

Arab Information Society evolution 2003 - 2015

The March Towards a Digitally Integrated Arab World

Economic And Social Commission For Western Asia



UNITED NATIONS

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Chief

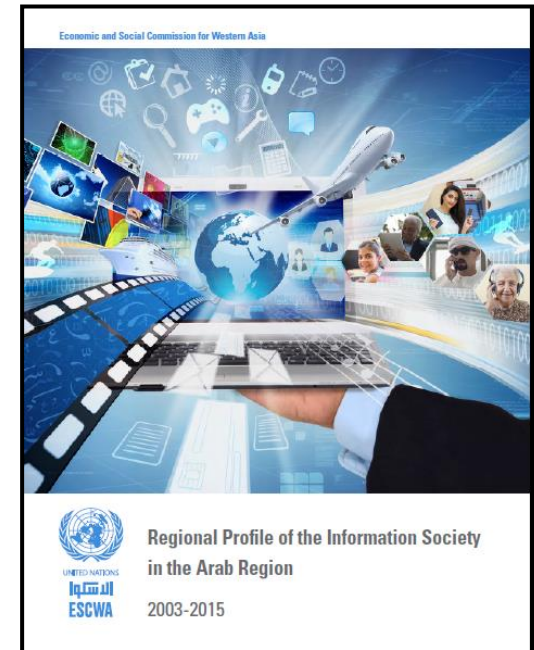
Innovation Section



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Arab Information Society Evolution 2003 - 2015

- *Depicts and evaluates the status of IS in the Arab region according to the WSIS Action lines*
- *Identifies strengths and challenges of the Arab region*
- *Compares the region with other region*
- *Shows linkage between Information Society and SDGs, and identifies main challenges*





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General Strengths and Weakness of Information Society in the Arab Region

- The region made **good progress** in the area of :
 - a) ICT Policy and Strategy
 - b) ICT infrastructure
 - c) Enabling Environment
 - d) E-Government and a certain degree Digital Arabic Content
- The region **still needs efforts** in the areas of :
 - a) Capacity Building in ICT
 - b) Building Trust and Confidence in ICTs
 - c) ICT Applications, especially in e-Commerce & e-Learning
 - d) Building ICT Sector






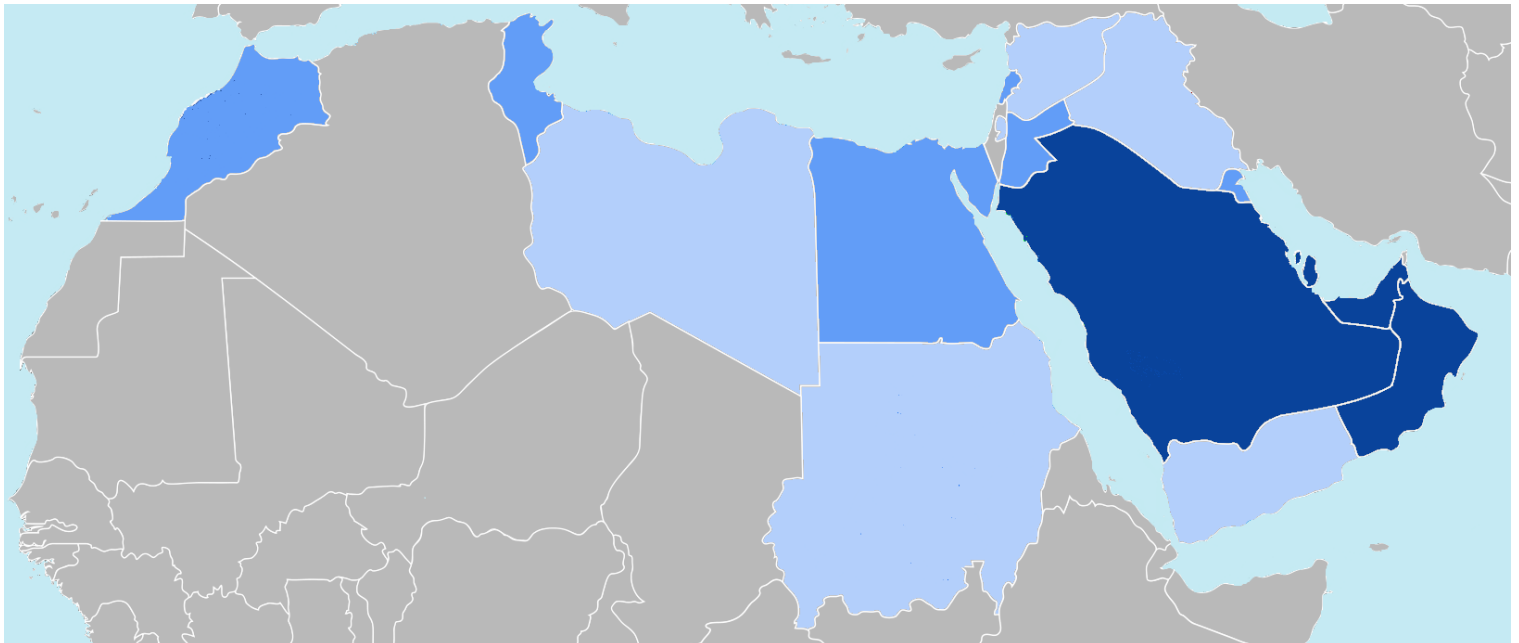
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Grouping of Countries according to their level of development in IS

