



ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

JUNE 2017 - JUNE 2018

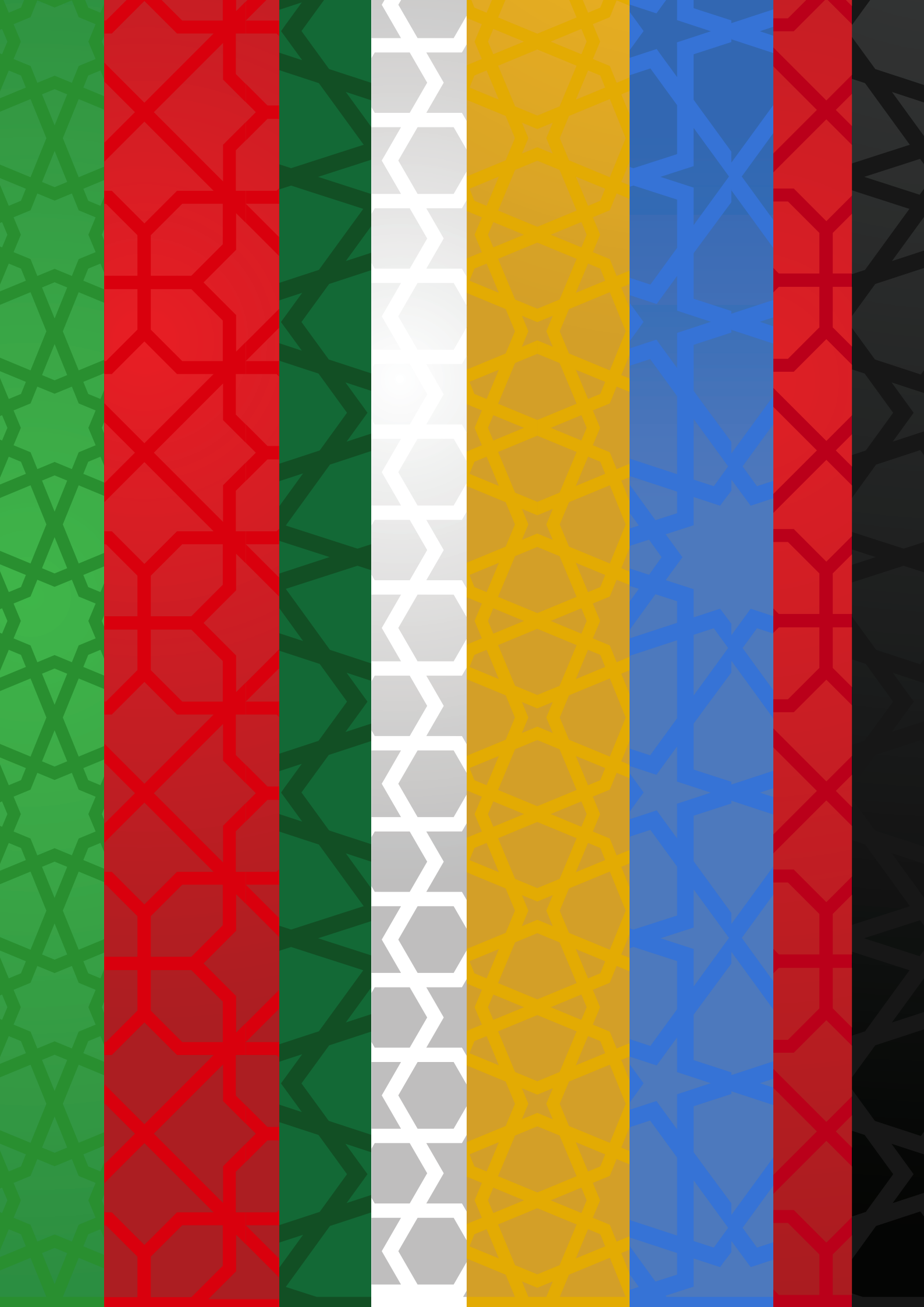
REGIONAL ELECTORAL SUPPORT
FOR MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA



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BACKGROUND

The Arab region continues to go through a period of change that is marked by both positive developments including a renewed drive for reforms, a return to the ballot box in key countries, and a booming digital and technological scene, while at the same time facing the world's largest humanitarian crisis caused by ongoing conflicts, particularly those in Syria and Yemen, that pose serious challenges to peace and security in the region.

During the past year, the region witnessed positive developments for women's rights in Saudi Arabia where women have historically faced highly repressive and restrictive laws such as the male guardianship system. Following the 2015 decision to grant women the right to stand for local elections, the government's lifting of the ban on women driving, their increased ability to access public services and attend public sports events all indicate a move in the right direction. While these are small steps in a vast and diverse region, they represent both a cultural shift towards recognizing the rights of women and a willingness to confront restrictive elements of society.

While the region continues to face challenges to human rights and the right to civic and political participation, electoral participation and democratic development is increasingly occupying a space in the region's development. In the first half of 2018, the region saw key electoral events take place in Lebanon, Tunisia and Iraq, countries that held relatively peaceful elections amidst trying circumstances and in the face of extremists' claims that only violence can bring change. The elections signified a different path, a path that allows citizens to have a say in who governs them. However, the low voter turnout that characterized each of the elections and the ongoing challenges facing Iraq in the post-election period are an indication of the growing voter apathy and the fragile state that the region continues to be in. There are also countries that have held elections amidst widespread allegations of arrests, intimidation and fear, and which have been characterized by low turnout and growing public pessimism and impatience for change.

As exemplified by these developments, the region is not a homogeneous bloc and the types of transitions differ greatly from one country to another. In a context that is still very fluid, that includes occupation, protracted internal conflicts and unresolved issues of power, the



ongoing changes will take time to complete, and much still remains to be done. For example, while there has been progress for women's political participation (e.g. 27% of seats in Parliament in Tunisia are attributed to women,) sustainable change requires greater participation of all segments of society in decision-making processes to ensure equitable development.

Nevertheless, the democratic deficit is steadily improving after several years of conflict. Elements within the region continue to fight relentlessly for the protection of human rights, and public awareness of the increasing desire for the protection and promotion of civic and political rights is greater than ever before. More governments are realizing the same need for strengthening electoral systems and the ramifications that will follow a potential disregard of public demands for reform. Electoral processes remain at the essence of any democratic shift where societal changes will be part of the political agenda in any transitioning system. In the Middle East and North Africa region, there is growing momentum for enhancing these processes through regional sharing, learning and cooperation.

It is within this context that the Regional Electoral Support Project for Middle East and North Africa Phase II, the Arab States component of UNDP's Global Pro-

ject for Electoral Cycle Support (GPECS) operates. This report represents the results of the first year of phase II of the regional support, which has been characterized by continuing engagement and support to entities and initiatives that promote democratic institutions, raising awareness and knowledge on electoral processes and practices, and strengthening regional cooperation in these areas. The results achieved during this year built on the successes of phase I and on the strong and positive relationships honed with key regional and national partners.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the past year the project was successfully implemented against the outputs and activities outlined in the phase II project document, building further on the achievements and strong relationships established during the implementation of the previous phase. This report is a narrative of these achievements, of the initiatives the project supported during the first year of phase II, and of the lessons and opportunities that shaped project activities during the period between June 2017 and June 2018. In line with the project document, the first year activities of continued to be focused on strengthening the regional electoral capacity, professionalizing administrative functions through regional cooperation, promoting cooperation with and between key regional electoral entities - ArabEMBs and the League of Arab States, and advocating for the inclusion of women and youth in electoral processes.

