



**Trust Fund Interim Progress Report to Development
Partners**

**Implementation Progress
January 1 to June 30, 2017**

Middle East and North Africa Multi Donor Trust Fund
(MENA MDTF - TF071840 and TF072755)

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Abbreviations

CoP	Community of Practice
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DFID	Department for International Development (United Kingdom)
DJ	Djibouti
DLA	District Local Authority
DNA	Damage and Needs Assessment
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ECD	Early Childhood Development
EG	Egypt
GoT	Government of Tunisia
HMIS	Health Management Information System
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IDSC	Information and Decision Support Center
IQ	Iraq
JO	Jordan
KRG	Kurdistan Regional Government
LB	Lebanon
MA	Morocco
MDTF	Multi Donor Trust Fund
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoLA	Ministry of Local Authorities
MoSA	Ministry of Social Affairs
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
PCM	Program Council Meeting
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NVSP	National Volunteer Service Program
PforR	Program for Results
RY	Yemen
SPF	State and Peace-building Fund
S-S	South-South
TA	Technical Assistance
ToR	Terms of Reference
TTL	Task Team Leader
TU	Tunisia
WBG	World Bank Group
WHO	World Health Organization

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1. About the MENA MDTF

The Middle East and North Africa Trust Fund (MENA MDTF) was created in 2012 with the intention to provide catalytic donor support to countries that were undergoing historic transition and reform. The donors and the World Bank realized that there was a great need to address the challenge of fragility and tackle the economic, social and institutional causes of instability cutting across the MENA region. Thus, the MENA MDTF was created, a World Bank-implemented programmatic trust fund that supports technical assistances for project preparation, analytical studies, capacity building and knowledge sharing. The MDTF supports activities in line with the World Bank's strategy for the MENA region.

The MENA MDTF was initially set to close in 2015. However, the reality in the MENA region has changed significantly since 2011, which prompted the World Bank to implement a new regional strategy in 2015. In light of evolving needs in the region, at the request of the donors, and in response to high demand among task teams at the World Bank, the MENA MDTF was adjusted to reflect those changes. The Operating Principles of the MDTF were modified to ensure alignment with the new strategy and allow more flexibility. In addition, the closing date was extended twice. The first extension was for one year (until 2016) and the second for an additional two years (until 2018). In order to keep the MENA MDTF going, the donors also replenished the MDTF on several occasions, most recently in December 2016.

In August 2017, donors and the MENA MDTF management team will be meeting in London for its annual Program Council Meeting. The objective of this report is to offer donors an update of the current status of activities under the MDTF, in particular the results of the 9th and latest Call for Proposals which was concluded in June 2017. As this report shows, the MENA MDTF results have been very encouraging. This report is produced in parallel with a set of recommendations to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the MDTF, based on a short evaluation conducted in July 2017. Both documents aim to inform the MDTF partners on options for the future of the MDTF to be discussed at the upcoming PCM.

2. Status update of the MDTF as of June 30, 2017

The MENA MDTF has funded 45 activities over the last five years. Out of those which received funding prior to 2015, five are still ongoing. A summary of progress to date is provided in Section 2.1 below.

Due to the exhaustion of funds, no new activities were funded in 2016. However, after the replenishment of the MDTF in December 2016, a 9th call for proposals was announced and eight new activities received funding, totaling US\$2.1 million. A short description of the new activities is provided in Section 2.2 below.

Based on the monitoring and evaluation of activities financed to date, the MENA MDTF has substantially exceeded its targets; results have been and are being realized. Closed activities have achieved their intended results and disbursed their funds accordingly. Targets have been exceeded, from the number of high quality analytical products produced and dialogue and knowledge sharing events, to the amount of people trained and businesses provided with support (see Section 2.3 below). Some of the activities have leveraged other/additional resources which allowed for an even greater impact.

Despite good progress and new opportunities, challenges remain. For example, some of the grants awarded to activities in Yemen prior to the civil war remain undisbursed. The funds have been returned to the MENA MDTF and will be used to finance other activities (including a new activity in Yemen targeting support to the private sector). Activities in Egypt have faced delays as the political climate is hardening. The MDTF team continues to monitor these activities closely to correct course as proactively as possible. In particular, it is looking into the possibility of using savings from closed activities (for more information, see Section 3) to continue to support catalytic activities in the region, such as strengthening policy-making capacity in Tunisia and regional integration in the areas of education and urban water security.

2.1 Status of current Activities

2017 outputs are highlighted in **bright blue bullets**. Black bullets represent progress up to and including December 2016.

Ongoing Activities			
Activity Funded	Country	Key Areas of Planned Support	Progress on deliverables
Jordan on-the-job Program	JO	Help to fill the knowledge gap on intervention programs and share the knowledge generated and its results analysis. I will also act as a catalyst for further creative thinking in the area of designing effective youth employment programs and possible scaling up of the pilot.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept Note for the Impact Evaluation submitted; • Candidates selected; • Employability skills training completed for 3,000 recipients of employability skills; • Intermediation firms hired to place beneficiaries in the voucher subsidy and on-the-job training program.
Strengthening Delivery of Health Services to Vulnerable Populations in MENA	MENA	Addressing the health needs of Syrian refugees through the use of the Bank's convening power in facilitating dialogue and harmonizing efforts for a coordinated response vis-à-vis the Syrian refugee crisis. Supporting the Ministry of Health through the development of a single coordinated Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) platform with regard to Hepatitis C response in Egypt.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in high level dialogue on reproductive health needs of people in humanitarian settings completed; • Report on health needs of Syrian refugees completed; • Mission to Lebanon and Jordan completed; • Background paper on mental health needs of Syrian refugees completed; • Conference on lessons learned on addressing health needs of Syrian refugees held; • Report summarizing suggested legal framework for state and non-state health M&E systems, and framework for action for Egypt's Hepatitis C Program completed; • Training workshops to strengthen M&E capacity completed; • National consultation workshop on the proposed legal and action framework completed.
Support for Parliament in Djibouti	DJ	Support the Government of Egypt (GoE) to develop a comprehensive local economic development strategy and introduce critical reforms and programs in some of the least developed and most disadvantaged governorates in the country.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launching mission completed; • Implementation action plan agreed; • Basic capacity review ongoing; • Training workshops completed; • Review of training needs completed; • Study visit to Tunisia completed; • Study tour to Washington, DC completed; • Study tour to Canada completed; • Study tour to Morocco completed.

