

Note-To-File

Extension of the Arab Development Portal (ADP) Project

The OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) signed a new three-year partnership agreement in support of the Arab Development Portal (ADP) Project, as a reinforcement of their partnership that goes back to 2013. The signing ceremony took place in Vienna on 20th of May 2019. The agreement was signed by the UN Acting Associate Administrator and Director of Regional Bureau for Arab States at UNDP, Mourad Wahba and Director-General and Chief Executive Officer of OFID, Abdulhamid Alkhalifa.

The Arab Development Portal is an initiative of the Coordination Group of Arab, National and Regional Development Institutions (CG) to create a knowledge platform which promotes timely and high-quality knowledge sharing to generate opportunities for development and rising living standards in the Arab World. By having access to and effectively using knowledge resources, individuals, firms and communities can improve their individual and collective well-being, thereby contributing to overall sustainable development.

There is no denying that knowledge has become one of the main drivers of sustainable development in the Arab region, not only as an economic sector but also as an instrument of empowerment to achieve equality and inclusivity. The twinning of knowledge and technology has brought a new dimension, especially with the narrowing of the digital divide in the Arab region. Reflecting a unique partnership between UNDP and the CG, ADP has become one of the main players that are contributing to enhancing statistical capacity, data literacy, and knowledge consumption to stimulating informed policy analysis, fact-based research and data-driven advocacy in the Arab region.

Launched in April 2016, ADP's database now hosts more than 6,500 indicators on 14 development topics gathered from websites of international organizations and extracted from national statistical offices. Its data portal offers advanced tools for data browsing, extraction, and visualization. A milestone in the work of ADP is the launching of the first regional SDG Tracking tool which not only monitors countries' progress against the official 244 SDGs indicators, but also tracks the country-specific indicators identified in the respective 2030 national strategies. By catering to the needs of data users and consumers and enhancing their capacities on data usage, visualization and dissemination, ADP aims to improve access to information by the primary sources of official statistics, create a growing base of consumers and contribute to public debates on development and countries' priorities.

Against this background, it is important that the ADP maintains the competitive advantage it has achieved by not only maintaining its previous scope of work but by venturing into new areas. The establishment of the ADP Strategic Advisory Board (SAB) in Phase III has had an important role in guiding the development of the new phase. As such based on the feedback received from the CG Technical Focal Team (July 2018), members of the Strategic Advisory Board (September 2018) and the CG Heads of Operations (September 2018), it was agreed that the new three-year Phase IV will be implemented by UNDP. During Phase IV ADP will increase the efforts to produce more high-end analytical products on the status of development in the Arab region, enhance the outreach/dissemination, support data

journalism and empower youth to understand analytical content and use data, and design sustainable business models to invest in technology-driven solutions.

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