ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

June 2018 - June 2019

Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

Regional Electoral Support for Middle East and North Africa

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The MENA region continues to be characterized by conflicts and civil strife, political tensions and divisions, as well as long-term pressures from the effects of poor governance. At the core of many of these challenges is the lack of inclusiveness, accountability and transparency in decision-making related to how resources are allocated and how communities are governed. With women and youth making up more than 60% of the region's population, peace and stability hinges, largely, on their effective and equal participation in efforts to address the effects of poor governance. It is within this development context that UNDP, with generous support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), implements the regional project, supporting the region as it finds its own path towards a society that is more inclusive, participatory and accountable.

The overall aim of the Regional Electoral Support Project for Middle East and North Africa Phase II is to support and advocate for greater social and political voice and participation in democratic processes, particularly of women and youth. The project supports entities and initiatives that promote democratic institutions, raise awareness and knowledge on electoral processes and practices, and strengthen regional cooperation in these areas.

YLP participants discuss role of youth in preventing violence against women

This report serves as the annual progress report of the second year of implementation of Phase II, covering the period from June 2018 to June 2019. The report provides a summary of the project's key achievements over the past year as well as the details of its output and activity level results. These successes have been built on the achievements of the previous year and the strong and positive relationships honed with key regional and national partners. In line with the project document, duirng the reporting period, the project focused on promoting the inclusion of women and youth in civic and political life, strengthening regional capacity and cooperation, and raising knowledge and awareness on the importance of active citizenry.

Key achievements during the reporting period include:

Promoted Youth Civic and Political Participation

Through the project's Youth Leadership Programme (YLP) initiative, more than 5,000 youth gained valuable knowledge and skills on the Sustainable Development Goals and the link between the SDGs and the challenges they face in their communities. Through YLP's national and regional level interventions, the project worked with more than 50 civil society organizations in 13 countries to enable youth to combine their passion and innovative thinking around achieving the SDGs. YLP participants have launched and established successful small businesses, won municipality elections, received recognition and awards for their innovative solutions, and presented their ideas at renowned universities and global platforms like the ECOSOC Youth Forum at the UN, the European Parliament, Stanford University, Columbia University, and Hult International Business School. The finalists of this year's YLP shared their vision and passion for achieving the ambitious 2030 agenda at the 2019 ECOSOC Youth Forum, during which the UNDP Administrator recognized the initiative for its impact on youth and their communities in the MENA region.

The project saw another successful year of the university course on Electoral Systems from a Comparative Perspective at the University of St. Joseph in Lebanon. Through the course, students at St. Joseph University Beirut had the opportunity to learn and understand electoral systems, how they are designed and the link between electoral systems and the participation of minority and marginalized groups. Based on an evaluation conducted at the end of the course, the students indicated that it sparked their interest to investigate these topics further and to look at issues of democracy and participation in their own countries and communities.

This year, as a result of students' interest, the University has requested the project to facilitate internship opportunities for students with the UNDP and other organizations working in areas of democracy and development.

The project expanded its engagement on youth to include a partnership with the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe for the 7th Mediterranean University (MedUni) on Youth and Global Citizenship. The University brings youth from the MENA region together with youth from Europe and Africa to share, learn and exchange ideas on civic and political participation of youth. Through this partnership, the project has raised the awareness of youth on key electoral topics, on using innovative tools and mechanisms for enhancing the role of youth in political processes and how to develop sustainable innovative projects and initiatives of youth-identified solutions.

The partnership enabled networking between hundreds of young people from Arab countries, as well as from Europe and Africa. In addition to gaining knowledge and practical skills, the event served as an opportunity for the youth to discuss, share, connect, reflect, and experience solidarity in the context of intercultural dialogue and democratic citizenship. During a week-long workshop, participants developed ideas and project prototypes on ways to address youth voter apathy in the MENA region. The program, whose theme was 'youth and justice: SDG 16. encouraged the participants to utilize the resources and tools at their disposal to become stronger creative thinkers and future implementors of activities and projects aimed at enhancing youth political participation.

MedUni participants build solidarity through the sharing of experiences

Enhanced Women's Political Participation

The project's advocacy on women's participation resulted in the formal decision by the general assembly of the Organization of ArabEMBs to establish a regional network that brings together EMBs and civil society organizations in promoting women's political participation in the region. The network is the first of its kind in bringing electoral authorities together with civil society organizations at the regional level to advocate for and promote women in elections. During the reporting period, two workshops were held to finalize the network structure and framework and ensure high level support for its success; a formal decision was taken to launch the network on October 4th in Tunisia, hosted by the Tunisian EMB, the ISIE. In addition to launching the network, the Organization of ArabEMBs will endorse the establishment of gender units in member EMBs with the necessary resources to initiate and continue efforts on the national level to increase the number of women voters, candidates, observers, and electoral administrators.

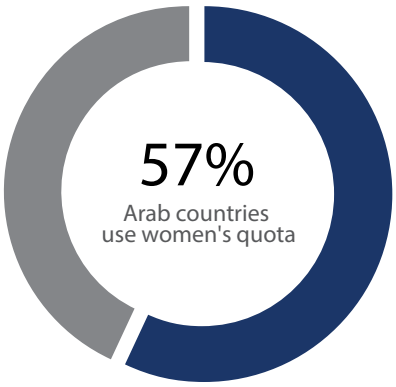
Representatives from ArabEMBs, UNDP, IDEA, and UN Women meet to define the structure and framework of a regional network for women in elections

To activate women's representation in national assemblies, foster effective female political participation, and ensure effective implementation of TSMs and quotas, the project initiated a study to better understand the potential barriers and solutions to equal influence and equal representation. The study led to the development of a reference guide on women's representation and political participation which explores the nuance of factors, systems and barriers that influence women's political participation in the Arab States, as well as the way these elements interact with each other. Its objective is to get a better view and understanding of the current situation, with all its complexities, regarding the political participation of women in the Arab region.

ArabEMBs member from Palestine, Lamis Alami the Secretary General of the Central Elections Commission votes for a new president and executive board at the organizations 2019 general assembly

The opening session of ArabEMBs 2nd General Assembly

Percentage of countries with special quotas for women's participation



(Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia)

Strengthened Regional Bodies

The Organization of Arab Electoral Management Bodies (ArabEMBs) continued to solidify as an organization and serve as a platform for sharing and learning in the region. During the reporting period, the organization was formally registered as a regional entity in Jordan. With the support of the Independent Election Commission of Jordan (IEC), the ArabEMBs signed an agreement with the Government of Jordan to grant the organization legal status to operate in Jordan. The agreement paves the way for ArabEMBs to operationalize its secretariat, open a bank account and initiate the process for receiving membership fees from its eleven members. This was a key milestone in the project's efforts to ensure the sustainability of the newly established ArabEMBs.

"Transparent, effective and efficient dispute resolution is key to ensuring the inclusive participation of women in elections" Khaled Abdelshafi, Director, UNDP Regional Hub Amman

The LAS department also acquired expert facilitator accreditation for the globally recognized BRIDGE curriculum which is a valuable resource not only for LAS and its staff but for all electoral stakeholders who implement the BRIDGE program in the region including EMBs and implementing agencies working in the field of elections; the full accreditation also contributes to the sustainability of the BRIDGE program for LAS, which can now provide the training at no-cost to its staff. The department is now also equipped to provide the training to member states without the need for hiring external facilitators. During the reporting period, the LAS electoral affairs department also developed and disseminated its first knowledge product on elections with a regional overview and analysis of elections in the region.

Participants gather in Cairo for the second annual LAS Forum of Electoral Management Bodies

Increased Availability and Access to Knowledge

During the reporting period, the project led the development and dissemination of electoral knowledge in Arabic with the following key publications made available in the region:

- Reference guide on women's representation and political participation
- Methodology guidebook on monitoring human rights in elections
- Arabic site of the ACE Electoral Knowledge Network Activated
- Mapping of Regional Voter Registration Systems and Processes
- Arabic Dictionary of Electoral Terminology

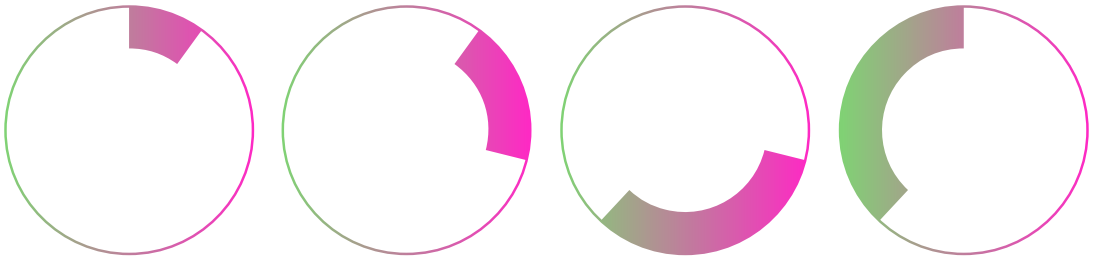
League of Arab States participants at the annual BRIDGE training organized by the LAS electoral affairs department

Country Support

During the reporting period, the project provided technical support to Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Syria and Tunisia. This support included facilitating the Iraqi electoral audit mission which helped resolve the country's post-election disputes following the 2018 national elections; extensive advisory support to the Libyan electoral commission (HNEC) as well as seconding a staff member to support HENC and UNDP in implementing the electoral assistance project; under the leadership of the UN's electoral assistance division, the project participated in a needs assessment to define UN's future electoral assistance in Lebanon; and finally, the project provided support to the electoral assistance project in Tunisia and supported the UN led discussions in Geneva on electoral issues in Syria.

Editorial team of the region's first dictionary of electoral terminology

Type of electoral systems used in the Arab states



ACTIVITY RESULTS

ACTIVITY RESULTS

Output 1: Regional Electoral Capacity and Knowledge Enhanced

1.1 Increased Professional Knowledge on Elections

First Arabic dictionary of electoral terminology: To contribute to the profession of elections and academic research on electoral topics in Arabic, the project developed the first Arabic electoral dictionary. The dictionary, consisting of 80 of the most relevant electoral terms, will serve as a knowledge tool targeting university students and practitioners in the field of elections. Modelled on a similar tool developed in Latin America for electoral practitioners, the dictionary defines the selected terms by outlining the basic concepts and their origins and application in the Arab region. The 80 chapters of the dictionary are written by 35 authors consisting of a mix of academics and practitioners from public administration bodies, advocacy groups, and international assistance programs.

The writers vary in age, gender and nationality. Authors are nationals of eight different countries and have a gender ratio of around 70-30% male-female. Several in-person and Skype consultations and meetings were conducted with the Editorial Board along with the drafting committee and experts and practitioners from UNDP and EAD.

The editorial board, consisting of senior experts from the region, met and discussed various issues related to the format and content of the dictionary and reviewed the content for contextualization. The Arab electoral dictionary is expected to address an existing gap in this area in the region particularly given the different and varying Arabic translations currently used for some of these key electoral terms.