Transforming the Road Sector in Tunisia	TU	<p>Recipient-executed activity to improve efficiency and sustainability of the road sector by taking a transformational approach to its management, consider performance-based approaches (the first in MENA's road sector) and encourage economic inclusion of lagging regions. The MDTF grant finances entirely the only technical assistance component of Tunisia Road Transport Corridor. It comprises two activities which support the development of a road asset database and performance based contracting.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board approval of project and grant signing completed. • Contracts on the selection, purchase and installation of road asset management information system for the Tunisian road network finalized; • 12-month work program for the above finalized; 8 months will be financed by the grant and 4 by the Government; • Contracts on a feasibility study finalized.
Upper Egypt Governorates Development TA Program	EG	<p>Support the Government of Egypt (GoE) to develop a comprehensive local economic development strategy and introduce critical reforms and programs in some of the least developed and most disadvantaged governorates in the country.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intergovernmental fiscal system assessment completed; • Institutional capacity assessment completed; • Competitiveness study completed; • Knowledge-exchange workshops completed; • Workshops on the intergovernmental fiscal system completed; • Government representatives trained in the findings of the assessments. • Government representatives trained on ICT interventions and cloud computing; • Public Participation guidelines developed; • Environmental and Social Manual developed; • Consultation processes for the Annual Investment Plan launched.

CLOSED ACTIVITIES

Communication for Policy Reforms in Tunisia	TN	Recipient-executed activity to increase awareness and understanding on reforms through communications tools; Engage citizens in debate; Make economic topics accessible via different platforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project website launched; • TV-shows aired; • Partnership with British Council and Edupartage to organize university town halls established; • University town halls held; • Dissemination of town halls on social media completed.
Connecting Voices in MENA	MENA	Promote public sector governance and private sector development with improved FM through training, establishing a CoP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CoP established and website launched; • Training (audit, other) provided; • Supreme Audit Institution legislation papers (EG, RY) and surveys completed; • Boot camps, quarterly dialogue solutions labs, and exchange conference held • Surveys and roundtable discussions with CSOs and media held
Egypt Youth Engagement	EG	Promote and mainstream youth inclusion and give youth voice and agency by creating partnerships and opportunities for participation through selected activities of the World Bank financed project portfolio in Egypt.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal for an entrepreneurship promotion activity developed; • Disbursement-linked indicators developed; • Youth Inclusion Policy Toolkit on best practices on youth engagement in education completed; • Needs assessment conducted; • Participation in Arab Youth Forum completed.
Enhancing Governance through Public Procurement Reform in Yemen	RY	Recipient-executed activity to build capacity on procurement issues to central and decentralized agencies, as well as to service providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops on procurement held, • Contract management and technical auditing held; • Training of contractor service providers to improve their responsiveness to bidding opportunities held; • Training of CSOs to improve their participation in monitoring procurement activities and quality of service delivery held.
Enhancing Microfinance Outreach among Women and Youth in MENA	MENA	Recipient-executed activity to improve financial literacy of women, youth through training; Help financial institutions serve women, youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial inclusion diagnostic completed; • Financial literacy program developed; • Training of trainers on financial literacy held; • Knowledge exchange workshop held; • Focus groups to capture dynamic picture of demand-side constraints to financial services for women and youth completed (TU, MA, EG); • Training of trainers on integrating tech-based learning tools into training methodologies held;

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large-scale conference on financial education held; • Financial education diagnostic report completed; • Video explaining microfinance and development benefits in Tunisia completed; • Study on mobile money and innovation landscape completed.
Enhancing Participatory Monitoring and Community Engagement in Egypt	EG	Monitor and target poverty in relation to the Government's anti-poverty and social protection programs. Support the development of participatory M&E systems to obtain direct citizen feedback and engage communities in the process of assessing different government policies, programs and activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop on international best practices held; • South-South visit by an international think tank working on social accountability, the Public Affairs Foundation held; • Participatory M&E workshop held; • Workshops on Social Accountability Tools held; • 3 policy notes drafted; • Study tour to India completed.
Expanding the Engagement of Youth Inclusion and Peace Building in Iraq	IQ	Offer youth opportunities for positive engagement and sustainable livelihoods through community development approaches with the aim to engage youth in violence prevention and peacebuilding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contracts for consultants issued; • Mission to Iraq completed; • Project proposal to the State and Peace-Building Fund (SPF) was rejected due to lack of funds. A new proposal will be submitted to the Japanese Social Development Fund (JSDF); • The proposed JSDF grant has been approved but experienced delays due to backlogs; • Funding was secured by the Nordic TF to build a human rights operational framework; • 5-day workshop on project design held with the Ministry of Youth and Sports in Lebanon.
Gender Learning and Operational Initiative - Yemen and Morocco	RY, MA	Support gender inclusion through awareness raising along-side Yemen's National Dialogue and Morocco's Human Development Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faith-based leadership program completed; • Gender consultations held; • S-S exchanges (Indonesia) held; • Quick notes for awareness raising activities developed; • Training on women's leadership skills held.
Governance and Accountability in Moroccan Health Management Information Systems (HMIS)	MA	Help improve equity and delivery of health services through improved MIS (policy, data, systems, consultations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country 10-year Health Management Information Systems (HMIS) staging plan developed; • Case studies completed (best practices in health service delivery); • WB/WHO workshops held; • High-level retreat on HMIS held;

