Toward Global and Regional Partnerships to Support Transformative Agenda in Official Statistics in the Arab region

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Arab region-Specific Spectrum

Characteristics
1. Different **development** stages (maturity)
2. Different **modernization** stage (ICT-Governance)
3. Different **priorities** (nationally/regionally)
4. Different **challenges** (financial, capacity, etc.)
5. Different **pressures** (humanitarian/development)

Demands
1. **Cost effectiveness** demand: registered based censuses and alternative sources
2. **Modernization** demand: ICT utilization, Access, transparency, responsive, sub-national, alignment with governance structure, NSS harmonized
3. **Humanitarian-specific** demand
4. **Governance-specific** demand: other produces, partnership with private sectors (Big data), Civil society (HR based data, tight data)

Arab region-Specific challenges

1. Humanitarian setting data needs: new data
2. Irrelevant traditional methods : timelines, sampling frames, etc.
3. Politicization of official statistics
4. Governance issues: alignment with government governance structure
5. Outdated infrastructure
6. Competing new data sources
7. Brain-drain and human capital issues
8. Lack of utilization of existing strength regionally

Arab Sub-regional Specific Priorities

Specific issues	Countries of concern
Registered based census	Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait
Politicization of NSS	Somalia, Iraq, Sudan, Lebanon
Outdated methods of official statistics	Iraq, Syria, Libya, Yemen
Brain drain of human capital	Jordan, Palestine, Egypt
Lack of modernized infrastructure	Egypt, Syria, Oman, Syria, Libya, Yemen, S.A, etc
Lack of alignment with government structure	Iraq, Libya, Yemen
New governance structure	S.A, UAE
Access to data, transparency, etc.	Almost all countries

Specific Strength /Brand	Branded country
Registered based census	Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar
Big data and geospatial	Oman
Governance, planning	Palestine, Jordan, Tunisia
Management of large scale mega projects	Egypt, S.A
Sub-national level engagement	Morocco
Private sector oriented NSS	UAE
Coordination of NSS	Palestine, Jordan, Qatar
Sub-regional coordination	GCC-STAT
Dissemination	Palestine, Jordan, Qatar
International engagement	Palestine, Egypt, Qatar

UNFPA support in the Arab region

1. Censuses
2. PAPFAM
3. CRVS
4. Analysis and dissemination
5. Modernization
6. S-S cooperation

Examples for good Practices

Modality	Involved country	Context
1-1	Egypt-Iraq	ICR S-S cooperation
1-1	Iraq - Palestine	Modernization
1-all	Libya –Palestine	Modernization
1-all	Jordan and all	Jordan census 2015 dissemination of expertise
1-some	GCCStat- GCC	Coordination mechanism
Ad-hoc	Palestine, Qatar, and GCC-stat	international engagement
Ad-hoc	Jordan	utilization of statistics
Ad-hoc	Lebanon	migration leadership

Comparative advantage

- UNSD … Standards, normative
- EUROSTAT… Practice, expertise
- UNFPA-ASRO …. Regional Programme and network of field country offices
- ESCWA… regional Programme in statistics and linkage with SDG reporting
- AITRS/SESRIC … Houses of expertise in capacity building
- Arab NSOs: Palestine, Oman, Qatar, Egypt, Morocco, Jordan, etc.… each country has specific strength
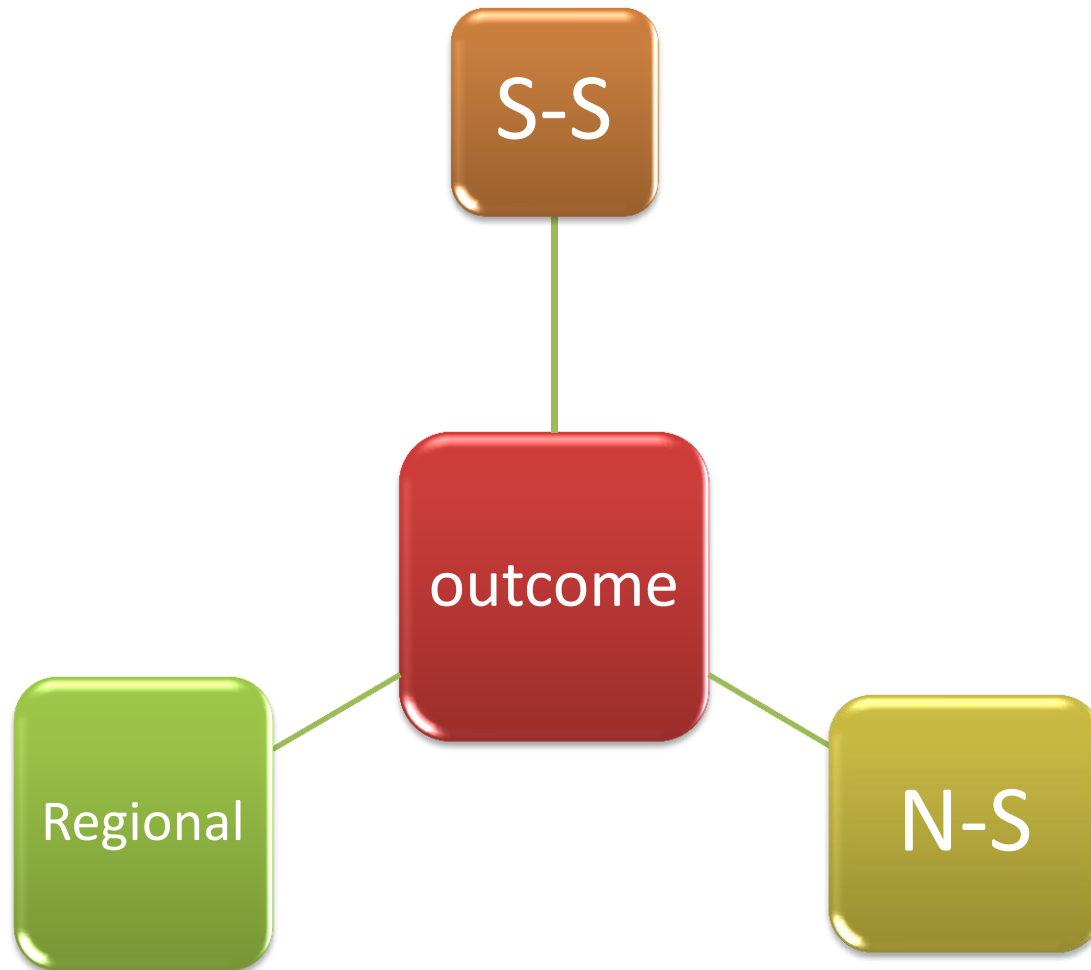
Next Steps

1. International TA Partnership

2. Regional S-S TA Partnership

3. TA support for improved contribution to GSS

UNFPA-ASRO Project

Output1: A regional strategy for the development of NSS using population-centered SDG lens disseminated

Output2: Capacity to develop, manage, implement and track NSS using population-centered SDG lens strategy strengthened

Mode of Engagement

S-S TA support

- **South-South TA support**
- Palestine Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)
- Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS)
- Social Research Center at American University in Cairo SRC/AUC.
- Tunisian Statistical Office
- Oman National Center for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

UNFPA-ASRO Project

Deliverables

- The project should be able to pilot and validate the following deliverables:
- Regional Strategy for developing NSS using SDG and population-centered lens.
- Plans for action for upgrading NSS and DD integration.
- Tool for analyzing population situation in view of DD at national and subnational level piloted
- DD integration technical tools
- Trained staff on DD integration
- Regional/national SDG tracking systems in place.
- Trained staff on NSS SDG response.
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