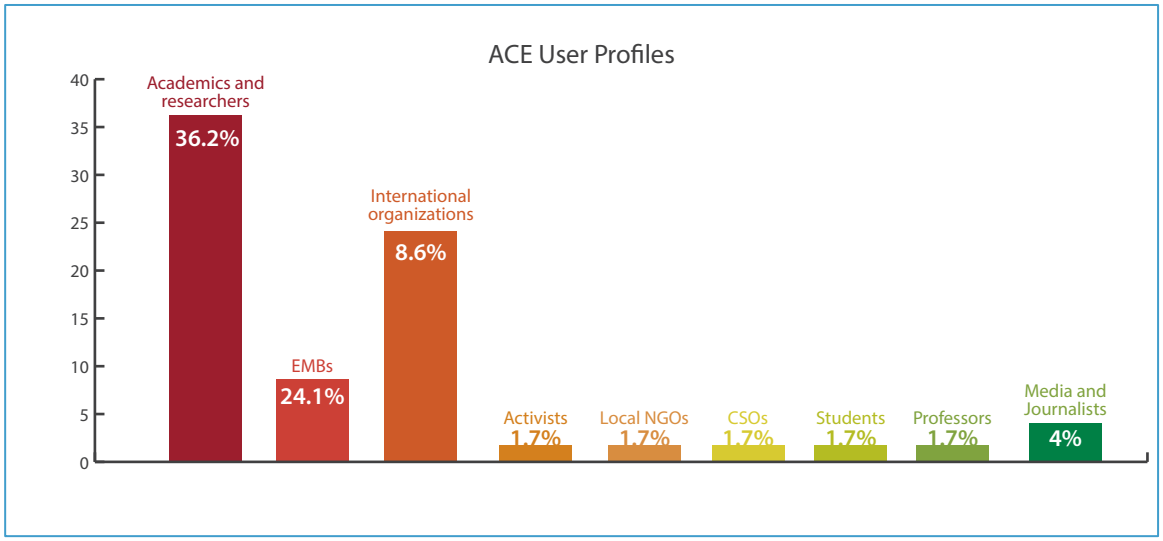
Voter Registration Mapping: With support from the project, the organization of ArabEMBs conducted a survey among its members that resulted in a facts and figures publication on Voter Registration in the Arab World. The document was developed by a taskforce of voter registration experts from different EMBs in the region with a focus on the mechanisms and methodologies of voter registration in the Arab world. The task force shared a questionnaire which was filled in by 8 countries: Lebanon, Palestine, Iraq, Yemen, Sudan, Libya, Jordan and Mauritania. The questionnaire included 93 questions that addressed various topics including legal framework, voter register database, and technical and logistical issues. As a result, this questionnaire came up with 3,517 data entries disaggregated by gender.

The exercise also resulted in building the capacities of the task force members, both in the technicalities of voter registration as well as in working at a regional level to develop a knowledge product useful for a wide range of stakeholders.

Link to VR handbook:
https://arabembs.org/new/uploads/files/Publications/VR%20Handbook.pdf

ACE Website: The project continued its support to the Arabization of the ACE Electoral Knowledge Network. The platform provides more than 10,000 pages of knowledge and resources in English, Arabic, French and Spanish, including an Encyclopedia of topics on elections and democracy, an interactive map offering comparative data on elections across the globe, electoral materials and partner publications, and a Practitioner's Network where electoral officials, academics and EMBs share experiences, knowledge and expertise with each other. Our primary audience in the Arab world consists of EMB staff and electoral practitioners as well as academics doing research on elections and democracy.

During the reporting period, the project worked together with other ACE partners on re-creating the ACE website in English and Arabic to make it more visually appealing, accessible and user-friendly. The structural and visual revamp is now complete, and the new interface was launched in October during the Latin American Democracy Forum hosted by the Mexican election commission. Knowledge products and resources available on the website have become useful to electoral specialists, practitioners and academics alike.



1.2 Promoted the Establishment of a Network of Arabic-speaking Electoral Experts

Expanding the pool of BRIDGE experts: During the reporting period, the project supported LAS in holding a five-day BRIDGE workshop on Introduction to Electoral Administration from December 16 – 20, 2018 during which 20 participants, 12 males and 8 females, were trained on the different phases of the electoral cycle, components of each phase and the logic sequence within the cycle. The BRIDGE training was also an opportunity for LAS' semi accredited facilitators to gain the necessary hours to become fully accredited facilitators.

The facilitation team comprised five BRIDGE facilitators from LAS who participated in the preparation and delivery of this course. Ahmed Amin (LAS workshop facilitator) led the preparation and delivery of the workshop, at the end of which he was promoted to become LAS's first BRIDGE accrediting facilitator.

1.3 Enhanced capacity of the League of Arab States

LAS Forum of Electoral Management Bodies

The second UN-LAS Forum of Election Management Bodies was held from 13-14 November in the headquarters of the League of Arab States in Cairo. The Forum brought together representatives of electoral management bodies (EMBs) from 19 of the 22 LAS member states with the exception of Oman, Bahrain, and Syria, around the important topic of voter registration. The two-day event allowed member states to present and discuss key aspects of voter registration in their respective countries including registration methods, the updating of voter registers and the linkages with civil registries and citizen identification. The event also included discussions on ensuring inclusive elections through voter registration, including measures to promote the participation of women, youth, people with disabilities and other marginalized groups.

The country presentations were a unique learning opportunity for all, with each country sharing information and experiences on voter registration and discussing lessons and good practices in making the process more inclusive, effective and efficien.

The forum provided LAS with an opportunity to present an overview of their observation missions and analysis of key information on elections in the region. The Organization of ArabEMBs presented the results of a voter registration mapping that they conducted for their members as well as a knowledge product on facts and figures of voter registration in the region. This event was conducted jointly with UN Electoral Assistance Division (EAD), our partners with the League of Arab States. Also attending were international organizations including African Union, OIC, European Union, Vince Commission, IFES, Organization of Arab EMB's and Arab Parliament.

Participants from the League of Arab States enhance their capacity on the different phases of the electoral cycle

2018 BRIDGE training participants, League of Arab States, Cairo

Director Ms. Hadia Sabry and Deputy Mr. Ahmed Amin from the League's Electoral Affairs Department speaking at the 2018 LAS-UN forum of electoral management bodies

Follow-up on election observation recommendations in the LAS region

It is common practice for election observation missions (EOMs) to provide recommendations to host governments for how they can improve their electoral process in line with regional and international standards for democratic elections. The consideration of election recommendations by stakeholders is a process that has become known as 'follow-up'. In recent years there has been a widespread recognition of the need for electoral support organisations to focus more on follow-up.

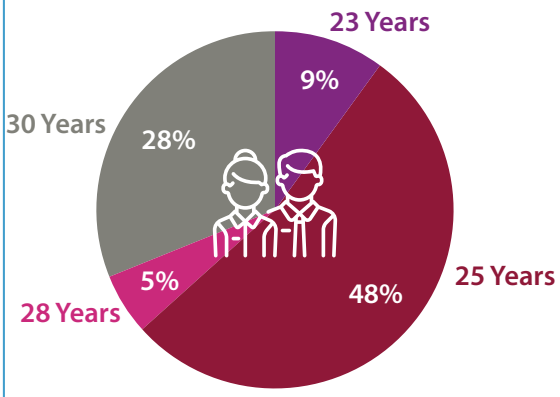
During the reporting period, the project conducted a study of LAS' election observation missions and follow up reports, looking at the broader context of election follow-up. The study provided practical considerations for follow-up and looked at the recent experiences of follow-up to election recommendations in three LAS countries – Tunisia, Lebanon and Jordan. The report found that LAS' approach to promoting follow-up to election recommendations is still in development, and its methodology for election observation as defined in its handbook supports such a practice.

A LAS election observation missoin issues its final report, including recommendations, approximately two weeks after the announcement of results. LAS provides electoral assistance to its Member States which can be leveraged to promote LAS election recommendations.

Staff Exchange: the staff exchange program is another component of the project's partnership with LAS. It is aimed at providing an opportunity for participants to become more familiar with the work of the UN in different areas, particularly in the areas of electoral assistance as well as on issues related to mediation and prevention of election related crisis. Ms. Hadia Sabri, Director of Electoral Affairs Department of LAS attended a staff exchange program from 26 to 30 November 2018, with the EAD/DPA of UNHQ, New York.

The program allowed participants to become more familiar with various aspects of UN electoral assistance including principles, types and procedures; concerns, views and steps taken by the UN on some key electoral matters such as electoral violence as well as on gender and elections.

Age of Candidacy in the Arab States



Age	Number of Country	Country
23 Years	2	Tunisia - Djibouti
25 Years	10	Emirates - Algeria Saudi Arbia - Somalia Comoros - Egypt Libya - Lebanon Mauritania -Yemen
28 Years	1	Palestine
30 Years	6	Jordan - Iraq - Bahrain Oman - Qatar -Kuwait

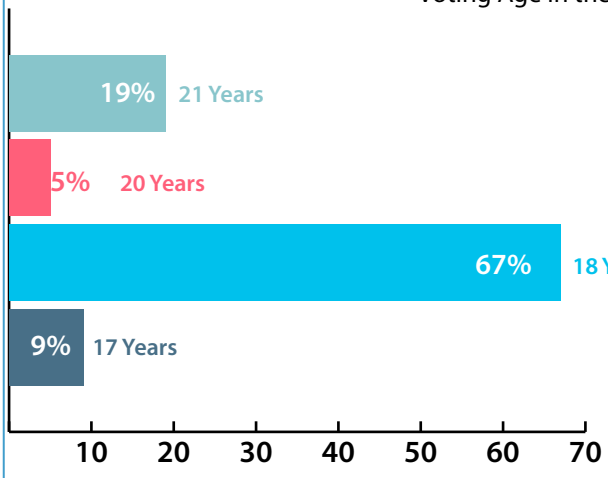
LAS BRIDGE: BRIDGE Building Resources in Democracy, Governance, and Elections is an internationally recognized curriculum designed by and for election administrators to better understand the electoral process. The BRIDGE workshops use an activity-based approach that maximises retention of knowledge and skills learned. In addition, the workshops are designed to promote and reinforce professional confidence, ethics, understanding of the principles of best electoral practices, as well as provide access to networks of peers.

BRIDGE has the potential to trigger change at an organizational level: broader understanding of an organization, morale, and cohesion within the organization. Workshops provide participants with comparative examples and alternative approaches, generating blueprints or support for organizational reform. UNDP, in partnership with LAS, implemented a five-day BRIDGE workshop on Introduction to Electoral Administration in December 2018.
The workshop enabled the participants to:

- Recognize the different phases of the electoral cycle, components of each phase and the logic sequence within the cycle;
- Identify the international obligations for credible elections;
- Identify and analyse the main electoral systems, comparing their strengths and weaknesses, and contrasting their outcomes;
- Get acquainted with different applications of technology during different phases of the electoral process with special emphasis on E-voting;
- Understand the development and importance of international election observation, role of observers and codes of conduct for international and domestic observers;
- Understand the observation and reporting methodology of LAS.

LAS has also accepted to support the BRIDGE partners in the Arabization of the training modules. This partnership is an important step in ensuring sustainability of the BRIDGE program in the region, as well as providing an opportunity for LAS to enhance its support to member states by providing training modules that are customized to the regional context.