-  **First cluster:** most GCC: UAE and Qatar then Bahrain, KSA and Oman
-  **Second cluster:** Tunisia, Jordan, Egypt, Morocco, Kuwait, Lebanon
-  **Third cluster:** countries under crises, Iraq, Syria, Palestine, Sudan, Yemen and Libya





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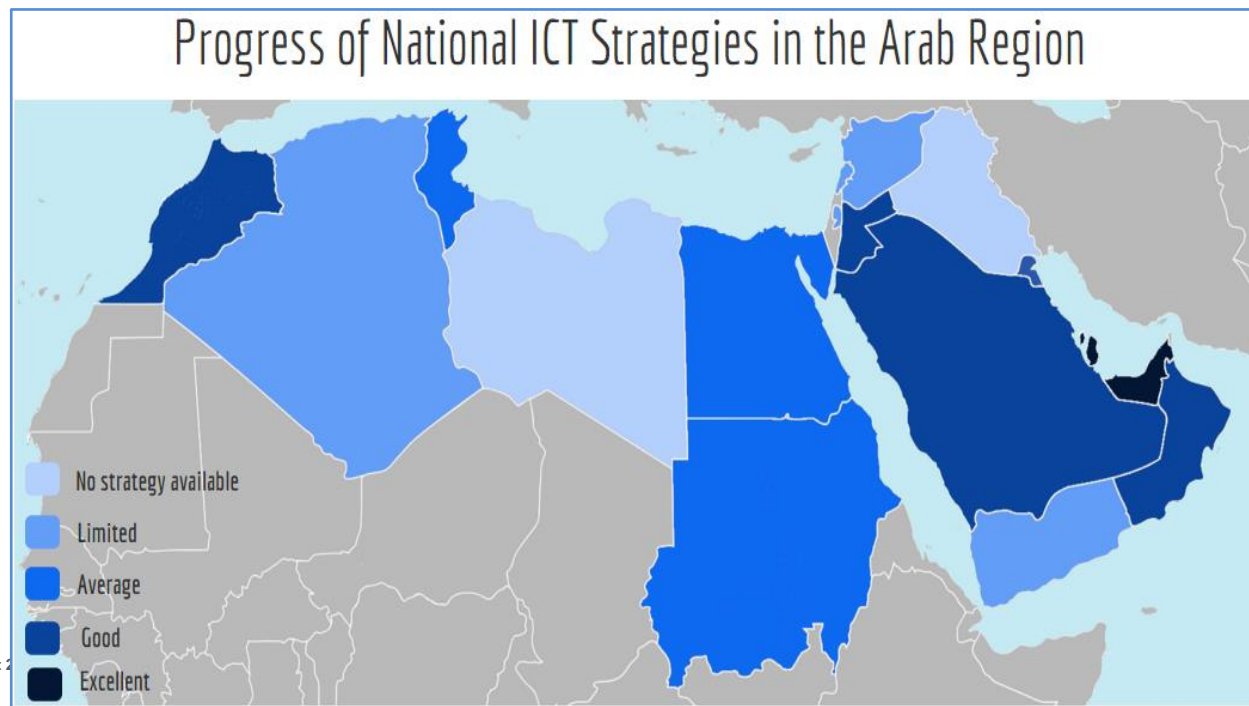
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National Strategies for developing Information Society

Most Arab countries have adopted ICT strategies, plan for building Information Society , in addition to Arab ICT strategy and plan

Challenges

- *Conduct periodical reviews to ensure proper implementation*
- *Ensure linkage between ICT strategies & SDGs*





