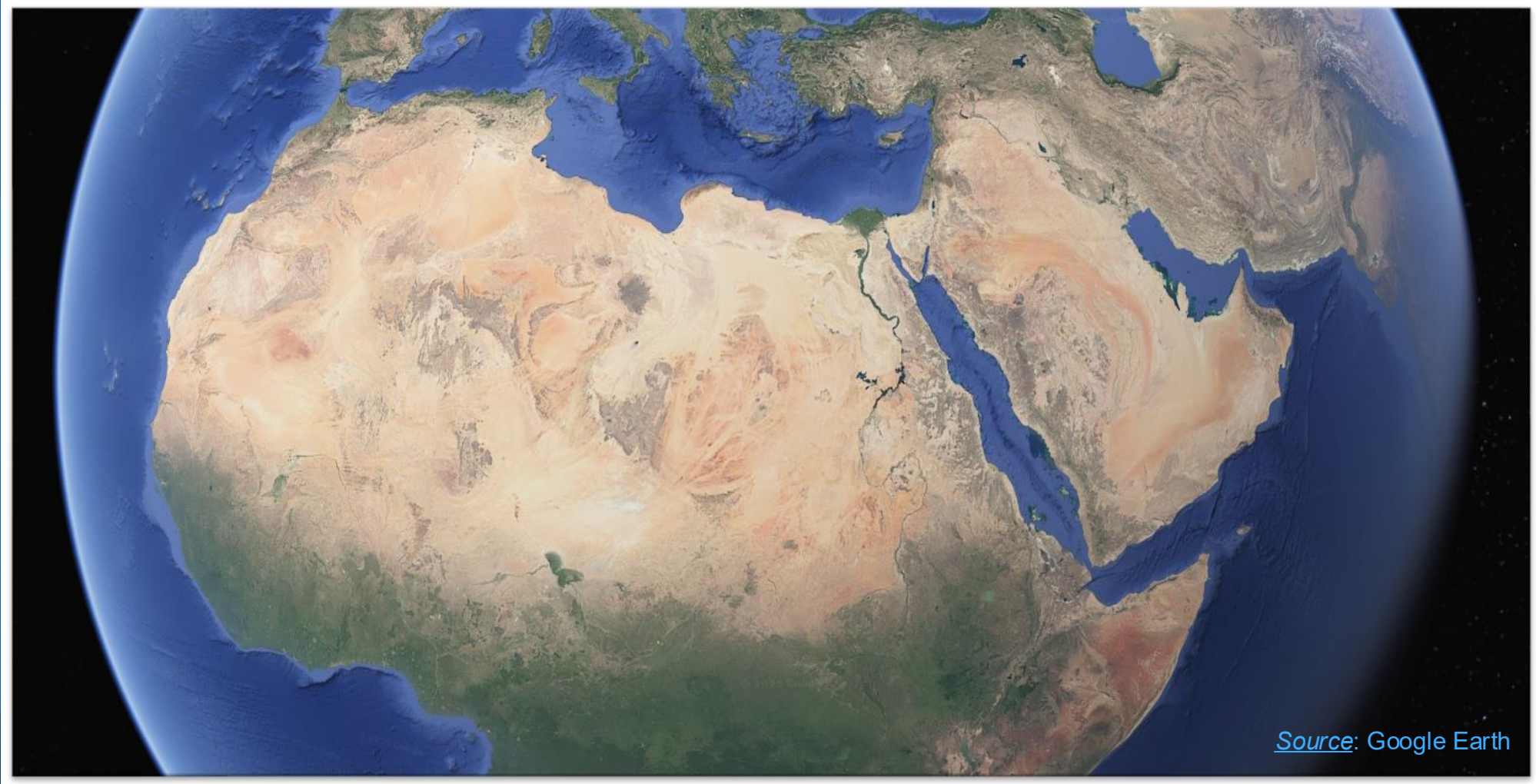


# Corruption & Climate Change in the Arab States Region

*Correlation, Causes, Challenges, and Action*



**Dr. Michael Nest. Amman, 27 May 2025**