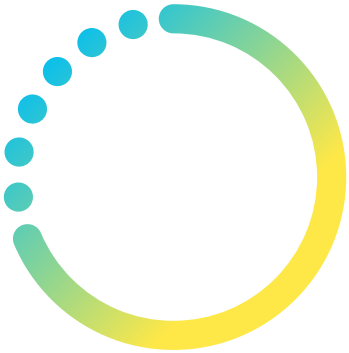
Voting Age in the Arab States



Age	Number of Country	Country
17 Years	2	Jordan - Saudi Arabia
18 Years	14	Tunisia - Algeria Djibouti - Sudan Somalia - Iraq Palestine - Qatar Comoros - Libya Egypt - Morocco Mauritania - Yemen
20 Years	1	Bahrin
21 Years	4	Emirates - Oman Kuwait - Lebanon

Countries with Provision for out of Country Voting

52%
DON'T ALLOW OUT
OF COUNTRY VOTING



(Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania, Sudan, Tunisia, UAE, Yemen)

1.4 Engaging with Media to Raise Awareness and Facilitate Partnerships

Media for Democracy Conference: The project supported the participation of one member from ArabEMBs executive board, commissioner Hussein Aden of the National Independent Electoral Commission in Somalia (NIEC) in the global conference on Media and Democracy organized by UNESCO, in partnership with the AU and the Government of Ethiopia in Addis from 1-3 May.

The conference embraced both Article 19 and Article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by championing the right to freedom of opinion and expression and echoing the importance of the will of the people to be expressed in periodic and genuine elections by universal and equal suffrage. These two rights – to elections and to expression - come into play during polls, and are interlinked. Election outcomes and their aftermath are critically affected by political discourse and communications, including the role of the media in relation to the polling process. As recognized in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16, peace and democracy are preconditions for equitable and sustainable development. When freedom of expression and the safety of journalists are protected, the media can play a vital role in preventing conflict and in supporting peaceful democratic processes.

World Press Freedom Day 2019 provided a platform for multiple actors to exchange and debate issues around the role of media in elections. Addis Ababa, May

The ArabEMBs executive board and a representative from the project participated in the roundtable session entitled "Electoral practitioners' responses to new challenges related to informational flows in protecting the integrity of elections" where he shared different experiences from the Arab region on how the digital environment is continuously evolving which poses new challenges in protecting the integrity of elections. The Internet has enabled electoral practitioners (Electoral Management Bodies - EMBs, media and their independent regulatory systems, electoral observers) to engage interactively with each other and with citizens throughout the electoral cycle and strengthened the right to information through digital information access.

However, in recent years, there have also been large-scale Internet disruptions (for example, shutdowns or arbitrary throttling, arbitrary blocking and filtering of online current) which undermine the trust and confidence of voters in the electoral process. Micro-targeting based on personal data, automated messaging through chatbots, fake accounts, digital marketing techniques, the creation of echo chambers and filter bubbles, and the rapid dissemination of disinformation have been criticized for manipulating public opinion. More than 1000 participants from all over the world took part in the event, representing NGOs, governmental bodies, EMBs and media actors.

ArabEMBs executive board takes part in a panel discussion on the role of media in elections in the Arab States, World Press Freedom Day 2019

Following the conference, ArabEMBs discussed the need to initiate research on these same issues in the Arab region; they have now developed a concept note for a roundtable discussion with EMBs and media experts on the effects of media, particularly social media, on elections, and what EMBs and other electoral stakeholders can do to ensure the integrity of the process. The roundtable is expected to be held by the end of 2019.

Mr. Ahmed Amin, from the LAS electoral affairs department, received BRIDGE certification as an accrediting facilitator. This accreditation allows LAS to expand the pool of electoral experts in the region by conducting BRIDGE trainings, mentoring and accrediting facilitators. This helps LAS sustain the BRIDGE program within the organization, as well as an available resource for its member states.

Output 2: Profession of Electoral Administration Strengthened Through Regional Cooperation

2.1 Organization of Arab Electoral Management Bodies (Arab EMBs)

Signing Ceremony: With the signing of an agreement with the government of Jordan, the Organization of Arab Electoral Management Bodies (ArabEMBs) reached a key milestone since its establishment in 2015. The agreement, which gives ArabeMBs a legal status in Jordan, was signed by the IEC chairman as President of ArabEMBs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Jordan and published in the Jordanian Gazette. The IEC chairman, H.E Khaled Al Kaladeh as President of the organization together with the Chairman of the executive board Mr. Hesham Kuhail CEO of the election Commission in Palestine and the other two members Mr. Abdelhakim Belkair, Commissioner at the Election Commission in Libya and Mr. Hussien Abdi Adam, Commissioner at the Election Commission in Somalia organized a small signing ceremony at the Independent Election Commission in Jordan on 25th of June, where they invited relevant representatives from different ministries, media, CSOs and the League of Arab States.

Participants at the ArabEMBs' 2019 General Assembly and Annual Conference on Electoral Dispute Resolution

General Assembly: During the reporting period, the project supported ArabEMBs in holding its 3rd General Assembly and regional conference on electoral complaints and appeals which took place from 3-5 February 2019 at the Dead Sea. Both the General Assembly and conference were organized jointly by ArabEMBs, UNDP, IEC Jordan and the Venice Commission. The two events saw the participation of over 90 representatives from electoral management bodies of 14 Arab countries: Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Palestine, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia, Yemen, Comoros, Algeria, Kuwait and Egypt. Also present at the meeting were representatives from the EMB in Russia, India and Maldives as well as representatives from SADC and IFES.

Following the one-day general assembly, the conference on electoral complaints and appeals was organized with sessions that included theoretical and practical discussions on electoral justice, the role of EMBs in effectively managing complaints and appeals, the legal framework and its impact on electoral complaints and appeals, and gender considerations in relation to complaints and appeals mechanisms including the lack of data and research on the role of women in the electoral complaints processes.

The conference also covered the role of the judiciary in increasing trust in electoral process and international best practices in Electoral Dispute Resolution (EDR). The speakers from each EMB provided insights from their country experiences and various challenges they face in this regard. The outcome of the event included the formation of a regional committee to develop guidelines and mapping on EDR in the Arab States.

Newly elected ArabEMBs President (Jordan) and executive board members (Libya, Palestine, Somalia)

Executive Board Meetings:

The ArabEMBs Executive Board is responsible for the implementation and follow up of general assembly resolutions, preparation of plans, measures, and provisional budgets to ensure achieving the objectives of the organization. The executive board is also responsible for proposing internal regulatory and administrative by-laws, recommending membership applications, and/ or advising withdrawal requests. The Board is composed of three members: a chairman, two members, and the Secretary General.

During the reporting period and with the support of the project, the executive board held a total of eleven extensive meetings, five of which were in-person meetings, while the rest were held virtually over Skype. Most of the in-person meetings were held on the sidelines of other events organized by the ArabEMBs. During these meetings, the executive board endorsed the Organization's plans and budget, followed up on the progress of implementing activities and took the necessary decisions related to the institutionalization of the organization including the registration and the location of the secretariat, as well as reviewed and endorsed the structure and framework of the network for women in elections.

ArabEMBs Executive Board Meetings	
Meeting	Date
In person meeting-Amman	23-Jul-18
Skype meeting	25-Sep-18
In person meeting Cairo	15-Oct-18
Skype meeting	27-Nov-18
Skype meeting	20-Dec-18
In person meeting-Amman	19-Jan-19
Skype meeting	24-Jan-19
Skype meeting	19-Feb-19
In person meeting Istanbul	25-Mar-19
Skype meeting	17-Apr-19
In person meeting Amman	24-Jun-19

ArabEMBs president, Jordan IEC Chairman Dr. Khaled Al-Kalaldeh, tallies votes in the election for ArabEMBs next executive board

Meeting on the Development of a Guidebook on the Independence of EMBs:

Following on the recommendations from the regional conference on the 'Independence of Electoral Management Bodies' held in 2017, ArabEMBs formed a task force, consisting of representatives from Jordan, Palestine, Tunisia, UNDP and International IDEA, to develop guidelines on the independence of EMBs in Arab States. The task force conducted several virtual meetings to agree on the methodology and main areas to be covered by the guidelines including:

- Financial independence
- Administrative independence
- Responsibilities of EMBs and
- The relationship between EMBs, legislative authorities and the judiciary

The taskforce held a meeting on December 2018 in Tunisia to review the draft guidelines and agree on the way forward; by October, the final document is expected to be submitted to the ArabEMBs executive board for approval and the General Assembly for endorsement.

ArabEMBs Online Presence:

The project supported ArabEMBs in developing and maintaining their web page, social media and email accounts. The web page is used as a platform hosting all the information related to the organization's members, partners, charter and internal regulations, in addition to their events, activities and general information on elections in the Arab region.

Voter Registration Mapping (VR):

The project supported ArabEMBs in forming a task force composed of voter registration experts from electoral authorities in the region, with the aim of compiling and documenting VR practices in the region. The task force developed the "Voter Registration in the Arab World: Facts and Figures publication, a document that illustrates the mechanisms and methodologies of voter registration in the Arab world. The exercise also enabled learning and experience sharing between the different EMBs serving on the task force. The document covers eight countries that took part in questionnaire developed by the task force: Lebanon, Palestine, Iraq, Yemen, Sudan, Jordan, Libya, and Mauritania. The document covers the legal framework, voter register databases and technical and logistical issues on how voters are registered in each country.

Mauritania Visitor Programme:

The Organization of ArabEMBs formed a delegation to visit the June 2019 Mauritanian Presidential Elections following an invitation from the Independent National Electoral Commission of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania (IENC). The overall objectives of the visit were to strengthen regional cooperation between EMBs, facilitate the exchange of experiences and lessons learned on the elections in Mauritania. During the programme, the INEC in Mauritania presented the country's legal framework, electoral system, operational procedures and preparations to other Arab electoral officials.

The delegation was headed by Mr. Nabil Bufon, the Chairman of the Tunisian Independent High Authority for Elections and included representatives from the Independent High Electoral Commission of Iraq, the High National Election Commission in Libya, and one representative from the ArabEMBs secretariat. The mission was part of ArabEMBs overall efforts to promote democracy and elections through regional cooperation and learning.

ArabEMBs visit to Mauritania's 2019 presidential election in which 63% voters took part

2.2 Facilitated South-South Cooperation and Triangulation

Latin-American Forum of Democracy 4-5 of April, Mexico City

The project took part in the 9th Forum of Latin American Democracy on Democracy in the Digital Era. The goal of the forum was to provide a space for dialogue on the challenges that technology, specifically communication technologies, pose on democracy in general and elections in specific. The forum included leaders and representatives from governments, academia, media organizations and civil society. The topics discussed during the forum included:

- New technologies and electoral campaigns;
- Strategies and tools for furthering informed voting;
- Electronic voting (e-voting);
- Use of new technologies, accountability, transparency, and integrity of electoral processes;
- New technologies and Democracy's future; and
- The use of new technologies in the Arab World.

During the forum as part of the panel on the Arab world, representatives from the region spoke on the use of technologies in elections in the Arab world, highlighting the impact of social media on elections and the ability to influence public perception and opinion. Through a compared perspective, the presentation focused on public opinion studies in the Arab world and how they have changed in recent years. The delegation also presented the Arab Electoral Dictionary, an initiative that is modeled on the similar Latin American Electoral Dictionary. The forum participants came away with a multidisciplinary understanding of the challenges for democracies in dealing with the future of technology as it pertains to the political and electoral sphere.

Iraq Recount Mission (5 July - 13 August):

The Independent High Electoral Commission in Iraq (IHEC) requested the United Nations support in conducting a national recount of the 2018 Council of Representatives (CoR) elections following complaints linked to a new electronic vote counting system used in the elections. The Council of Representatives adopted amendments to the electoral law which resulted in the cancellation of election results and a call for a manual recount of the ballots. The UN responded to the request by rapidly deploying 12 electoral experts to support national authorities and the UN mission in Iraq (UNAMI) throughout the recount process. The project facilitated the selection and deployment of the experts, with the UN secretariat covering the costs.

