UNITED NATIONS E

Distr.
LIMITED
E/ESCWA/ICTD/2004/WG.2/CRP.28
19 November 2004
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia - ESCWA

Second Regional Preparatory Conference for WSIS -
Partnership for Building the Arab Information Society
Damascus, 22-23 November 2004

LAUNCHING THE NATIONAL E-STRATEGY FOR LEBANON

By
Ziad Haddara
UNDP Project Coordinator
National e-Strategy for Lebanon

Note: This document has been reproduced in the form in which it was received, without formal editing. The opinions expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of ESCWA.

04-0643

Launching the National e-Strategy for Lebanon

Project Overview

Second Regional Preparatory Conference for the WSIS

Nov 2004- Damascus- Syria

By Ziad Haddara
UNDP Project Coordinator- "National e-Strategy for Lebanon"
Ziad.Haddara@undp.org

The Objective

The aim of the National e-Strategy is to move the economy and society of Lebanon towards a Knowledge Based Society in the shortest possible time while simultaneously addressing related challenges and opportunities that Lebanon is facing.

The National e-Strategy for Lebanon

- National e-Strategy completed in October 2003.
- Presented at the Regional National e-Strategies Conference held at the UN House in Beirut in May 2004.
- Full document available at

www.e-gateway.gov.lb/NeSWorkshop

National e-Strategy Opportunities- 1

- **Closing the e-Readiness Gap:** Getting ICT infrastructure and services to where they should be.
- **Developing and Adopting National ICT Policies:** Creating the right enabling environment to move towards a Knowledge-Based Society, including the proper legal frameworks.
- **Creating a Well-branded and Strong Local ICT Production Sector:** Finding the proper niche, attracting private investment, and reducing the brain drain.
- **Using ICT to Strengthen Human Capacity:** Updating academic and training curricula and providing widespread training programs.

National e-Strategy Opportunities- 2

- **Using ICT as a Tool for Social Development:** Bridging the digital divide to reduce disparity and improve economic well-being.
- **Using ICT as a Tool for Economic and Business Development:** Increasing the productivity of the national economy and improving competitiveness.
- **Continuing to Work towards an e-Government:** Using ICT to ensure better and more streamlined services to the Lebanese people and businesses.

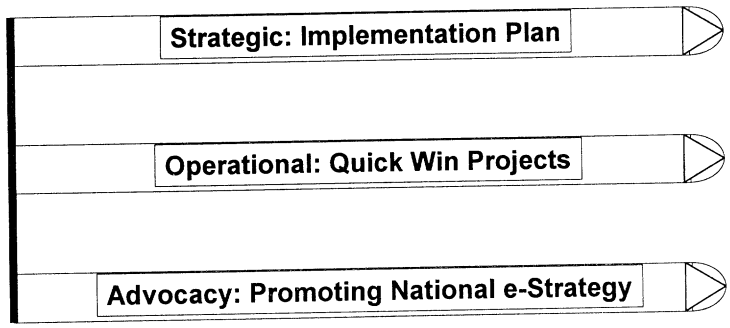
Currently: Launching the e-Strategy

- This Phase: Implementation Plan for the e-Strategy.
- Project adopted by the Council of Ministers in July 2004.
- A Plan providing a coherent vision for the road ahead, across sectors, and including specific projects.

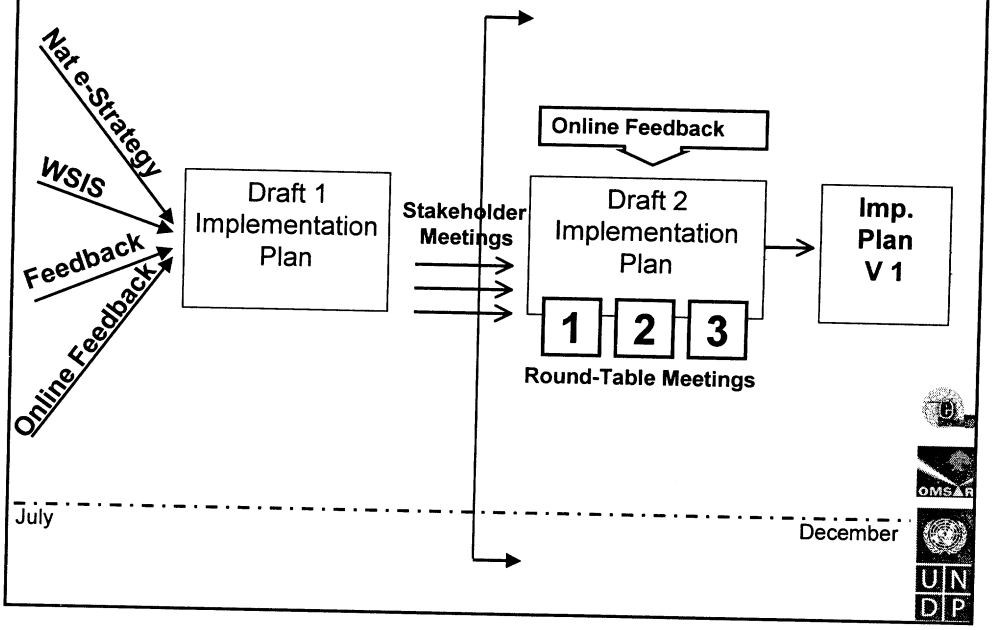
Expected Outcomes of Current Phase

- Consolidating the Vision, socializing it, and building consensus among multi-sectoral stakeholders.
- Developing a 7-10 year Implementation Plan, with a focus on pre-requisites and national priorities for the next 2 years.
- Identifying and beginning to implement pilot projects (Quick Wins), including securing partners and financial resources.
- Identifying the most suitable format for a "National e-Strategy Coordination Entity" that will be responsible for overseeing and coordinating implementation as well as monitoring progress.

