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UNDP ICT PROGRAM IN THE ARAB REGION

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United Nations Development Programme
Information and Communication Technology for Development in Arab Region
ICTDAR

UNDP ICT Program in the Arab Region

Second Regional Preparatory Conference for WSIS

Damascus, November 2004

Najat Rochdi
Regional Coordinator

Outlines

- Service lines
- Activities and projects
- ICTDAR and WSIS 2005
- Implementation strategy
- ICTDAR Perspective
- The team

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ICTDAR

- **Started in October 2003**
- **A team: RC, DRC, ARC and national PO**
- **2.6 MUSD**
- **2 years**
- **Based in Cairo**
- **Coverage: MENA**

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Service lines

- Awareness raising
- Stakeholders campaigns and participation
- Capacity development
- Strategy formulation and implementation
- Employment generation

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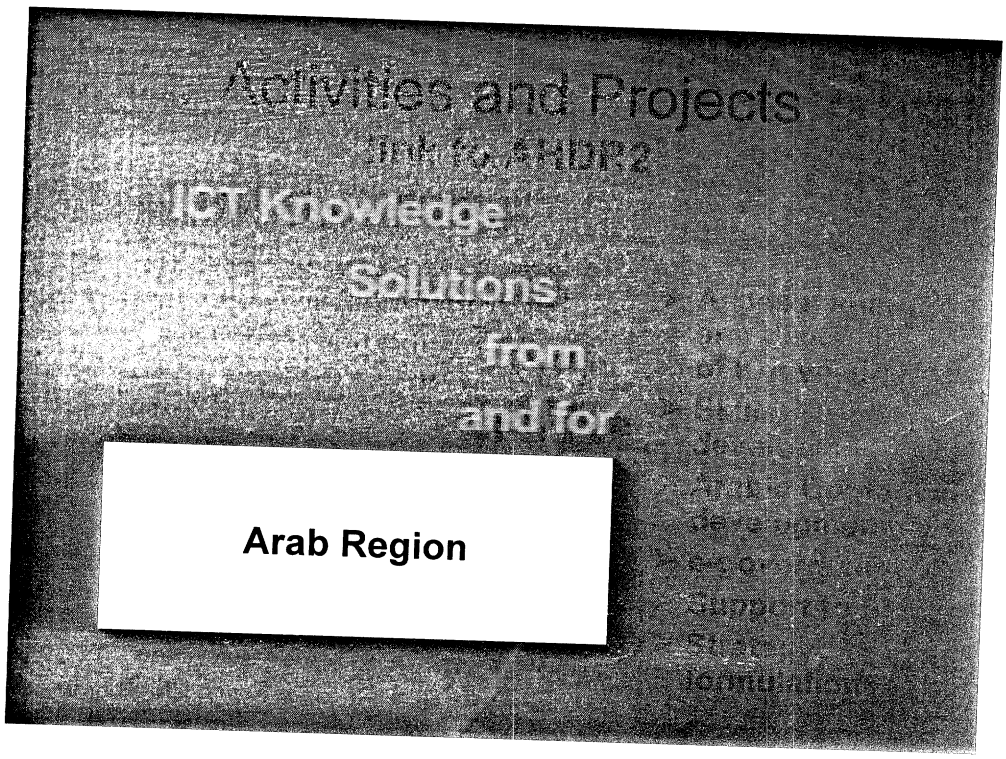

Projects/Activities

- Quick wins to lead to a national program thru roll out (mainstream ICTD):
  - **K-management platform and collaborative work solutions, BPR**
  - **Youth empowerment and workforce development**
  - **Community Access Centers**
  - **TOT and skills development**
  - **Support to SME's**
  - **E-gov@ASP <k-sharing portal>**
  - **REGI (e-gov institute)**
  - **AIYP (youth portal)**
  - **ICTARB (ICT for blinds)**
  - **Women empowerment through access to information**
  - **Arabic content development**

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Projects/Activities

- **Policy formulation:**
  - **E-strategy (e-readiness, national ICT council, ICT master plan, projects..)**
  - **E-Government / e-governance**
  - **Decision support system**
- **Pan Arab exchange:**
  - **E-gov workshops**
  - **E-strategy workshop**
  - **Wireless technology and access**
  - **Aid coordination and management**
  - **Youth empowerment**
  - **Women empowerment**

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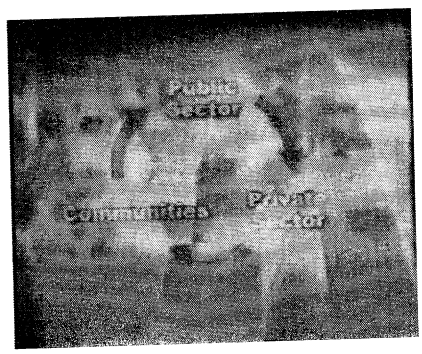
Implementation strategy

- Through and with UNDP COs
- Policy combined with quick wins projects/initiatives
- Business model for replication
- Business plan for sustainability
- Development issues
- Synergies/Capitalization
- Partnership private sector <Microsoft, national ICT associations, ..>;
- UN system <UNESCO, UNDESA, ..>; ESCWA, ECA, Wireless Institute; …)



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Countries/ COs

- Already involved:
  - Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia, Sudan, Somalia, UAE and Yemen
- Starting next year:
  - Algeria, Libya and Saudi Arabia.

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Regional Perspective

- Regional projects/initiatives:
  - AREGI (Arab e-gov regional institute)
  - IYP (Info youth Portal)
  - Women empowerment
  - Workforce development
  - ICTARB (ICT for Blinds)
  - Support to SME's
  - Community access centers (CACs)

Policy formulation, Skills development and job creation
Pan Arab implementation

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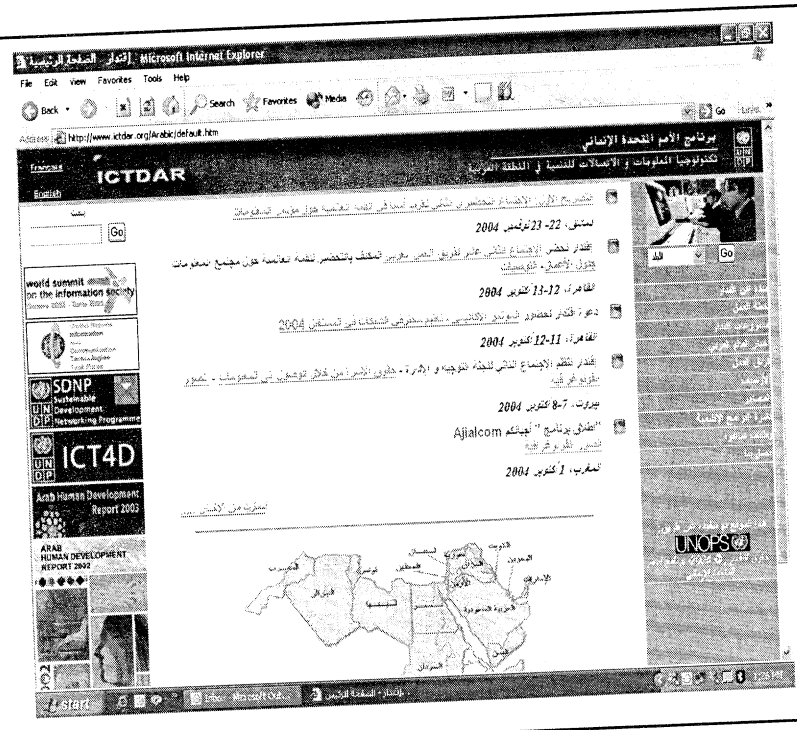
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