Participants share experiences and lessons learned at the global conference on sustaining peace through election, EC-UNDP Joint Task Force

EC-UNDP Joint Task Force and EU-UNDP Global Conference on Sustaining Peace through Elections:

The EC-UNDP Joint Task Force has developed a toolkit on preventing electoral violence through elections; the toolkit is a valuable resource for electoral practitioners interested in programming interventions that link peace building and conflict prevention with the electoral cycle. The project contributed to the development of the toolkit which will be made available to project stakeholders across the region.

ArabEMBs executive board representative speaks at the global conference on sustaining peace through election, EC-UNDP Joint Task Force

Together with the European Commission (EC), the European External Action Services (EEAS) and the European Parliament, UNDP organized a global conference on Sustaining Peace through Elections which was held in Brussels, Belgium on 8-10 October 2018. The conference gave the participants an opportunity to discuss different aspects of sustaining peace during the electoral cycle and to reflect on how to identify risks through analysis and monitoring and how to prevent and mitigate them.

The conference brought together Election Management Bodies (EMBs), civil society, government officials and other stakeholders from around the world to discuss different approaches to identifying and mitigating risks of violence during the electoral cycle. The discussion and the outcome of the conference fed the sustaining peace through election joint study by UNDP, EEAS, EC, European Parliament. The regional project supported the participation of one of ArabEMBs executive board members which resulted in giving great visibility to the organization.

Global conference on sustaining peace through elections, EC-UNDP Joint Task Force

2.3 Promoting Knowledge and Awareness of Political and Human Rights throughout Electoral Processes

Human Rights Guidebook on Monitoring in Elections:

The project has partnered with the Arab Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ANNHRIs) to promote knowledge and awareness on human rights and freedoms associated with civic and political rights throughout the electoral cycle. During the reporting period, three roundtable discussions were held on April 2010 in Muscat, September 2018 in Madrid and June 2019 in Istanbul) between National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and UNDP to discuss the Methodology Guidebook on the role of NHRIs to monitor human rights in elections. The guidebook comes as a result of previous activities with NHRIs in the region, recognizing the importance of bringing the human rights and electoral communities together to promote and protect rights pertaining to elections such as freedom of association, assembly and expression.

The guidebook intends to serve as a manual for NHRI professionals in the Arab Region and focuses on their role in monitoring different human rights in relation to elections. Considering the methodology of the guidebook, a Train the Trainers manual will be developed to build and strengthen the capacities of NHRIs staff on their role in monitoring human rights in elections.

The project was invited to present the guidebook at the ANNHRIs general assembly in December 2018, where the ANNHRIs secretariat agreed to finalize and adopt the manual. During the meeting, the member NHRI from Algeria requested to pilot the manual in its upcoming elections in 2019.

Output 3: Enhancing the Civic and Political Participaction of Women

3.1 Promoting Regional Networks of Women Involved in Public Life

Working group meeting on establishing a regional network for women in elections, Tunis

Arab Network for Women in Elections: As part of UNDP Arab States' efforts to increase and enhance the role of women in elections, the regional project supported ArabEMBs on an initiative to launch the Arab Regional Network for Women in Elections under the umbrella of the Organization of ArabEMBs.

The network will be guided by a steering committee and will consist of members from electoral management bodies (EMBs), regional civil society organizations and various community leaders. This initiative was based on recommendations from a workshop on enhancing women participation throughout the electoral cycle held in 2016 in the Dead Sea, Jordan. It was then presented to a group of election administrators, regional leaders and international experts during an advisory group meeting held where they agreed on establishing a regional network to promote women in elections, as voters, candidates, observers and administrators.

A working group was formed to take forward the preparations for the launch including developing the structure and governing principles of the network, action plan for the first year, mission and vision statements objectives and a communication strategy for the network. The working group included representatives from Iraq, Libya, Sudan, Palestine, Jordan, Somalia and Tunisia, as well as experts from IFES, IDEA and UNDP. UN women and LAS were also present in the working group meetings.

Participants debate the structure and framework of a regional network for women in elections, meeting of the working group on establishing the network, Tunis

The network's objective for its first year is to following up with EMBs on their commitment to establish and resource gender units; ArabEMBs expects to obtain this commitment from its member EMBs at the launch of the network. The network will also, in partnership with civil society organizations, highlight the role and positive influence of women in elections, as well as conduct research and develop guidelines on the best practices in establishing and operating effective gender units and identifying initiatives that support partnerships between EMB gender units and civil society organizations in promoting the role of women in elections.

During the reporting period, two preparatory meetings were held with the working group in August and December of 2018 in Tunisia, during which the network structure and framework were discussed at length and finalized. The events also allowed the project to successfully advocate for national ownership of the initiative.

Working group celebrates agreement on establishing regional network for women in elections

3.2 Promoting Women Participation as Voters, Candidates, Representatives and Electoral Administrators

Guidebook on Fostering Women's Participation in the Arab Region:

Following a regional technical consultation held in 2017 in Amman on fostering women's political participation, the project began developing a guidebook to assess the use and effectiveness of measures used to enhance women's political participation. The guide builds off of a desk review of publications, research guides and articles on improving women's meaningful political participation, as well as a review of international and regional commitments. Findings from the technical consultation were also incorporated.

The consultation identified barriers to women's participation and representation; mechanisms for overcoming these, including lessons from the regional use of temporary special measures; and remaining research gaps. Insights were also drawn from questionnaires completed by government ministries, parliaments, and women leaders from government, former members of parliaments, and civil society from 17 countries in the Arab region. In-depth interviews were also conducted with stakeholders from governments, parliaments, local councils, election management bodies, former mayors and civil society, and international organizations. Additional research and existing resources on women's political participation were used to supplement fragmented questionnaire and interview responses. Six UNDP country

offices in Algeria, Jordan, Tunisia, Lebanon, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia were interviewed about the differing trajectories of women's political advancement since the Arab Spring. Finally, an Advisory Committee composed of civil society and government representatives conducted a peer review that also informed the study findings.

The publication is an important resource for the region and will serve as a go-to document for both academics and practitioners. The publication was completed during the reporting period and is set to be launched in October 2019.

Working group meeting on establishing network for women in elections, hosted by International IDEA, Tunis 2018

Output 4: Promoting the Role of Youth in the Electoral Cycle

4.1 Establishing clear standards and guidelines for youth participation throughout the electoral cycle

University of St. Joseph Course on Electoral Systems: During the reporting period, the project supported the USJ Beirut in offering its students courses on electoral topics. From October 29-31, a three-day professional course on electoral systems was held in conjunction with UNDP, LAS and St. Joseph University Beirut. The course, "Electoral Systems: A Comparative Perspective", was the third course hosted by St. Joseph University and UNDP in Beirut. The participants included 27 students (14 women and 13 men) from 16 countries: Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia, Belgium, Brazil, Denmark, France, Greece, Iran, Italy, Romania, Spain and Switzerland. For most of the students this program was the first time they had been introduced to electoral systems in a classroom setting.

University of St. Joseph course on electoral systems, co-instructed by UNDP and League of Arab States

The course has a four-stage reasoning process:
An overall theoretical discussion about the nature and functions of electoral systems as a key piece of representative government; a detailed explanation of the different elements of the electoral system in an international comparative perspective -mainly formula of representation, districting, ballot papers, thresholds and voter registries; the inner political implications of the electoral systems for the full inclusion of the people as actual citizens -mainly women, rural populations, displaced people, the disabled, ethnic-cultural minorities; and finally, going back to the more technical elements discussed during the second stage and getting their technicalities linked to the politics

of elections as practiced by political agents in the field (i.e. politicians and government agents in pursuing their short-term strategies including malpractice and ill-manipulation of electoral rules).

Senior Electoral Expert Dr. Rafael Lopez Pintor speaking to students at the USJ course on electoral systems

The program focused specifically on three main issues:

- Electoral systems as rules of the game for elections;
- Electoral system families around the world with review of proportional, majority and mix systems; and
- Inclusion and representation through electoral systems

Through combining interactive sessions, best practice case studies and lectures, the program was able to foster an environment filled with innovation, creative learning and networking amongst participants.

With sustainability in mind, the project co-instructed the course with the League of Arab States which now has interest in continuing the partnership with USJ for its future electoral courses, as well as considering the possibility of expanding to other universities including University of Cairo. Inviting the electoral representative of LAS to co-instruct the course also provided a platform for students to learn more about LAS and their efforts in the region, particularly in the field of democracy and elections.

Students conduct research on electoral systems at the University of St. Joseph, Beirut

4.2 Increase Youth Participation at the Regional Level

7th Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship:

The project recognized the need to assess and analyse the low rates of youth political and electoral participation in the region. To explore this topic directly with youth, the project partnered with the 7th Mediterranean University (MedUni) on Youth and Global Citizenship to hold the Social Innovation Camp for Youth Political Participation. The event was held in Hammamet, Tunisia from June 9-16, in partnership with the North-South Center of the Council of Europe and co-facilitated with UNDP's Youth Leadership Programme (YLP). The program, with a theme of 'youth and justice: SDG 16', brought together young women and men from all over the region: Iraq, Libya, Lebanon, Morocco, and Tunisia to foster positive dialogue on youth political participation. Participant Johar Abdulkarim from Libya stated "The training provided us with a safe space that pushed and encouraged us to reach our full and highest potential. We were able to understand different political systems and their characteristics in different Arab countries, with a focus on their electoral processes."

UNDP and League of Arab States co-instruct course on electoral systems at USJ, Beirut

> "This course helped me read and learn more in-depth about a topic that was least of my interests unfortunately because of the corrupted electoral system in my country that was not encouraging at all to get involved in the political life. Now with this course I feel that I could be an election candidate in the coming rounds perhaps."
>
> **USJ Student, 2018 Course**

Youth take part in active learning on youth civic engagement with their peers

Youth take part in active learning on youth civic engagement with their peers

Using the design-thinking and solution-mapping approach, the participants engaged with the training to produce innovative ideas to increase voter turnout and foster stronger youth participation in the Arab region. The outcomes of the activities carried out by the participants included:

- Identifying key challenges related to youth political participation and voter apathy among young people, where they identified lack of trust to political processes and institutions, lack of awareness of political participation and electoral systems, and lack of meaningful representation in politics as the biggest challenges.; and
- Developing four initiatives through the design thinking process, to address the challenges related to youth participation.

One of the training activities specifically highlighted ways in which participants can engage on social media through social campaigning and audio-visual methods, which resulted in participants producing their own campaign video with the support of UNDP. The initiatives aimed at tackling lack of awareness and lack of trust through building platforms for sharing information, workshops and e-learning materials, as well as peer-to-peer networking opportunities. The participants in the workshop were able to expand their regional networks and come away with innovative ideas on how to not only further engage themselves in political participation, but further engage the youth in their communities.

Youth Leadership Programme (YLP)

By investing in youth, YLP encourages young men and women throughout the region to work in civil society, political leadership and policy. The programme is currently in its 5th year. Previous YLP participants have launched development solutions (e.g. Tunisia, Kuwait and Morocco), won municipality elections (Tunisia and Lebanon), received recognition and prizes for their innovative solutions (Jordan, Egypt, Sudan) and held talks at renowned universities and global platforms such as Stanford and Hult University and the European Parliament. Working with a gender equality framework, YLP has a target of 70 percent women participants, and has achieved an average of 60 percent women and 40 percent men with a target age of 19-29. As a significant first step in the UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States scaling initiative, YLP built the capacity of over 7,000 youth participants with plans to expand activities to reach over 100,000 youth and 150 youth serving organizations by 2022.

