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## Annual Progress Report

Regional Electoral Support Project  
Middle East and North Africa



SWEDEN

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## BACKGROUND

The Middle East and North Africa region continues to witness new debates on electoral systems, electoral institutions and the practice of elections within the region's evolving political context. The Arab Spring and the subsequent events in the region continue to demonstrate that political developments have regional repercussions and point to the need for mutual understanding and discourse on electoral reform, democratic norms and principles, and institutions. The Regional Electoral Support Project for Middle East and North Africa, supported by a thirty month agreement and financial contribution from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), works to address this need by strengthening regional cooperation, enhancing regional knowledge and know-how on electoral issues, and promoting the greater and more effective role of women and youth in the electoral process.

The Regional Electoral Project, serving as the regional component of UNDP's Global Programme for Electoral Cycle Support (GPECS), was signed into effect in December 2013 and the first year of implementation was focused on operational setup as well as progress against outputs. In its first year, the Project has made significant progress towards achieving its objectives, having undertaken a number of initiatives that have strengthened regional cooperation and networking among electoral stakeholders, enhanced regional capacity and knowledge on electoral issues and advocated for the increased participation of women and youth in the electoral process. Through its close engagement with electoral management bodies and other electoral stakeholders including regional associations such as the League of Arab States, the Project has contributed to the overall goal of strengthening electoral management bodies to administer electoral processes that reflect the will of the people.

This report provides an overview and assesses the activities of the project for 2014 against the outputs and indicators established in the Project Document. The report also reviews the challenges and lessons of 2014 and provides a summary of expectations for 2015.

## KEY ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

The regional electoral support project undertook a number of activities aimed at strengthening regional cooperation, enhancing capacity on elections and promoting inclusive electoral processes. These activities have led to the achievement of a number of key annual inputs, which also pave the way for attaining many of the project's overall expected results. The following are some of the key achievements of 2014:

- **Recognition of the importance of regional cooperation on elections:** Electoral management bodies' recognition of the need for greater regional cooperation as demonstrated by the formation of a preparatory committee on the creation of a regional association of EMBs. Following a number of project supported initiatives aimed at encouraging regional

cooperation, electoral management bodies from ten countries in the region came together to form a preparatory committee to review and provide recommendations on the formation of a regional association which would systematize cooperation on electoral matters across the Arab States; they have expressed commitment and are leading the efforts to form an association.

- **Enhanced regional capacity on elections:** through trainings, conferences and workshops, the project enhanced the capacity of electoral stakeholders on internationally accepted principles of democracy and good electoral practice. Using the internationally recognized BRIDGE training curriculum, twenty three participants gained the confidence and necessary knowledge and skills to become semi-accredited facilitators. The project also contributed to enhancing the capacity of the League of Arab States, which took a policy decision to adopt the BRIDGE curriculum for its own programs. This growing pool of electoral expertise is expected to contribute to the building and maintaining of a sustainable electoral culture in the region. Following the BRIDGE Training of the Facilitators, the semi-accredited facilitators conducted subsequent trainings in their respective organizations using the BRIDGE modules. This cascade training method is designed to expand the knowledge base on elections among electoral stakeholders and to enable local trainers to use the participatory approach of the BRIDGE methodology and the international elections curriculum.
- **Greater electoral knowledge products introduced in the Arab States:** the need for electoral knowledge products for the Arab region was identified during the project inception phase and through subsequent regional discussions on elections; these products are intended to enhance knowledge on electoral topics, bring coherence to how electoral topics are understood and discussed in the region, and to help generate discussion on elections. The project supports the development of knowledge products specifically for the region as well as making global knowledge products available to the region in Arabic. In 2014, the project developed the a) first lexicon of election terminology, b) results management systems, and 3) a report on inclusive political processes. Not only are these knowledge products now available to stakeholders in the Arab States in the Arabic language, but those disseminated are already being utilized. A number of EMBs in the region as well as the League of Arab States have uploaded the Lexicon on their websites, making it available to greater numbers of stakeholders. In terms of its usage, a number of EMBs in the region have requested hard copies of the document for onward distribution to their constituencies and as of December 2014, the Lexicon was downloaded from the web nearly 825 times. It was also relied upon during the January meeting of EMBs in Beirut where the charter for an organization of Arab EMBs was being drafted, the Lexicon helped to clarify and reach consensus on the terminology that was being proposed for inclusion in the charter.