Key achievements during the reporting period include:

- The Organization of ArabEMBs continued to consolidate itself as a new organization, expanding its reach to include additional members and facilitating its first election visitor programme that brought electoral management bodies from across the region to learn and share experiences during the elections held in Jordan and Tunisia. The organization conducted itself as a professional regional electoral body through the dissemination of electoral knowledge and information, spearheading new initiatives, signing MOUs with international partners, and establishing a systematic approach to its regular meetings, planning and implementation processes.
- Further strengthening the partnership with the League of Arab States to enhance electoral knowledge, expertise and professional approach to election observation by the institution's staff taking part in missions across the region. Through the holding of BRIDGE workshops, the project supported the training of more than 35 participants from across the MENA region. The second edition of the BRIDGE curriculum has been translated into Arabic for use by a wide range of regional partners including LAS, EMBs, UNDP and other implementing partners. Through an institutional exchange between UN's Electoral Assistance Division (EAD) and the LAS Electoral Affairs Department, the project supported the further strengthening of the LAS department and the capacities of its staff to better understand the considerations for providing technical electoral assistance to its member states.
- Continuation of the partnership with St. Joseph University targeting students and electoral professionals on a course to explore the essentials of electoral systems from a comparative international perspective. The course has become part of the University's broader democracy and human rights program, and is an on-going initiative to expand electoral knowledge and reach the next generation of leaders and practitioners.

ELECTIONS SNAPSHOT 2017 & 2018

Country	Type of Election	Date	Voter Registration		Turnout	
			Male	Female	Male	Female
Palestine	Local Elections	13/5/2017	579,868 (51%)	554,768 (49%)	255,911 (57%)	191,551 (43%)
Algeria	Legislative Elections	4/5/2017	23,300,000		8,000,000	
Jordan	Local Elections	15/8/2017	1,927,109 (47%)	2,182,314 (53%)	676,622 (52%)	626,327 (48%)
Djibouti	Legislative Elections	23/2/2018	194,169		130,287	
Egypt	Presidential election	26-28/3/2018	59,078,138		24,254,152	
Lebanon	Parliament elections	6/5/2018	3,746,483		1,862,103	
Tunisia	Local Elections	6/5/2018	2,808,097 (52%)	2,561,746 (48%)	1,796,154	
Iraq	Parliament elections	12/5/2018	23,668,849		9,952,264	

- Enhanced regional capacity and knowledge on elections through trainings, conferences and workshops on various thematic electoral topics, such as voter registration, security in elections, technology and gender empowerment, bringing together electoral experts from the region and around the world to increase the knowledge and know-how on elections in the Arab region.
- Strengthening the partnership with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) through the holding of the organization's first workshop on the role of women in elections for its staff from different departments. The training was a partnership between OIC, UN Electoral Assistance Division (EAD) and UNDP which has resulted in expanded engagement with OIC in other areas including in the establishment of a regional network for women in elections.
- Spearheading an initiative to establish a regional network for women in elections that brings together individuals and organizations dedicated to the promotion of women's participation in political and electoral processes. Following extensive discussions and brainstorming, a group of regional leaders and practitioners reached a consensus on the establishment of the network, its purpose and objectives and the role of the Organization of ArabEMBs in ensuring its sustainability. The discussions also led to the formation of a working group that will lead the process to launch the network by the end of 2018.
- Expansion of the Youth Leadership Program (YLP) which has become UNDP's flagship program for youth in the MENA region. The program went into its third year with the overall aim of supporting Arab youth to create and implement innovative solutions for promoting sustainable development in their communities. More than 70 Arab youth took part in the third Youth Leadership Programme that saw youth harness their energy and drive for change towards the achievement of the SDGs. It led to the implementation of many of those solutions and the active engagement of all the participating youth in their communities, including utilizing the learnings received to participate in electoral and political processes. The programme covered 13 countries in the region: Jordan, Sudan, Somalia, Egypt, Lebanon, Bahrain, UAE, Palestine, Morocco, Tunisia, Iraq, Yemen and Syria.
- Development and dissemination of electoral knowledge in Arabic through the arabization and professionalization of the ACE Electoral Knowledge Network, e-learning resources and embarking on the development of the region's first professional electoral dictionary.
- Leveraging on the activities and achievements of the Global GPECS Project, in particular in the areas of policy development, production of knowledge products including the online e-learning resources developed in cooperation with the EC-UNDP joint task force.

	Elected Representatives		Special Measures	Observation Missions
	Male	Female		
	2,792 (79%)	751 (21%)	Quota	60 local observation bodies including CBOs and CSOs, 18 International observation body like: OIC the EU
	339	123	Quota	EU
	1,701 (71%)	680 (29%)	Quota	EU, Rased, NDI, ArabEMBs
	Not available		Quota	African Union for Election Observation, Arab League
	1	0		62 local and international observation bodies including Arab League
	122	6		EU, LADE
	3,340	3,872	Horizontal and vertical alignment in the lists	ANDE, EU, ArabEMBs
	84	245	Quota	Identity Center, Coalition of Election Observation Networks

ACTIVITY RESULTS

Output 1: Regional Electoral Capacity and Knowledge Enhanced

With an overall aim of supporting the creation of sustainable regional capacity and knowledge of electoral issues, in 2017-2018 the project focused on expanding the availability and access to electoral information in the Arabic language, an increased emphasis on building a cadre of Arabic speaking electoral experts, and engaging closely with the League of Arab States to build its capacity to serve as a leading regional body advocating for professional electoral processes. The project supported the following initiatives that have resulted in increased regional electoral capacities and knowledge.

1.1 Increase Professional Knowledge on Elections

- The project supported ArabEMBs in producing knowledge products on key electoral events that were held during the reporting period, with a focus on compiling facts, figures and analysis of the legal electoral framework. The following specific reports were produced:
 - Technical Summary for Jordan Local Elections 2017
 - Technical Summary for Palestinian Local Elections 2017
 - Technical Summary for Lebanon Parliament Elections 2018
 - Technical Summary for Tunisia Parliament Elections 2018

- With a focus on expanding the use of social media to promote elections, the project supported ArabEMBs in developing and maintaining an active Facebook page that has seen a significant increase in the number of followers over the last year. The Facebook page is being used as a platform to showcase the activities of the organization, disseminate information on elections taking place in the region and instigate dialogue on key electoral topics. The page was routinely updated during the 2017 and 2018 electoral events, and currently has over 9,000 followers. The Organization is also working on the development of its website, a prototype has been finalized for approval and is launching in 2018.
- Building on the success of the Lexicon of Arabic Electoral Terminology and based on the feedback received from stakeholders, the project has initiated the development of the region's first professional electoral dictionary to serve as a tool for practitioners, researchers, media professionals and students in the fields of democracy and human rights. The dictionary is expected to support the wider realm of activities in the development of a framework for electoral administration as a profession, and to strengthen electoral entities to be recognized as professional bodies. Once completed, the dictionary will comprise of simple, but professional Arabic legal, socio-political and technical concepts around elections. Currently, experts from the region are drafting roughly 80 entries of electoral concepts to be reviewed for



content and accuracy by a board of editors and a linguistic expert, and finalized by senior electoral experts. The dictionary is expected to be completed by the end of 2018.

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

The various initiatives including supporting the Organization of ArabEMBs and its members, conducting BRIDGE trainings with LAS and OIC, facilitating courses to students on electoral topics and holding thematic workshops and conferences, have contributed to the project's goal of creating a network of Arabic-speaking electoral experts that have the knowledge, expertise and networks to advocate for the professionalization of the field of elections in the region.