## Key Financial Data, 2021-2022

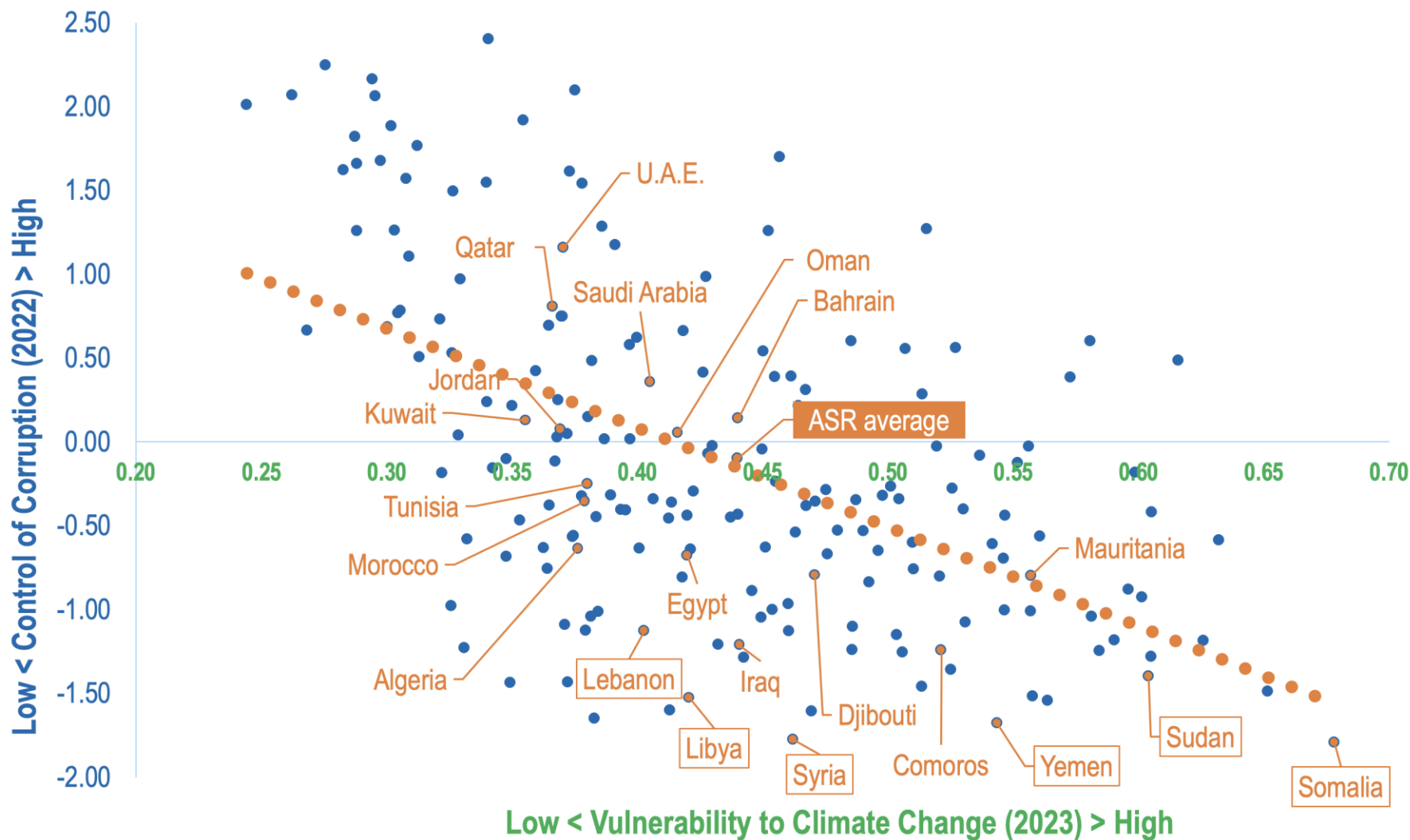
- Climate finance = \$1.27 trillion
- CRDF\* is 7.7% (\$97.5b)
- 91% of CF goes to mitigation
- CF 50:50 private/public