- **Partnerships established:** Within its first year of implementation, the project established partnerships, together with the UN's Electoral Assistance Division (EAD), with the League of Arab States (LAS) to enhance its capacity in electoral assistance and to conduct joint programs in the region. LAS engages in electoral observation and is exploring providing technical assistance on elections in the region and is a natural partner of the Regional Project. Through this partnership, the Regional Project has supported LAS in carrying out BRIDGE trainings as well as taking part in regional and international conferences, as described in other sections of this report.
  
- The Regional Project also reached out to Mexico's National Electoral Institute (INE), a renowned electoral institute that brings together the experiences of Latin America on elections and engages with electoral management bodies from around the world to share experiences and impart knowledge on electoral topics. To enhance capacity on elections in the Arab States and promote south-south cooperation, the project has established an understanding with INE to provide opportunities for exchanges, experience sharing forums and trainings through a two year agreement; this MOU will enable the project to expose the region to the experiences, challenges and best practices of other regions, particularly of Latin America. Latin America offers historical and political similarities with the Arab world that can benefit from study and consideration. The two regions have similar sizeable number of countries sharing strong historical ties and commonalities such as the same/similar language, a culture deeply rooted in religion, similar political saga in becoming modern independent states and facing development challenges - economic, social and cultural). In addition there are also similarities between the two region in changing authoritarian regimes and challenges to more open political systems
  
- Finally, the Project together with EAD engaged with the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) on developing a partnership for the benefit of the Arab States. The OIC provides another platform for engagement on electoral matters in the region and in 2015, the Regional Project will explore this partnership further and areas of mutual engagement. In 2014, the Regional Project supported OIC in taking part in election observation in Panama as part of the Organization Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) delegation.
  
- **Promotion of the participation of women and youth in electoral processes:** in 2014, the project initiated its activities aimed at promoting the participation of women and youth in electoral processes; it laid the foundation through initiating activities and establishing partnerships designed to promote a regional strategy on enhancing women and youth participation throughout the electoral cycle. In its first year of operation, through trainings, workshops and forums, the project raised awareness on the role and importance of women and youth in electoral processes including as voters, candidates and representatives. These activities not only enhanced capacity of participants taking part but it also encouraged the coming together of women and youth groups to identify the needs

and strategies for taking forward the gender and youth agendas in the Arab States; these activities have led to a set of recommendations that will guide the project's implementation in 2015. Also in 2014, UNDP signed an agreement with the Arab Women's Organization of LAS on regional cooperation including on topics related to women's political participation; the AWO will be one of the main beneficiaries of the regional project's initiatives focusing on enhancing women's political participation in the MENA region. The project is also putting in place a gender quota, to be implemented in 2015, throughout all its activities, ensuring at least 30% representation of women in all trainings, workshops, conference and other activities undertaken by the project.

## ACTIVITY RESULTS

The following section provides a more comprehensive review of the results achieved through implementation of some of the key activities in 2014. Many of these activities have benefited from direct collaboration and/or coordination with country based UNDP electoral projects as well as a number of regional and global organizations including the League of Arab States, United Nations Electoral Assistance Division, UNWomen, Mexico's National Electoral Institute and the OIC. These partnerships have not only contributed to the success of these activities but also help pave the way for their sustainability.

### Output Result 1: [Strengthened regional cooperation and networking](#)

#### [Formation of regional association of electoral authorities in the Arab States](#)

One of the three main outcomes of the regional project is to strengthen regional capacity and knowledge on electoral issues through the strengthening of regional cooperation and networking among electoral administration and experts from the Arab World; the project contributed to this outcome by advocating for the formation of a network of electoral management bodies (EMBs) from the region. The objective of such a network would be to enable the EMBs to share experiences, identify solutions to common challenges and improve regional coordination and dissemination of information and advice; this would lead to a stronger professional body of EMBs in the region, better equipped with the skills and tools to organize professional, credible and transparent elections. In its first year, the project achieved the following milestones towards the formation of such an association of EMBs in the Arab States:

- The initiative was voiced and widely supported among Arab participants at a regional session within a global conference organized by EC-UNDP Joint Task Force and held on 10 April at the Dead Sea. The EMBs from the region expressed their interest in the formation of such a network for cooperation and the need for a set of standards and best practices



to be adopted as indicators to measure the performance, efficiency and effectiveness of EMBs in the region;

- The EMBs formed a Preparatory Committee consisting of members from each of the EMBs present at a meeting held in Cordoba, Spain in June; the meeting was organized to advocate for and encourage discussion on how the region can strengthen engagement and cooperation, with members from Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Sudan and Tunisia. Libya and Yemen intended to attend but were unable to due to security problems in their respective countries.