More specifically, the following interventions contributed to increasing and enhancing the pool of Arabic-speaking electoral experts in the MENA region:

- Through two BRIDGE training workshops held with the League of Arab States (LAS) and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the project reached out to and strengthened the electoral capacities of 40 participants who serve in key regional bodies with access to impact the entire population of the region. These trainings result in the accreditation of semi-accredited and fully accredited BRIDGE facilitators who go on to provide similar trainings both internally and externally.
- Dedicated support to the Arabization of the ACE

Project is another avenue through which the project aims to increase the electoral knowledge and expertise of the Arabic speaking population. The ACE Project is an online knowledge repository that provides comprehensive information and customized advice on electoral processes. The website contains in-depth articles, global statistics and data, an Encyclopedia of Elections, information on electoral assistance, observation and professional development, region and country-specific resources, daily electoral news, an election calendar, quizzes, expert networks and much more. The regional project supported the outreach to electoral practitioners in the Arab world (EMBs, EMB Association, interested CSOs, Academia, electoral practitioners, etc.), developed the first ACE Arabic newsletters, and uploaded for wider dissemination through ACE electoral materials developed by EMBs, ArabEMBs and ACE partners from the region. The project has dedicated great efforts to further advance continuous updates and content development of comparative data and electoral materials on ACE Arabic, especially taking into account the rapidly changing electoral landscape in the region. These efforts are reflected in the 20% increase users for the Arabic ACE for the first two quarters of 2018 compared to the same period last year. In total for this reporting period, the Arabic ACE has had 91,683 unique site visits, indicating an increased interest amongst electoral practitioners, experts and other stakeholders.

- Facilitating the availability in the Arabic language of e-learning courses on several electoral topics that can be accessed by experts and the general public alike. These online courses are increasingly being utilized in the region, and have received positive feedback on their benefits for both generalists and practitioners.
- Supporting the formation and activities of specialized thematic committees, namely committees made up of EMB staff working on voter registration, political party registration and on the independence of EMBs. The EMB staff have worked in close cooperation with their peers from other EMBs in the region to share information, exchange good practices and develop regional initiatives that benefit all EMBs and electoral stakeholders. These efforts have helped to create a cadre of EMB staff who have knowledge of other electoral policies and practices from other countries in the region, and who recognize the value and importance of regional sharing and learning.



1.3 Enhanced Capacity of the League of Arab States

As part of its objective to enhance the capacities of regional bodies engaged in the field of elections, the project continued to support and engage with the Electoral Affairs Department of the League of Arab States in conducting initiatives that benefited the Department and its staff, the electoral capacities of the larger LAS pool of staff engaged in election observation and the Department's engagement and cooperation with other regional and international entities.

- Upon request of the League of Arab States to learn from the experience of the UN in providing electoral assistance to member states, the project facilitated the hosting of a workshop in Cairo where the UN's Electoral Assistance Division shared its policies, procedures and best practices in providing electoral assistance to member states, and the considerations that go into often time-critical and politically sensitive electoral issues. The workshop agenda covered the various forms of technical assistance provided by the UN, highlights of the role and activities of UNDP as the UN's main vehicle for providing technical electoral assistance and the best practices and lessons learned over

the years. The two-day event also covered issues around the UN's Needs Assessment Missions, and the use of IT in elections. The workshop brought together heads of the electoral departments of the two institutions, Mr. Craig Jenness, Director of UN's EAD and Ms. Hadia Sabry, director of LAS' EAD along with their teams, and representatives of UNDP's electoral assistance team for the Arab States. Participation was also extended to representatives from the OIC.

- The project supported LAS in holding a BRIDGE training workshop on the Introduction to Election Administration module in Cairo, Egypt. The training covered introductory aspects of several phases of the electoral cycle, international elections obligations, types of EMBs, boundary delimitation, electoral systems, electoral education, voter registration and technology and elections. The last two days were focused on election observation; background, observation throughout the electoral cycle, codes of conduct and observation reports. The workshop trained 25 participants, utilizing five of LAS' accredited BRIDGE facilitators and one lead facilitator recruited by UNDP. By the end of the workshop, two semi-accredited LAS facilitators received full accreditation.

The interactive BRIDGE training encourages active participation.



The participants developed knowledge on the many elements of electoral systems.

- The project also supported the League's participation in the annual Forum of Latin American Democracy, which is co-sponsored by the Mexican Electoral Authority Instituto Nacional Electoral (INE), the Organization of American States (OAS), The Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) and other national and international institutions. For a second time, the UNDP Regional Electoral Support Project in the Arab States supported the participation of an Arab delegation to the Forum with the purpose of exposing Arab scholars, activists and practitioners to a regional event on democracy that was titled "Electoral Challenges in Times of Change: A Latin American Perspective." The forum included a colloquium and panel sessions in which the Arab delegation, made up of seven participants, four men and three women from different institutional affiliations, as well as UNDP Project staff. Side meetings were held for the Arab delegation with the President of INE, Lorenzo Córdova, and the LAS Director of Elections Hadia Sabry and her counterpart at the OAS Francisco Guerrero. The event also served as an opportunity to discuss possibilities for cooperation between regional organizations. The exchanges from participating in the event are contributing to and influencing regional initiatives taking place in the Arab region including the bi-annual LAS forum of EMBs, and have strengthened south-south cooperation between the two regions.
- To strengthen LAS' awareness on the role of women in elections, the project, in partnership with UN's EAD, supported the participation of LAS at a BRIDGE workshop held in Ankara with the OIC. The training targeted OIC staff but also included the participation of other regional bodies working on elections including LAS, ArabEMBs, and the OSCE. The event strengthened the technical capacity of LAS staff on the issue of gender and elections, as demonstrated through pre- and post training evaluations, and led to vibrant discussions between the regional bodies on issues such as the use of temporary special measures, the impact of electoral systems on women's representation, and what they as regional bodies can do to further the cause of enhancing women's participation in Muslim countries. The event led to strengthened ties between LAS and the other regional bodies, with commitment for similar follow-up initiatives on women's participation.



Participants indicated a high level of satisfaction in the training and the attainment of new knowledge.

1.4 Engaging with Media to Raise Awareness and Facilitate Partnerships

During the reporting period, the project supported the initiative to increase awareness among National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) in the region on the role of media in elections and the role of NHRIs and other electoral stakeholders in monitoring the media during the different phases of the electoral cycle. The project supported a training workshop on “Monitoring the Media During Elections” organized by the Arab Regional Network of National Human Rights Institutes and the Human Rights Commission of Oman, with the overall aim to encourage NHRIs to play a more active role in monitoring the activities of the media in elections as it pertains to human, political and civil rights. The workshop resulted in a consensus on the need for a manual on the role of NHRIs in monitoring the media throughout the electoral process.

Through its support to the Organization of ArabEMBs, the project focused on expanding the use of social media in reaching a larger audience interested in electoral developments in the region. The Project facilitated a partnership between the Organization of ArabEMBs and the Arabic site of the ACE Knowledge Network. The two now use their online platforms to share online resources and reach a wider Arab-speaking audience. Their Facebook pages has seen a significant increase in the number of followers over the last year, using their online platforms to create the space for regional discussion and showcasing of achievements of electoral bodies and electoral practitioners.

The project also expanded its partnership with regional bodies to include the Arab Association of Constitutional Law (AACL). Through this new partnership, the project has developed a concept note and initiated plans for the holding of a joint AACL-UNDP and UNESCO roundtable on the media and constitutional and electoral reform. The roundtable will seek recommendations for policy reform through a focus on a) the role of the media in improving awareness on electoral legal frameworks and their impact ; b) facilitating the exchange of views on how media should report and integrate constitutional developments in their working methods; and c) recommendations for regional interventions that will strengthen regional knowledge and understanding on the role of media in elections.



