



## ANSA-Arab World

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### The World Bank's Approach in the Middle East and North Africa

*"An empowered public is the foundation for a stronger society, more effective government, and a more successful state... In 1944, the World Bank was established by governments to lend to governments. In 1956, our shareholders established the International Finance Corporation, IFC, to invest in the private sector. Now it may be time to invest in the private, not-for-profit sector – civil society -- to help strengthen the capacity of organizations working on transparency, accountability, and service delivery."*

*"We will not lend directly to finance budgets in countries that do not publish their budgets or, in exceptional cases, at least commit to publish their budgets within twelve months. "*

*"[The Arab people] want a new social contract. They want dignity. They want respect. And if they are women, they want these same things."*

**– Robert Zoellick, President of the World Bank, (April 6, 2011)**



## What is ANSA –Arab World?

- An **initiative** to create a regional network of practitioners on social accountability and participatory governance in the Arab World
- **Target audience:** CSOs, government representatives, media and private sector
- Aims to achieve **build trust** and support a **constructive engagement** between government and non-government actors to strengthen the social contract.



## Key Objectives

ANSA – Arab World network **objectives** are to:

- a. Enhance the capacity of network members,** development practitioners and government agencies on the concepts of participatory governance and social accountability tools through training
- b. Action-learning programs** through the establishment of a **small grants** program
- c. Strengthen networking and information exchange of ANSA – Arab** World members and transfer of network expertise to CSOs, media, private sector and government
- d. Raise awareness** on the concepts and values of participatory governance and social accountability



## Key Innovations(1)

- Active engagement of **government** as key stakeholders from onset
- Active engagement of **donors** and other partners in the Arab World from onset
- **First time** the World Bank invests towards substantive foundation on social accountability in the Arab World.
- World Bank ANSA management/supervision is anchored in the **MNA Region**, to facilitate just-in-time adjustments to implementation.
- More **decentralized** Governance Structure, ANSA includes **country-specific advisory teams (CATs)**, to provide country-level guidance and support to country-specific stakeholders.



## Key Innovations(2)

- **Tailoring** methodologies to Arab World addressing role of women, youth, power structures, and cultural issues.
- Team's **region-specific knowledge** and **existing relationships** with partners.
- Supporting World Bank's New **Social Development Strategy** – Demand for Good Governance (DFGG) Pillar, and MNA Region's Social Accountability Action Plan for building capacity of NEAs to mainstreaming DFGG in Bank Operations.



## Cairo Workshop: Key Findings

### Arab World's Key Governance Constraints include:

- (1) **Inability to access information** and the lack of reliability on statistics available (or unreliability of government-generated data)
- (2) **Lack of awareness of citizen's rights overall**, primarily, the right to demand information, and information on service standards
- (3) **Lack of transparency of roles and accountability** of the government entities - the tension and conflict of interest between government as service provider versus government as regulator.

### Way Forward

- Rights Based Approach to social accountability was at the center. Improved governance and improved livelihoods and their expression for need to improve right to information and right to service standards as a human right.
- Network needed to close perceptual gap between different stakeholders around service delivery issues via:
  - boost citizen participation and feedback mechanisms;
  - fast corrective response from service providers (government and private)
  - leakages severely affect service delivery.



## Amman Workshop: Key Findings

### Axes for Social Accountability in MENA:

- Reaching a more open and responsive government and
- Fostering a more engaged citizenry.

#### Budget transparency

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|--|--|
| Needs<br>in Arab<br>Countries          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Laws and legislation for free information flow and exchange</li> <li>■ Social accountability tools</li> <li>■ Citizens and various sectors participation in budget preparation</li> <li>■ Indicators to measure budget transparency</li> <li>■ Government disclosing/disseminating budget information to citizens &amp; various sectors</li> </ul>  |
| Challenges<br>facing Arab<br>Countries | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Legislative framework with regards to access to information</li> <li>■ Inability of CSO to advocate for budget transparency</li> <li>■ Limited citizen awareness/understanding</li> <li>■ Weak communication channels (citizens-government)</li> <li>■ No government transparency culture</li> <li>■ Implementation gap if regulatory framework is in place</li> <li>■ Weak dissemination channels</li> </ul> |



## Amman Workshop: Key Findings

#### Access to Information

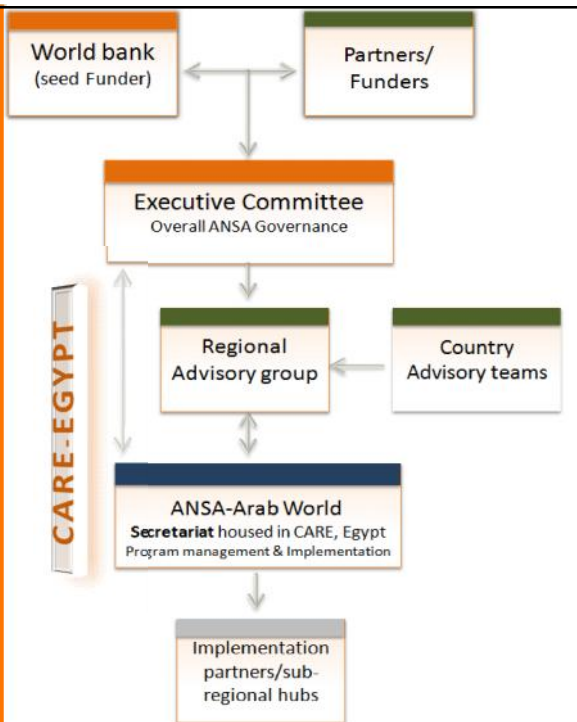
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|--|---|
| Cross Cutting<br>Needs<br>In Arab<br>Countries | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Identify partners, experts and CSOs to discuss ATI Law</li> <li>■ Drafting ATI Law, technical team to training and support government</li> <li>■ Mobilizing civil society</li> <li>■ Building capacities of official agencies to Work with CSOs</li> <li>■ Media leading awareness campaigns on ATI law (when it exists)</li> <li>■ Spreading citizens aware of law</li> <li>■ Ensure implementation of law</li> </ul> |
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#### Stakeholders needs

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|----------------|---|
| CSOs           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Capacity building on social accountability and oversight functions of government programs; spaces for dialogue.</li> </ul>       |
| Government     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Draft legislations on access to information; regional workshops tailored for government; Arab South-South Exchanges.</li> </ul>  |
| Media          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Training to simplify information to wider audiences; investigative journalism; use of new social media tools.</li> </ul>         |
| Private Sector | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Technical assistance to play a stronger role in (CSR); demanding greater access to information and share information.</li> </ul> |



## Proposed Governance Structure



## Milestones for YR 1

- a. Establishment of ANSA-Arab World, including vetted governance structure
- b. Capacity building workshops in 6 countries
- c. Establishment of small grants program to start YR2 of network