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft national chart of accounts and statistics developed; • Draft data dictionary and coding standards developed; • Workshops with HMIS technical committee held.
Improving Youth Well-being and Opportunities in Djibouti by reducing Qat Consumption	DJ	Help reduce Qat consumption among youth by raising awareness of the negative impacts, as well as improve the employability of vulnerable youth through appropriate skills-building training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information/Education and Communication sessions completed; • Identification of vocational training sectors and schools initiated; • Monitoring of activities completed. • Consultant to deliver training hired; • Vocational Training for 200 youth completed; • In house internships completed; • Life skills training for youth completed; • Enterprise internships completed.
Iraq KRG Capacity Building TA for Ministry of Education	IQ	Develop local expertise to spearhead private partnerships to provide support for the welfare of refugees, IDPs and host communities, especially in relation to Early Childhood Development (ECD) and primary education.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three capacity building workshops completed; • Consultation meetings held on the current status of the national student examination system and rapid assessment conducted.
Knowledge & Learning for Social Safety Nets and Active Labor Market Programs	MENA	Establish a community of practice (CoP) for SSN & ALMP to increase awareness & share knowledge in/out of region and provide detailed training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CoP established; • S-S and other exchanges held (Australia, Georgia, Colombia); • Training provided (smart cards, targeting, public-private partnerships or PPPs); • Policy notes and How-to Guide developed; • Operations Manuals for M&E (TU and MA) developed; • Virtual Workshops held.
Mainstreaming Beneficiary Feedback in Egypt	EG	Strengthen the capacity of national and local institutions to design and implement effective sectoral grievance redress systems in the health, energy, and rural sanitation sectors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roll out of activities agreed with the implementing agency; • Detailed 6-month timeline to implement the first part of the TA agreed; • International consultant to lead diagnostic work identified; • Two assessments to strengthen the grievance redress mechanism for the Rural Sanitation Sector and Health Sector completed; • Two action plans for the Rural Sanitation Sector completed; • Operational manual for the Rural Sanitation Sector completed; • Action plan for the Health Sector completed;

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational manual for the Health Sector completed; Knowledge exchanges held in the Natural Gas, Rural Sanitation, and Health Sectors.
MENA Early Stage Innovation (ESIF) Technical Assistance	MENA	Provide gap analysis, awareness, other, to ensure greater gender inclusion in ESIF and Bank's Finance-Private Sector portfolio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gap analysis and stakeholder mapping conducted; Partnership with Goldman Sachs in place; Workshops held; Draft TA facility design and governance framework developed; Toolkit on gender and economic empowerment developed ESIF itself has not yet been funded.
MNA Life in Transition Survey	JO, EG, MA, TN	Fill critical data gaps for more evidenced-based policies, e.g. on reducing inequality of employment opportunities (EBRD-led)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pilot conducted and questionnaire completed Activity has been cancelled and funds are being transferred back to MENA MDTF
Parliamentary Strengthening in Morocco and Tunisia	MA, TU	Provide support to parliament in the areas of budget oversight and public engagement in Tunisia and Morocco.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity evaluation completed; Participation training survey completed; In MA, training modules on methods and tools for public consultations, petitions and budget analysis developed; Training of trainers program in MA developed; Training of trainers program in TU developed; Training of trainers activities ongoing; Technical assistance trainings in the MA Parliament completed; MA/TU Regional Parliamentary conference held.
Promoting Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing to Improve Youth Employability in Lebanon	LB	Improve youth employability among National Volunteer Service Program (NVSP) participants and to promote knowledge sharing and capacity building in this area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline and follow-up survey completed; Two training curriculums adapted to the Lebanese context developed and made available online; Training of staff from Ministry of Social Affairs completed; Soft skills training completed; Study tour to Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Netherlands, and France completed; Report on the study tour, including key lessons learned and recommendations, completed and disseminated.
Promoting Social Entrepreneurship in MENA	MA, JO	Raise awareness on and create opportunities for social entrepreneurs via coaching and knowledge platforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blog and media campaign launched; Concept note and operations manual developed; Learning visits (Jordan, UK) held; First Social Enterprise Forum held;

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership with British Council to promote social entrepreneurship established; • Awareness raising events to promote social entrepreneurship held; • Social enterprise boot camp held; • Business plan competition held; • Boot camp with candidates with different business ideas held; • Monitoring tools developed; • A regional workshop to disseminate the results completed.
Service Delivery and Governance Reform in Egypt	EG	Support governance reforms which aim to improve public service delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy notes produced on civil service reform, access to information, and undertaking, public consultations; • Rapid Results Initiatives (RRIs) in health care and administration services launched; • Dialogue and knowledge exchange events, and workshops and training held (tax and industrial RRI, skill building)
Service Delivery in Jordan's Health and Education Sectors	JO	Assess the quality of health and education services and better understand how local governance in those sectors can be supported to help improve the quality of service delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case studies highlighting local success stories on governance and the link to quality of service delivery in health and education completed; • Analysis of case studies completed and dissemination completed; • Technical Advisory Committee established; • Workshops held; • Quantitative study completed; • Governance and Service Delivery Surveys completed; • Field work completed and analysis of data completed.
Sharing Know-how and How-to in Subsidy Reform Implementation	EG, MENA	Provide strategic advisory and promote knowledge-sharing (workshops, virtual conferences) on subsidies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation sessions with MoF held; • Workshops and virtual conferences held (unified database, unified registries and cash compensation schemes, knowledge sharing and how-to in subsidy reform); • 'How-to' & Policy Briefs on Subsidy Reform drafted; • Round table held; • Course on design and implementation of SSN held; • South-south forum in Brazil held; • Study tour to Colombia completed.
SIRI - Regional Syrian Damage	MENA	Establish a comprehensive damage and needs assessment that allows tracking the impact of the conflict throughout the sub-region and in Syria itself, and the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dialogue with multiple international organizations on the development of information sharing mechanisms held;