Participants at the 7th Mediterranean University with the North-South of the Council of Europe

This initiative will require the institutionalization of the YLP approach, the expansion of national engagements and further support to the scaling up of youth development solutions. The response to YLP workshops is continually positive. Participant, Salma Belhassine from Tunis said "YLP helps youth in providing them with modern and advanced methods that can transform their ideas into projects, making them capable of implementing them on a scientific basis and in the end lead to positive and sustainable change... My network has grown immensely, and my prototype was rebuilt into a more sustainable idea. YLP has been extremely fulfilling."

Youth take part in active learning on youth civic engagement with their peers

The youth participants present their ideas and prototypes in the final session of the Mediterranean University

Youth Leadership Programme 4:

The YLP4 aimed to foster an environment that allows for young men and women in the Arab region to be empowered to accelerate implementation of SDGs through leadership, social innovation, entrepreneurship, and technology. This was accomplished by creating, investing and strengthening the growing network of youth-serving organizations. The YLP4, which consisted of national and regional level youth interventions, reached 5,000 youth from 10 countries throughout the region. The project provided the overall coordination of the YLP initiative, supporting and guiding UNDP country offices as they implemented the national components of YLP4, and facilitating the regional workshop that brought together representatives from each of the participating countries.

Participants in the UNDP Social Innovation Camp for Political Participation come from Libya, Tunisia, Morocco, Lebanon and Iraq

The regional workshop was held at the end of YLP4 and brought together select youth serving organizations and youth from the participating countries. The workshop served as an opportunity for each country to share their achievements and lessons from implementing YLP4, as well as to gain new insights and competencies to further their efforts to effectively engage youth in implementing the SDGs. The workshop, held from December 13-18 2018 in Tunisia, brought together 120 young innovators, organizational partners, youth ministers, media, and others from across 10 Arab States. Under the theme "Innovating for Social Impact" and highlighting the key themes of the SDGs, gender equality, and social innovation, the specific objectives of the event were to:

- Expand knowledge of youth-serving organizations to better support youth-led initiatives and change-makers at the national level, by increasing their knowledge of design thinking processes and familiarizing them with social innovation methodologies and technologies.
- Validate a comprehensive and innovative impact assessment tool that has been developed to ensure longevity and sustainability of YLP activities and initiatives.
- Provide a space for youth, youth-serving organizations and other stakeholders to engage with policy makers from the region.
- Build trust between young people, youth leadership stakeholders and local and national policy makers and advocates through interactive activities.

Over the course of the four days, participants built partnerships, learned from global leaders, practiced policy and advocacy skills, shared their initiatives, and cultivated tools to advance social change in their communities. On the final day, participants reflected together through an evaluation activity and solidified commitments for their next steps. Their feedback was overwhelmingly positive, including highlighting the power of the programme to spark personal development and deeper understanding of policy making, a sense of connection to the YLP programme and appreciation for its support in cultivating social innovation.

> "I want to commend YLP for not just being a national project but going beyond. Whatever happens in one country affects the other, so to develop the region we need to work as one unit. That is what we are doing here. Before coming here we all had misconceptions about other countries, but when I spoke with other participants I realized that we all have the same struggles and realities."
>
> **Sara Osama,**
> **YLP participant,**
> **Sudan**

Youth Leadership Programme 5 participants develop and present national action plans
YLP5 Regional Workshop, Beirut

Youth Leadership Programme 5:

YLP Twitter Tracker: Status Update

Per tweet (avg.): 4,4

Retweets: 2008

Per tweet (avg.): 14,5

Likes: 6662

Tweets: 458

Per month (avg.): 27

Impressions: 801 783

Per tweet (avg.): 1751

With a tagline of Explore, Experiment, Expand, the YLP5 was launched at a regional workshop that took place in Beirut, Lebanon on March 28-31 2019. The overall goal of YLP5 is to expand its reach to 10,000 youth, inspiring and equipping them with the direction, tools and information they need to contribute to achieving the SDGs in their countries and communities. The workshop hosted around 100 youth-serving organizations from 11 Arab countries: Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Tunisia. Over the course of the four days participants built their understanding of political and civic issues with a focus on gender equality. The workshop participants gained the necessary tools and training to participate in politics, civil society and policy dialogue.

The project also facilitated the development of country level national plans which will be implemented over the course of the year, and which will be showcased at the regional level through a planned event in December 2019. Throughout the year, the project works closely with UNDP country offices on the implementation of these national plans.

The M&E mechanisms for the project's youth initiatives

- ✓ Pre/post national level feedback surveys
- ✓ Regional feedback surveys
- ✓ Country office follow-up mechanism
- ✓ Alumni tracking
- ✓ Social media tracking

YLP Twitter Followers by Country

Country	Audience
Lebanon	13%
Jordan	8%
Egypt	8%
Tunisia	7%
Saudi Arabia	6%
United States	5%
Morocco	4%
Libya	4%
Yemen	3%
Iraq	2%

UNDP project team share information, ideas and experiences to inspire youth to participate in political processes
YLP5 regional workshop, Beirut

Economic and Social Council Youth Forum, April 8-12, 2019:

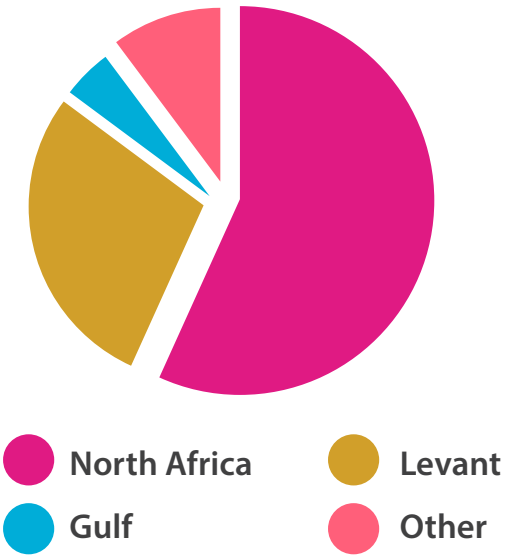
The project facilitated the participation of 17 YLP participants at the 2019 ECOSOC forum held in New York. Over 1000 youth came together in an effort to discuss with UN member states the role of youth in advancing the 2030 Agenda. The YLP participants had an opportunity to brief member states on their vision for implementing the 2030 agenda in the Arab States. Throughout the forum, participants met with stakeholders such as: UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner, Columbia University's Earth Institute, Generation Unlimited, United Arab Emirates Permanent Mission to the UN, Youth Leadership Council of New York City Service, UN Women, Permanent Mission of Japan to the UN, and UNDP RBAS. Through these meetings, which connected youth to decision makers and key stakeholders, participants were able to engage in dialogue that emphasized the importance of recognizing how the role of youth is necessary in building sustainable communities. The participation of the youth was financed by the respective UNDP country offices.

Facebook Status Updates: Jan. to June 2019

Posts	Reach
Jan	9679
Feb	8837
Mar	154458
Apr	100064
May	43252
Jun	53191
Total	**378881**

Followers Increased from 2905 to 7164
247% growth

Geographical Distribution of YLP Page Followers



YLP participants take their message to the general assembly, demanding greater role for youth in development
ECOSOC 2019

YLP National Action Plans

Egypt:

YLP 5 Arab States:

The YLP program focuses on helping young people address sustainable development challenges, provide them with a series of interactive hands-on learning workshops, ongoing support and targeted mentoring. By equipping youth with new tools, YLP allows both its participants and UNDP staff to identify new entry points for change and develop various approaches in social innovation and project methodologies highlighting the importance of human-centered design.

YLP seeks to engage 100,000 young men and women in the next three years across the region, supporting them to be advocates for SGDs agenda and innovators for development solutions through design thinking process. YLP impact is defined by number of prototypes for solutions that will be produced by those youth.
YLP principles: All national activities should ensure the following principles

- SGDs and agenda 2030: to contribute in achieving SGDs and agenda 2030 on national life. Direct link should be established and exhibited as a foundation base for YLP4
- Ending violence against women: to promote for ending violence against women and ensure gender equality as an aim and a way to achieve sustainable development for both young men and women.
- Social Innovation: to apply innovation methodologies that can yield to ideas and solutions with social value.

Summary YLP 4 Egypt:

During YLP 4, Social innovation Camps were conducted all over Egypt to encourage young leaders to actively participate in their community by engaging and supporting them in creating real change in a range of fields, from promoting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to furthering gender equality and promoting peace.

Providing youth with Trainings, interactive workshops, ongoing support and mentoring were our main approaches, highlighting the importance of Human Centered Design in making a social change through four full training days and applying follow up plan with teams.

Social Innovation Camps were Implemented in the following 16 governorates in partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sports and Dandara Cultural Center throughout the period from June 23 to October 10, 2018:

- Cairo
- Luxor
- Menia
- Damietta
- New Valley
- Sharkia
- Marsa Matrouh
- Qena
- Sohag
- Alexandria
- Aswan
- Menofia
- Dakhlia
- Behira
- RedSea
- Ismailia

About 1000 young men and women were trained on Design Thinking Methodology over four days of training to come up with innovative social solutions. About 150 teams were formed each with a social solution to help solve challenges that facing their community. As Egypt's reach was the highest in the region we aim to reach 5000 young leaders during 2019.

YLP 5 Outcomes:

Youth actively engaged in shaping the future of their countries and affecting transformational change towards the 2030 Agenda Through 3 outcomes:

Outcome 1: Youth as change-makers to accelerate progress on SDGs
Outcome 2: Transformational youth-led innovative development solutions within and beyond their communities
Outcome 3: Inclusive national policies enhancing youth participation and realizing their potential in achieving sustainable development.

Egypt's Goals YLP5:

Output 1.1: Awareness campaigns on EVAW (Ending Violence Against Women) offline and online through our partners.
Output 1.2: Awareness campaigns on SDGs targeting youth all over Egypt.
Output 2.1: Innovative solutions on SDGs (Innovation Camps) in more than 20 different governorates.
Output 2.2: Adapting SDGs in established startups
Output 3.1: Youth dialogue on policies with policy makers.

YLP5 in Egypt seeks to engage at least 5,000 young men and women in 21 different governorates focusing on upper Egypt. supporting them to be advocates for SGDs agenda and innovators for development solutions through design thinking process. With 70% female participation to ensure strong women representation.

Partners:

Ministry of Youth and Sports - Egypt

Ministry of Youth works to serve all Egyptian youth through more than 4500 youth centers across the country with its professional experience and knowledge in supporting youth in development. The Ministry aim to rehabilitate youth and support them in holistic development through all spheres - from creatively to physically to economically; and enable them to participate in the public life effectively through partnerships. With the vision of preparing a successful generation of young people and enable Egyptian youth to enjoy a free and decent life. Department for Training and projects main programs aim to promote for social entrepreneurship that provide decent jobs for youth through small and medium enterprises using Design Thinking methodologies and Creative thinking techniques which highly interevent with UNDP-Egypt goals. Also adapting youth and sports initiatives and expanding community partnership with civil society organizations to ensure effective programs' implementations. Achievements and results of previously implemented projects and activities with our partners in various aspects helped thousands of hundreds of youth all over Egypt.

