

MENA COUNTRIES GOVERNANCE PROFILES

PROJECT DOCUMENT

This document provides a methodological note to a country profiling exercise. It includes background information, objectives and expected results, structure rationale and the research and data compilation method and presentation.

A template to be used as prototype is provided in appendix.

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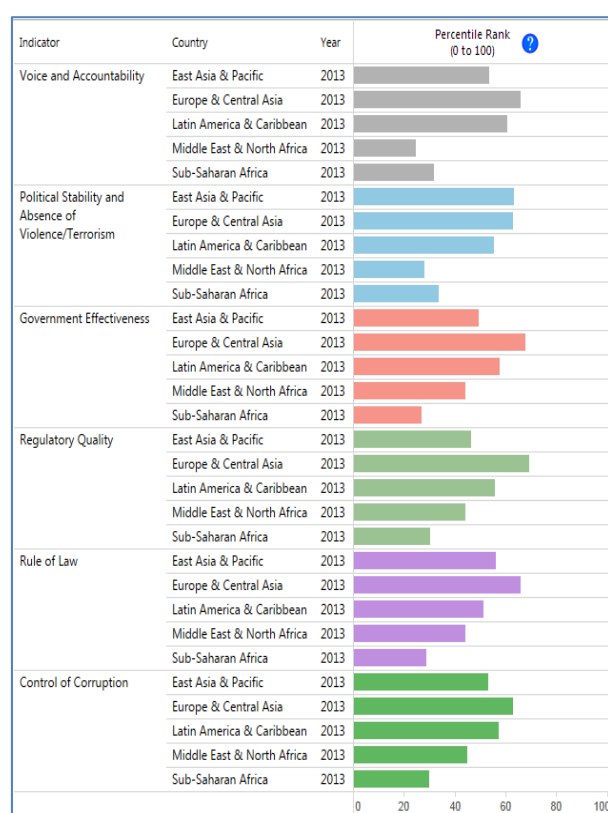
A BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The last decade’s developments in the Arab region raised new and pressing questions about the fundamental qualities and capacities of governments “to govern”, but also about their “capacity to anticipate” and foresee future trends. The latest Millennium Development Goals’ progress report on the Arab World highlighted that some of the leading countries in the achievement of many MDGs were those that experienced unrest, political upheavals and war. This revealed a flaw in the expectations that lay behind the achievement of the MDGs and put under scrutiny a fundamental variable that has been rather obscured: the governance deficit in the Arab region.

The dramatic turnaround in many countries lends credence to the importance of the linkages between institutional governance, political infrastructures, and public participation/inclusion. According to the World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI), and as shown in the figure, the MENA region was and is still one of the poorest performing regions across the world in terms of governance, ranking consistently lower than East Asia & Pacific, Europe & Central Asia, and Latin America & Caribbean across all six composite indicators that form the WGI.

This governance gap observed in most of MENA countries is a threat to regional stability and growth. Since 2011, the Arab World has witnessed an unprecedented escalation of conflict and violence. The number of refugees, displaced persons, and persons of concern spilling over neighbouring fragile States, has reached more than 3,205,042 persons. These challenges have directly affected the capacity of the State to respond to citizens’ needs, align its plans and priorities to the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 set by the United Nations in 2015, and work towards reducing the governance gap, ensuring inclusiveness and better transparency and accountability in governance processes.

This lack of governance cumulates in a lack of data and difficulties to access organized data on several components of governance. The MENA region ranked (57/97) back in 2013 on the open government index while other regions such as



Western Europe and North America ranked way before (14/97).¹ Therefore, if one of the governments' goals is to reduce the governance gap, facilitating the access to organized data and evidence-based policy is becoming instrumental.

In view of such, and in line with the commitments and efforts towards achieving the SDGs, namely Goal 16, the present project works towards proposing a first-of-its-kind product featuring a compiled and analysed data set on governance and subsequently government performance in a selection of MENA countries.

B OBJECTIVES

This project aims at:

- 1- Providing access to data and information on governance in the Arab world, in user friendly and easily accessible formats, addressed to decision makers, public officials, policy analysts, researchers as well as to all concerned stakeholders.
- 2- Contributing to improve the general understanding on governance issues facing the Arab world and to encouraging evidence-based policy dialogue.