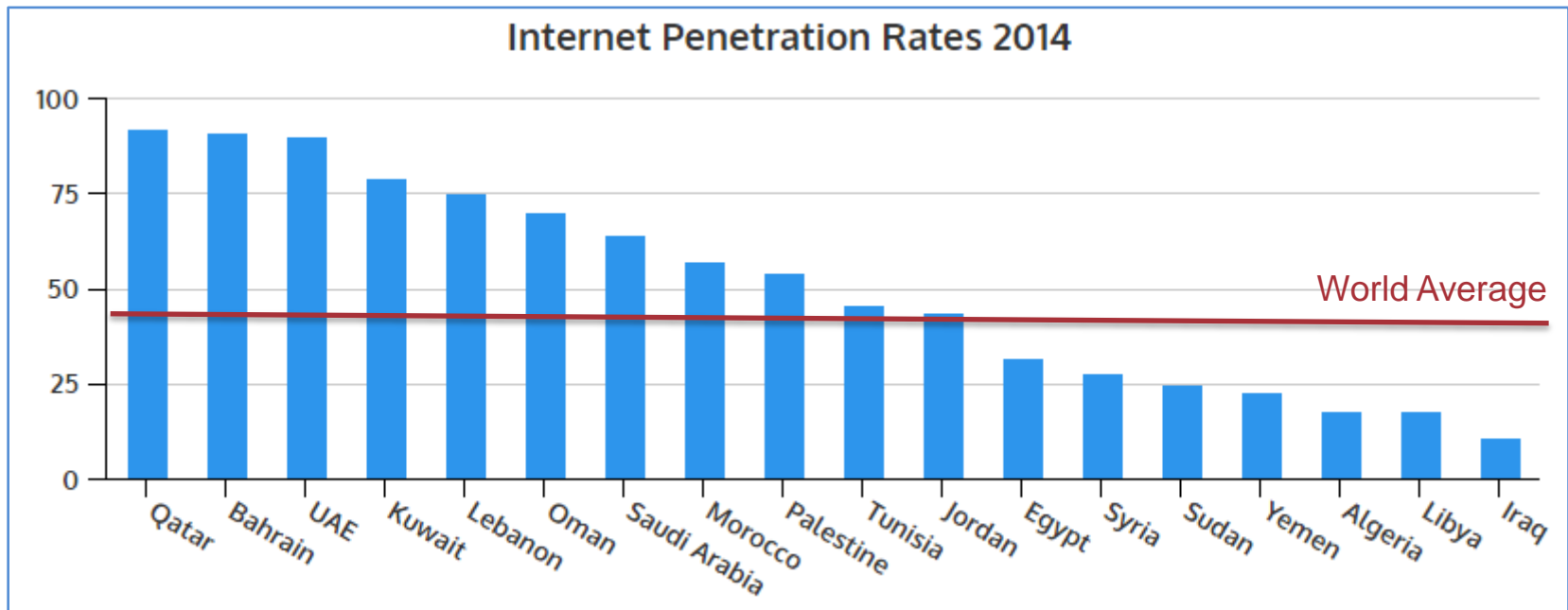
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ICT Infrastructure: Internet Penetration

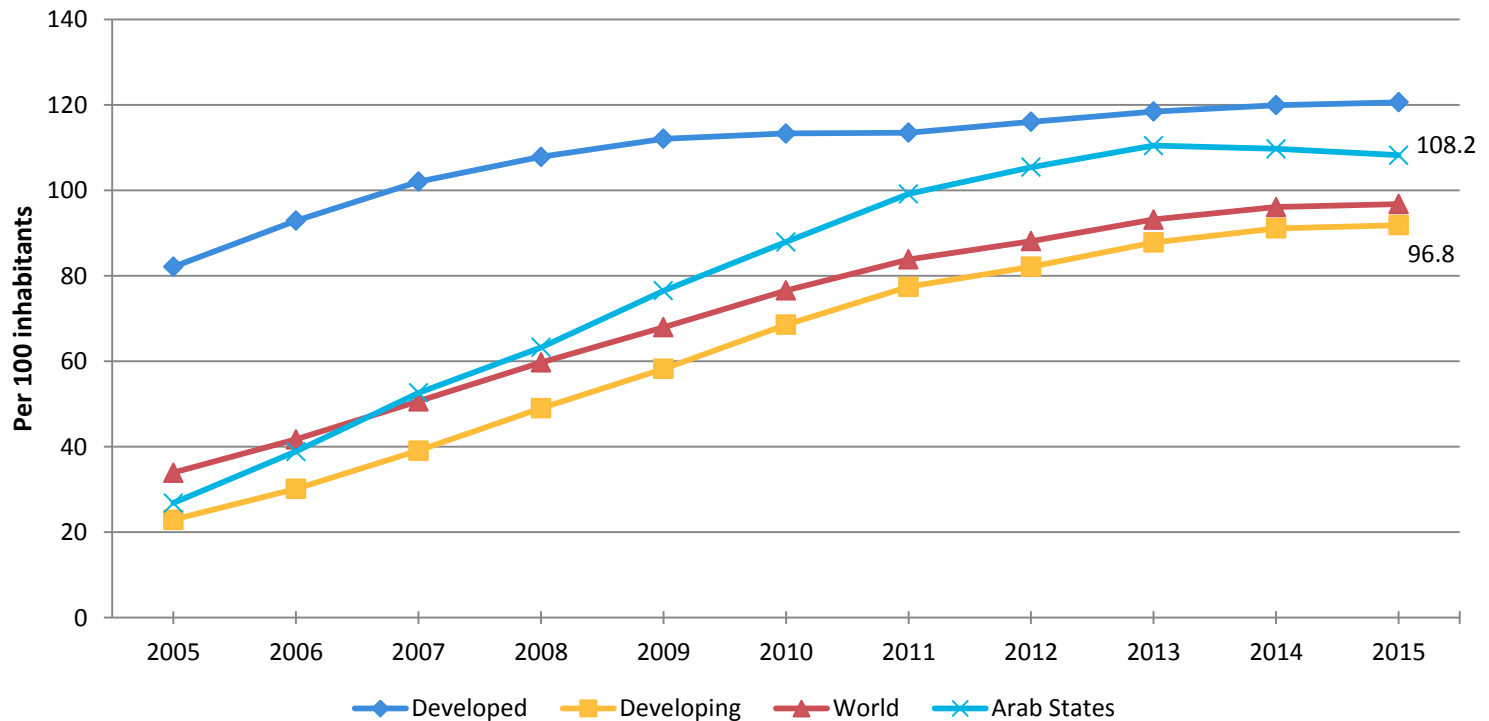
- The average penetration rate is 37% in 2014 which is lower than the global average at 43.4%
- **Challenge:** The region should support the creation of national and regional Internet Exchange Points (IXPs)