- Online communication tool was developed by the electoral commission of Jordan following a meeting of the Preparatory Committee, which identified the need for a platform that would allow the members to engage regularly in discussions on substantive electoral topics as well as on the operational aspects of the formation of a regional association.

In 2015, the Project will support the Preparatory Committee to create recommendations on the formation of a forum of cooperation and present it to the presidents of the EMBs who are expected to define the parameters of such a network. Should there be agreement and an association is formed, the Project will provide advisory support throughout the process as well as initially to the operational setup of the association's secretariat and its activities, at least, in the first year. The network would encourage member state contributions as well as establishing the secretariat hosted by a member state; these would ensure the network remains active and is sustainable in the long-term.

#### AGREED ROADMAP

- March 2015 – Prep Committee meeting for finalization of Charter and Secretariat structure
- April 2015 – Prep Committee meeting on preparation for the launch of the Organization
- May 2015 - Launch of the Organization of Arab EMB and first meeting of the Executive Board

*\*roadmap agreed at preparatory committee meeting in Beirut in Jan 2015*

## Agreement with International Center for Training and Research of Mexican National Electoral Institute (INE, Instituto Nacional Electoral)

The Regional Project also envisions building regional capacity on electoral issues by propelling south-south cooperation; towards this end, in 2014, the Project formalized an agreement with the International Center for Training and Research of Mexican National Electoral Institute (INE) which is highly experienced at providing electoral capacity building assistance to countries in different regions of the world; it ensures that its contribution is tailored to the needs of the MENA region in its entirety, or of a more limited number of countries within the region, depending on the identified needs. Their main field of expertise has to do with the design, preparation and implementation of programs for exchange of knowledge and experience on electoral matters from an international comparative perspective. The agreement with INE, to be signed in December, follows a number of meetings and exchange programs and covers a two year period during which a number of activities are envisioned including an exchange of experiences between LAS and the OAS on electoral observation and technical assistance, as well as seminar/course on results transmission for EMB officials, and exposing Arab States to Latin America's successful experience with youth engagement in civic and political life. The agreement builds on the work of INE with transition countries such as Libya, Tunisia and Egypt in 2011-13 on electoral dispute resolution; these exchanges were found valuable to Arab EMBs looking at ways to enhance their own EDR mechanisms, offering lessons learnt and best practices from the experience of countries in Latin America.

This agreement paves the way for cross regional exchanges and capacity building initiatives that would bring together electoral stakeholders from across the world; the specific activities to be supported under this agreement will be finalized through close consultation with EMBs and regional actors including the League of Arab States. Four activities, one per trimester, are envisaged in 2015 under the framework of the agreement.

### Global conference: reinforcing the credibility and acceptance of electoral processes

Bringing together electoral stakeholders to share experiences, identify best practices and solutions to common challenges, the Regional Project, in collaboration with the European Commission (through the EC-UNDP Joint Task Force), organized a global conference entitled "Reinforcing the credibility and acceptance of electoral processes" from 7 to 11 April 2014 at the Dead Sea, Jordan. The conference brought together nearly one hundred representatives from all EMBs in the region, along with other relevant stakeholders and interlocutors. The conference created the opportunity to enhance the visibility of the Arab Region within the international electoral administration scene and provided a forum for networking among EMBs from across the globe. On the sidelines of this global conference, the EMBs from the Arab region met to discuss and come to agreement on the next steps towards the formation of a regional network or association of EMBs.