\*Climate-Related Development Finance

## Effects of Climate Change in the ASR

- Higher temperatures
- Changing rainfall patterns
- Desertification
- Airborne particulate matter
- 'Medicanes'
- Rising sea levels
- Warmer sea temperatures

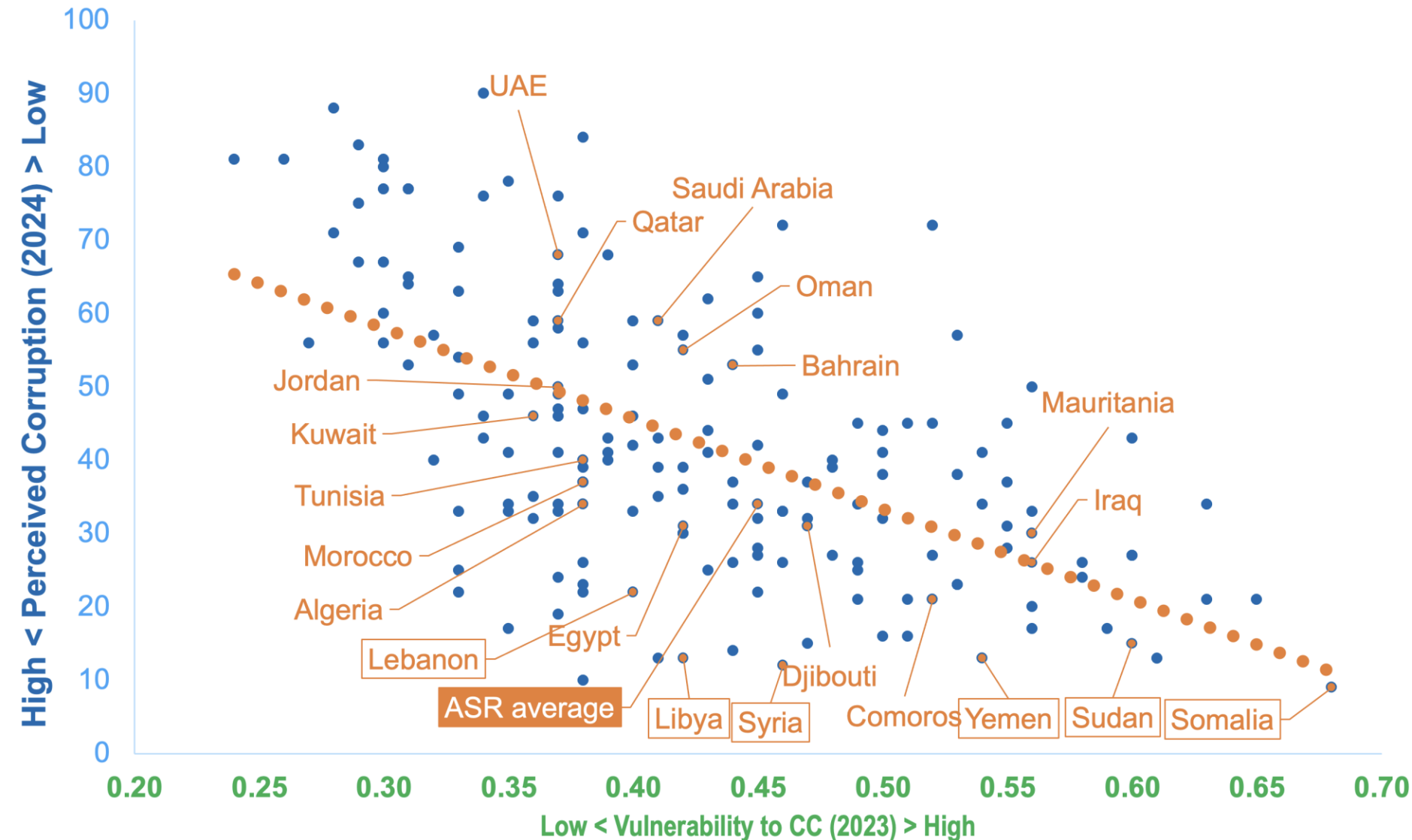
# Correlation: Vulnerability to Climate Change and Control of Corruption (World Bank)