and Needs Assessment		aggregation of existing and new information in a usable platform for open analysis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultations with private sector vendors to explore the avenues for using technology (satellite imagery, etc.) for a remote assessment held; • Damage and needs assessment for six Syrian cities (Aleppo, Dar'a, Homs, Hama, Idlib, and Latakia) completed; • Damage assessment results made available on a geo-referenced portal; • Cost effective and replicable model for the damage assessment developed and translated into a process guideline, which has since been used in Iraq and is currently used in Yemen; • Presentations on the methodology and technology used held; • Staff trained on the methodology; • Percentage based assessment model conceived; • Needs assessment for critical sectors in regions returning to normalcy completed; • Recommendations for select sectors linking the recovery needs and the development objectives completed.
Strengthening Accountability and Oversight Institutions in Tunisia	TU	Strengthen capacity of the Parliament in budget oversight and public engagement with the aim of supporting the implementation of the new Constitution and ensuring a more open and engaged legislature.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parliamentarian network launched; • Training sessions on access to budget data and use of BOOST financial data held; • Training session on budget oversight held; • Knowledge exchange seminar on public petitions in parliamentary systems held; • Workshops completed.
Strengthening Accountability for Improved Education Services in Jordan	JO	Improve the governance framework of the education system by ensuring that ongoing decentralization efforts are matched with a rigorous, well-designed, and well-implemented quality assurance system based on high professional standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational guidelines completed; • Development of training modules completed; • ToRs for communications campaign prepared; • Communications brief drafted; • Training of trainers and mentors completed; • SABER School Autonomy and Accountability report drafted and shared; • Quality Indicators and assessment instruments developed; • National Education Conference held.
Strengthening Capacity for Inclusive Groundwater	MA	Recipient-executed activity to improve resilience of stakeholders to current and future water scarcity and bringing stakeholders in to the dialogue on groundwater management through	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop on solar pumping completed; • The short list for the firms to support the Hydraulic Basin Agency in the design of the groundwater contract approved; • Mission to meet with the Ministry of Water, the meteorological service, and the hydraulic basin agency to discuss

Management in Morocco		inclusive approaches not previously used in the sector.	<p>current information on modeling, climate change projection, and existing activities completed;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop on adaptation strategy on the management of water resources held.
Strengthening Financial Oversight Capacity of the Lebanon Parliament	LB	Provide technical assistance to the Finance and Budget committee to strengthen the parliamentary oversight capacity in Lebanon.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultant hired to perform the baseline capacity review; • Options for learning visit explored; • Financial oversight capacity review completed; • Experts ToRs developed, five expert hired; • Briefs on capacity baseline review drafted and shared; • Global parliament conference in DC held; • Studies of draft laws and economic policies completed; • Stakeholder participation in the launch of the MENA chapter of the parliamentary network completed.
Supporting Economic Governance Transition in Morocco and Tunisia	TN, MA	Develop guidelines for performance-based budgeting, M&E systems; support for drafting access to information (ATI) law and on fiscal transfers/ equalization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft budget law prepared; • Detailed assessment on ATI completed; • Budgeting and performance plans guidelines completed and TA on new budgeting approach provided; • Policy notes and guiding documents drafted on programmatic budget structure, performance approach, fiscal rules public consultation, eParticipation, petitions, and on legislative initiatives by citizens; • Training to ministries provided and training of trainers on new ATI held; • High level consultations on ATI held
Supporting Land Acquisition Policy and Institutional Reform in Egypt	EG	Help the Egyptian Government to adopt a more transparent and accountable legal framework for land acquisition and strengthen the capacity of key public agencies involved in land acquisition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation meetings on diagnostic analysis held; • Diagnostic analysis report drafted; • Study tour to India completed; • Policy Note drafted; • Draft land acquisition guidelines for two sectors drafted; • Consultation meetings with TA Committee members held; • Training of Government officials completed.
Transition Support to Yemen Technical Assistance to Yemen for Post	RY	Due to the currently ongoing conflict in Yemen and the World Bank's suspension of disbursement and activities on the ground, the funds have been re-assigned and the focus of the activities has been shifted. The new activity will be part of a remotely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing preparations for S-S exchange in December (India); • TOR for a diagnostic study on local councils completed; • Inter-ministerial team established to coordinate the roll out of the transition support plan

National Dialogue Transition		conducted Damage and Needs Assessment (DNA) to better inform rapid post-conflict reconstruction and recovery support. The aim of the activity is to conduct an in-depth analysis of the Ministry of Local Authorities (MoLA) database to understand the degree of access, capacity, resources, and functioning of District Councils across Yemen as a baseline survey.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-formatting and cleaning the dataset of the Ministry of Local Authorities (MoLA) database to allow for cross-sectional analyses completed; • Preliminary analyses of the database completed; • In-depth analyses completed; • Assessment of the DLA performance across RY as a pre-war baseline completed; • Policy Note completed and shared.
Tunisia PforR Service Delivery Support	TU	Contribute to enhancing the accountability of Local Governments to citizens, with a particular focus on disadvantaged municipalities. Provide critical support to the Tunisia Urban Development and Local Governance performance-for-results program financed by the World Bank and the GoT.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manual for Participatory Planning and Budgeting developed; • Guide on local level grievance redress mechanisms prepared and adopted for use by municipalities; • Tunisia local government e-portal developed and launched; • User experience testing to make platform more accessible completed; • Performance assessment system design completed and work on legislation establishing completed; • Preparation of high profile training events completed; • Study tour for technical staff completed; • Development of a system for demand-driven capacity building support for all Tunisian local governments completed; • High profile training events completed; • Local government technical assistance system developed and launched; • Study tour to Turkey completed.
Yemen Decentralization and Local Governance Initiative	RY	Inform National Dialogue participants on policy and regulation related to decentralization; Increase awareness of key civil society organization (CSO) stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National workshop, media/ awareness events held; • Design of SPF-funded project completed; • Analytical note on Institutional & Fiscal Arrangements prepared; • Newsletters produced; • S-S exchange (India) held

Djibouti (DJ); Egypt (EG); Iraq (IQ); Jordan (JO); Lebanon (LB); Morocco (MA); Tunisia (TN); Yemen (RY); Regional (MENA)

