




UN-ESCWA UNITED NATIONS - Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Introductory Meeting of the ESCWA Knowledge Network Steering Committee (EKN-SC)
2-3 August 2010, UN-House, Beirut, Lebanon



Activities of the KN4DC project in the ESCWA Region

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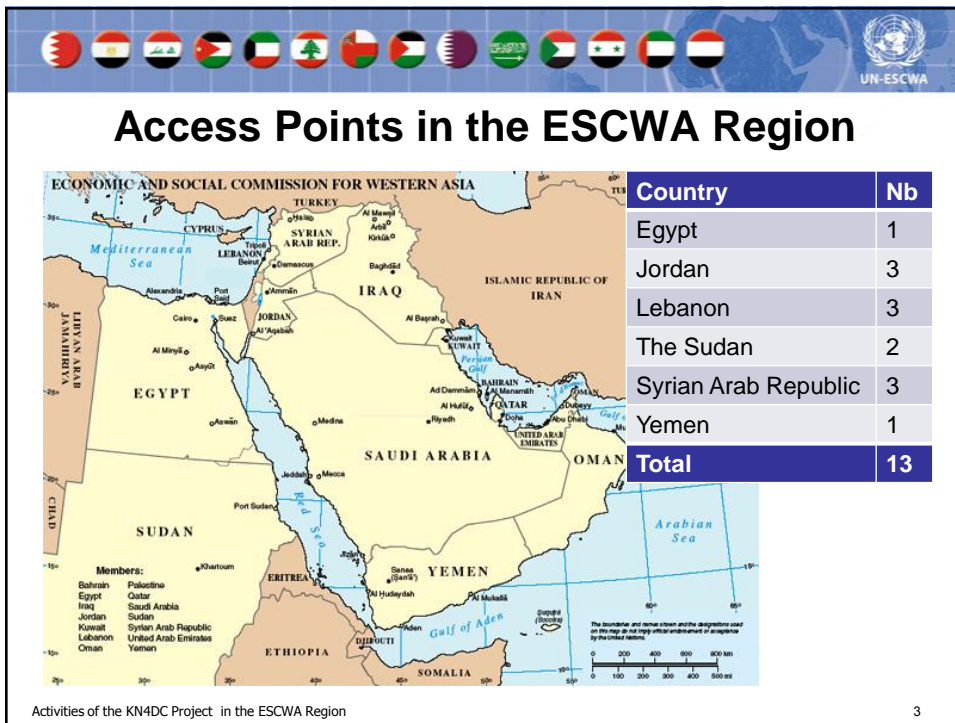





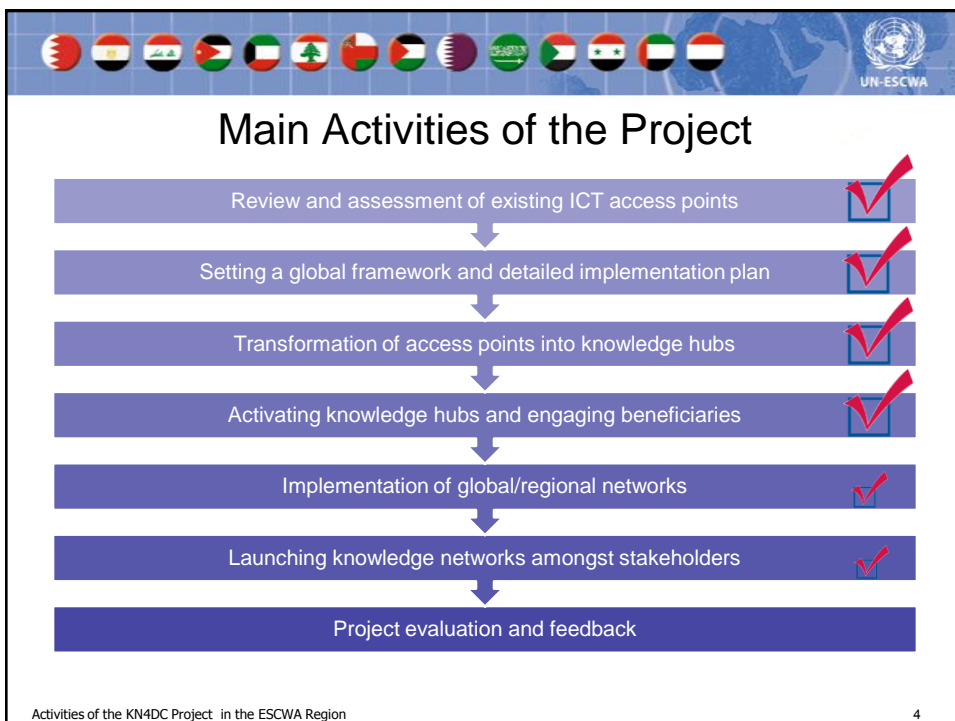
Predecessor projects in ESCWA Region

- Multipurpose Technology Community Centre (MTCC):
 - Telecentre in rural/disadvantaged area
 - Partnership with NGOs and local municipalities
 - North Lebanon (Akkar) and Yemen (Taiz)
- Smart Community Project (SCP):
 - Coupling of MTCC and an agro-food processing unit (dairy products, coffee processing, etc.)
 - Iraq (Altun Kopri in the north and Sayid Dikhil in the south), Syria (Qusaybeh in the south west), Yemen (Hadrar, Bani Matar)


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Inception meeting

- At the UN House in Beirut during November 2006 attended by focal points from all five regional commissions.
- Recommendations included:
 - Strengthening and networking existing knowledge hubs;
 - Making use of regional meetings to create regional networks;
 - Development of implementation plans at the RC level.