Mobile Penetration

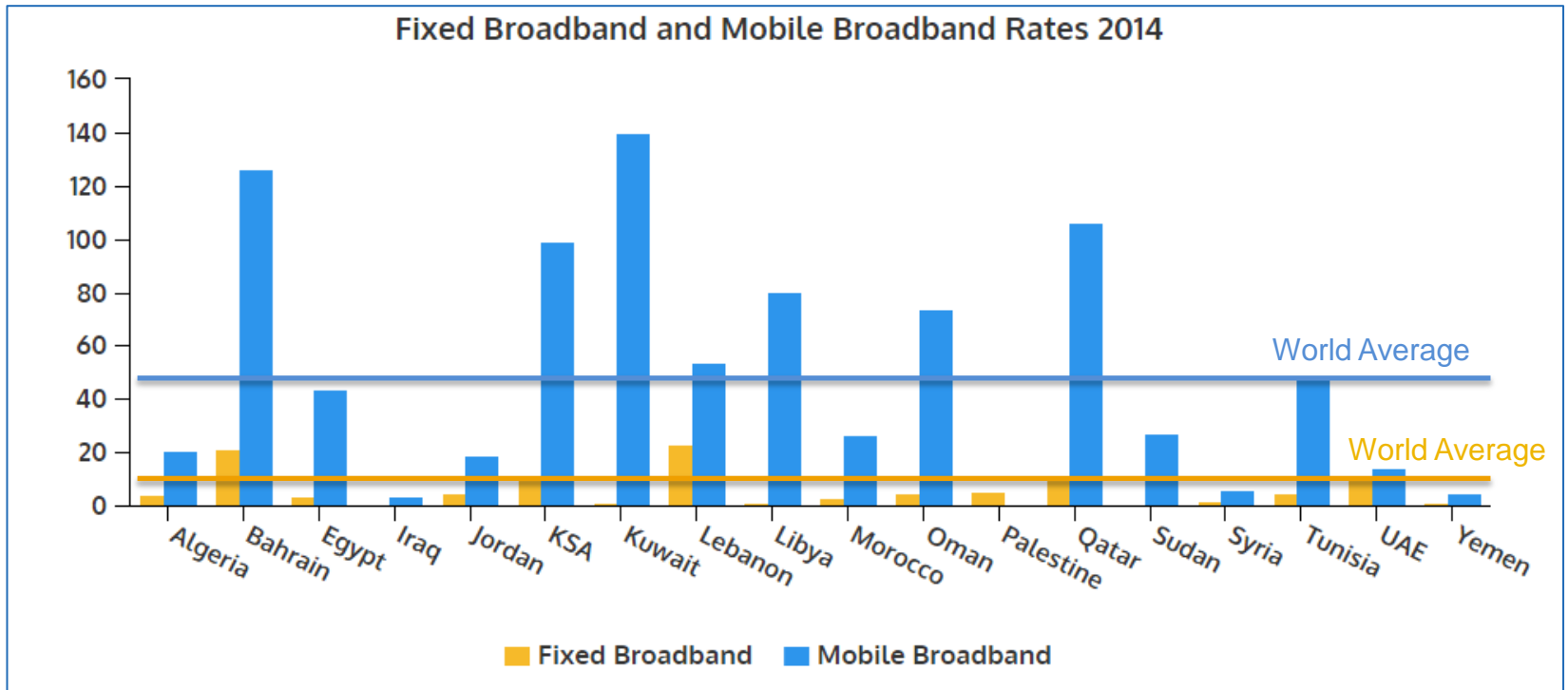
- Strength:** The average penetration rate of mobile services reached 108.2% in 2015, which is higher than the global average at 96.8%





