

Arab States

1. Egypt:

A one-day conference with the theme ‘Combating corruption for democratic transformation and sustainable development’ was held in Cairo to mark International Anti-Corruption Day. The conference was jointly organized by the Transparency and Integrity Committee of the Ministry of State for Administrative Development, the Ministry of Justice, the Social Contract Centre, the Egyptian Corporate Responsibility Center (ECRC), UNDOC and UNDP. A total of 500 people participated, including representatives of several key NGOs, the private sector and the media.

Among other areas, participants reflected on the major political, economic and social changes triggered by the revolution earlier in the year that was driven by young people, the media and social networks. They also discussed the role of various stakeholders — including youth, civil society organizations, the private sector and government institutions — in the fight against corruption and promoting equitable development.

Civil society organizations also presented successful and innovative initiatives to combat corruption and some of the key lessons learnt in sustaining such initiatives. One cited was *Zabatak* (‘You are busted!’), an Egyptian crowd-sourcing website where anyone can report incidents of corruption online or via SMS. *Zabatak* has proven to be a successful instrument to combat corruption as many of the reports have led to arrests and prosecution of people engaged in corrupt practices.

A publication on the importance of corporate governance in combating corruption aimed at the government and the private sector was launched at the conference. In addition, organizers distributed ACT campaign materials and set up booths at the venue to provide information on, among other things, anti-corruption efforts of different organizations and key knowledge products in the area of anti-corruption.

The conference was reported by several newspapers including *Al-Ahram*, *Al-Ahkbar*, *Al-Gomhoriya*, *Al-Masri Al-Youm*, *Al-Destour*, *Al-Youm Al-Sabee*, *Al-Mosawer*, *Al Shorouk*, and Middle East Press News. In addition, TV networks such as the Nile channels, Al-Hayat TV channels and Orbit Network covered the event.

Impact: The conference brought together actors from different sectors who are actively engaged in the fight against corruption. It provided an excellent networking opportunity for actors from the government, private sector, media, NGOs and youth organizations to share each other’s work and collaborate in the area of anti-corruption. Participants’ enthusiasm to coordinate their efforts to tackle corruption led Dr. Ashraf Abdel Wahab, the acting Minister of State for Administrative Development (MSAD), to commit to establish a portal on his agency’s website with information about anti-corruption work of various actors. The portal could potential lead to strengthened cooperation among a range of current and future stakeholders.

2. Iran:

UNODC and UNDP Iran, in collaboration with the General Inspection Organization (the main agency responsible for prevention of corruption in Iran), organized a one-day event on 11 December to mark International Anti-Corruption Day. The event was attended by at least 2,000 officials from the Ministry of Justice and the judiciary, including Hojatolislam Ebrahim Raiesi, first deputy head of the judiciary, and Minister of Justice Morteza Bakhtiyari.

The objective of the event was to create awareness about the capacity-building needs at the national level to implement the UNCAC as well as to strengthen collaboration among relevant government institutions. In their respective speeches, the minister of justice, the deputy head of judiciary and the director of General Inspection Organization reiterated that Iran has taken considerable steps to combat corruption, including passing legislation to combat it. They also stressed the need for better cooperation among government institutions in the implementation of these key national laws, a step that would in turn enable implementation of the UNCAC.

UNODC distributed ACT campaign materials in English and Farsi during the event. It also informed participants of the outcomes of the Fourth Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the UNCAC held in Marrakesh, Morocco in 2011 and highlighted the areas where UNODC can provide technical assistance in the implementation of the UNCAC.

Following the event, the Farsi-language campaign materials and a report of the event were distributed by UNODC to provincial offices of the General Inspection Organization, the judiciary and the Ministry of Justice.

The 11 December event was covered by all the main Iranian television news networks (Farsnews, MojNews and MehrNews) and online news outlets SNN.ir and IRNA.ir. The statement released on International Anti-Corruption Day by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon was translated into Farsi and published by these sources as well.

Impact: The clear message delivered at the event by participating senior government officials was the need for improved coordination among various institutions and agencies responsible for combating corruption. This message was communicated by UNODC to provincial officials and will be used as an entry point for further discussions on national reforms and implementation of the UNCAC. The extensive media coverage of the event, enhanced by the participation of senior officials, also helped to reach wide sections of the society.