Output 2: Profession of Electoral Administration Strengthened Through Regional Cooperation

Strengthening regional cooperation across electoral bodies is a cornerstone of the Regional Electoral Support for MENA, with the overall aim of advancing peer-to-peer support and collaboration on elections. The importance of a close-knit relationship between the electoral bodies in the MENA-region is underscored by the project’s efforts in bringing together key regional organizations together around challenges and opportunities for advancing electoral democracy in the region. The opportunity of sharing experiences and lessons-learned between the different bodies throughout the region has demonstrated positive collaboration on important initiatives for the region, increased general capacity on electoral topics and a general desire and momentum for regional cooperation on elections. Spearheading these efforts, the project has pushed forward regional cooperation primarily through two of its key partners, ArabEMBs and the League of Arab States.



The executive board members recognize the contributions of UNDP in the establishment and strengthening of ArabEMBs.

2.1 Organization of Arab Electoral Management Bodies (Arab EMBs)

The project continued to support the Organization of Arab EMBs to further establish itself as a professional electoral body, working towards its set goals and objectives. The organization has made steady progress since its inception, continuing to undertake initiatives that showcase its value and relevance in the region and its strength in connecting and bringing together electoral management bodies and other electoral stakeholders. During this period, the Arab EMBs held three board meetings and frequent skype meetings, and expanded partnerships with regional electoral experts by signing memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with both IFES and IDEA.



Milestone in the cooperation between Arab EMBs and IFES: signing of an MOU.

Arab EMBs extending their partnership with IDEA through an MOU signed at their executive board meeting held in Amman.



As one of its flagship initiatives during phase II, the Arab EMBs facilitated its first election visitor program to the Jordan Municipal and Governorate Council Elections in 2017 followed by a similar mission to the Tunisia Municipal Elections in 2018. The visitor program to Jordan was hosted by the Jordanian Independent Election Commission and included EMB delegations from Palestine, Lebanon, Tunisia, Somalia, Mauritania, Iraq, Egypt and Djibouti as well as two participants from the Electoral Affairs Department of the League of Arab States. The three-day program was the first technical election visit organized by Arab EMBs, providing EMBs in the region an opportunity to learn about the legal framework, operational and procedural preparations, and the outreach initiatives of the Jordan IEC for these elections; as well as take the opportunity to witness first hand election day events such as polling, counting and results tabulation, followed by a debriefing session that enabled a positive and frank discussion

on the best practices from Jordan that can be applied in other parts of the region, and recommendation to the IEC on areas for improvement. The visit program also included presentations by the Minister of Political and Parliamentary Affairs and the Minister of Municipalities on legal reform in Jordan, as well as presentations by UNDP on the Jordan elections and by UN Women on measurements for enhancing women's participation in local elections. The event was highly successful and well received by all members of the delegation, as well as the IEC and LAS. The exchange sessions were highly participatory and led to very concrete observations and recommendations that will benefit not only the Jordan commission, but all the participating EMBs who learned and will take away from the experience.





The ArabEMBs also worked with the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) Somalia in hosting a peer-to-peer training in Nairobi, aimed at bringing together expertise from EMBs in the region on the topic of Strengthening Institutional Capacity of NIEC Somalia on Political Parties Registration and Finance. This was the first technical support mission of the ArabEMBs to NIEC, as a member of its organization. The meeting lasted for three days, and was focused around the topics of procedures of political parties registrations, procedures of monitoring the political parties compliance with laws, political parties finance and sharing of experience of Arab and African countries in political parties registration during the electoral process. It resulted in the promulgation of a proposed training workshop aiming at understanding political party law and registration, candidacy and funding procedures, as well as the legal regulation of political actors, utilizing the overarching principle of electoral integrity.



Representatives from ArabEMBs, NIEC and IESG discuss procedures of political party registration and monitoring.

The workshop was in partnership with the Integrated Electoral Support Group (IESG)



The conference resulted in a proposed ArabEMBs training program to the NIEC.



Voter registration experts from member EMBs gathered to discuss voter registration systems, policies and practices in the region, and to develop a regional mapping on VR.

During phase II of the project, ArabEMBs also facilitated a workshop of the Technical Voter Registration Committee in Amman. The Voter Registration Committee was formed following the 2015 ArabEMBs-UNDP workshop on voter registration in the region, with representatives from nine Arab EMBs, namely: Jordan, Tunisia, Sudan, Iraq, Palestine, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania and Yemen. The aim of the workshop was for the committee to initiate their activities including conducting a national survey on voter registration systems, policies and practices, facilitating a unified concept of understanding of voter registration, agreement on the structure of a regional mapping of voter registration, and support one another in ensuring inclusive voter registration policies and practices. The workshop successfully served as a platform for regional expert discussion on voter registration practices leading to the development of a regional mapping.



Ms. Badrieh Balbisi facilitated the discussion aimed at unifying the understanding of electoral registration practices.

The meeting resulted in the completion of an EMB survey on voter registration.



- Partnering with UNDP, the ArabEMBs spearheaded a new initiative aimed at creating renewed momentum on women's political participation. Following previous recommendations, discussions, and stakeholder feedback, an advisory group meeting of key regional stakeholders was held in Istanbul to set out a roadmap for the establishment of a regional network for women in elections. The meeting resulted in overwhelming consensus around the need for such a network, the role of ArabEMBs in ensuring its sustainability, and the importance of inclusiveness for greater reach and impact. A working group of EMB staff and other regional actors, including IFES and IDEA, was formed during the advisory meeting. The working group is tasked with leading the process towards the launch of the network at the end of 2018.
- The secretariat continued its on-going activities including administrative and planning activities such as maintaining an active Facebook site that now enjoys over 9,000 followers, developing new branding for the organization, the holding of frequent executive board meetings, liaising with members on the legal registration of the organization, planning for its next general assembly, and coordinating on initiatives with partners including IDEA, IFES, Venice Commission, LAS, OIC, and others.

2.2 Facilitate South-South Cooperation and Triangulation

- The Forum of Latin American Democracy is an annual Latin American event that first took place in 2010. It is co-sponsored by the Mexican Electoral Authority Instituto Nacional Electoral (INE), the Organization of American States (OAS), Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) and other national and international institutions. For a second time, the project supported the participation of an Arab delegation to the Forum that included representatives from LAS, EMBs, youth, academics and other electoral stakeholders. The purpose of bringing such a delegation to this Forum was to expose democracy scholars, activists and practitioners to a regional event on democracy, which could be replicated in the Arab region in due time. This initiative has furthered learning and partnerships between Arab and Latin American interlocutors, and created opportunities for sharing and exchanging of information and expertise. The 2017 Forum was focused on: "Electoral Challenges in Times of Change: A Latin American Perspective," a topic of high relevance to the Arab region. The participating Arab delegation took part as panel presenters and held side meetings with the President of INE, Lorenzo Córdova and the OAS, Francisco Guerrero. Meanwhile,

the participation of the Regional Project offered a chance to enhance and build the institutional network and commitments in view of holding a similar forum event in the Arab region in 2018/2019.

- The project has initiated the establishment of an Arabic Electoral Professional Dictionary following the example of a similar successful experience with the same in Latin America. The Latin American Electoral Dictionary, the first of its kind, was published as a joint venture by the Mexican the Federal Electoral Court (CAPEL) and the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (IIDH). This Latin America dictionary has served as a useful regional knowledge-tool and reference, and the Latin American editors have agreed to support in sharing past experiences in producing a dictionary and allowing the Arab region to make full use of all the content of the dictionary. The project initiated the content development of the dictionary which is expected to be completed by the end of the year, and will serve as a resource tool for a wide range of stakeholders.

