



Corruption in Arab Countries And the Challenge of Building Trust in the Public Administration

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Outline



1. Problématique
2. Corruption in the Public Administration in Arab Countries
3. Key Vulnerabilities and Possible Reform Entry Points
4. Action-Oriented Conclusions

1. Problématique



- Public perception of corruption is very high
- Governments are not sufficiently responsive - “Corruption” had been categorically evaded in governance reform processes in the region
- Deficits in anti-corruption approaches (narrow v/s diluted; the poltergeist of “political will, etc.)

2. Corruption in the Public Administration in Arab Countries



Corruption Perception Index

In 2014, it covered 175 countries including 22 Arab countries (scale 0 to 100). 7 Arab countries have scored above the global average, standing at 43.2/100 and 14 below. As for the regional average, it stood **at 35/100**.

Control of Corruption (Worldwide Governance Indicators)

In 2013, it covered 210 countries including 22 Arab countries (scale from -2.5 to +2.5). 5 Arab countries have ranked above 0 and 17 below it. As for the regional average, it stood **at -0.47**.

E-Government Index (UN E-Government Survey)

In 2014, it covered 193 countries including 21 Arab countries (0 to 1). 11 Arab countries have ranked above the global average, standing at 0.4712/1, and 10 below. As for the regional average, it stood **at 0.4217/1**.

2. Corruption in the Public Administration in Arab Countries (cont'd)



Quality of Public and Private Institutions (Global Competitiveness Index)

In 2014, it covered 144 countries including 15 Arab countries (scale 0 to 7). 8 Arab countries have ranked above the global average, standing at 3.97/7, and 7 below it. As for the regional average, it stands **at 4.03/7**, with Qatar leading the group and Libya trailing it.

- Diversion of Public Funds Indicator (3.64 v/s 3.5)
- Favoritism in Decisions of Government Officials (3.4 v/s 3.2)
- Irregular Payments and Bribes Indicator (4.2 v/s 4.1)
- Judicial Independence (4.0 v/s 3.9)
- Public Trust in Politicians (3.5 v/s 3.1)
- Transparency of Government Policymaking (4.0 v/s 4.1)

3. Key Vulnerabilities And Possible Reform Entry Points



Key vulnerabilities

- Appointment and HR processes
- Development planning and budget allocation
- Revenue collection (real estate, customs, corporate tax etc.)
- Off-book procurement schemes
- Privatization and Public-Private-Partnerships
- Interface with users of public services

Possible reform entry points (under-utilized)

- Implementation of UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)
- Open Government Partnership (OGP)
- Parliamentary (social) oversight

4. Action-Oriented Conclusions



- Re-packaging PAR with a focus on transparency, accountability and impartiality (using the under-utilized entry points)
- Bringing PAR to specific issues, to the sectoral level (collecting revenues & delivering services)
- Adopting more open process for identifying, formulating and monitoring related reforms (balancing inclusiveness against efficiency)
- Understanding the changing role of civil society and the need to empower it (youth groups)
- Considering the issue of data and indicators for the SDGs
- Addressing the “poltergeist” of political will!

Thank You!



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