3. Jordan:

UNDP Jordan supported a panel discussion on anti-corruption on 6 December 2011 at the Karama Film Festival (5-10 December) to commemorate International Anti-Corruption Day. Karama is the first human rights film festival in Jordan. Started in 2010, it advocates for human rights and encourages critical thinking and civic engagement through the screening of human rights-related films and post-screening Q&As, debates and discussions. Karama's organizers believe in the power of creative arts to expose complex human rights issues. Therefore, musical concerts, theatre performances, poetry readings and visual art exhibitions that deal with human rights issues are organized as part of the festival. The 2011 film festival showcased 45 films from 27 countries.

UNDP supported Karama to bring together six anti-corruption activists and experts from the region and elsewhere to participate in the panel discussion. The six experts discussed i) What is corruption? How is it a violation of human rights?; ii) the Jordan Anti-Corruption Commission's experience and effectiveness in promoting transparency; iii) the importance of access to information in promoting transparency; iv) the role of the media and social media; v) the role of journalism in investigating and uncovering corruption, and its impact; and vi) the relationship between corruption and the calls for change in the region, and the role of film and its impact on anti-corruption. Recommendations made at the panel discussion are currently being compiled into a road map for action by UNDP.



Bothaina Kamel, the first female Presidential candidate in Egypt and Hamdy El Fakhrany with live tweets screen behind them at one of the panel discussions at the Karama Film Festival

Notable speakers at the panel discussion were Waddah Bilbeisi, the Director of Investigation at the Jordan Anti-Corruption Commission; Abeer Musleh, a Transparency International representative from the Palestinian branch of the Coalition for Accountability and Integrity Network (AMAN); Bothaina Kamel, first female presidential candidate from Egypt; Hamdy El-Fakharany, an Egyptian anti-

corruption activist; Khairy Bishara, an Egyptian filmmaker and director; and Rana Sabbagh of the Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism Foundation.

A Facebook page was created for the film festival (www.facebook.com/#!/KaramaFilmFestival), and a Twitter hashtag (#KaramaAC) was set up. A total of 52 tweets on the anti-corruption panel discussion were sent out, and nearly 90,000 people were directly reached via this outreach method.

Impact: The anti-corruption panel discussion session offered a unique platform for interaction among representatives of the Jordan Anti-Corruption Commission and parliamentarians, journalists, and civil society actors. More importantly, the session helped to fuel exchange of experiences in combating corruption among activists from the Palestinian territories, Jordan and Egypt and also proved to be a starting point for combining efforts to promote transparency and raise public awareness in the region. The most important outcome of this event was the set of recommendations that emerged from the panel discussion and which will be compiled into a road map for action by UNDP.

4. Tunisia:

UNDP organized a two-day international forum titled ‘National anti-corruption vision: towards creating synergies between actors’ in the seaside town of Gammarth. This important forum brought together high-level representatives of key agencies involved in anti-corruption, including the National Commission for Investigation of Corruption and Embezzlement, the Tunisian Court of Auditors, the Arab Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (ARABOSAI) Tunisia, the Ministry of Justice and the national institute lawyer training. Also in attendance were experts in public management and asset management, academics, journalists and other media personnel, and representatives from civil society organizations such as the National Youth Observatory and the National Anti-Corruption Network.

Discussions at the forum centred around establishing a new national vision for the fight against corruption. Participants considered ways to achieve that vision, including through the implementation of current laws and a future national strategy against corruption; better defining the roles of different actors involved (public institutions, supervisory bodies, civil society organizations, the media, etc.); creating synergies among the efforts of various actors; promoting ethics, open government and social accountability; and using international experience to provide lessons for Tunisia in using indicators to measure corruption.

Twelve recommendations emerged from the forum. The general focus was on reforming the institutional and legislative framework, enhancing the role of civil society in the fight against corruption, and strengthening the new Tunisian Anti-Corruption Agency (TACA) based on experiences from other countries.

In addition, as part of its ongoing anti-corruption work, UNDP established the online platform [La Bourse de la Corruption](#). The platform enables people to report bribes they paid (and the amount handed over) to acquire services at various state institutions such as courts and municipal governments (e.g., to get licenses), and in order to obtain visas or medical certificates. The platform aims to keep track of the monetary value of corruption in Tunisia. UNDP prepared [two video](#) adverts on corruption and disseminated them through key national TV channels. The agency also sponsored events such as an exhibition of drawings and caricatures on anti-corruption music concerts targeting youth; and outreach efforts aimed at civil society organizations (associations, etc.) and the media.

