

How Can Arab Countries Move Towards Open Government?

Open Government

Strengthens public institutions, leading to better governance, greater trust and partnership between citizens and government, thus creating a better future for all.



UNITED NATIONS

الاستشارة
ESCWA

ESCWA Framework on Open Government for the Arab region

Citizen Engagement

- Guarantee full access to information and services for all citizens
- Involve all stakeholders in decision making: government, citizens, non-government organizations and private sector
- Build a citizen-centred and accountable government

Collaboration

- Encourage citizens contribution to government decision-making
- Deliver innovative, value-added government services with anytime, anywhere access
- Use collaborative tools and platforms

Participation

- Promote citizen participation in government work
- Enhance interaction, and feedback and suggestion loops
- Intensify the use of social media and two-way communication technologies

Openess

- Develop and implement open data initiatives for greater transparency
- Include data quality assurance, dissemination, management and evaluation
- Use available suitable technologies: Web and/or mobile applications

Preliminary Steps

- Raise awareness among citizenry on open government
- Formulate fundamental legislation and regulations
- Review and improve technological and organizational structures

Recommendations

Government should issue a policy statement, declaration of principles and vision for open government.

Political will is essential to harness the transition towards open government.

Prepare detailed phased-based action plans with clear, realistic and measurable outputs.

Government officials and all citizens should work together in actuating open government.



Open Government is a continuous programme at the heart of Government business

2015

Ten Arab countries had open data initiatives

2016

The United Arab Emirates and Tunisia scored highest among Arab countries for open data initiative readiness

2016

Nine Arab countries scored higher in e-participation than the world average.

2017

Four Arab countries (Jordan, Lebanon, Tunisia and Yemen) had laws/regulations on the Right to access to information