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Regional Reviews and Assessments

- Assessed existing community ICT access points and the communities they serve
- Indicated priority areas of service while highlighting best practices for each priority area
- Identified operational models for sustainability and required resources as well as the role of governments and potential partners
- Investigated the relationship between ICT and socio-economic development in the region
- Described successful multi-stakeholder partnerships and governance schemes for ICT access points and proposed business models
- Suggested priority areas where telecentres may have strongest local impact

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Regional Knowledge Manager

- Developed regional and global strategies for knowledge networking
- Drafted strategies for upgrading ICT access points to knowledge hubs and networking them at the regional level
- Prepared elements of regional plans of action for discussion with stakeholders, adoption and implementation

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Original Regional Knowledge Portal

- Information dissemination
- Networking of knowledge hubs at the regional and global levels
- Specialized discussion forums and communities of practice at the local, national, regional and global levels

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Original Regional Knowledge Portal

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Workshops

- Six workshops on knowledge sharing and networking that covered:
 - Regional knowledge strategy and its implementation;
 - Training on:
 - Knowledge management and marketing;
 - Using the knowledge portal;
 - Managing the knowledge hub as a small business;
 - Writing business proposals;
 - Effective communication for the promotion of projects;
 - Promotion of the knowledge hubs for the disabled;
 - Networking and sharing knowledge at the regional and global levels;
 - Sustaining the knowledge hubs and networks.

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Regional Stakeholders' Meeting

Location: Beirut, September 2007	Nb of participants: 25
Audience: knowledge hubs, government officials, national and regional knowledge programmes, NGOs, Private Sector	


Objectives:

- Highlight the purpose of the project and activities;
- Discuss knowledge network strategies;

Recommendations:

- Creating a portal for networking.

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Workshop on Knowledge Sharing and Networking

Location: Beirut, December 2008	Nb of participants: 16
Audience: knowledge hubs	

Training:

- "Knowledge Management of Community Telecentres"
- "Marketing for Community Telecentres"
- Using the regional knowledge portal

Objectives:

- Differentiate between access point and knowledge hub;
- Start using the knowledge portal as a tool for knowledge sharing;

Recommendation:

- Following an action plan from transforming access points into knowledge hubs.

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Telecentre Leaders' Forum

Location: Amman, July 2009	Nb of participants: 45
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Audience: knowledge hubs, government officials, national and regional knowledge programmes, NGOs

Objectives:

- Build relations between knowledge hubs of the region;
- Launch the regional knowledge portal;

Recommendations:

- Communicating through the various Web portals;
- Using more effective marketing techniques.

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Workshop on Management and Sustainability

Location: Khartoum, January 2010	Nb of participants: 32
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Audience: knowledge hubs, government officials, national knowledge programmes, NGOs

Training:

- "Management of Small Projects"


Objectives:

- Ensure sustainability of the regional knowledge network;

Recommendations:

- Forming a steering committee for the regional network;
- Selecting a secretariat for the regional network;

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Workshop on Enhancing Networking Capacity

Location: Cairo, February 2010	Nb of participants: 16
Audience: knowledge hubs, NGOs	

- Training:**
 - “Writing Good Business Proposals”
- Objectives:**
 - Increase initiatives aimed at the enhancement of networking capacities and knowledge hubs services;
- Recommendations:**
 - Upgrading the regional knowledge portal;
 - Increasing knowledge-based services.

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Workshop on the Consolidation and Expansion of the Network

Location: Damascus, April 2010	Nb of participants: 46
Audience: knowledge hubs, government officials, national and regional knowledge programmes, NGOs	

- Training:**
 - “Effective communication for the promotion of development projects”
- Objectives:**
 - Set a plan for the expansion and future activities;
 - Discuss upgrades on the new portal;
- Recommendations:**
 - Looking at the possibility of securing resources aimed at the funding of a skeleton infrastructure for the global knowledge network in order to ensure its sustainability;
 - Determining a continuing role for ESCWA as a sponsor of the regional knowledge network that will extend beyond the lifetime of the KN4DC project.

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Current/Coming Steps

Global Network

Knowledge Portal

Regional Evaluation

Global Evaluation

Handover to Steering Committees & Secretariats

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Thank you!

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