## Enhancing capacity of the League of Arab States on electoral issues

One of the areas of intervention of the Project is support to the League of Arab States in the form of technical advisory assistance as well as exposure to electoral processes and organizations engaged on electoral matters, both within and outside the region. In its initial phase the Project formalized an agreement between UNDP/EAD and LAS on areas of intervention as well as a calendar of activities for 2014. It was agreed that UNDP jointly with the UN's Electoral Assistance Division (EAD) would provide support to LAS. These activities are designed to enhance the capacities of LAS to play a prominent and active role in electoral needs assessment missions, election observation and in deploying electoral experts. Following the agreement, the Project undertook a number of initiatives with LAS to enhance its capacity on electoral issues including:

- Eleven LAS representatives semi-accredited as BRIDGE facilitators: LAS and UNDP conducted a "Train the Facilitator" (TtF) workshop in Beirut, Lebanon between 1st till 12th of September 2014; the aim of the TtF workshop was to accredit a high-quality group of facilitators for developing the LAS's long-term training and professional development program. Eleven LAS representatives took part in the 10 day participatory training workshop that covered sessions on the background of BRIDGE, the teaching methodology behind it and the Learning Outcomes of the TtF Program.
- As a result of their experience at the BRIDGE TtF, LAS adopted BRIDGE as the main methodology to be employed by the organization in training election observers;
- Scoping mission took place in January 2014 to review the capacities and needs of LAS with regard to establishing an Electoral Expert Roster; the mission concluded that LAS requires

further expert advisory support in the establishment of the roster. Consultants are being deployed in December to support in the actual establishment of the database

### Expanding cooperation to the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC)

In an effort to encourage the harmonization of electoral knowledge and understanding across key regional organizations engaged in the field of elections, the Project initiated contact with the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC). With membership from all the countries forming the League of Arab States, the OIC provides another platform for engagement on electoral matters in the region. The Project explored avenues for cooperation with the OIC at a first meeting held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia in February 2014 which brought together the League of Arab States, Organization of American States (OAS), African Union and the European Union; during the meeting the Project also delivered a BRIDGE showcase module to raise awareness and expose the OIC and other participants to the BRIDGE methodology and the training modules available on electoral processes. This meeting has set the stage for follow-up discussions with the OIC on potential engagement on electoral matters. As a follow-up, the Regional Project sponsored OIC participation in the OAS observation of elections in Panama.

Output Result 2: Knowledge generation and capacity enhancement of electoral stakeholders

### Regional Lexicon

Also contributing towards the outcome of strengthened regional capacity and knowledge on electoral issues, the project developed a reference tool that brings consistency and harmonization in the use of electoral terminology in the region where electoral practice and experience vary widely with different terms used in different countries to refer to the same concept or activity in the electoral process. The project developed the first of its kind Regional Lexicon in Arabic French and English of electoral terminology that includes nearly five hundred entries; this tri-lingual work of reference consists of nearly 500 entries of electoral terms, providing a clear and accurate explanation of the terms and capturing regional language variations across the countries. The reference document is built on and complements existing glossaries that have been published within the UN system and in the various countries in the region. The cross-country comparative dimension contributes to the emergence of standardized terms, on the one hand, and enhance appreciation and understanding of differences on the other; the Lexicon was developed in partnership with 8 participating countries and extensively discussed and debated in workshops with election experts and electoral authorities in Lebanon, Iraq, Egypt, Tunisia, Palestine and Jordan. More than one hundred national and international electoral experts systemically contributed to the document, participating in the drafting, editing and reviewing of the content of the Lexicon. All these processes were complemented via a collaborative online writing tool, designed for the needs of the project. The writing tool, now owned by UNDP, could be made available for building collectively different knowledge tools in the future. Following its launch in November, over 12,200 copies have been printed for distribution to stakeholders in the region

including EMBs of the participating countries. As of 27 January 2015, the Lexicon has already been downloaded from the UNDP website 825 times.



### BRIDGE trainings

One of the means of enhancing regional capacity and knowledge on electoral issues is through trainings and the Regional Project relied on the BRIDGE—Building Resources in Democracy, Governance, and Elections - curriculum which has been designed by and for election administrators to better understand the electoral process. It is a partnership between 5 leading organisations; International IDEA, UNDP, the United Nations Electoral Assistance Division (UNEAD), IFES and the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC).