*N = 185; p-value = <.001  
(COC has a significant  
negative effect on  
vulnerability to climate  
change.)*

*Sources: Vulnerability to  
Climate Change (Chen et al.  
2023); Control of Corruption  
(World Bank 2022).*

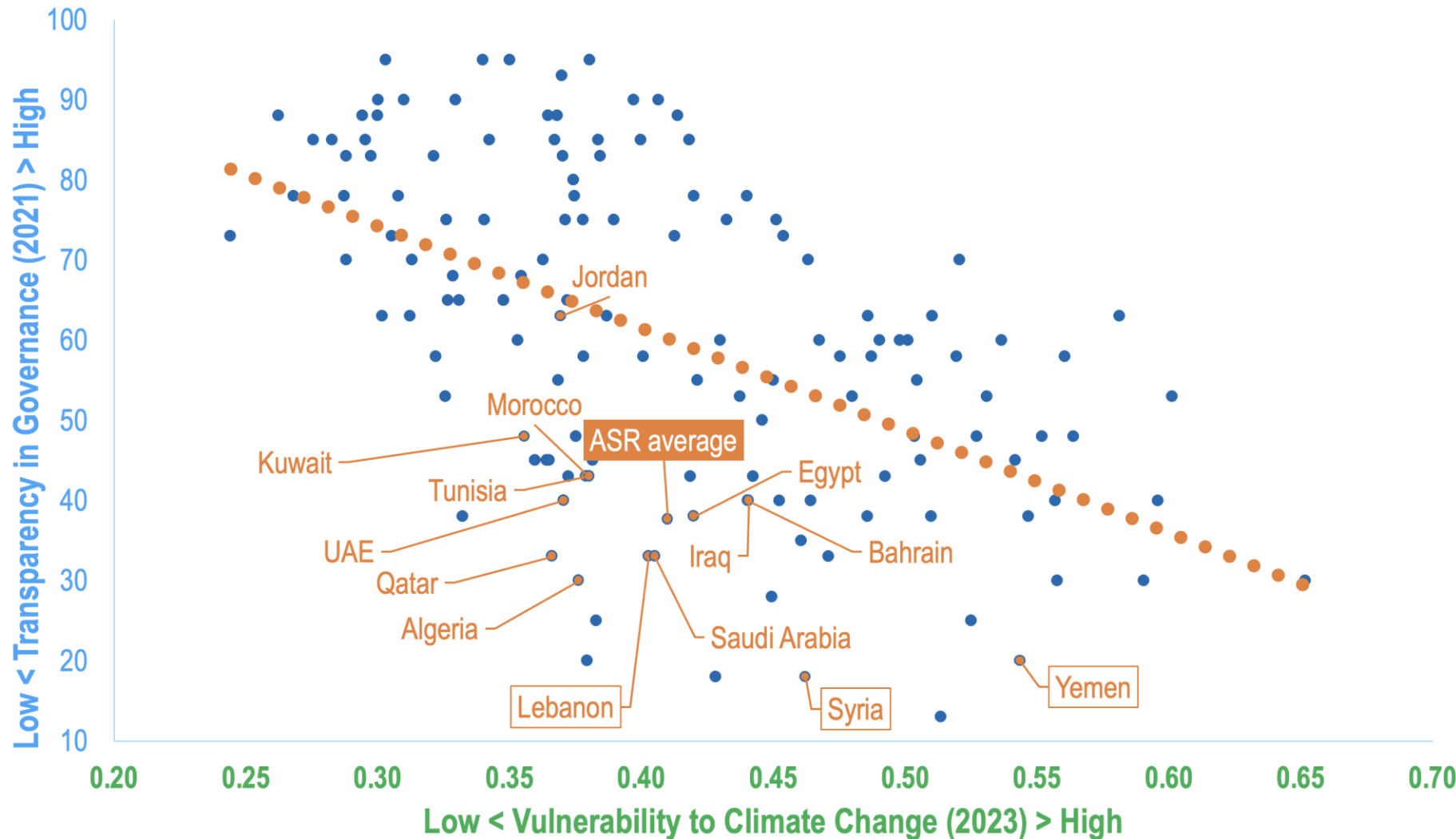
# Correlation: Vulnerability to Climate Change and Perceived Corruption (Transparency International)