Dandara Cultural Center

Dandara Cultural Center is an Egyptian civil organization under the authority of the ministry of social Solidarity from 1997. Based in Qena Governorate in Upper Egypt and with about 62 representation offices in Egypt from Alexandria to Aswan. With the vision of Human is the subject and the substance of the Sustainable Development Process, whatever his gender, religion or qualification, and if he is well built and prepared he would be a productive unit. Dandara programs aim to support social innovation and encourages youth to create innovative solutions to the local communities' issues in upper Egypt. Achieving and promoting for SDGs through working jointly with youth on the mission of sustainable development and social entrepreneurship by delivering capacity building and vocational trainings to youth all over Egypt.

Soryana

Soryana is a Human Development and Training center. It is considered the first training center established by a member of the refugee community in Egypt. Soryana enhances the effective role of women in the society, not only because it is primarily established and run by women but also because Soryana's interests are based on current needs of family members in the private and public spheres including the society and the job market. Through Soryana, services were provided to over 7000 beneficiaries of multiple nationalities since its establishment in 2015. Working on reducing barriers between different cultures and backgrounds as well as working on community cohesion and integration through joint workshops and the formation of multi-ethnic teams.

Soryana main activities and trainings cover but are not limited to the following areas:

- Prevention of Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV)
- Psychosocial support through Psychodrama, Art-Therapy and Psycho-social group sessions.
- Vocational training catering to the Job Market in terms of enhancing capacities and skills.
- Business trainings on Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) to cover management, planning, marketing and financing.
- Child Educational Services through camps and workshops.
- Medical convoys through public health awareness and medical interventions in some cases.

YLP 5 Egypt Indicators of Success

For Innovation Camps:

- Number of Ideas produced\ teams created.
- Percentage of adapting SDGs and impact driven solutions.
- Teams committing to periodically follow up and mentoring sessions.
- Number of ideas that turned into the prototype stage.
- Number of prototypes that are being Implemented.

For Awareness campaigns and Youth Dialogues:

- Number of Youth Reached
- Number of participations
- Post events' surveys

Steps/actions	Responsible party	Utilised assets or resources	Due date/deadline
Planning and Preparations - Selecting Partners' Trainers - Preparing TOT material and Camps Material	UNDP	Training Material, TOT material and Agenda, New trainers' database	9th of May 2019
Reserve Training venues	MOY	Ministry of Youth Training venues	9th of May 2019
Conduct Refreshment TOT for last year trainers	UNDP	UNDP training team	15th of May'19
Conduct TOT for new patch of trainers	UNDP	New Applicants database	19th of May'19
Conducting first Innovation Camp in: Civic Engagement Center, Zamalek	UNDP and Partners	Partners' trainers, Training venue, training material	23rd of May'19
Conducting Innovation Camps in: Misr Library Qena Alexandria	UNDP and Partners	Partners' trainers, Training venue, training material and Social Media Campaign	30th of May'19
Conducting Innovation Camps in: Sharkia Minia Aswan Damietta	UNDP and Partners	Partners' trainers, Training venue, training material and Social Media Campaign	20th of June'19

ConductingInnovation Campin: Civic Learning Center	UNDP and Partners	Partners' trainers, Training venue, training material and Social Media Campaign	24th of June'19
Conducting Innovation Camp in: South Sinai	UNDP and Partners	Partners' trainers, Training venue, training material and Social Media Campaign	29th of June'19
Conducting Innovation Camps in: Luxor Cairo Gharbia Kafr Elsheikh	UNDP and Partners	Partners' trainers, Training venue, training material and Social Media Campaign	10th of July'19
Conducting Innovation Camps in: Marsa Matroh Damietta Aswan	UNDP and Partners	Partners' trainers, Training venue, training material and Social Media Campaign	15th of July
Conducting Innovation Camps in: North Sinai Qena Alexandria Suhag	UNDP and Partners	Partners' trainers, Training venue, training material and Social Media Campaign	30th of July'19
Conducting Innovation Camps in: Assiut Qena Beni Suif Fayoum	UNDP and Partners	Partners' trainers, Training venue, training material and Social Media Campaign	5th of August' 19
Regular follow up and mentoring sessions with teams	UNDP and partners	Focal points and mentors	20th of May till 28th of Septmeber'19
Innovation Summit for best teams in each governorate	UNDP and partners	Training Material, Venue, best teams' database	5th of September'19
Teams submitting Ideasfor Egypt's final competition	UNDP and partners	Online Application	10th of September'19
Ideas Filtration and contacting teams	UNDP and partners	Trainers and mentors	14th of September'19
Teams Pitching Event Final Competition	UNDP and partners	Event Venue, team's accommodation	28th of September'19

Youth Dialogues with policy makers will be conducted in the following topics:

- Youth Unemployment
- Social Cohesion
- Immigration
- Women Empowerment
- Education

Lebanon:

Impact: Youth actively engaged in shaping the future of their countries and affecting transformational change towards the 2030 Agenda

Outcome 1: Youth as change-makers to accelerate progress on SDGs

Output	Indicators	Activity	Responsibility
Output 1.1: Youth are aware of the SDGs and the agenda 2030	"The number of youth aware of the SDGs and Agenda 2030 The number of youth visiting the webpages created by partners; the number of sessions partners are doing to raise awareness about SDGs."	1.1.1 Develop a webpage within the partner organizations' websites about the YLP and SDGs to increase awareness on the 2030 agenda.	Partners
		1.1.2 Partners to include sessions on the SDGs and Agenda 2030 in all their programmes	Partners
		1.1.3 Increase the number of partners who have the needed outreach.	UNDP
		1.1.4 Install SDG visibility material in all partners' premises.	Partners
Output 1.2: Youth are engaged in contributing to agenda 2030	The number of activities/events that require youth participation.	1.2.1 YLP Alumni to organize SDG awareness activities.	UNDP
		1.2.2 Ensure that YLP Alumni are advocating for the YLP programme and raising further awareness on the SDGs.	UNDP
		1.2.3 Organize SDG competitions with partners.	UNDP/Partners

	Description	Requirements	
	The webpage should contain relevant information about the importance of SDGs as well as the 2030 agenda.	IT	Apr
	Partners should include material about the SDGs in the curriculum of other programmes when possible.		Apr
	UNDP to reachout for new partners		Apr - Sep
	Distribute flyers in the partners' universities or offices, install posters illustrating the SDGs.	some funding/graphic design	Apr - Jun
	YLP alumni go to different rural areas/municipalities that haven't been reached in order to spread awareness about	funding	Apr - Dec
	SDGs through different activities YLP alumni can spread awareness about the agenda 2030 in their organizations (workplace or universities).	Stay in touch with the alumni	Apr - Dec
	Organize competitions (games, quizes…) to test the knowledge of the youth about the 2030 agenda and give out prizes to winners.	funding	Apr - Dec

Lebanon Plan 2019

Outcome 2: Transformational youth-led innovative development solutions within and beyond their communities

Output	Indicators	Activity	Responsibility
Output 2.1: Youth identified solutions to support their communities	The number of participants in the YLP programme.	2.1.1 Youth apply to the YLP programme	UNDP
		2.1.2 Youth participate in Innovation Camps	UNDP/Partners
		2.1.3 Partners use their own channels to ensure that more youth are enrolled in the YLP, especially youth living in rural areas.	Partners
Output 2.2: Youth have prototyped solutions to support their communities	"The number of youth participating in workshops; The number of youth pitching innovative solutions."	2.2.1 Youth pitching their prototyped idea in front of a jury.	UNDP/Partners
		2.2.2 Youth participating in workshops covering the YLP programme approach and vision.	UNDP/Partners
Output 2.3: Youth implementing their solutions	The number of youth contributing to the development of their communities through innovative ideas.	2.3.1 Guide the youth in setting up their companies.	UNDP/Partners

Description	Requirements	
Youth apply through the open call for proposal	webpage for the application	Apr
UNDP and Partners organize innovation camps where youth can share their ideas to solve problems in their community, and work in teams to develop the idea	funding	Apr - Sep
Partners to use their own channels to reach more youth	Partners' connections	Apr - Aug
At least two national events will be organized per year.	Funding	Sep - Oct
Partners to set up workshops regularly to provide the necessary training.	Funding	Apr - Dec
Provide them with the necessary tools to make a business plan and get funding.	Funding	Apr - Dec

CHALLENGES

CHALLENGES

In general, the overall challenge the project faced in the reporting period remains to be the political instability across the region and its impact on both the electoral timeline and on the ability of electoral authorities to ensure electoral processes that are credible, inclusive, and in line with international standards. Like in previous years, security conditions in certain countries continued to affect project planning and implementation, particularly affecting its ability to ensure the inclusive participtiion of groups from all countries in the region. Security concerns also limited the locations where the project could conduct regional events. In some cases, project planning was also affected by the limited mobility of Arab youth in the region. With growing restrictions on travel, the project faced some difficulties in ensuring counterparts from all participating countries and organizations could participate in the various project activities. While these restrictions apply in general, they are particularly stringent for youth in the region.

Some of the ways the project addresses these challenges include:

- Ensuring maximum inclusion through advanced planning and remaining flexible in the selection of countries/cities in which to conduct activities;
- Working closely with country offices in the selection of participants and CSOs;
- Relying on the support and services of national partners, particularly EMBs, for the issuance of visas

FINANCIAL STATUS

FINANCIAL STATUS

The following table illustrates the project's expenditure during the reporting period:

Outcome Area	Planned Budget (USD)	Expenditure (USD) (July 2018 – December 2018)	Expenditure (USD) (January 2019 – June 2019)	Total
Outcome 1: Regional Electoral Capacity and Knowledge Enhanced	401,300.00	280,168.19	393,677	673,845
Outcome 2: Profession of Electoral Administration Strengthened Through Regional Co-Operation	410,000.00	496,340.44	244,707.20	741,048
Outcome 3: Enhancing the Civic and Political Participation of Women	331,000.00	325,326.68	5,296.47	330,623
Outcome 4: Promoting the Role of Youth in the Electoral Cycle	416,000.00	169,802.52	319,811	489,614
Management	312,180.00	170,346.00	150,869	321,215
Total		1,441,983.81	1,114,361.00	2,556,345

CALENDAR OF ELECTIONS

CALENDAR OF ELECTIONS

Calendar of Elections in the Region					
2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Comoros Presidential Elections	Egypt Parliamentary Elections	Jordan Local Elections	Iraq Parliamentary Elections	Algeria Parliamentary Election	Algeria Presidential Election
Algeria Presidential Election	Jordan Parliamentary Elections	Somali Presidential Election	Lebanon Parliamentary Elections	Bahrain Parliamentary Elections	Comoros Presidential Elections
Mauritania Presidential Elections	Kuwait Legislative Elections	Moroccan Parliamentary Elections		Djibouti Parliamentary Elections	Mauritania Presidential Elections
Tunisian Parliamentary Elections	Saudi Local Elections			Egypt Presidential Elections	Tunisian Parliamentary Elections
UAE Legislative Elections	Sudan Parliamentary Elections			Mauritania Parliamentary Elections	Tunisian Presidential Elections
Palestine Local Elections	Sudan Presidential Elections			Mauritania Local Elections	Jordan Parliamentary Elections
Oman Legislative Elections	Moroccan Local Elections			Qatar Local Elections	
Libya Parliamentary Elections	Lebanon Local Elections			Palestine Local Elections	
Qatar Local Elections				Tunisia Local Elections	
Tunisian Presidential Elections				UAE Legislative Elections	
				Oman Legislative Elections	