With the goal of building regional capacity through cooperation and partnership with regional groups, UNDP and the League of Arab States (LAS) conducted a “Train the Facilitator” (TtF) to develop a pool of regional electoral experts as training facilitators. The workshop was held in Beirut, Lebanon between 1st till 12th of September 2014. With the aim of accrediting a high-quality group of facilitators for developing the LAS’s long-term training and professional development program. Twenty-four participants joined the training workshop; eleven



from LAS, nine from UNDP, two from SCER Yemen, one from HEC Egypt and one from Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC). Eleven of the participants were females.

The training resulted in the semi-accreditation of 23 participants, including 11 from LAS, who successfully completed the extensive training program and subsequent evaluation. The Project will facilitate the full accreditation of these participants through the organizing of further BRIDGE trainings to ensure the availability of a pool of regional electoral experts that can be called upon across the different countries to support capacity building initiatives on electoral issues.

### Output Result 3: Increased political participation of youth and women

#### First Youth Forum on Engagement

The Regional Project places a particular emphasis on inclusive political engagement, supporting the establishment of formal and informal mechanisms to enable disadvantaged groups including women and youth to play an active role in political processes. In line with this objective, the Project in 2014 prioritized youth and capitalized on the United Nations Volunteer programme to engage with youth; replying on UNV's expertise and lessons learned from across the region, the Project collaborated with UNV to organize the first Regional Youth Forum in Morocco in April 2014. The main objective of the forum was to convene three key stakeholders (governments, CSOs and youth), media and other notable guests to engage in dialogue regarding the participation of youth including in political processes. Through a participatory approach, the youth established a common understanding of the current regional situation, shared lessons learned, and convened a dialogue on recommendations on how to encourage youth civic engagement for development. The participatory format of the sessions encouraged regional cooperation through the promotion of regional exchanges of ideas and best practices on youth civic engagement. The concrete examples of youth engagement presented during the Forum promoted political inclusion and civic engagement of youth through volunteering for development. The recommendations generated during the Forum concentrated on how to encourage youth civic engagement and establish a supportive environment for youth civic engagement. The following is a summary of the key recommendations:

- Facilitate annual youth engagement dialogues to strengthen networks to promote regional youth engagement and awareness on key political engagement issues;
- Promote regional youth forums and debates on civic and voter participation to facilitate partnerships with youth as key actors;
- Advocate for the development of coherent youth policies and strategies that promote diversity in volunteering opportunities to enable a diverse youth presence in broader democratic processes;
- Formally recognize the contribution of youth volunteers to the changing political climate and development agendas in the region, recognizing their roles as agents of change;

- Encourage and provide capacity development opportunities for youth and CSOs to support establish formal structures to promote formal and informal mechanisms to engage youth in political processes.

The diversity among the participants and interventions, further demonstrated the potential of the active participation of youth. Navigating through the historic transformational times in the Arab region, the new avenues for participatory governance bring about opportunities for more inclusive dialogue and decision- making. However, challenges remain to ensure that these opportunities are truly inclusive and respect the diversity, dynamism, resiliency, and power of youth that was evident through the calls for political transformations in the region. In the coming year, 2015, the Project will engage actively with youth groups to work towards a youth strategy for the region with an action plan that guides the support provided and the activities implemented by the Project.

### Gender and elections: BRIDGE trainings

To enhance awareness on the role of women in elections, the Project, in collaboration with UN Women, organized two BRIDGE workshops on “Gender and Elections” in Cairo. A second BRIDGE module was held from 23-27 February in Cairo, Egypt. These BRIDGE trainings helped in reaching out to interlocutors such as civil society counterparts, EMBs and UNDP staff; and in increasing the Arab networks in the region by accrediting Arab-speaking facilitators and expanding the facilitator roster in the Arab world within the UNDP.

### Regional participation in the International conference on ‘Participation of Women in Electoral Processes and Public Life’

The Project supported the participation of Arab States at the 23rd Annual Conference of the Association which focused on two topics: ‘Participation of Women in Electoral Processes and Public Life’ and the “Planning of a General Election”. The event provided an ideal opportunity to expose EMBs from the Arab region to the activities of a successful regional association such as the Association of European Election Officials (ACEEEO). The event offered opportunities for regional and cross-regional consultations and networking, as well as for learning about recent developments in election technology.