Fixed and mobile broadband

- The average penetration rate of mobile broadband attained 40.6% which is lower than global average at 47.2%
- **Challenges:** Improving the quality of fixed and mobile broadband services and lower their costs





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Building trust and confidence in the use of ICTs

- ***Strengths:***

- *Most Arab countries adopted cyber laws*
- *CERTs are established, and Cybercrime laws are adopted in most Arab countries*
- *Regional CERT in Oman*
- *Regional convention for cybercrime*

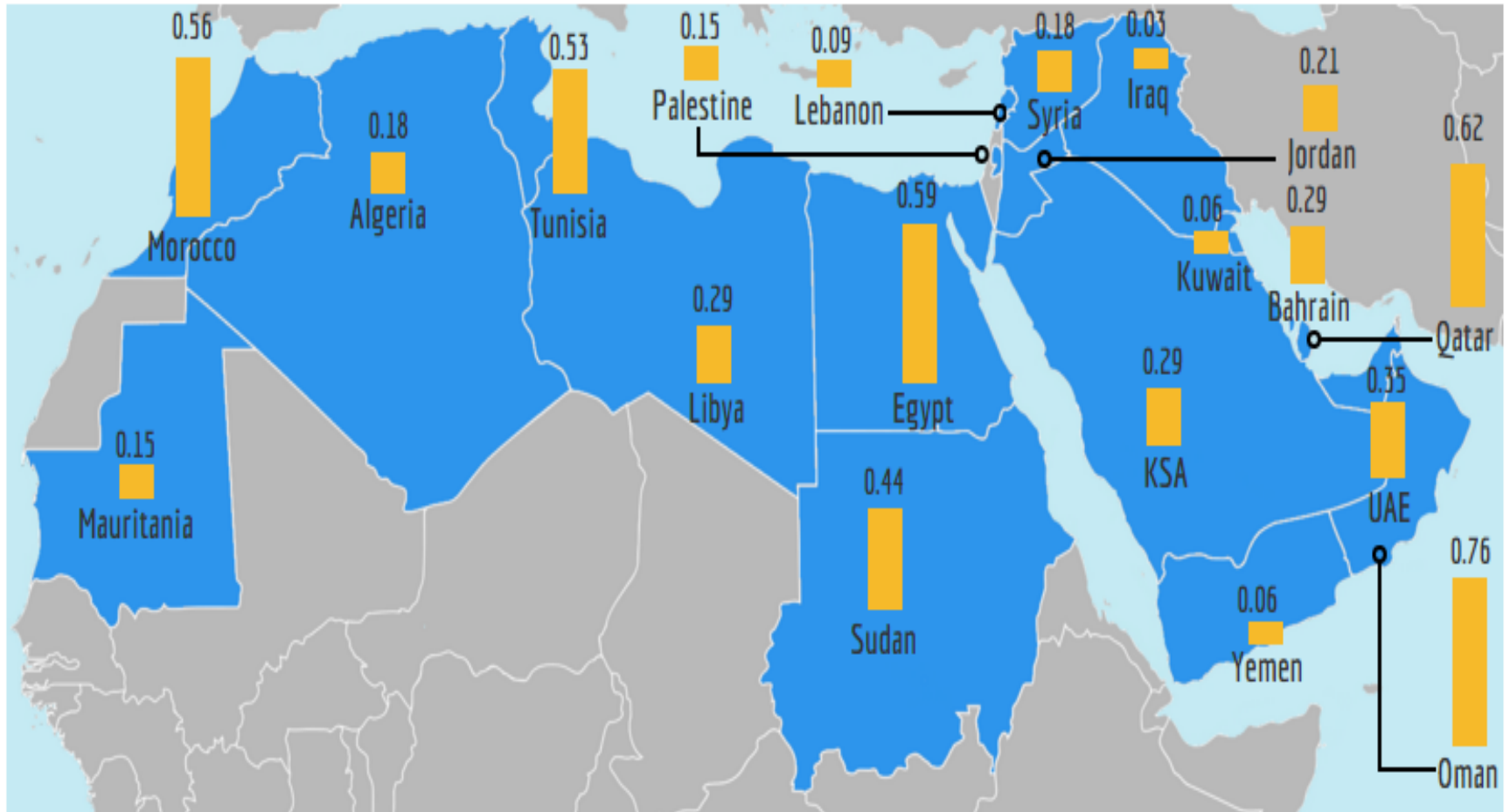
- ***Challenges:***

- *Enforcement of cyber laws including cybercrime law*
- *Raising awareness at various levels*
- *Enacting laws for access to information and personal data protection*
- *Increasing cooperation at national, regional, and international levels to combat cybercrime.*

Country	E-Signature Law	E-Transaction Law	E-Commerce Law	Cybercrime Law	Personal Data Protection Law	CERT Presence