RESULTS MATRIX

RESULTS MATRIX

Intended Output	Indicators	Output target	Activities	Progress from July 2018 to June 2019
Output 1: Regional Electoral Capacity and Knowledge Enhanced	Indicator 1: No. of electoral knowledge products (including BRIDGE modules in Arabic disseminated in the region) Indicator 2: No. of electoral practitioner and experts benefited from BRIDGE trainings (m/f) Indicator 3: No. of electoral events organized by League of Arab States on elections Indicator 4: % of output 1 activities that have considered gender/youth mainstreaming	Indicator 1 (Year 2): 3 Indicator 2 (Year 2): 90 Indicator 3 (Year 2): 2 Indicator 4 (Year 2): 60%	1.1 Increase professional knowledge on elections 1.2 Promote the establishment of a network of Arab speaking electoral experts 1.3 Enhance capacity of the League of Arab States 1.4 Engage with media to raise awareness and facilitate partnerships	Indicator 1: Achieved (5 electoral knowledge products): 1- Bridge Translated modules A number of modules (Version 2 BRIDGE curriculum) have been updated political parties and candidates, strategic planning. 2- Arabic Electoral Dictionary 3- The Role of NHRI's in monitoring Human Rights in Elections. 4- A reference guide on women's representation and political participation 5- UNDP products with partners: - LAS regional overview and analysis of elections in the region - ArabEMBs Voter registration mapping of the region. - Technical Summary for Mauritania presidential Elections 2019. Indicator 2: 20 participants Indicator 3: Achieved (2 electoral events organized by LAS): 1- Facilitating second UN-LAS Forum of Election Management Bodies. 2- BRIDGE Workshop in Cairo in December Indicator 4: Achieved 75%

Intended Output	Indicators	Output target	Activities	Progress from July 2018 to June 2019
Output 2: Profession of electoral administration strengthened through regional cooperation	Indicator 1: ArabEMBs fully established with office, staffing and operational secretariat Indicator 2: No. of regional initiatives undertaken to strengthen political and human rights and democratic processes Indicator 3: No. of regional and global institutions engaged in project activities	Indicator 1: (Year 2): legal status complete and office space secured; staff recruited per organigram of organization Indicator 2: (Year 2): 2 Indicator 3: (Year 2): 10	2.1 Organization of Arab Electoral Management Bodies (Arab EMBs) 2.2 Facilitate south-south cooperation and triangulation 2.3 Promoting the creation of electoral codes of conduct	Indicator 1: Partially achieved The organization is formally registered as a regional entity in Jordan. They have their bank account opened and have already received membership dues from one member. The organization has yet to open an office and hire its own staff. Indicator 2: Achieved (4 initiatives) 1) Imitative with ANNHRI to develop guide on role of NHRIs in elections; 3 consultations/meetings led to development of a manual for NHRIs 2) ArabEMBs conference on electoral dispute resolution 3) LAS forum of EMBs on Voter Registration 4) Conference on Sustaining Peace through Elections, to develop toolkit on role of elections in prevention violence Indicator 3: Achieved (79 orgs) - 79 organizations national, regional and international engaged by the project (see annex)

Intended Output	Indicators	Output target	Activities	Progress from July 2018 to June 2019
Output 3: Civic and political participation of women enhanced	Indicator 1: No. of networks of women supported Indicator 2: No. of activities promoting women in elections and women's political participation Indicator 3: No. of publications and knowledge products on the role of women in elections	Indicator 1 (Year 2): 3 Indicator 2: (Year 2): 2 Indicator 3: (Year 2): 2	3.1 Gender equality through constitutional drafting and legal frameworks 3.2 Promoting regional networks of women involved in public life 3.3 Promoting women participation as voters, candidates, representatives and electoral administrators.	Indicator 1: Achieved (3 networks) - Network for women in elections (ArabEMBs) - She Starts Africa through YLP - Oxfam Morocco through YLP Indicator 2: Achieved (3 activities) - Two preparatory meetings for the establishment of the regional network - YLP workshop on violence against women Indicator 3: Achieved (2) - Guidebook on fostering women's participation in the Arab region - USJ course curriculum updated with content on increasing women's political participation through electoral systems
Output 4: Role of youth in the electoral cycle promoted	Indicator 1: No. of events, trainings on promoting youth participation throughout the electoral cycle. Indicator 2: No. of knowledge products on youth participation Indicator 3: No. of universities the project engaged with on democracy and elections	Indicator 1 (Year 2): 3 Indicator 2 (Year 2): 2 Indicator 3 (Year 2): 4	4.1 Promoting to establishing clear standards and guidelines for youth participation throughout the electoral cycle; 4.2 Increase youth participation at the regional level 4.3 Encourage engagement of academia on citizens' rights, freedoms and elections.	Indicator 1: Achieved (5 activities): 1- Electoral Systems: Comparative Perspective, Saint Joseph Beirut 2- YLP5 in Beirut 3- YLP4 in Tunisia 4- Economic and Social Council Youth Forum 5-Mediterranean University (MedUni) on Youth and Global Citizenship (Social Innovation Camp for Youth Political Participation). Indicator 2: Achieved: (2 knowledge products) - Training curriculum on youth political participation (developed as part of MedUni initiative) - Design Thinking Guide—geared towards youth Indicator 3: Partially achieved (1 university) - Electoral Systems: Comparative Perspective, Saint Joseph Beirut - The project reached out to the University of Cairo and Carthage University; discussions are still ongoing on possible partnership.

FUTURE DIRECTION

FUTURE DIRECTION

As the project enters its final year, there is increased emphasis on the sustainability of ongoing initiatives through increased partnerships at both the national and regional levels. Through strategic partnerships with LAS and ArabEMBs, the project will work to expand the role and participation of these organizations in the various project activities. For example, this year the project will facilitate a greater role for the League of Arab States to co-instruct the ongoing electoral systems course to university students with the overall goal of LAS leading future courses; in the previous year, a representative from the electoral affairs department of LAS was already part of the instruction team. Similarly, the project will work closely with ArabEMBs in continuing to build their capacity to carry out their activities and interventions more independently; and will advocate for the greater engagement of ArabEMBs on initiatives related to gender, particularly with the launch of the network for women in elections.

The project recognizes the need for continued assistance in the region, particularly in the areas of women and youth civic and political participation, in linking the key regional partners with national efforts that promote civic and political participation, and in supporting the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG16. A mid-term evaluation of the project is currently underway, the recommendations of which will feed into next year's planning as well as the future direction of assistance to the region.

In addition to advancing on the sustainability of project interventions, the following are some of the other key areas of focus for the coming year:

- Advocating for greater participation of youth in the implementation and monitoring of SDGs and Agenda 2030, particularly through the YLP network which has a solid base of youth and youth-serving organizations across 13 countries in the region;
- Creating synergies between the upcoming network for women in elections and other regional and global initiatives that promote women's political participation;
- Supporting the Organization of ArabEMBs in completing the process of registration and operationalization of the secretariat. The project will also guide ArabEMBs in its efforts to request and receive membership fees from its members;
- Increasing support to the League of Arab States, with a particular focus on encouraging the electoral affairs department to play a more active role as a platform for electoral knowledge and information in the region;
- And initiating regional discussion and brainstorming on the threats posed by technology and media, particularly social media to democratic processes, exploring issues of disinformation, hate speech, targeting of vulnerable groups, and incitement of violence.

ANNEXES

ANNEXES

Annex I- List of Organization the Project Engaged With

Country	List of Organization, stakeholders and partners
Algeria	Ministry of Interior and Local Government
Bahrain	AIESEC Bahrain
Bahrain	Ayadi Society
Botswana	IEC
Comoros	Independent National Electoral Commission
Djibouti	Independent National Electoral Commission
Egypt	Dandara Cultural Centre
Egypt	Ministry of Youth and Sports
Egypt	National Election Authority
Egypt	Soryana Center
Iraq	IDSA
Iraq	Independent High Electoral Commission
Jordan	Independent Election Commission
Jordan	National Human Rights Commission Jordan
Jordan	Shamal Start
Jordan	Tammey for Human Development
Jordan	Zain Innovation Campus, ZAIN
Kuwait	Department of Elections, Ministry of Interior
Lebanon	DOT
Lebanon	Election Administration at the Ministry of Interior
Lebanon	INJAZ
Lebanon	Lebanese International University
Lebanon	Riyada
Lebanon	St. Joseph University
Libya	450 organization

Country	List of Organization, stakeholders and partners
Libya	Amazonat Libya
Libya	H2O Organization
Libya	High National Election Commission
Libya	Moomken organization
Maldives	Elections Commission of Maldives
Mauritania	Commission Electoral National Independent
Morocco	AIESEC Morocco
Morocco	Noboa Lab
Morocco	Oxfam
Morocco	Passages
Morocco	Rotaract
Morocco	Tariq Ibn Ziyad Initiative
Morocco	Youth SDGs Action
Palestine	Bir Zeit University
Palestine	Central Elections Commission
Palestine	Save Youth Future Society
Palestine	Sharek
Palestine	The Independent Commission for Human Rights
Qatar	Ministry of Interior Election Department
Qatar	The Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions
Russia	Central Elections Commission
Saudi Arabia	Village Councils
Somalia	Harhub
Somalia	National Independent Electoral Commission
Somalia	SOMTAC

Country	List of Organization, stakeholders and partners
Sudan	GESER
Sudan	National Elections Commission
Sudan	Yalla Nbadir
Sudan	Youth Forum
Syria	Changemakers
Syria	Economic Development and Livelihoods
Syria	Institute European de Cooperation et de Development
Syria	Shebbak Souri Project
Tunisia	GoMyCode
Tunisia	AIESEC Tunisia
Tunisia	EL Space
Tunisia	Independent High Electoral Commission
Tunisia	Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training
Tunisia	She Starts Africa
Yemen	Higher Committee for Elections
Regional	League of Arab States (LAS)
Regional	Organization of ArabEMBs
Regional	SADC
International	Association of European Election Officials (ACEEEO)
International	International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES)
International	International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA)
International	North-South Centre of the Council of Europe
International	UN Women
International	UNESCO
International	United Nations Electoral Assistance Division (UNEAD)
International	Venice Commission

Annex II - Risk Log

Description	Category	Probability and Impact	Countermeasures / Management response
The sustainability of the project outcomes proves difficult to ensure	Strategic	P: L I: H	The project is mitigating this risk throughout its planning and implementation. In order to ensure the sustainability of the Organization of ArabEMBs, the project focused on ensuring the completion of the legal registration of the organization to enable to receive membership fees and accept funds from other partners to continue its work. The increased ownership of the member EMBs also ensures the sustainability of the work. Furthermore, the project is focusing on ensuring the ownership of the League of Arab States of the development of the field of elections in the region using technical assistance and knowledge dissemination by LAS.
Loss of institutional memory of regional partners	Programmatic /Strategic	P: M I: M	Turnover in institutions is a natural process, and at times inevitable. The project mitigates this by ensuring that the development mechanisms are institutionalized within the internal structures of the partner organizations, and that training modules and mechanisms are embedded within each organization to prepare it for new staff members. For example, LAS has institutionalized the holding of its bi-annual forum of EMBs. ArabEMBs has ensured its priorities on gender with the establishment of a network for women in elections. In addition, the project will continue to work to spread awareness and knowledge on the professionalization of elections with stakeholders from civil society and NGOs.