2.2 Results of the 9th CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Summary of approved activities

	Activity	Amount
REGIONAL	MENA Regional Youth Platform	\$250,000
NORTH AFRICA	Support to Deepening Decentralization and Improving Inclusion in Tunisia	\$300,000
	Understanding Child and Adolescent Skills Development in Tunisia	\$250,000
	Women Economic Empowerment – EmpowerHer Maghreb	\$300,000
	TA for the design of an Incremental Home Improvement program in Djibouti	\$150,000
MIDDLE-EAST	Women and Jobs for an Inclusive Labor Market in KRG: A Pilot Program	\$300,000
	Developing Innovative Practices for Improving Social Cohesion between Lebanese and Syrian Refugees Living in Host Communities	\$250,000
	Catalyzing the Private Sector Role in the Recovery and Reconstruction of Yemen	\$300,000
	Total: 8	\$2,100,000

Regional Activities

MENA Regional Youth Platform: While the MENA Region combines the world’s youngest population with the world’s highest unemployment and underemployment ratios, the Arab youth have proven to be a driving force for change. It is important that the energy of the youth be translated into behavioral, social and economic change for the public good. This makes it all the more essential to actively engage and commit youth to a constructive purpose in order to bring sustainable hope, stability and growth in MENA. Through a combined online-offline approach, the aim in improving access to a platform is to enhance the knowledge and learning of the targeted MENA communities so they may adopt each other’s successful strategies and to provide a positive contribution to society. The key objective of the proposed activity is to provide a forum of youth-oriented (internal) and youth-led (external) successful experiences and strategies of social innovation and resilient living.

North Africa Activities

Support to Deepening Decentralization and Improving Inclusion in Tunisia: Tunisia has outperformed expectations in undertaking a significant political transition, but it is at a critical inflection point. The imminent approval of a new local government code and delivery of local government elections are expected to further change intergovernmental relations, local government mandates and the delicate social system that has been evolving since 2011. The current period in Tunisia offers a unique opportunity to help the Government further increase the accountability and performance of Local Governments (LGs). This Bank-executed activity aims to i) carry out a diagnostic work to identify how the upcoming legal changes will affect LGs and intergovernmental systems; ii) conduct analytical work and capacity building

to make participatory planning work for Tunisians; and iii) establish an external community, connecting youth to decision-making levels. The key objective of the proposed activity is to identify and pilot ways to deepen decentralization and reinforce the nation's enhanced social contract.

Understanding Child and Adolescent Skills Development in Tunisia: The World Bank has been supporting the development of an early childhood development strategy in Tunisia, as well as working towards the social and economic inclusion of youth. Interventions in early childhood education and adolescent years have proven to improve learning and skills acquisition as well as garner high rates of return in both cognitive and socioemotional development. There has not yet been an attempt to assess the holistic development of youth from the early years onto adolescence, especially in socioemotional development. This activity will support a robust assessment of skills gap in young children and adolescents in select schools and communities in Tunisia, that enables the Government to design and target effective policies and interventions for improving skill formation and increase social and economic inclusion. The key objective of the proposed activity is to identify skills gaps in young children and adolescents, and to enable governments to design policies and interventions for improving skill formation.

TA for the design of an Incremental Home Improvement program in Djibouti: Lack of investment in urban infrastructure and services have resulted in very low access to urban and social services, poor public transport, and lack of economic activities within Djibouti's urban neighborhoods. Djibouti's national program includes three investment pillars, namely slum upgrading, slum prevention, and home improvement. The proposed activity would support the Government of Djibouti with capacity building and technical assistance in order to improve the design of the Home Improvement pillar with a particular attention on the housing finance instruments. The TA will supplement existing studies with specialized knowledge, bringing international experiences and provision of quality control. The key objective of the proposed activity is to strengthen technical quality control and foster institutional coordination between housing and finance actors in a sector with limited experience.

Women Economic Empowerment – EmpowerHer Maghreb: Morocco and Tunisia have a huge untapped source of human talent. Underperformance of labor markets over the years has left many people, especially young men and women, with a sense of exclusion. The Women Economic Empowerment Initiative (EmpowerHer) is an innovative instrument that leverages the unbounded enthusiasm of youth and their technological skills to overcome challenges for women's economic empowerment, by developing helpful technological solutions irrespective of the women's literacy level. EmpowerHer targets marginalized, unemployed youth graduates and marginalized women, who face constraints in finding jobs or marketing products produced at home. The proposed activity builds on the successful first phase which selected the best technological solutions to address the constraints to women's economic empowerment. The second phase will focus on financing the implementation of technological solutions from Phase 1 and improve revenue generation for women in lagging regions. The key objective of the proposed activity is to develop solutions to help strengthen the economic and financial autonomy of women in lagging regions.

Middle East Activities

Developing Innovative Practices for Improving Social Cohesion between Lebanese and Syrian Refugees Living in Host Communities: As a result of the Syrian conflict, the number of Syrian refugees has reached over 1.5 million in Lebanon alone, or one-third of the country's population. Communities hosting Syrian refugees are struggling to meet basic needs, and face rising intra-communal social tensions as a result of rivalry over job opportunities, competition over limited resources, a sense of prejudice and discrimination among Syrian refugees, and a sense of insecurity among Lebanese members of host communities. The Lebanon's National Volunteer Service Program (NVSP), managed by the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) seeks to improve social cohesion and social service delivery in the most vulnerable Lebanese communities hosting Syrian refugees. The key objective of the proposed activity is to increase knowledge and promote capacity building among MoSA/NVSP staff on innovative practices for improving social cohesion between Lebanese and Syrian refugees living in host communities.