*N=175; p-value = <.001. CPI has a significant negative effect on vulnerability to climate change.*

*Sources: Vulnerability to Climate Change (Chen et al. 2023); Perceived Corruption (Transparency International 2024).*

# Correlation: Vulnerability to Climate Change and Transparency in Governance (T-Index)



*N = 137; p-value = <.001. T-Index has a significant negative effect on vulnerability to climate change*

*Sources: Vulnerability to Climate Change (Chen et al. 2023); transparency (T-Index; Mungiu-Pippidi 2023).*

# Case studies: Illegal sand-mining in Morocco



Source: [coastalcare.org](http://coastalcare.org)

# Case studies: Illegal water use and water shortages in Tunisia



Source: Iwona Szyprowska-Glodzik,  
Water Issues

# Case studies: Undue influence at COP28, Dubai



# Case studies: Contamination of drinking water in Iraq



July 22, 2019

## Basra is Thirsty

Iraq's Failure to Manage the Water Crisis

Source: Human Rights Watch

# Case studies: Floods in Derna, Libya



Source: Reuters

# Case studies: How integrity action can prevent corruption in natural resource management



# Key Challenge #1: A Crisis in Transparency



- Media is largely not free
- Freedom of expression is constrained
- Transparency in government is low
- Data about government is limited
- Transparency around state budgets is low

## **Poor transparency facilitates:**

- Speculation about corruption (which may not be warranted)
- That corrupt people 'get away with it'
- Mistrust of government generally
- Detachment from public policy-making
- Discourages private investment
- A 'just transition' becomes impossible

# Key Challenge #2: Unchecked Undue Influence



- “Undue Influence” = lobbying
- Related to lack of transparency
- Exemplified by COP28 in Dubai
- Wealthy stakeholders get access; poorer stakeholders do not
  - *CSOs and some businesses get excluded*
- *A ‘just transition’ becomes impossible*

# Marginal Arab Oil & Gas Producers v. Fossil Fuel Delegates at COP28

(Comoros, Djibouti, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Somalia, and Yemen)



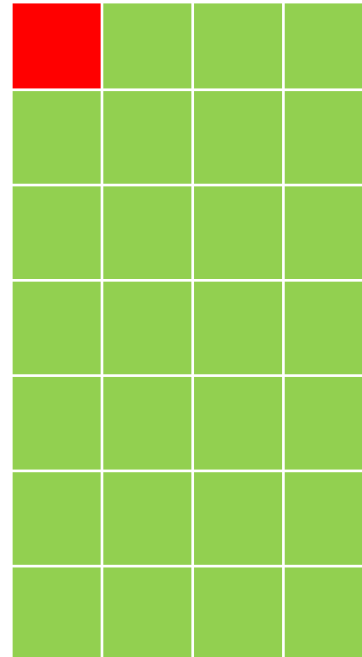
Marginal Arab Oil &  
Gas Producers v.  
Fossil Fuel Delegates  
1:1.4