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

Given the strong link between elections and human rights, it has become increasingly recognized international practice for human rights bodies to specifically focus on elections to enhance the observance of the right to vote, and the wider ramifications of the electoral processes on a broad range of human rights. National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs,) as independent institutions responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights, have responsibilities and roles throughout the electoral cycle. They do not manage the electoral process but exercise their functions of advising, raising awareness, educating, training, monitoring, investigating, reporting and advocating. Many individual NHRIs around the world are already engaged very actively in performing these functions throughout the electoral cycle. They monitor elections with a special focus on election related rights to ensure that political and civic rights are protected and promoted throughout the electoral cycle.

To support the awareness, understanding and practical methodologies for linking human rights and elections in the MENA region, the project has supported the following initiatives in the current reporting period:

- Continuing its strong partnership with the Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions (ANNHRI,) the project supported a conference held in Khartoum where participants reached a consensus on the importance of bringing the human rights and electoral communities together to discuss ways to promote and protect rights such as freedom of association and assembly, and freedom of speech and expression. This consensus has led to the activation of a joint ANNHRI-UNDP initiative to develop a manual for NHRIs on monitoring human rights in elections.
- To take forward the development of the manual for NHRIs, a first advisory meeting was held in Oman to set the roadmap and agree on the overall content of the manual. During the meeting, ANNHRI and its members agreed on the need for accessible and comprehensive information on electoral monitoring for institutions such as NHRIs, with the specific aim of ensuring human rights are protected throughout the electoral cycle. The meeting led to a general guideline and timeline for the establishment of the manual, which is expected to launch at the next General Assembly meeting of the Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions.

Output 3: Enhancing the Civic and Political Participation of Women

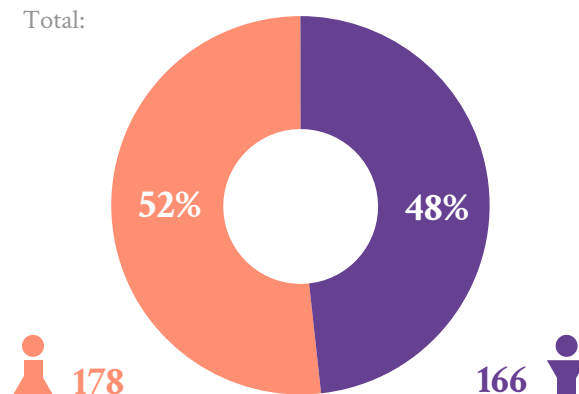
The Regional Project always strives to direct their efforts towards enhanced female participation in the Arab Region. In order to most beneficially promote female participation in public life, the project developed a gender strategy that guides the activities of the project in phase II and at the heart of which is the need to enhance awareness and capacity, facilitate advocacy, and promote networking among electoral stakeholders as efforts to renew regional momentum for gender equality and for the enhanced and increased participation of women in political and electoral processes.

Participation in Project Activities by Gender:

Name of the Event	Female	Male
BRIDGE Discussions in Amman	3	1
Conference on Political Party Registration: NIEC/ ArabEMBs and Office of Political Parties (ORRP) in Kenya	11	21
Organization of Arab Electoral Management Bodies Visitor Programme to the Jordan Municipalities and Governorate Council Elections in Amman	5	13
VIII Forum of Latin American Democracy "Election challenges in times of change: a Latin American perspective" in Mexico City	3	4

Electoral Systems: a Comparative Perspective with St. Joseph University in Beirut	13	8
Youth Leadership Programme(YLP3) CAIRO	46	29
ECOSOC Youth Forum in New York	5	7
BRIDGE-Training in Cairo	17	15
Meeting on Arab Electoral Dictionary, Amman	0	3
Advisory Group on Enhancing Women's Political Participation in Istanbul, Turkey	25	11
Visitor Programme Mission to Municipal Election, Tunisia	12	21
Launch of the Youth Leadership Programme Training (YLP4)	33	26
Upcoming Executive Board Meeting, ArabEMBs	5	7

Total:



UNDP Regional Electoral Advisor Luis Martinez-Betanzos shares his personal experience in promoting women in the workplace

3.1 Promoting Regional Networks of Women Involved in Public Life

- Taking forward the recommendation for the establishment of a regional network for women in elections, the project partnered with ArabEMBs to present the initiative to a group of election administrators, regional leaders and international experts during an advisory group meeting held in Istanbul. The goal of the meeting was to seek feedback on the initiative and to reach consensus on establishing the network. The participants of the Istanbul meeting agreed on establishing a regional network to promote women in elections, as voters, candidates, observers and administrators. The advisory meeting saw presenters share their personal experiences as well as institutional opportunities and barriers to women's participation in elections, and included the sharing of the experience of Europe by the Central Electoral Commission of Moldova which spearheaded a similar initiative in their region that led to the establishment the global network Women in Electoral Management International (WEM.). Their visit showcased the wide possibilities for women within electoral management bodies, and illustrated the positive contributions a united network for women's participation can make in the region. The meeting included representatives from Iraq, Libya, Sudan, Palestine, Jordan, Somalia and Tunisia, as well as experts from IFES, IDEA and UNDP. The meeting resulted in a consensus to establish the network and the formation of a working group to take forward the preparations for its establishment and launch.



The advisory group leading the establishment of a regional network for the promotion of women in political and electoral processes in the MENA region.

- A Working Group, formed in Istanbul, has been tasked with taking forward the preparations for and launch of the network by the end of 2018. The Working Group consists of representatives and experts from Iraq, Libya, Sudan, Palestine, Jordan, Somalia and Tunisia, as well as experts from IFES, IDEA and UNDP. The group will take forward the consensus reached in Istanbul including on the network being established under the operational management of ArabEMBs. The working group has established a WhatsApp group and held its first meeting via Skype to divide responsibilities and work towards the launch, future direction and activities of the network.

Panel discussion led by Badrieh Balbisi with Alina Russi from Moldova EMB, Ambassador Noria from OIC and Samar Hassan, Deputy Commissioner IEC Jordan.



- Additionally, the Electoral Department of the League of Arab States, which was unable to attend the Istanbul meeting, confirmed its support for the establishment of the network and expressed eagerness to be part of the working group. Since the Istanbul meeting, representatives from UN Women have also expressed interest to partner on the initiative, and serve in the working group.

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

Equal participation, gender equality and inclusive electoral processes are key priorities of the work of the Regional Electoral Support Project. The regional network has been conceptualized to promote women's participation in all fields and stages of elections.

- The Regional Network to Promote Women in Elections, which is to be launched in December 2018, has the vision to catalyze gender equality in electoral and political processes across the Arab region, and thereby enhance the participation of women throughout the electoral cycle. As per the consensus reached in Istanbul, the primary purpose of the regional network is to bring together dedicated individuals and organizations to serve as regional drivers of social and political change around the issue of women's electoral and political participation in the Arab region. The network will aim to advocate for an enabling environment for women's participation, encourage them to play an active role in all fields and stages of elections, and promote their equal rights in pursuing political participation. Through regional advocacy, mentoring, learning and exchanges, the network will aim to promote women's active participation in electoral processes, encourage electoral stakeholders to advance women's political rights, and leverage on partnerships and relationships that exist between and among electoral stakeholders in the region. The network will also be devoted to supporting electoral management bodies in mainstreaming gender and promoting women that serve as election administrators.
- GPECS has developed an online e-learning tool for "Enhancing Women's Political Participation throughout the Electoral Cycle," published and hosted on the EC-UNDP website. The course covers three phases of the electoral cycle, as well as internal EMB structures and highlights entry points to boost women's participation in different roles. The purpose of the online tool is to give the user a better understanding of the challenges women experiences during the electoral cycle in their roles as candidates, administrators and voters. The course is currently available in English, French and Spanish, and will soon be launched in Arabic.