Algeria	●	○	○		○	
Bahrain	●	●	●	●		●
Egypt	●	○	○	○		●
Iraq	●	●	●			
Jordan	●	●		●	○	○
Kuwait	●	●		○		●
Lebanon	○	○	○	●	○	●
Libya			●			●
Morocco	●	●	●	●	●	●
Oman	●	●		●	○	●
Palestine	○	○		○		●
Qatar	●	●	●	●		●
Saudi Arabia	●	●		●		●
Sudan	●	●	●	●		●
Syria	●	●	●	●	○	●
Tunisia	●	●	●	●	●	●
UAE	●	●	●	○	●	●
Yemen	●	●		○		

Drafted/Not yet adopted ○ Available ●

Cybersecurity index in the Arab Region in 2015



Oman ranked 1st in the Arab Region (3rd int.), followed by Qatar (8th int.), Egypt (9th int.), Morocco (10th) and Tunisia (11th).



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ICT Applications : e-Government

- **Strengths:**

- *Almost all countries have e-Government strategies or national plans,*
- *Progress in delivering e-government services.*
- *GCC countries ranked 2nd region worldwide, behind Europe.*

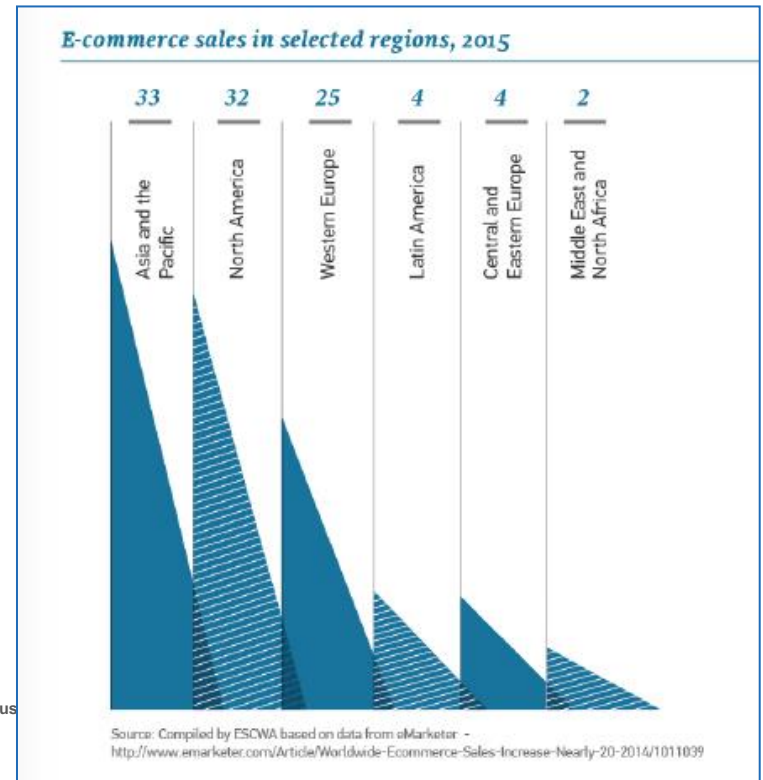
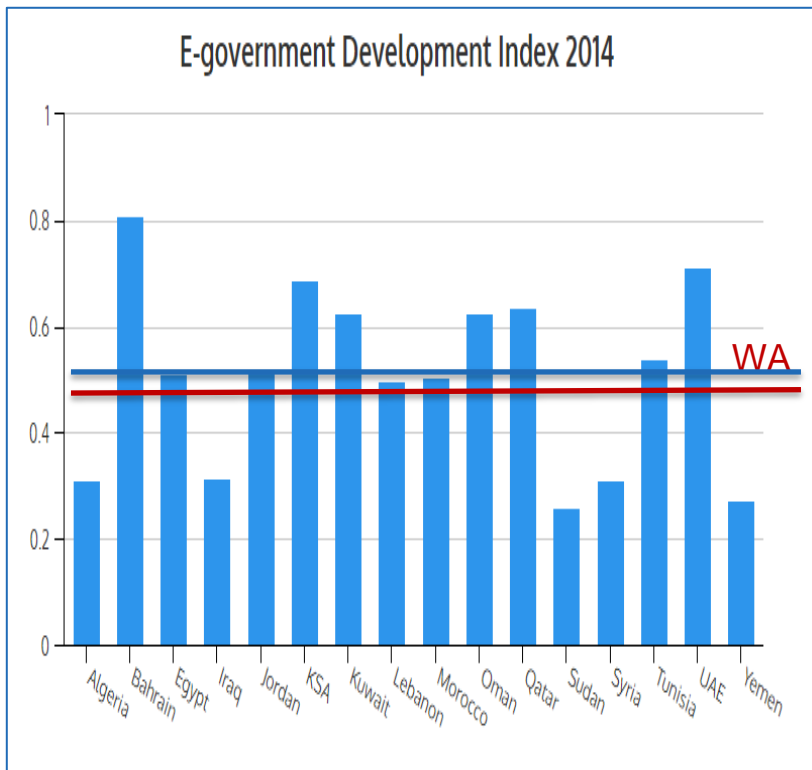
- **Challenges:**