Iraq/KG – Women and Jobs for Inclusive Labor Market in KRG: A Pilot Program: The female labor force participation rate in Kurdistan Region of Iraq is one of the lowest in the world at just 14 percent. The reason for this low rate is a combination of legal constraints, social norms, and conflict. This pilot project aims to identify barriers and test solutions to increasing women's labor market participation in line with KRGs Vision 2020, the World Bank's Gender Strategy targeting women's employment, the World Bank's MENA Regional Gender Action Plan, the 2015 World Development Report, and the KRG Social Protection Strategic Framework. The project will assess the behavioral, regulatory, and social barriers to women's employment, design intervention mechanisms to boost women's economic inclusion, and examine impact of the pilot for potential scaling-up in KRG and in Iraq. The key objective of the proposed activity is to better understand and test behaviorally informed labor market program interventions to increase female labor market participation.

Yemen – Catalyzing the Private Sector Role in the Recovery and Reconstruction of Yemen: Using the private sector as a channel for recovering jobs in conflict contexts starts with having a thorough understanding of the unique incentives and opportunities of private sector actors in Yemen and neighboring countries. The success of efforts to achieve recovery and reconstruction results even prior to a full, peaceful resolution in Yemen will require new approaches that take advantage of all existing capacities and resources available – including the private sector. This activity would analyze the private sector's role in the supply of goods, services, and jobs in Yemen and the opportunities and obstacles to doing so. It will provide the data collection, analysis, and consultations needed to inform the strategies and design of operations to be devised to achieve that objective. The key objective of the proposed activity is to help catalyze private sector activity in Yemen's recovery and reconstruction.

2.3 Results framework

	Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline 2012	July 2017	Target 2015	Source
OUTCOME	World Bank MENA Portfolio focused on promoting economic and social inclusion and is developed in ways that responds effectively to needs	Doing different things: Cumulative number of person days of employment (Tier II)	4,903,853 (2011)	36,100,000	50,000,000	World Bank reporting against MENA Regional Results Frameworks
		Total number of beneficiaries across Bank projects: Of which labour market programmes Of which safety net programmes (Tier II)	N/A 12,830 3,597,157 (2011)	223,000 7,800,000	N/A 8,000,000	World Bank reporting against MENA Regional Results Frameworks
		Number of countries with WB supported programs on Open Government OR PFM reform (Tier II)	2 (2011)	5	6	World Bank reporting against MENA Regional Results Framework (noting the combination of two different indicators: Open Gov + PE/FM activities)
		Doing different things/doing things differently: Cumulative number of pieces of technical and analytical work that informed strategy/policy and stimulated public debate on (but not limited to): gender inclusion, governance, energy and consumption subsidy reform, social protection, youth inclusion, job creation, labour markets (Tier II)	40 (2011)	51	51	World Bank reporting against MENA Regional Results Frameworks (although does not exactly equal total of individual figures to avoid double counting)
		Percentage of projects linked to MDTF with gender informed design	NA	55%	75%	MDTF Progress Reports and Activity Descriptions
OUTPUTS	Strengthened project preparation, technical assistance, seed funding, policy analysis, dialogue and knowledge sharing through World Bank MENA Trust Fund	80% Cumulative number of high quality <u>analytical products</u> produced with resources from MDTF (policy notes, survey work, evaluations, reports) that demonstrate the good use of analysis with clear recommendations, with potential policy implications , targeted at policymakers or for project preparation	0	144	20	MDTF progress reports with random sample quality assured by DFID advisers
		Cumulative number of high quality <u>technical assistance activities</u> (project design, capacity building, guidelines) carried out through MDTF that provide clear and practical recommendations for practical and policy implementation , with positive client feedback	0	109	20	MDTF progress reports with random sample quality assured by DFID advisers
		Cumulative number of high quality <u>dialogue and knowledge</u> and knowledge sharing events (S-S exchange, conferences, focus group/Community of Practice general meetings, etc.) leading to clear policy conclusions in focus areas, using resources from the MDTF	0	204	22	MDTF progress reports with random sample quality assured by DFID advisers
	Direct support provided to beneficiaries through World Bank MENA Trust Fund	20% Cumulative number of people trained directly through MDTF (and % of which women) e.g. through targeted workshops, training-oriented S-S exchange, certification programs, innovative learning programs, etc	0	17 931 (40%)	500 (175)	MDTF progress Reports
		Cumulative number of businesses provided with support directly through MDTF	0	824	300	MDTF progress Reports
		Cumulative number of results stories produced which demonstrate the catalytic effect of the MDTF (particularly on women and youth)	0	6	6	MDTF progress Reports

3. Financial Summary

The MENA MDTF is financed by contributions from the Governments of Denmark, Finland, Norway and UK/DFID, and is implemented by the World Bank. Since the MENA MDTF's establishment in 2012, total contributions have amounted to US\$17 million. **Table 1A** provides an overview of contributions for years 2012-2015 and a breakdown of resources contributed per donor.

Table 1A: CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE PERIOD 2012-2015

Donor Name	Currency	Amount	Paid	Unpaid	Paid	Unpaid
					<i>(US\$ equivalent)</i>	
Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DANIDA)	DKK	18,340,000	18,340,000		3,172,408	
Norway - Ministry of Foreign Affairs	NOK	13,000,000	22,000,000		3,369,557	
United Kingdom (DFID)	GBP	5,000,000	5,000,000		7,852,000	
Finland - Ministry for Foreign Affairs	EUR	800,000	800,000		1,059,920	
Total Contribution					15,453,885	-

Note: Contributions under the original trust fund.

In December 2016, the Government of Norway contributed 9 million NOK, as can be seen in **Table 1B**, and the UK/DFID has pledged an initial 1.3 million GBP for the period 2017 to 2019. A first installment of 500,000 GBP was made in December 2016. Due to internal changes to how the trust funds are set up at the World Bank, a parallel trust fund for the new contributions was created.

Table 1B: CONTRIBUTIONS AS OF 2016

Donor Name	Currency	Amount	Paid	Unpaid	Paid	Unpaid
					<i>(US\$ equivalent)</i>	
Norway - Ministry of Foreign Affairs	NOK	9,000,000	9,000,000		1,034,411	
UK - DFID	GBP	500,000	500,000		644,350	
Total Contribution					1,678,761	-

Note: Contributions under the parallel trust fund.