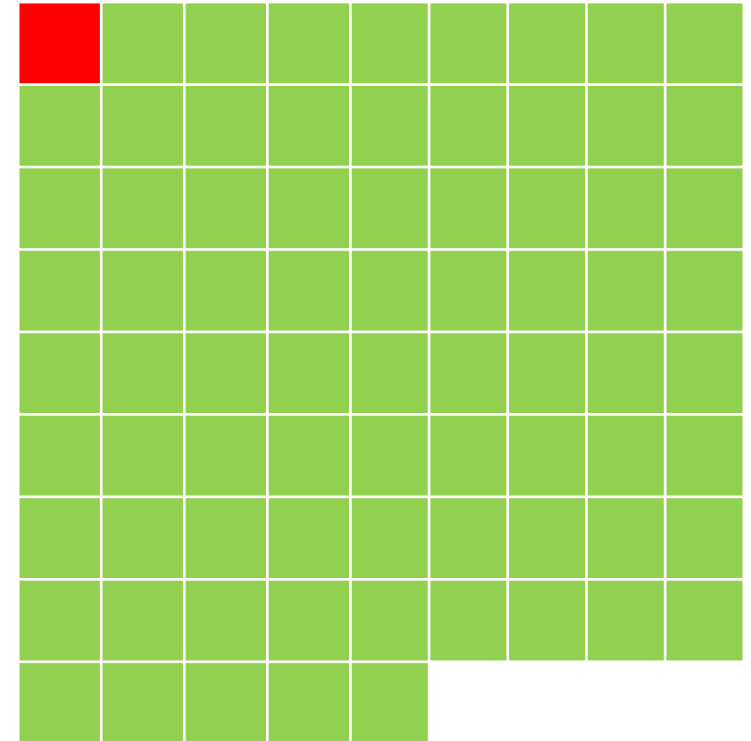
Somalis v. Fossil  
Fuel Delegates  
1:10



Yemenis v. Fossil  
Fuel Delegates  
1:27



Lebanese v. Fossil  
Fuel Delegates  
1:77



# Key Challenge #3: Poor conditions for climate investment

Total global climate finance by region of destination (domestic and international)

Region	CF, millions (2022)	% of Total CF (2022)
East Asia and Pacific	660	46.7
Western Europe	338	23.9
US and Canada	190	13.4
Latin America and the Caribbean	59	4.2
South Asia	50	3.5
Central Asia and Eastern Europe	36	2.5
Sub-Saharan Africa	34	2.4
<b>Middle East and North Africa</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1.4</b>
Other Oceania	15	1.1
Transregional	12	0.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,414</b>	<b>99.9</b>

Source: Table A.10, Buchner *et al.* 2023a: Global Landscape of Climate Finance 2023. Climate Policy Initiative, Nov. 2023, p.47.

# Key Challenge #3: Poor conditions for climate investments

## The ASR risks missing out on climate-related investments

- Is corruption putting off investors?
- Are other regions out-competing the ASR for adaptation funding?
- Mitigation of emissions is an 'Optimisation Game'
  - *The investors can invest anywhere; no commitment to ASR*
- Just Energy Transition Partnerships
- Loss & Development Finance Facility

# Entrée Points for Climate Action



1. Adopt a risk management approach to preventing corruption
  - *Research what public education messages and media will work best*
2. Build on existing civic space
  - *Specifically focus on measures to improve women's economic status*
3. Existing frameworks for engagement are an opportunity
  - *Form an Arab state subgroup of low-emitters also highly vulnerable to CC*

# Entrée Points for Climate Action



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3. Existing frameworks for engagement are an opportunity
  - *Form an Arab state subgroup of low-emitters also highly vulnerable to CC*
4. Harness private sector desire for certainty and a level playing field
  - *Use private sector networks to commence dialogue*
5. Corruption in a procurement is a perennial issue with known controls
  - *Get diverse stakeholders to participate in a CRM for procurement*
6. There is an appetite for information in media-restricted countries
  - *Build case study analysis into all corruption and climate change events*

*Thank you!*



شكراً جزيلاً