



**KOICA**  
Korea International  
Cooperation Agency



## Anti-Corruption and Integrity in Arab Countries (ACIAC)

2019 - 2025



# Joint KOICA-UNDP Regional Partnership



## Partnership with the Korea International Cooperation Agency (9.34M)

- 1 Enhancement of region-wide compliance with the UN Convention against Corruption
- 2 Corruption risk management processes institutionalized in vulnerable sectors
- 3 Development of regional collective action capacities for SDG16

# Delivery and Reach



Jordan



Lebanon



Iraq



Palestine



Egypt



Tunisia



Morocco

Deliver approximately 99% of the budget planned equivalent to 9,340,000 USD

## In addition to non-quantifiable results:

- Shaping the regional discourse on anti-corruption and integrity
- Building bridges
- Increasing trust
- Creating new spaces for cooperation

in 7 priority countries and beyond..



# Delivery and Reach



Jordan



Lebanon



Iraq



Palestine



Egypt



Tunisia



Morocco

**6,000+** direct beneficiaries

Governmental and Non-Governmental  
with gender parity achieved

**150+** regional  
and country specific policy dialogues,  
trainings, workshops, and cooperation events

in 7 priority countries and beyond..

# Results Achieved (1/4)



## 1. Enhanced region-wide compliance with UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) and related multi-country cooperation

- Formulation of **21 legal reform proposals**
- Adoption of **12 major reforms** leading to enhanced transparency, accountability
- Measurably enhanced the capacities of **7 anti-corruption agencies**
- **Inclusive UNCAC compliance** reviews in **5 countries**
- Strengthened regional **civil society capacities** to monitor the implementation of laws
- **60+ joint events** between governmental and non-governmental stakeholders

# Results Achieved (2/4)



## 2. Corruption Risk Management institutionalized in key sectors

- Sectoral Corruption Risk Management capacities institutionalized
  - ✓ 14 task forces established and trained across the region
  - ✓ 12 sectoral corruption risk assessments completed.
  - ✓ 107 preventive measures adopted
  - ✓ Demand beyond project priority sectors
- Enabled countries to save approx. 70 million US dollars in health, water, and transport
- Convened the region's first dialogues on integrity at sectoral level
- Convened 5 Regional Sectoral Expert Groups

# Results Achieved (3/4)



## 3. Development of regional collective action capacities for SDG16:

- Sustained support to ACINET's growth, functioning and regional leadership role
  - ✓ New membership requests – reaching **53 Governmental and 25 non-governmental** members
  - ✓ **3 Ministerial level Conferences** (2019, 2021, 2023) emerging new policy commitments
  - ✓ Signature and activation of **18 cross-border MoUs**
  - ✓ Portal with digital services ([www.arabacinet.org](http://www.arabacinet.org))
- Three thematic regional expert groups to advocate for and monitor SDG16 targets:
  - ✓ **Safeguarding the Development of Legal Texts against Corruption Risks**
  - ✓ **Ethics and Conduct in Public Office (+ Judicial Integrity with League of Arab States)**
  - ✓ **Cross-Border Cooperation on Corruption Investigations**



# Results Achieved (4/4)



## 3. Development of regional collective action capacities for SDG16:

- The region's first research and dialogue on the nexus of anti-corruption with



Peace and Conflict



Youth Engagement



Private Sector Development

Climate Action



*integrating gender perspectives*

- Expanding the Regional Integrity Guardians Youth Network



**15+ field visits to youth centers & colleges**



**14 Integrity Guardians mentoring their peers**



**280 young citizens engaged**

- Supported Youth in implementing country-specific initiatives



# Lessons Learned

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1. Added value of regional approaches to help address complexity and volatility and employ economies of scale, other than addressing cross-border issues.
2. Anchor anti-corruption in institutionalized national processes, even if it takes time and consumes resources – there will be a return on investment in times of volatility.
3. Strategic communication is key to effective anti-corruption. However, it demands greater investment in smart and context-sensitive messaging.
4. Digital solutions are not a panacea. Must be aware of risks, and designed as part of broader reform approaches.
5. Young people seek meaningful inclusion, so engagement with them need to be designed accordingly – agile networks, links to decision-makers, adequate skilling and knowledge-building etc.