C EXPECTED OUTPUT

This Project is ultimately expected to result in producing 22 countries² fact sheets containing a set of data, indicators and analysis on governance trends in MENA countries, members of the League of Arab States.

However, a first pilot will be conducted between October 2019 and January 2020 to test and validate the methodology. It will target six countries: Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Tunisia.

D METHODOLOGY

The project follows a research methodology that aims to develop a database of indicators of governance and public administration. It intends to provide a quick summary of the very large and disparate set of indicators made available by various sources.

¹ *The World Justice Project, Rule of Law index, 2013* available online:

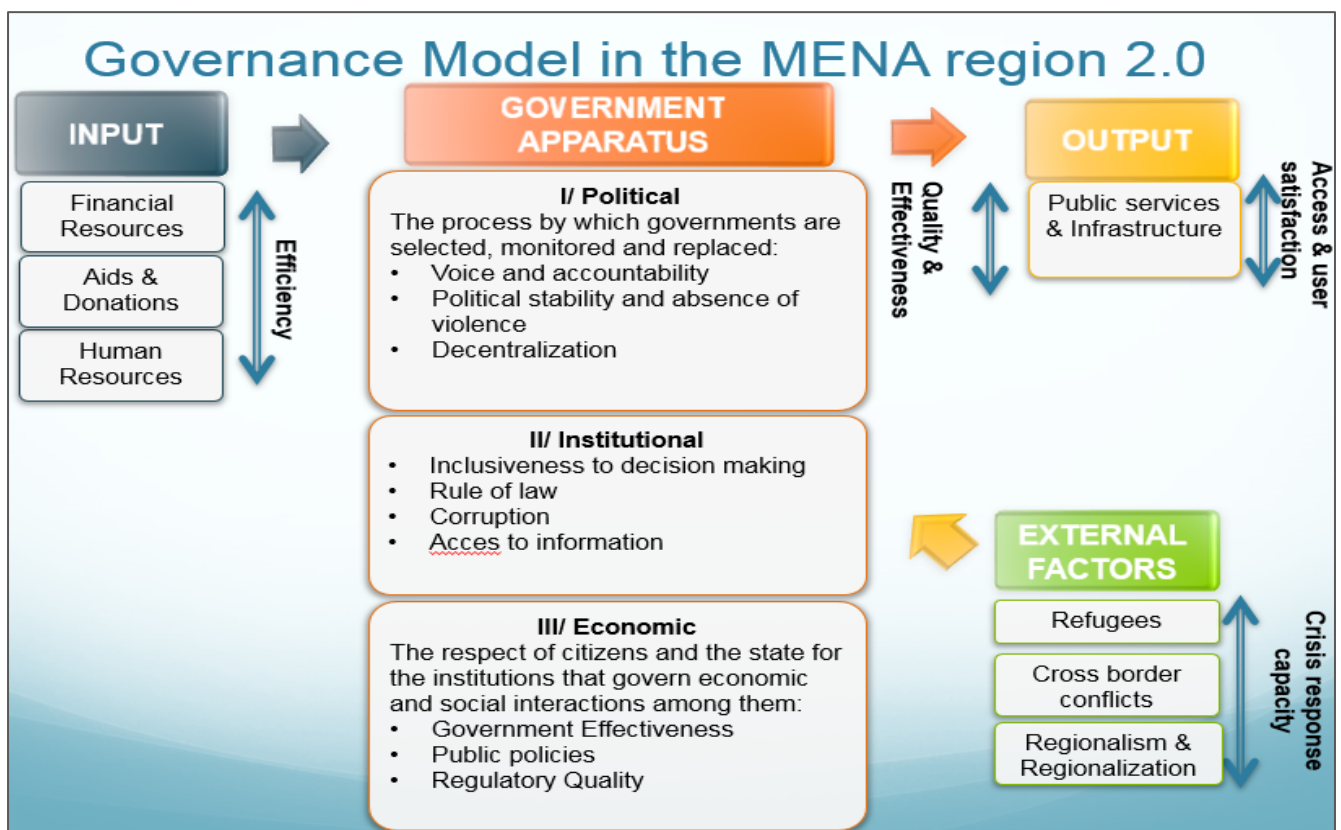
https://worldjusticeproject.org/sites/default/files/documents/WJP_Index_Report_2012.pdf