3.3 Promoting Gender Mainstreaming in Parliamentary, Legislative and Electoral Institutions and Processes

The MENA region has an average of 18% female parliamentarians, and is the second lowest performing region for female representation. Indeed, 7 of the 22 Arab States have less than 10% female representation in Parliament despite the 30% target for female representation in decision-making outlined in the Beijing Declaration. Notwithstanding these gaps, the region has shown progress. In 2017 the Arab States recorded its highest annual progress, increasing female representation to 27.1%, compared to 22.3% in 2016. To mitigate these challenges and decrease gaps, the project supported the following interventions during the current period.

- In partnership with EAD, regional electoral support for MENA organized a joint UN-OIC (Organization of Islamic Cooperation) workshop on gender and elections. The OIC is an inter-governmental organization of 57 member states across four continents, focusing on the interests of the Muslim World. With the high turnout of OIC representatives from 20 different member states, members of regional bodies such as AU, EU, OSCE, LAS and ArabEMBS, and colleagues from EAD and UNDP, the workshop was the first event on gender and elections co-hosted by the OIC. The sessions utilized the globally recognized BRIDGE curriculum were presented by two senior BRIDGE facilitators present, with the aim of enhancing the knowledge and awareness of OIC representatives on the role of women in elections. To further this objective, there was an exchange of global and regional challenges and good practices in promoting women's political participation. The workshop succeeded in its regional approach to gender and elections, in particular by including other regional bodies such as ArabEMBs, OSCE and LAS as resource persons. This approach allowed for sharing of experiences on a variety of issues stretching across regions, including the use of temporary special measures (TMSs) to increase the number of women in leadership positions both within the regional bodies as well as in member states. Through sharing experiences, the participants expressed interest in continuing to find synergies to cooperate and share information, across units within the OIC and other regional bodies. The OIC also expressed interest in building on the topic of gender and elections as a part of a future UN-OIC collaboration.



Participants from AU, EU, OSCE, LAS and ArabEMBs take part at the OIC hosted workshop on gender and elections.

Discussions centered around regional cooperation on increasing women's participation in elections.



The workshop provoked and encouraged active participation and fruitful exchanges between a variety of actors on the topic of gender and elections.



- A regional technical consultation meeting was held in Amman on Fostering Women's Political Participation. A total of 29 experts from 10 UNDP Country Offices, the UNDP Regional Hub in Amman, UN Women and UN's Department of Political Affairs (DPA) took part in the meeting to review progress in the region on efforts to promote the participation and representation of women in elected and appointed positions, to consider the mechanisms that can promote their access to and meaningful impact in their positions, and to identify ways that the UN and other implementing partners can more strategically further the gender agenda in the region. The meeting also enabled expert discussions on the barriers that impact women's participation and representation in political bodies as well as remaining gaps in research on these barriers, the shared lessons learned from TSMs that have been introduced in the Arab region, and on developing a research product that captures these experiences for the benefit of all stakeholders in the region. Additionally, participants provided examples of entry points for future programming and interventions including the importance of developing interventions that target political parties more directly.
- Following the above expert meeting, the project recruited a senior gender expert to lead the development of a research and knowledge product that captures the region's experiences in promoting women in electoral and political processes, and the role of TSMs in this context. Through consultations, desk review and focus group discussions, the initiative is expected to serve as an important stock taking exercise and a useful tool for policy-makers and practitioners working to enhance the role of women in political and electoral processes.

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

Voter apathy is a growing problem in the region, as evidenced by the low turnout in the key elections that took place in the region during this period. While the 2011 Arab Spring movements were largely led by youth, increasing pessimism and impatience with electoral processes is hindering their full participation. To address this growing issue, which has implications on the economy and security in the region, the project is supporting electoral management bodies and other electoral stakeholders to better understand the needs and expectations of youth, and develop more effective strategies for increasing the participation of youth in electoral processes.

4.1 Establishing Clear Standards and Guidelines for Youth Participation throughout the Electoral Cycle

The project supported the development and availability in Arabic of a dynamic and interactive e-Learning course that tackles the question of youth participation in electoral processes and constitutes an important knowledge tool for electoral management bodies (EMBs). The course aims to provide an understanding of the barriers that prevent youth from participating and engaging actively in political life in their countries. It discusses strategies and provides entry points for EMBs to overcome these obstacles and to make sure that all segments of society are empowered to participate in electoral processes. The e-Learning course sheds light on how these objectives can be linked to the SDGs indicators, in particular those of Goal 16. The course is translated to Arabic and awaiting finalization of the voice-over before launching online.

4.2 Increasing Youth Participation at the Regional Level

While more than half of the region's population is under the age of twenty-five, the youth of the region often find themselves disenfranchised and on the margins of society both in terms of political as well as socio-economic participation, a factor which continues to fuel instability in the region today. The complex development challenges facing Arab countries require an effort to go beyond traditional approaches and responses and present an opportunity to tap into the creativity of citizens to develop innovative solutions. It is within this context that the Regional Electoral Support implements the following youth interventions:

With the objective of supporting Arab youth and regional communities to identify and implement innovative solutions for sustainable development, the third Young Leadership Programme (YLP) was held in Cairo with the support of UNDP Country Offices. The increasingly growing and impactful event culminated with presentations of the participants' prototypes, showcasing the developments made during the programme, and their plans for taking forward their innovative solutions to a wide range of issues affecting the region with regards to civic and political participation. Five prototypes were selected for presentation to SIDA and UNDP staff, and the winners from Tunisia, Palestine, Morocco, Yemen and Sudan had the opportunity to represent the MENA region in the global summit held in New York. More than 70 youth attended the Cairo event from Jordan, Sudan, Somalia, Egypt, Lebanon, Bahrain, UAE, Palestine, Morocco, Tunisia, Iraq, Yemen and Syria. The workshop was a great opportunity to share, develop and discuss experiences and methods, and a unique practice of establishing a sustainable regional community of young change makers.

This exchange was enriched by the presence of experts from both the UNDP and UN Women and from international private entities such as Yomken.com and AidTech. During the 5-day event, the participants attended the RiseUp Summit at the American University in Cairo, the region's largest innovation and entrepreneurship summit that takes place annually. The session allowed for the youth to attend workshops and training sessions relevant to the objectives and approach of YLP3 Programme, and to meet speakers who have actively worked for change in their community. The participants expressed that this was a great opportunity for the youth to engage with and learn from social entrepreneurs and experts.



Youth working together to come up with new and innovative solutions to a wide range of issues facing their communities.

Building on the past achievements of the Youth Leadership Programme on the national and regional levels, the Annual Youth Forum of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) was held for the seventh time at the UN Headquarters in New York on the 30-31 January 2018. The Forum has become a platform through which young people can contribute to policy discussions at the United Nations through their collective ideas, solutions and innovations. This year, twelve young leaders, representing seven countries across the Arab Region, participated in the ECOSOC Youth Forum. The forum brought youth leaders from around the world to the United Nations Headquarters in New York to give them the opportunity to engage with government representatives, youth delegates, policymakers and other relevant stakeholders in civil society and the private sector.

The project supported the participation of YLP participants in the forum who also had the opportunity to present their project ideas and vision for how young people can help achieve SDGs in the Arab States. Alaa, one of the YLP participants shared that “after the amazing discussions we had on the role of Arab youth in sustainable development, and the stories of change each of us carry; I can’t help but feel proud of Arab youth, and I can safely say that the Arab world has a blossoming and bright future.”