Description	Category	Probability and Impact	Countermeasures / Management response
Proliferation of conflict in the region/more civil unrest	Political, Security	P: M I: M	More conflict in countries and delay of peace agreements will make it difficult if not impossible for electoral cycles to continue as planned, which will postpone if not hinder the Regional Component's work with various counterparts and electoral experts in said countries. However, UNDP will continue to be prepared for post-conflict electoral support using the project's expertise and capacities.
Rise of violent extremism and disintegration of civil society and democratic institutions	Political, Security	P: M I: H	As circumstances in their countries worsen, UNDP will focus on youth, women and other repressed groups to allow for their concerns to be channeled peacefully and democratically, using this opportunity to promote and increase their participation in political processes. In response to the shrinking civic space, the project has advocated for greater engagement between EMBs and civil society organizations; and between youth and government representatives.

Description	Category	Probability and Impact	Countermeasures / Management response
Further adoption of political measures of exclusion and spread of repressive laws against civil society and NGO work	Political	P: M I: H	Allocating support and offering the safe space for civil society to voice its opinions. UNDP will continue to promote the protection of human rights through the Regional Component's work with existing networks and accredited NGOs, as well as policies and legislations that prioritize civic rights. The project's work with national human rights institutions is one of the ways the project is mitigating this risk; it is working to strengthen the capacity of human rights institutions to recognize the rights affected in elections, and their role in monitoring and reporting on violations.
Diminished trust in democratic institutions including EMBs	Social, Political	P: L I: H	The prioritization of technical support to regional organizations such as ArabEMBs and LAS to deploy experts in the thematic area of citizen trust and engagement. Research will be conducted by the project, along with partners and stakeholders, on the causes of the decrease in citizen trust, and subsequent programming for enhancing it across the region. In response, the project has expanded its efforts to encourage professionalism of electoral institutions through capacity building, peer-to-peer exchanges, and the development of a body of knowledge on elections in the region.

Annex III: Sample of Youth Led Initiatives (YLP)

THINK MOBILE, ACT LOCAL

Ahmad is a 28-year-old graduate student studying organizational development at Al-Quds University, with a bachelor's degree in political science. Ahmed has earned many awards, including the Ideal Volunteer Prize in Palestine and has served as an Arab Thought Foundation Youth Ambassador.

Through the RASSD Initiative for Palestinian Citizenship, Ahmad aims to address the lack of communication between citizens and local authorities in Palestine. Rassd has a committee to interact with citizens and serve as mediator, encouraging people to take part in the decision-making process. A website and mobile application are designed to equip citizens with information on municipalities' plans and recommendations.

"Changing the world begins with a small group of thoughtful and committed people, ready to foster awareness raising and advocate for their rights."

CITIZEN BOT

Montassar is a 25-year-old Tunisian architect and university professor. Interested in social entrepreneurship, Montassar has developed innovative solutions to address the lack of citizen participation in his hometown of Sidi Bouzid.

He invented Badia, a robot messenger designed to bridge the communication gap between citizens and local authorities. By answering residents' questions about local budgets, the chat bot helps people become actively engaged in the work of their municipalities.

Seeing the success of his application motivated him to go a step further. Montassar believes municipal elections are key to taking steps towards a stronger democracy in Tunisia. Therefore, he has run and won a seat in their respective municipal councils after the 2018 elections in May.

"It is not only a responsibility but a citizen's duty to get involved. My vision is to participate in the planning and management of my city and to apply my competences for its development. Participating in the municipal elections is my first step towards my goal to be a decision-maker. I effectively want to encourage young people with innovative ideas to prioritize the needs in their country."

Annex IV: Women in Elections: Quick Snapshot of What's Happening

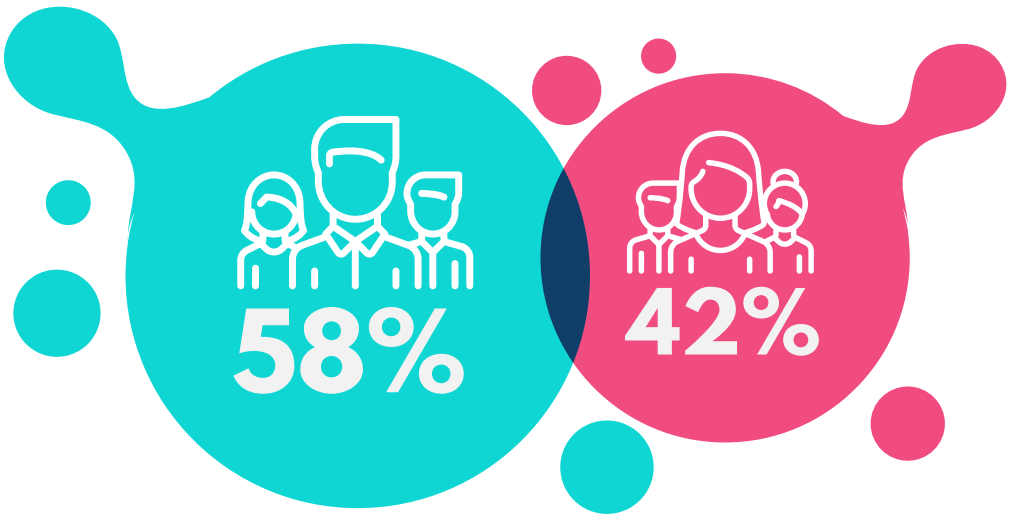
Iraq	Women won 25.2% of seats in the 2018 Parliamentary elections.
Jordan	Women won 32% of seats in the 2017 municipality and governance council elections.
Lebanon	Women won 5% of seats in the 2018 parliament elections.
Libya	Women ambassadors program: The Libyan electoral authority (HNEC) provides electoral trainings to women from civil society organizations to become ambassadors in the field, reaching out to women in remote areas to encourage them to participate and raise their awareness on the right to vote, how to vote, and the different phases of the electoral cycle. Female staff capacity assessment: HNEC developed a questionnaire to collect and analyze data of its female staff, review job performance, capacities, training needs and ensure equal opportunities.
Palestine	Women won 21% of seats in the 2017 municipality elections The electoral authority is developing a guidebook on enhancing women participation in elections. The guidebook focuses on the importance of achieving gender equity throughout the electoral cycle. It also focuses on the challenges facing women and how to overcome them.
Tunisia	Women won 47% of seats in the 2018 municipality elections.

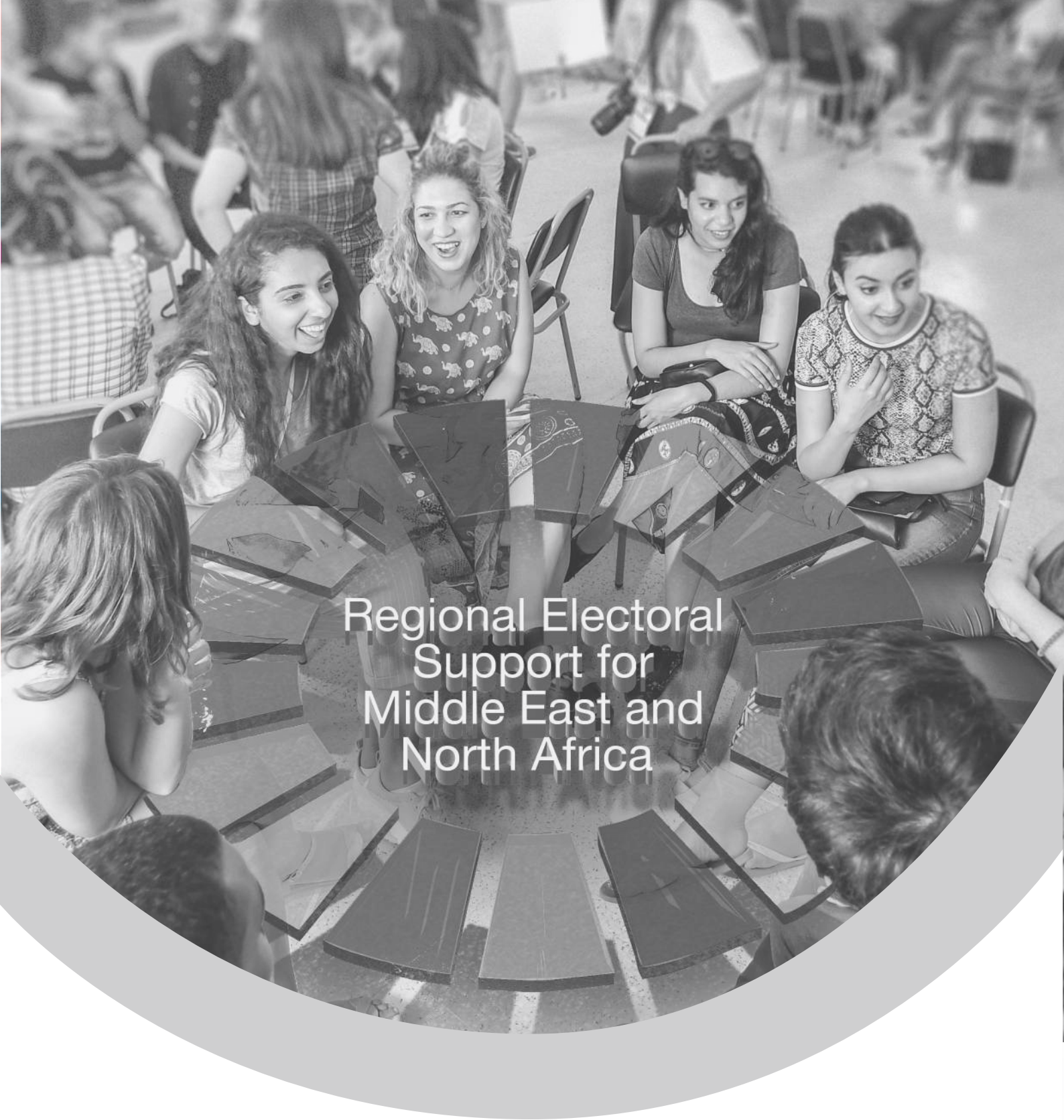
Annex V: Gender Breakdown of Project Participants by Activity

Event	Female	Male
Iraq Recount Mission	2	4
Dictionary Meeting	2	7
ArabEMBs executive board meeting	1	3
Women Network/ Working Group Meeting	14	2
ANNHRI Monitoring Guide Roundtable	2	7
ArabEMBs Executive Board Meeting	1	3
UNDP - EU Electoral Violence Conference	3	2
St. Joseph University Course Lebanon	14	13
LAS EMBs Forum on VR	16	53
ArabEMBs Executive Board Meeting	1	3
LAS - OIC Exchange Mission to EAD	2	0
Women's Network / Working Group Meeting	14	4
LAS BRIDGE Training	8	12
Youth Leadership Programme (YLP4)	48	50
ArabEMBs General Assembly and EDR Conference	26	64
ArabEMBs Executive Board Meeting	1	3
ArabEMBs Executive Board Meeting/ Dictionary Planning Meeting	7	7

Event	Female	Male
Youth Leadership Programme (YLP5) Explore, Experiment, Expand	44	36
Arab Delegation to the Democracy Forum	1	3
Media and Elections Conference	1	1
Roundtable on the Role of NHRIs in Elections	1	5
Youth Political Participation Training	9	14
ArabEMBs Visitor Programme to Mauritania Elections	0	4
ArabEMBs Executive Board Meeting	1	3
Signing Ceremony for ArabEMBs	15	20
Total	234	323
Gender breakdown of Project Participants by Percentage	42%	58%

Gender breakdown of project participants by percentage





Regional Electoral Support for Middle East and North Africa

GPECS II

Global Project
for Electoral Cycle Support II