## CHALLENGES

The following lessons learnt and challenges have been identified through the implementation of the 2014 work plan:

- Continuous coordination and collaboration required with country level electoral projects with varying modalities of engagement depending on country circumstances
- Greater need for Arab speaking electoral experts



- Country level project needs include operational support from the regional project
- Operational setup and recruitment were key challenges to implementation of activities in 2014

## KEY PARTNERSHIPS

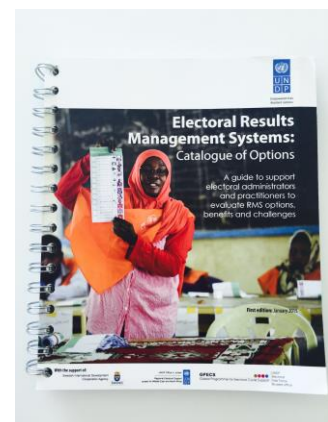
The project worked closely with a number of regional and global organizations through either direct collaboration in the implementation of activities or through coordination of efforts. These organizations included:

- Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs)
- League of Arab States (LAS)
- Arab Women Organization
- Office of Islamic Conference (OIC)
- Mexico's National Electoral Institute (INE)
- UNWomen
- United Nations Volunteers (UNV)
- United Nations Electoral Assistance Division (EAD)

## KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

In line with its planned activities, the project produced a number of knowledge products designed to strengthen knowledge and awareness on electoral issues in the region. These products include:

- **Arabic Lexicon of Electoral Terminology:** in addition to uploading the document online on the websites of UNDP, ACE, League of Arab States and several EMBs from the region, a total of 12,250 hard copies of the document were printed and being distributed to stakeholders across the region. The Lexicon is already being used as a reference document, during discussions on the drafting of a charter for an Arab organization of EMBs the Lexicon was relied upon for the selection of the right terminology for the preamble and other sections of the charter.
- **Publication on Results Management Systems** that provides a technical overview on the systems for managing election results, challenges faced by EMBs and solutions identified at the regional and global level; an e-learning tool has also been developed, enabling those interested in the subject matter to take the online course to enhance their knowledge and awareness on Results Management Systems. A total of 600 copies of the publication are being printed for distribution in 2015.







- **Publication on the Credibility of Electoral Processes;** this publication is a product of a global conference on the credibility of electoral processes with more than 100 countries taking part. This publication is accompanied by an e-learning tool that allows a broader target audience to benefit from the content of the publication through a user friendly format;

- **BRIDGE modules translated and customized to Arabic** and to the Arabic context.

## FINANCIAL STATUS

The below table provides provisional 2014 expenditure data for each of the three outcomes as well as the project management costs.

Outcome description	2014 Budget	2014 Expenses (as of 17 Feb. 2015)
Outcome 1: Strengthened Regional Capacity and Knowledge on Electoral Issues	\$1,661,000	\$1,078,625
Outcome 2: Increased Participation of Women throughout the Electoral Cycle	\$221,250	\$99,039
Outcome 3: Formal and Informal Mechanisms in place to enable Youth CSO's and Youth Civic Engagement in Government Led and Other Political Processes	\$190,000	\$117,417
Project management and advisory support	\$901,718	\$442,451
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$2,973,968</b>	<b>\$1,737,532</b>

## FUTURE DIRECTION

The current context provides a window of opportunity to promote national and regional initiatives that build from the experiences of one country to try to influence change in a positive direction for other countries in the region. Continuing to support the meaningful inclusion of youth in electoral processes and political frameworks through volunteerism, will contribute to promoting the socio-economic development in the region. The Regional Project will build on the Forum and continue to prioritize the engagement of youth in the current and second phase of the project; in particular, in 2015 the Project will follow-up with the youth groups on their recommendations from the Morocco Forum and support the development of regional youth engagement policies that can be advocated for and facilitated at the country level.

## RESULTS MATRIX: progress against output level indicators

In its first year of operation, the Regional Electoral Support Project made progress towards the achievement of its overall intended results. The table below provides indicator level reporting for 2014 activities undertaken.