During the reporting period, UNDP, in partnership with UNITAR, launched the Youth Leadership Programme's fourth edition in Amman, Jordan. Building on the lessons learned and momentum generated during the past YLPs, the goal of YLP4 in Amman was to continue its aim of unlocking the potential of youth in the region and foster their active role in achieving the SDGs. Furthermore, the programme aimed to expand its reach by targeting 14 countries across the Arab region and partner with national organizations to achieve a wider and longer lasting impact. The overall objective of the workshop was to reach a common understanding on the YLP4 approach and identify key next steps and responsibilities to launch and implement the programme at the national level. It consisted of technical and hands-on sessions, complimented by the participation speakers who shared their experiences on how to become agents of change. YLP4 laid the ground for policy dialogues on youth-led innovation for the SDGs, by bringing together policy makers, youth organizations, private sector organizations and participants of the programme. Networking between the youth has planted a sustainable seed that will ensure regional co-operation in the future that go even beyond the confinements of YLP in the future, transgressing borders and cultural differences.



Young leaders from the Arab Region take part at the annual ECOSOC Youth Forum in NY.



The youth worked together on mapping out the future direction of the programme.



YLP4 expanded its reach to fourteen countries with the overall aim of empowering youth to achieve the SDGs.

4.2 Encourage Engagement of Academic Endeavours on Citizens' Rights, Freedoms and Elections

As part of its efforts to promote electoral knowledge and expertise among youth, the Project has partnered with St. Joseph University in Beirut to offer courses and seminars to young university students as well as those working in the field of elections on various electoral topics. During the past year the project undertook the following initiative under this partnership:

- A short intensive course was held in October at St. Joseph University campus in Beirut. The intensive course allowed participants to explore the essentials of the structure and functions of electoral systems from a comparative perspective, enhance their understanding of the practical uses of electoral systems as instruments for inclusion and representation and means to effective democratic governance. Participants included students from Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan, Palestine,

Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, Pakistan, France, Italy and Spain. The group of practitioners were selected by UNDP and were from the Electoral Affairs Department of the League of Arab States (nationals of Iraq, Kuwait, and Lebanon); the UNDP Electoral Support Project in Somalia (nationals of Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia); a UNDP contractor from Egypt, and a youth and gender expert from the UNDP Regional Hub for Arab States (national of Morocco). Overall, participants from 16 different countries were seated in the classroom, which took the form of a workshop for developing a course on electoral systems from a comparative international perspective. As an activity of the Regional Electoral Support Project, the course is part of a broader programmatic area addressing the incorporation of electoral components into university curricula mainly at a graduate level; as well as the promotion of a regional network of electoral experts in the region through academic and research institutions.

The participants were highly satisfied with the way the course was structured and implemented. The group of eight practitioners brought by UNDP prepared a term paper to guide the assessment exercise, and were given certificates for their participation. Equally important, practitioners engaged with students in lecture and group discussion sessions, which turned out as a most rewarding experience to USJ graduates, who praised this opportunity.



The workshop gave youth and professionals alike the chance to interact and exchange knowledge from across the region.



Representatives from St. Joseph University expressed a desire to offer this type of course twice a year, once each semester. They also suggested that a mix of students and practitioners be replicated whenever possible. Moreover, stemming from a clearer awareness about the relevance of electoral matters for the graduates of the Human Rights program, the MA coordinators requested UNDP staff to consider a possibility of offering a seminar on Human Rights in Elections.

CHALLENGES

Given the continually evolving political context and the enduring political volatility that characterizes the region, the project faced the following key challenges during the implementation of phase II:

- Delay in the legal registration of the secretariat for the Organization of ArabEMBs, preventing it from opening a bank account and other operational needs necessary for its long-term sustainability. With delays due to political and legal challenges facing the two EMBs that are taking forward proposals to host the ArabEMBs secretariat, Tunisia and Jordan, this is an identified challenge with measures being discussed to expedite the process.
- Security conditions in certain countries of the region continue to pose a challenge to working with national partners as well as to conducting regional events in those countries; these ongoing security restrictions also pose challenges to travel and visa processes for participants.
- Limited possibilities for collaboration with national UNDP electoral assistance projects as they face growing resource mobilization challenges resulting in the downsizing and/or closing of projects.

FINANCIAL STATUS

In 2017, the Project's financial status reflects expenditure in the following areas of intervention:

Outcome Area	Planned Budget (USD)	Expenditure (USD)
Outcome 1: Regional Electoral Capacity and Knowledge Enhanced	\$872,150	\$654,164
Outcome 2: Profession of Electoral Administration Strengthened Through Regional Co-Operation	\$907,150	\$850,800
Outcome 3: Enhancing the Civic and Political Participation of Women	\$587,150	\$564,403
Outcome 4: Promoting the Role of Youth in the Electoral Cycle	\$534,650	\$278,261
Management	\$798,548	\$519,533
Total	\$3,699,648	\$2,867,161

FUTURE DIRECTION

Increasing regional cooperation, promoting democratic principles and practices and sharing of knowledge and experiences across the Arab region continues to be the main focus of the Regional Electoral Project. All actors in the region, whether EMBs, youth or women, continue in their search for the space and platforms for active participation in political and civic life. The continuous expansion of ArabEMBs, the potential impact of the Network for Women's Participation in Elections and the empowerment of youth through YLP all present opportunities for widened and deepened impact in the Arab Region. Through its activities, the Project aims to provide meaningful and sustainable ways for stakeholders in the Arab region to engage effectively in political life in general and the electoral cycle in particular.

Looking ahead, the regional project expects to continue building on its current achievements, partnerships and initiatives with the aim of pushing for greater impact and scale. In particular, the following are some of the key areas of focus for the coming year:

- Create renewed momentum in the region for advocacy on women in elections, through the establishment and activation of the network for women in elections.
- Continue the close cooperation with the Organization of ArabEMBs, regardless of where it chooses to establish and operationalize its secretariat, and continue to provide support and assistance, as well as continuing to promote regional cooperation;
- Continue to support the League of Arab States, and encourage its continued support to elections and to regional electoral initiatives.
- Expand on the fruitful engagement with universities as a mean of extending electoral knowledge, and find ways to find solution to include our initiatives in the academic discourse, such as requested by Saint Joseph in Beirut. Support fellowships and other academic oriented programs that will have a lasting impact on the region and its future leaders.
- Continue to promote BRIDGE as a key training tool for new electoral practitioners, and those that can benefit from an in-depth understanding of the various electoral topics covered by the internationally recognized training methodology.
- Increase the project's focus on youth, and young women in particular, and continue to facilitate the creation of bi-national and regional networks, allowing for increased public participation and youth representation in the national political scene.
- Leverage partnerships and resources through the collaboration with new initiatives within the UNDP Regional Programme such as anti-corruption and preventing violent extremism as it relates to the prevention of electoral violence;
- Improve the outreach through conventional and non-conventional media outlets, in order to increase awareness of the project and its partners' objectives, and reach a wider audience in the region.