Impact: The key outcome of the forum was the articulation of 12 recommendations on how to develop a national anti-corruption vision. In addition, UNDP’s other activities in the area of anti-corruption helped to raise public awareness and provided a platform for citizens to report corruption anonymously.

5. Yemen:

UNDP Yemen organized a one-day workshop on the importance of prioritizing anti-corruption work and promoting right to access to information during the current political transition period in the country. The 115 participants at the workshop included senior officials from the Supreme National Authority for Combating Corruption, the Central Organization for Control and Auditing and the High Authority for Tender Control as well as representatives from the NGO sector and media outlets.

The workshop consisted of panel discussions on how anti-corruption efforts can contribute to promoting justice during the reform process in Yemen and how media can enhance transparency and access to information. Those panels were followed by group discussions on the role of youth and the civil society sector and other key institutions in promoting anti-corruption during the critical transition period. By the end of the workshop, participants proposed a set of priority objectives that would best help achieve desired social, political and economic reforms. These include:

- ⤴ restoring trust and confidence in functioning public institutions;
- ⤴ maintaining rule of law;
- ⤴ promoting judiciary and regulatory reforms to ensure coherence between national laws and provisions of international corruption-related conventions that Yemen has ratified; and
- ⤴ improving coordination and cooperation among all parties working in the field of anti-corruption.



Panellists at the workshop organized by UNDP in Yemen on International Anti-Corruption Day

The Studies and Economic Media Center, a youth organization, distributed a newly completed manual on transparency and information disclosure during the workshop. It received financial support from UNDP to produce the manual

Reports on the workshop appeared on state-owned and four popular satellite TV and radio channels (Youth Radio, Sana'a, Aden and General Program Radios) as well as in newspapers, journals, magazines and online news sites.

Impact: The current political environment in Yemen lends more significance to this workshop and the discussions on the kind of reforms that should take place in the country. In addition, civil society actors, particularly youth activists involved in access to information movement, and journalists from leading local media were actively involved in the discussions on transparency and accountability.

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Country	ACT Campaign Activities	Impact	Estimated number of people targeted
Egypt	<p>A one-day conference with the theme ‘Combating corruption for democratic transformation and sustainable development’ was held in Cairo to mark International Anti-Corruption Day. The conference was jointly organized by the Transparency and Integrity Committee of the Ministry of State for Administrative Development, the Ministry of Justice, the Social Contract Centre, the Egyptian Corporate Responsibility Center (ECRC), UNDOC and UNDP.</p> <p>Civil society organizations also participated in the conference and showcase their work in combating corruption.</p>	<p>The conference brought together actors from different sectors who are actively engaged in the fight against corruption. It provided an excellent networking opportunity for actors from the government, private sector, media, NGOs and youth organizations to share each other’s work and collaborate in the area of anti-corruption. Participants’ enthusiasm to coordinate their efforts to tackle corruption led Dr. Ashraf Abdel Wahab, the acting Minister of State for Administrative Development (MSAD), to commit to establish a portal on his agency’s website with information about anti-corruption work of various actors.</p>	8 million
Jordan	<p>UNDP Jordan supported six panel discussions on anti-corruption at the Karama Film Festival (5-10 December) to commemorate International Anti-Corruption Day. Karama is the first human rights film festival in Jordan. Anti-Corruption activists and experts from the region participated in the panel discussions</p>	<p>The anti-corruption panel discussion sessions offered a unique platform for interaction among representatives of the Jordan Anti-Corruption Commission and parliamentarians, journalists, and civil society actors as well as regional exchange of experiences with activists from the Palestinian territories, Jordan and Egypt. The most important outcome of this event was the set of recommendations that emerged from the panel discussions and which will compiled into a road map for action by UNDP.</p>	100,000
Yemen	<p>UNDP Yemen organized a one-day workshop on the importance of prioritizing anti-corruption work and promoting right to access to information during the current political transition period in the country. Senior officials from the Supreme National Authority for Combating Corruption, the Central Organization for Control and Auditing and the High Authority for Tender Control as well as representatives from the NGO sector and media outlets.</p>	<p>The workshop facilitated discussions between senior government officials, civil society actors, particularly youth activists involved in access to information movement, and journalists from leading local media. .</p>	2 million