Output Result 1	Indicator	Progress in 2014
<u>Output 1.1:</u> Strengthened regional exchanges among countries and enhanced South-south cooperation	- No. of regional initiatives supported bringing together EMBs, CSOs, regional electoral stakeholders (Target: minimum of 3 regional initiatives)	4 regional initiatives: a) Dead Sea Conference on Credible Electoral Processes; b) EMB Cordoba meeting; c) Youth Forum; d) Women's Political Participation Conference
	- No. of countries involved in regional initiatives	8 countries (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Yemen, Libya, Tunisia, Iraq)
	- No. of formal agreement or exchanges between regional EMBs (resulted from UNDP support)	2 : a) first meeting of EMBs at the Dead Sea; b) second meeting in Cordoba leading to formation of preparatory committee
	- No. of regional engagement by EMBs, CSOs and LAS on electoral issues	1 BRIDGE training by LAS; 1 Global conference on credibility electoral processes at the Dead Sea
<u>Output 1.2:</u> knowledge generation and capacity enhancement of electoral stakeholders (EMBs, CSOs, MPs, constitutional experts, leaders) on parliament and electoral reform in the region	- No. of organizations trained on electoral issues (Target: Minimum of 10 organizations trained on electoral issues)	5: LAS, OIC, EMBs from 10 countries, Youth Forum, LAS' Arab Women's Organization
	- No. of trainings organized with electoral stakeholders (Target: Minimum of 5 trainings organized at regional level by the project)	3 BRIDGE trainings: one TtF with LAS; two gender BRIDGE events

	- No. of knowledge products finalized and disseminated to electoral stakeholders (Target: Minimum of 3 knowledge products disseminated)	3 knowledge products produced (Arabic Lexicon of Electoral Terminology; Results Management System; Credible Electoral Processes)
	- No. of trainers and trainees benefiting from electoral education	24 through BRIDGE TtF
	- No. of Arabic training materials/guides produced and disseminated for regional consumption	3 knowledge products produced in Arabic (Arabic Lexicon of Electoral Terminology; Results Management System; Credible Electoral Processes)
<b>Output Result 2</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Progress in 2014</b>
<u>Output 2.1:</u> Strengthened capacity of electoral bodies to mainstream gender in all its processes	- No. of EMBs supported on gender mainstreaming in the area of electoral administration	8 EMBs (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Yemen, Libya, Tunisia, Iraq)
	- No. of regional women's networks supported (two per annum)	1: Arab Women's Organization of LAS
	- No. of policies proposed or in place by EMBs that ensure gender-sensitive processes	Gender policy assessments currently underway to inform this indicator
<u>Output 2.2:</u> Enhanced regional cooperation, partnership and knowledge for the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment in constitution and electoral processes among EMBs and Women's groups and political leaders.	- No. of Regional policy recommendations shared by EMBs, parties, CSOs with electoral stakeholder's on women's participation in politics	Gender policy assessment and mapping currently underway to inform this indicator
	- No. of women's groups trained/supported	1: Arab Women's Organization of LAS

<u>Output 2.3:</u> Enhanced capacities of women as candidates in the electoral process	- No. of women from the region that take part in trainings	11 women took part in BRIDGE TtF
	- No. of Arabic material produced and disseminated on women and political participation	Guide on Gender Mainstreaming in EMBs, translated.
<b>Output Result 3</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Progress in 2014</b>
<u>Output 3.1:</u> Enhanced participation of youth in national political processes	- No. of youth friendly policy initiatives targeting increased youth participation in politics implemented in the region by electoral stakeholders (EMBs, CSOs, youth ministries)	Youth policy assessment and mapping to be undertaken in 2015 inform this indicator
	- Formulation of regional policy on engagement of youth in the political process	First regional youth forum held in Marrakesh
	- No. of events/dialogue initiatives between youth/CSO/government supported	1 event: First Youth Forum
	- No. of trainings/events/networks supported.	1 event: youth forum
<u>Output 3.2:</u> Increased awareness on the role of youth in the electoral process	- No. of youth that take part in regional initiatives	97 at youth forum

## REFERENCES

The following documents were consulted in the preparation of the annual progress report:

- Report on Reinforcing Credibility and Acceptance of Electoral Processes, Dead Sea Conference, April 2014
- Meeting Report, Arab EMBs on Regional Cooperation, June 2014, Cordoba, Spain
- Report, BRIDGE Training of Facilitators, September 2014 in Beirut, Lebanon
- Report, First Regional Youth Forum, April 2014, Morocco