- Improve **R&D** knowledge exchange
- **Measurement** of e-Accessibility
- Projects or initiatives for **Service delivery, capacity building**
- Regional week on **disability** (ITU-ARO)

SUGGESTIONS



Final word

The Arab Region needs to:

- Adopt national e-Accessibility **strategy** and plan of action
- Improve **Human resource** capacity
- Funding and improve **affordability**
- Increase public **awareness** and understanding
- Improve accessibility **data** collection
- Support **research** on e-Accessibility
- Focus on **innovation and entrepreneurship** for PwD (AI solutions with Arabic content)

CONCLUSIONS



Thank You

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UN-ESCWA



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