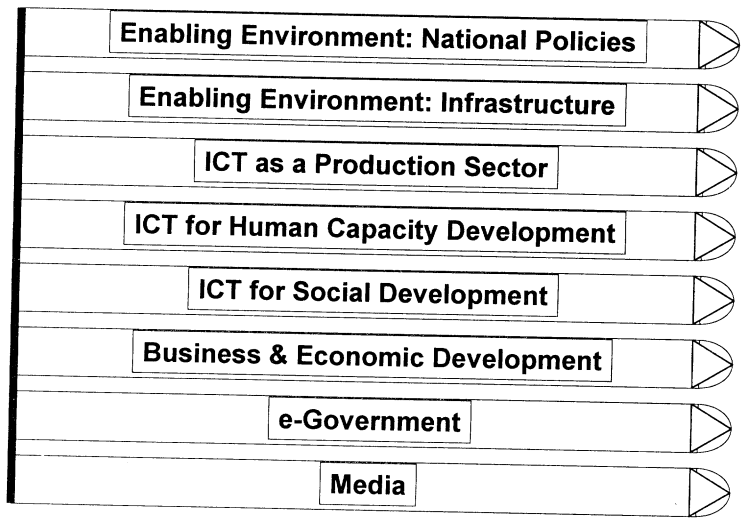
Three-Prong Process



Consultative & Open Process



The Implementaion Plan: 8 Tracks



Programs Are Not Track-Specific

Enabling Environment: Infrastructure

- Improve Internet Penetration Rate
- Prepare Industrial Zones
- Etc.

ILLUSTRATIVE

ICT for Social Development

- Improve Internet Penetration Rate
- Etc.

Media

- Improve Internet Penetration Rate
- Etc.

Projects Are Track-Specific

Enabling Environment: Infrastructure

• Improve Internet Penetration Rate → **PROGRAM**

Equip 15 public libraries with multimedia centers & free internet access

Connect All Primary & Secondary Schools to the Internet

Establish Sustainable Multi Purpose Community Centers

Develop Strategies to Connect Areas Outside Telecom Backbone

ILLUSTRATIVE

ICT for Social Development

• Improve Internet Penetration Rate → **PROGRAM**

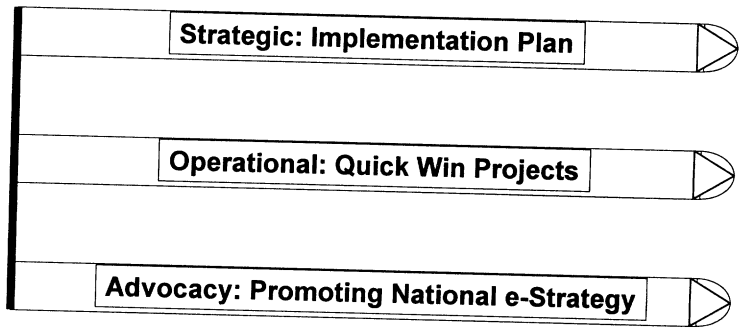
Create Needs or Incentives to Use the Internet

Media

• Improve Internet Penetration Rate → **PROGRAM**

Create Awareness Campaigns

Three-Prong Process



Quick Win Projects- Definition

Quick Wins are discrete, high-impact, and visible projects that are being implemented in this Phase.

They are meant to add value while simultaneously creating momentum and providing increased visibility and credibility to the National e-Strategy Project.

Quick Wins may be new projects or may build on or expand existing projects.

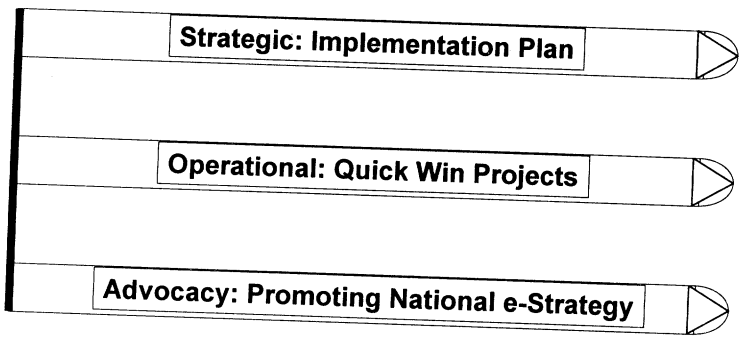
Quick Win Projects- Listing

- A usage-based Internet awareness raising campaign.
- A mapping of all existing Multi Purpose Tele Centers in Lebanon as a tool for picking locations of future MPTCs.
- An ICT needs survey targeted at specific user-groups as a means to identify additional projects.
- Support the ongoing ICT for Women and Children Rights project in collaboration with ICTDAR.
- Plan for a citizen-centric public domain government information portal, building on existing initiatives such as www.informs.gov.lb and other government sites.

Challenges

- Combining bottom-up and top-down
- Socializing and creating ownership
- Finding champions
- Planning at the appropriate level
- Looking forward while keeping track of all ongoing and completed projects
- Making sure government decision makers are fully aware of the importance and need for an e-Strategy (awareness-raising efforts)
- Achieving clear government support and back-up leading towards the formation of a Coordinating Entity

Next Steps

- Wrap up the individual stakeholder meetings
- Develop Draft 2 of the Implementation Plan
- Solicit feedback on Draft 2 through small working groups and/or online feedback
- Develop Implementation Plan Version 1
- Continue implementing Quick Wins
- Begin implementing programs in next phase while pushing for the creation of the Coordinating Entity

Q&A