Table 2 shows the breakdown of MENA MDTF financial information as of 1 August, 2017. The table shows the contributions paid in, disbursements, undisbursed fund balance, and the balance available for allocation. The original MENA MDTF account is shown under TF071840. Under this account, there is a 2 percent admin fee, which is taken off the top of all contributions to defray costs of the central units of the World Bank (e.g. the legal unit, LEG) – this fee is not applied under TF072755, where central costs are charged upfront as an indirect rate equal to 17 percent of the incurred staff costs. Managing unit costs are recovered based on actual costs incurred, amount not exceeding 5 percent, to cover the costs of program management and trust fund administration, which is also reflected in the table

Table 2: FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Financial Summary (US\$)	TF071840	TF072755	TOTAL
Contributions paid in	15,453,885	1,678,761	17,132,646
Investment Income	176,747	6,855	183,602
Other Income	189,167	-	189,167
Admin Fee - 2%	(309,078)		(309,078)
Admin Fee - 5%	(772,669)	(51,720)	(824,389)
Total Funding Available	14,738,052	1,633,896	16,371,949
Disbursements	12,518,536	-	12,518,536
Commitments	906,043	-	906,043
Available Balance	318,000	-	318,000
Balance prior to 9th CfP	995,473	1,633,896	2,629,370
Funding allocated under 9th CfP	850,000	1,250,000	2,100,000
Available balance as of date of this report	145,473	383,896	529,370

Note: TF071840 refers to the original account of the MENA MDTF, while TF072755 refers to the recently created parallel account.

Table 3 shows the list of grants awarded as of August 1, 2017. The “Grants Awarded” column reflects the actual spending of the closed activities, as in some cases smaller amounts undisbursed were returned to the MDTF. To date, US\$ 15.6 million has been awarded to 45 activities (one activity was cancelled, thus the table is showing 46), of which US\$ 12.3 million has been disbursed (79 percent) and an additional US\$ 1 million committed.