- *Focus on open government and provide citizen-centric services;*
- *Integration of e-government services among agencies*
- *Allocate more resources to implement e-government initiatives , especially in non-GCC*



ICT Application : e-Government Versus e-Commerce

- The average of e-Government index in the region is 0.5 which is higher than the world average at 0.47
- The e-Commerce sales in the Arab region is estimated to only 2% of e-commerce sales worldwide.





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The 2030 Development Agenda and Information Society in the Arab Region

- *ICTs can reinforce the **three pillars of sustainable development**: economic growth, social inclusion and environmental sustainability*
- ***Science, Technology and Innovation and ICT**, can contribute effectively to achieving the SDGs, especially:*
 - ***Goal 9***
 - ***Goal 17***

*And other goals such as **1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 11, 13 and 16***



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Main Challenges in achieving development goals and targets in the Arabic region

- 1. High cost of access to technologies, ICT infrastructure and low broadband penetration***
- 2. Shortcomings in the legal and regulatory framework for STI in general, including ICT***
- 3. ICT applications and services are used in ad-hoc fashion and the production of substantial and local digital content is still limited***
- 4. The shortage of qualified personnel, intensified by brain drain, especially in areas of ICT and technologies***
- 5. The weakness of STI policies and STI systems in most countries***
- 6. Lack of cooperation between universities, research and development centres and industry***
- 7. Low level of expenditure on RDI***



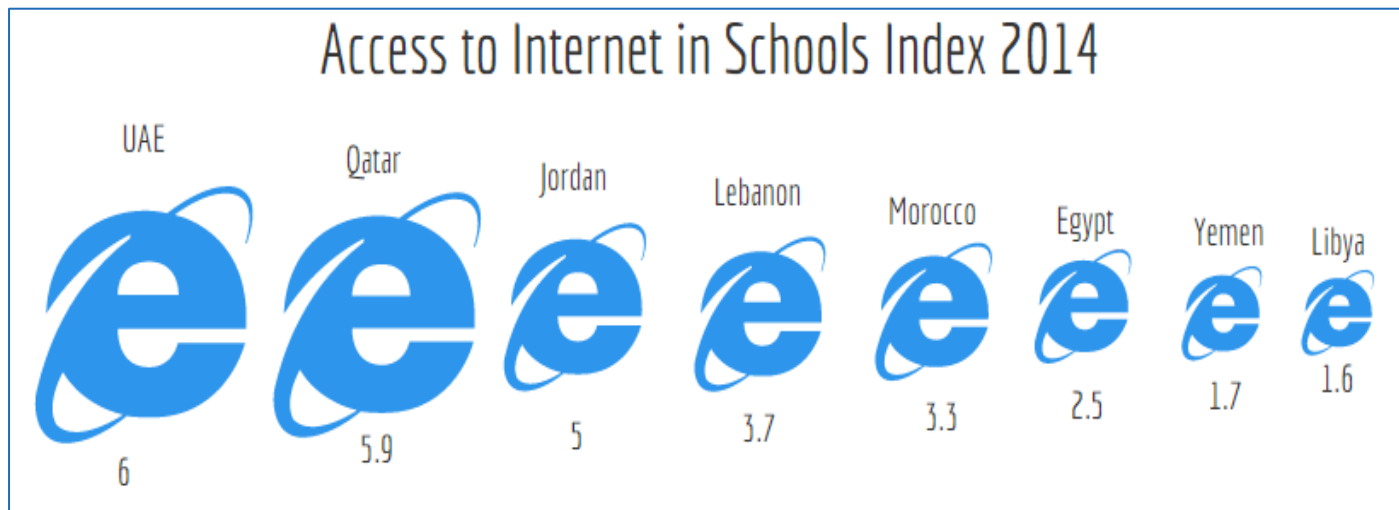
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Challenges in Capacity Building in the Arab region