RESULTS MATRIX

OUTCOME	OUTPUT RESULTS	INDICATORS	PROGRESS IN June 2017 to June 2018
<p>Outcome 1: Regional Electoral Capacity and Knowledge Enhanced</p>	<p>1.1 Increase professional knowledge on elections</p> <p>1.2 Promote the establishment of a network of Arab speaking electoral experts</p> <p>1.3 Enhance capacity of the League of Arab States</p> <p>1.4 Engage with media to raise awareness and facilitate partnerships</p>	<p>Q1 No. of electoral knowledge products (including BRIDGE modules in Arabic disseminated in the region)</p> <p>Q2 No. of electoral practitioner and experts benefited from BRIDGE trainings (m/f)</p> <p>Q3 No. of electoral events organized by League of Arab States on elections</p> <p>Q4 % of output 1 activities that have considered gender/youth main-streaming</p>	<p>A1 Bridge Translated modules</p> <p>A number of modules (Version 2 BRIDGE curriculum) have been translated into Arabic, including -Media and Elections -Gender and Elections -Train the Facilitator -Civic Education</p> <p>Arabic Electoral Dictionary (Estimated to be completed in the end of 2018)</p> <p>Election monitoring guide with ANNHRI (Estimated to be completed in the end of 2018)</p> <p>UNDP – ArabEMBs products:</p> <p>Technical Summary for Jordan Local Elections 2017</p> <p>Technical Summary for Palestinian Local Elections 2017</p> <p>Technical Summary for Lebanon Parliamentary Elections 2018</p> <p>Technical Summary for Tunisia Parliamentary Elections 2018</p> <p>A2 Approx. 30 M 20 F 10</p> <p>A3</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Facilitating LAS participation in discussions on the customizing and updating of BRIDGE modules for the benefit of the Arab States region 2. BRIDGE Workshop in Cairo in December 3. UN/EAD-LAS Workshop and Roundtable Discussion on Electoral Matters. <p>A4 75%</p>

OUTCOME	OUTPUT RESULTS	INDICATORS	PROGRESS IN June 2017 to June 2018
<p>Outcome 2: Profession of electoral administration strengthened through regional cooperation</p>	<p>2.1 Organization of Arab Electoral Management Bodies (Arab EMBs)</p> <p>2.2 Facilitate south-south cooperation and triangulation</p> <p>2.3 Promoting the creation of electoral codes of conduct</p>	<p>Q1 ArabEMBs fully established with office, staffing and operational secretariat</p> <p>Q2 No. of regional initiatives undertaken to strengthen political and human rights and democratic processes</p> <p>Q3 No. of regional and global institutions engaged in project activities</p>	<p>A1 Estimated completion in 2018.</p> <p>A2 “Election challenges in times of change: a Latin American perspective” Forum of Latin American Democracy</p> <p>A3 40 (see attached list)</p>
<p>Outcome 3: Civic and political participation of women enhanced</p>	<p>3.1 Gender equality through constitutional drafting and legal frameworks</p> <p>3.2 Promoting regional networks of women involved in public life</p> <p>3.3 Promoting women’s participation as voters, candidates, representatives and electoral administrators.</p>	<p>Q1 No. of networks of women supported</p> <p>Q2 No. of activities promoting women in elections and women’s political participation</p> <p>Q3-1 No. of publications and knowledge products on the role of women in elections</p> <p>Q3-2 No. of women from the region that take part in trainings and activities</p>	<p>A1</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. WEM (Women in Electoral Management) 2. Establishing a Regional Network to Support Women’s Participation in Elections 3. OIC-UN workshop on Gender and Elections <p>A2</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Technical Consultation Meeting on Fostering Women’s Political Participation 2. Joint Visitor Program to the Jordan Elections. <p>A3-1 Gender BRIDGE</p> <p>A3-2 Total 52% if all project participants were women</p>
<p>Outcome 4: Role of youth in the electoral cycle promoted</p>	<p>4.1 Promoting to establishing clear standards and guidelines for youth participation throughout the electoral cycle;</p> <p>4.2 Increase youth participation at the regional level</p> <p>4.3 Encourage engagement of academia on citizens’ rights, freedoms and elections.</p>	<p>Q1 No. of events, trainings on promoting youth participation throughout the electoral cycle.</p> <p>Q2 No. of knowledge products on youth participation</p> <p>Q3 No. of universities the project engaged with on democracy and elections</p>	<p>A1</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Electoral Systems: Comparative Perspective, Saint Joseph Beirut 2. YLP3 in Cairo 3. YLP4 in Amman 4. ECOSOC Youth Forum <p>A2</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. YLPs Fellow Declaration <p>A3 Electoral Systems: Comparative Perspective, Saint Joseph Beirut</p>

KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

Title	Publication Format
Youth Participation in Electoral Processes (Arabic)	E-Learning Course
Enhancing Women's Political Participation Throughout the Electoral Cycle (Arabic)	E-Learning Course
Technical Summary for Palestinian Local Elections	Booklet
Technical Summary for Jordan Local Elections	Booklet
Technical Summary for Lebanon Parliamentary Elections	Booklet
Technical Summary for Tunisia Local Elections	Booklet
University of St. Joseph, Beirut, Course on Electoral Systems	Course Curriculum

LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS, STAKEHOLDERS AND PARTNERS THE PROJECT ENGAGED WITH

Bahrain	Economic, Social and cultural rights Committee	Djibouti	National Human Rights Commission, Djibouti
Bahrain	National Human Rights Institution	Jordan	National Center for Human Rights, Jordan
Algeria	National Human Rights Institution	QATAR	National Human Rights Committee, Qatar
Algeria	National Advisory Commission on promotion of Human Rights	QATAR	Arab Network for Human Rights Institution
Sudan	National Commission for Human Rights	Regional	Organization of ArabEMBs
Iraq	IHCHR	Jordan	Amman Center for Human Rights Studies, ACHRS
Morocco	CNDH Morocco	Regional	Electoral Affairs Department-LAS
Tunisia	High Commission for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms	Regional	Human Rights Department, LAS
Union of the Comoros	CNDHL	Palestine	Carter Center
Egypt	Civil Society Organizations Support Unit	Lebanon	OCHR
Egypt	Combating Torture Unit	Regional	Mosharaka UNDP Regional Programme
Mauritania	National Human Rights Commission, Mauritania	Palestine	PNHRI
Oman	National Human Rights Commission, Oman		UNEAD

	European Union	Palestine	Central Election Commission
	African Union	Tunis	Ministry of Interior and Local Communities
	Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)	Georgia	Central Election Commission Georgia
	Arab Parliament	Moldova	Center for Continuous Electoral Training and Research (CCET)
	IFES	Moldova	Central Electoral Commission
	EISA	Jordan	Amman Center for Human Rights Studies
دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة	وزارة الدولة لشؤون المجلس الوطني الاتحادي	Egypt	Human Rights League of Arab States
مملكة البحرين	إدارة الانتخاب والاستفتاء	Lebanon	St. Joseph University
الجمهورية التونسية	الهيئة العليا المستقلة للانتخابات	Lebanon	LADE
الجمهورية الجزائرية الديمقراطية	وزارة الداخلية والجماعات المحلية	Jordan	ActionAid
جمهورية جيبوتي	اللجنة الوطنية المستقلة للانتخابات	Europe	Venice Commission
المملكة العربية السعودية	اللجنة التنفيذية للانتخابات	Youth	The Mediterranean Forum for Youth-Morocco
دولة قطر	إدارة الانتخابات	Youth	Amman Center for Human Rights Studies
دولة الكويت	إدارة شؤون الانتخابات	Youth	Action Aid
دولة ليبيا	المفوضية الوطنية العليا للانتخابات	Youth	Ahel
جمهورية مصر العربية	لجنة العليا للانتخابات	Youth	National Democratic Institute
الجمهورية الإسلامية الموريتانية	لجنة الوطنية المستقلة للانتخابات	Youth	Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen
Sudan	National Elections Commission	Youth	7iber
Libya	High National Election Commission	Youth	Leaders of Tomorrow Diwanieh
Iraq	Independent High Election Commission	Youth	Tech Tribes
Somalia	Somalia Federal Republic National Independent Electoral Commission	Youth	UNDP Hub-Olivier
Mauritania	Election Commission	Youth	UNITAR
Jordan	Independent Election Commission	Youth	Ministry of Youth and Sports