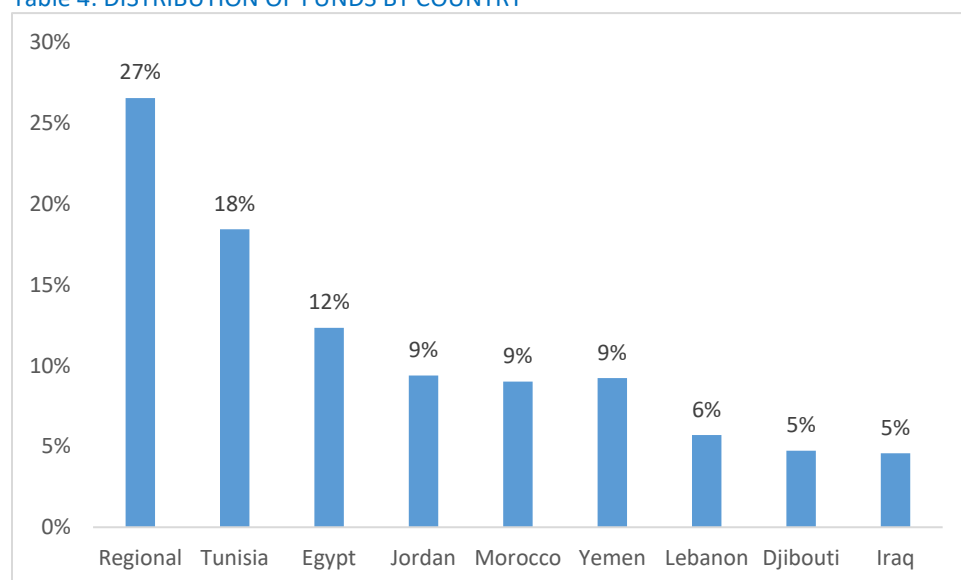
Table 3: GRANTS AWARDED

Activity Name	Execution	Closing Date	Grants Awarded	Disbursed	Committed	Available Balance	% Disbursed
			a	b	c	a-b-c	
1 Supporting Economic Governance Transition in Morocco and Tunisia	Bank	15-05-14	420,507	420,507	-	-	100%
2 Knowledge & Learning for Social Safety Nets and Active Labor Market Programs in MENA	Bank	15-09-14	441,959	441,959	-	-	100%
3 Yemen Decentralization and Local Governance Initiative	Bank	15-05-14	416,820	416,820	-	-	100%
4 MENA Early Stage Innovation Technical Assistance	Bank	12-05-14	167,467	167,467	-	-	100%
5 Gender Learning and Operational Initiative - YEM and MA	Bank	30-06-14	336,500	336,500	-	-	100%
6 MNA Connecting Voices of MENA	Bank	31-03-14	278,908	278,908	-	-	100%
7 MNA Life in Transition Survey - CANCELLED	Bank	30-11-13	11,773	11,773	-	-	100%
8 Sharing Know-How/How To in Subsidy Reform Implementation	Bank	28-02-15	341,692	341,692	-	-	100%
9 Yem Enhancing Governance thru Public Procurement Reform	Recipient	11-06-15	294,533	294,533	-	-	100%
SPN YEM Enhancing Governance thru Public Procurement Reform	Bank	11-06-15	27,763	27,763	-	-	100%
10 Enhancing Microfinance amongst Women and Youth in MENA	Recipient	30-06-15	598,789	598,789	-	-	100%
SPN Enhancing Microfinance amongst Women and Youth in MENA	Bank	30-06-15	105,350	105,350	-	-	100%
11 Communication for Policy Reforms in Tunisia	Recipient	31-08-15	600,000	600,000	-	-	100%
SPN Communication for Policy Reforms in Tunisia	Bank	31-08-15	123,266	123,266	-	-	100%
12 Promoting Social Entrepreneurship in MENA	Bank	01-12-15	338,313	338,313	-	-	100%
13 Service Delivery and Governance Reforms in Egypt	Bank	30-04-15	311,703	311,703	-	-	100%
14 Morocco GAC in Health Management Information System	Bank	30-09-15	316,638	316,638	-	-	100%
15 Jordan Service Delivery in Health and Education	Bank	18-03-16	386,849	386,849	-	-	100%
16 Parliamentary Strengthening in Tunisia and Morocco	Bank	31-03-16	249,442	249,442	-	-	100%
17 Transition Support in Yemen	Bank	31-07-17	160,125	160,125	-	-	100%
18 SIRI Damage and Needs Assessment	Bank	30-09-15	499,914	499,914	-	-	100%
19 Tunisia PforR Service Delivery Support	Bank	31-12-16	490,000	490,000	-	-	100%
20 Jordan Strengthening Accountability for Improved Education Services	Recipient	30-06-17	587,800	587,800	-	-	100%
SPN JOR Strengthening Accountability for Improved Education Services	Bank	30-06-17	224,880	211,740	13,140	-	94%
21 Djibouti Improving Youth Well-Being and Opportunities	Bank	01-09-16	362,283	362,283	-	-	100%
22 Tunisia Transforming the Road Sector	Recipient	28-02-17	909,000	200,000	709,000	-	22%
23 Egypt Enhancing Broad-Based Participation in Community Dialogue Processes	Bank	30-12-16	177,563	177,563	-	-	100%
24 Lebanon Promoting Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing to Improve Youth Employability	Bank	30-06-17	350,000	350,000	-	-	100%
25 Egypt Mainstreaming Beneficiary Feedback in Select Sectors	Bank	31-03-17	323,265	317,475	5,790	-	98%
26 Iraq Expanding the Engagement on Youth Inclusion and Peace Building	Bank	31-12-16	220,000	217,244	1,279	1,477	99%
27 Egypt Supporting Land Acquisition Policy Study and Institutional Reform	Bank	30-06-17	360,768	359,489	1,279	-	100%
28 Lebanon Strengthening Financial Oversight Capacity of Lebanon Parliament	Bank	30-06-17	285,668	276,981	8,687	-	97%
29 Morocco Capacity and Design for Inclusive Groundwater Mgmt	Recipient	15-06-17	750,000	727,186	22,814	-	97%
SPN Morocco Capacity and Design for Inclusive Groundwater Mgmt	Bank	30-12-16	49,310	49,310	-	-	100%
30 Egypt Youth Engagement	Bank	30-06-17	380,000	380,000	-	-	100%
31 Iraq KRG capacity building TA for MoE	Bank	31-05-17	220,000	220,000	-	-	100%
32 Addressing Health Needs of Syrian Refugees	Bank	30-04-18	280,000	106,636	30,228	143,136	38%
33 Upper Egypt Governorates Development Technical Assistance Program	Bank	31-01-18	350,000	269,686	-	80,314	77%
34 Impact evaluation on Jordan On-the-Job-Voucher Program	Bank	30-04-17	250,000	156,743	50,128	43,129	63%
35 Strengthening Accountability and Oversight Institutions in Tunisia	Bank	30-06-17	200,657	200,657	-	-	100%
36 Support for Parliament in Djibouti	Bank	30-09-17	250,000	137,137	70,766	42,097	55%
37 Building M&E Capacity for Hepatitis C Response in Egypt	Bank	31-03-17	37,185	37,185	-	-	100%
38 Dissemination of the Governance, Service Delivery and Outcomes in Jordan's Health and Education Sectors	Bank	15-06-17	61,000	61,000	-	-	100%
39 Catalyzing the Private Sector Role in the Recovery and Reconstruction of Yemen	Bank	30-04-18	300,000	-	-	300,000	0%
40 Developing Innovative Practices for Improving Social Cohesion between Lebanese and Syrian Refugees Living in Host Communities	Bank	30-04-18	250,000	-	-	250,000	0%
41 MENA Regional Youth Platform	Bank	30-04-18	250,000	-	-	250,000	0%
42 Support to Deepening Decentralization and Improving Inclusion in Tunisia	Bank	30-04-18	300,000	-	-	300,000	0%
43 TA for the Design of an Incremental Home Improvement Program in Djibouti	Bank	30-04-18	150,000	-	-	150,000	0%
44 Understanding Child and Adolescent Skills Development in Tunisia and Lebanon	Bank	30-04-18	250,000	-	-	250,000	0%
45 Women and Jobs for an Inclusive Labor Market in KRG: A Pilot Program	Bank	30-04-18	300,000	-	-	300,000	0%
46 Women Economic Empowerment - EmpowerHer Maghreb	Bank	30-04-18	300,000	-	-	300,000	0%
Total Grants Approved			15,647,687	12,324,423	913,111	310,153	79%

Of the 46 grants, 33 are officially closed, with outputs achieved and contributing to broader outcomes, and with all funds disbursed. Eight new activities received funding in the 9th Call for Proposals (CfP9). These activities are indicated at the end of the table, starting at number 39.

Table 4 shows how MENA MDTF funds have been committed across the MENA region. The total includes the grants from CfP9. The largest share of commitments, 27 percent, has gone to multi-country or regional activities. Some of these activities are truly regional, while other may have regional elements but also some components largely focused on one or two countries. Tunisia is the largest single recipient, while Iraq and Djibouti have received the least as single recipients. While Tunisia and Morocco have received 18 and 9 percent respectively as single recipients of TA, when including all regional activities that support reforms in those countries, the amounts would increase substantially.

Table 4: DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS BY COUNTRY



The distribution of funds between Bank Executed (BE) and Recipient Executed (RE) grants is shown in **table 5**. 77 percent of the funds were Bank-executed, while 23 percent were Recipient-executed. The low share of RE funding can be explained by the relatively small grants that the MENA MDTF is providing, along with short deadlines for activities. Recipient-executed projects usually require more funding and longer deadlines. Thus, the initial requirement of 50/50 for RE versus BE was dropped at the Program Council Meeting in 2015.

Table 5: EXECUTION OF ACITIVITIES

Execution	Sum of grant amount	%
BE	\$ 12,380,809.05	77%
RE	\$ 3,740,122	23%
Grand Total	\$ 16,120,930.92	100%