- *Need to revise educational curricula to promote STI and ICT, and expand ICT professional training programmes*
- *University education does not keep pace with the technological requirements of the Arab countries*
- *Low funding allocated for technological research, development and innovation*



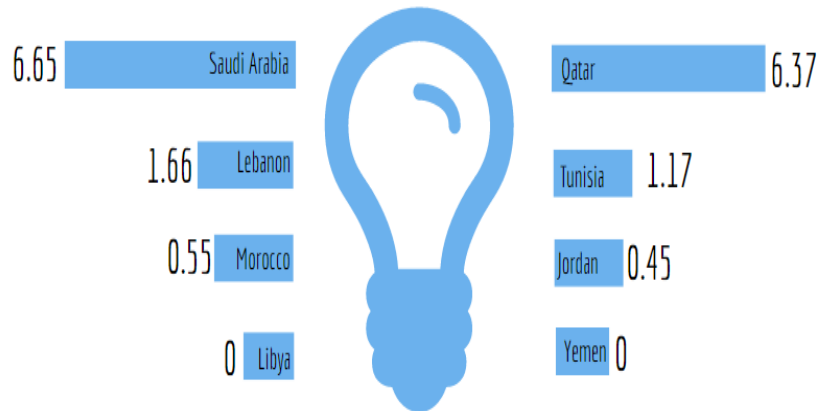


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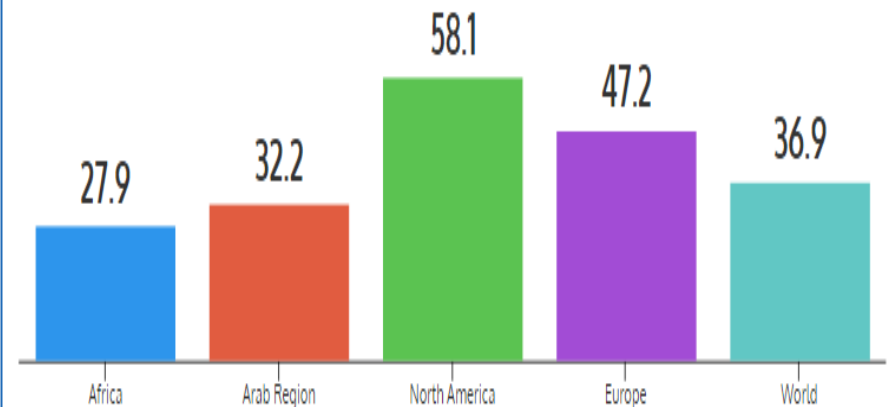
Challenges of Science, Technology and Innovation in the Arab Region

- **Most Arab countries rank lower than non-Arab countries with similar GDP levels.**
- **Arab countries have to review their STI policies and strategies to encourage innovation, knowledge diffusion and to promote creativity in goods, services and online content.**

The number of patents requests filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty per million inhabitants 2014-2015



Global Innovation Index 2014





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Building a knowledge society in the context of the 2030 Development Agenda in the Arab region/ ICT

- 1. Expand infrastructure, especially for fixed and mobile broadband services***
- 2. Ensure inclusive access to information and ICT services, and increase opportunities for women and youth***
- 3. Promote the development of e-services, support and expand e-government programmes and promote digital diversity in terms of culture and language.***
- 4. Build ICT capacity and promote a culture of knowledge and life-long learning for all***
- 5. Guarantee trust and security in ICT usage, build national and regional capacity to face cyber threats, and provide protection to Internet users.***



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Building a knowledge society in the context of the 2030 Development Agenda in the Arab region / STI

- 6. Formulate and implement a regional and nation action plan to achieve STI targets in the context of the 2030 Agenda in the Arab region***
- 7. Allocate appropriate budget for RDI to ensure the achievement of SDG***
- 8. Establish legal, organizational and investment environments that promote technology and innovation for SDG***
- 9. Ensure cooperation and the exchange of experiences and best practices between all stakeholders in the field of STI***
- 10. Benefit from STI capacity to facilitate the transition to a digital and knowledge-based economy***

Thank YOU

Outlook of the
IS 2015



Regional Profile
2015



Executive Summary



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