² *Algeria; Bahrain; Comoros; Djibouti; Egypt; ; Iraq; Jordan; Kuwait; Lebanon; Libya; Mauritania, Morocco; Oman; Qatar; Saudi Arabia; State of Palestine; Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic; Tunisia; United Arab Emirates; Yeme*

The methodology is based on Kauffman’s definition of governance³ and on the Arab Sustainable Development Goals⁴, highlighting the inputs, processes and outputs in the government apparatus:

1. **Inputs** are the financial and human resources, measuring efficiency.
2. **Government apparatus** is composed of the 6 pillars of governance defined by Kauffman, and compiled into 3 categories (Political, Institutional and Economic), measuring accountability, effectiveness and inclusiveness
3. **Outputs** are public services and infrastructure, measuring the access to services and citizens’ satisfaction.

External factors that interfere in the whole of government functions and processes, such as refugees’ flows, cross border conflicts or related mechanisms (violence, instability...) as well as international aid can help measure the government’s crisis response capacity and fine tune the later analysis.



³ The WGI are produced by:

- Daniel Kaufmann, Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI) and Brookings Institution
- Aart Kraay, World Bank Development Research Group

⁴ “Arab Sustainable Development Report”, 2015 - 2016 by: *Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), United Nations*

This section offers a guide to the overall methodological approach and future updates.

D.1 Country by country review

The methodology relies on individual country case reviews.

It consists of 46 indicators targeting specific dimensions of governance, and grouped under 10 clusters distributed as follows:

DATA SET	SOURCE
1.INPUTS	
Financial Resources	
General government revenue (percent of GDP)	IMF
General government expenditures (percent of GDP)	IMF
Fiscal Balance (percent of GDP)	IMF
Debt stock (percent of GDP)	IMF/National
Last PEFA* completed and published	PEFA
Capital expenditures (percent of total government expenditures)	National
Last PIMA** completed and published	IMF
Aids and donations	
ODA per capita	WB
Human resources	
Wage bill (percent of total government expenditures)	WB/IMF
Public employment as percent of total employment	National
Share of university graduate in public employment	National
Share of women ministers/parliament	Parline database
2. GOVERNMENT APPARATUS	
Political	
Voice and accountability	WGI
Political stability and absence of violence	WGI
Institutional	
Rule of law	WGI
Access to justice	World justice project Transparency international
Corruption	WB
Statistical Capacity Indicator Dashboard	National
Institutionalized access to information	National
Open government index	World justice project
Public sector performance	World economic forum
e-participation	World economic forum
Economic	
Government effectiveness	WGI
Budget processes	
Budget transparency	IBP
Budget participation	IBP
Budget oversight	IBP

Budget structure	National
Procurement processes	
Procurement expenditures (percent of total govt. expenditures)	National
Procurement Sustainability criteria	National
Standardization of procurement procedures and tools	National
HR processes	
Competency frameworks	National
Performance management	National
Mandatory training	National
Meritocratic recruitment	National
Diversity criteria	National
3. OUTPUTS	
Business environment	
Economic Growth	IMF
Ease of doing business	WB
Unemployment	ILO/National
Youth employment	ILO/National
Access to services	
Out-of-pocket healthcare expenditure [% of current health expenditure]	WB
Social protection coverage	WB/ILO/National
Infrastructure performance	World economic forum
Equity	
Equal treatment & absence of discrimination	World justice project
PISA/TIMSS***	OECD
4. EXTERNAL FACTORS	
Refugees per capita	UNHCR
Global peace index	Vision of Humanity

These indicators are obtained from different data sources, notably from a number of multilateral development organizations to allow for comparison, and from national data sets when data from international sources are not available. Almost all of these data sources are available annually to allow for easy and regular updates.

D.2 Publication of data and updates

The final country data will be made available online in two formats:

- MS Excel
- Visual country fact sheet

Updates and changes shall be made consistently and preferably from the same data sources, to keep the historical data and ensure over-time comparability across the indicators.