



الهيئة المركزية للوقاية من الرشوة
Instance Centrale de Prévention de la Corruption

Kingdom of Morocco
The Head of Government

20th OSCE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM
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“Promoting Good Governance and Combating Corruption in Support
of Socio-Economic Development”
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**The “Arab Spring” and the fight against corruption,
a regional perspective**
- April 23, 2012 -

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Content



الهيئة المركزية للوقاية من الرشوة
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- 2001 – 2011: A decade of Change
- Human development in the Arab World (HDI 2011)
- Corruption in the Arab World (CPI)
- Control of Corruption in the Arab region (World Bank 2010)
- Corruption and development in the Arab region : a strong correlation
- Main international mechanisms and initiatives
- Lessons learned from the “Arab Spring”
- Critical factors for Arab countries to address crises
- Recommendations

2

2001 – 2011: A decade of Change

September 2001: the World Trade Center twin towers fall under the effect of a major terrorist attack carried out by young Arabs, admired by millions of young people across the Arab and Muslim worlds

January 2011: the beginning of the successive fall of Arab regimes as a result of popular uprisings led by the youth



2001 – 2011: A decade of Change

Amid a devastating "war against terrorism":

- ✓ Failure of most Arab regimes to carry out necessary reforms to resolve issues raised in the Report on Human Development (RHD)
- ✓ Failure of the "democratization" process:
N.B.: billions of dollars expected to fuel the democratization/development project of the "Greater Middle East" only led to strengthening and enriching corrupt autocracies
- ✓ Failure of Islamic terrorism on the military, political and ideological levels

2001 – 2011: A decade of Change

✓ Throughout the decade, the Arab world has witnessed a tidal wave of debate and a wrenching revision of its vision of the world

✓ The causes and the remedies of the Arab discomfort are to be found "here and now" and not elsewhere or in a more or less distant future

Key slogans of the « Arab Spring »

No to despotism

لا للاستبداد

No to corruption

لا للفساد

Yes to dignity

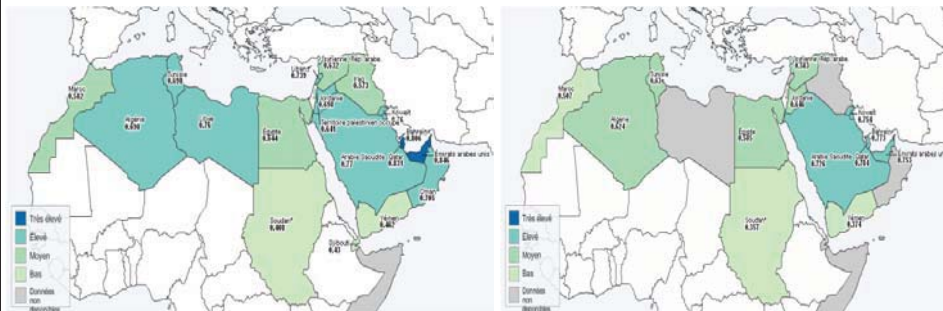
نعم للكرامة

5

Human development in the Arab World : HDI 2011

HDI 2011

HDI 2002

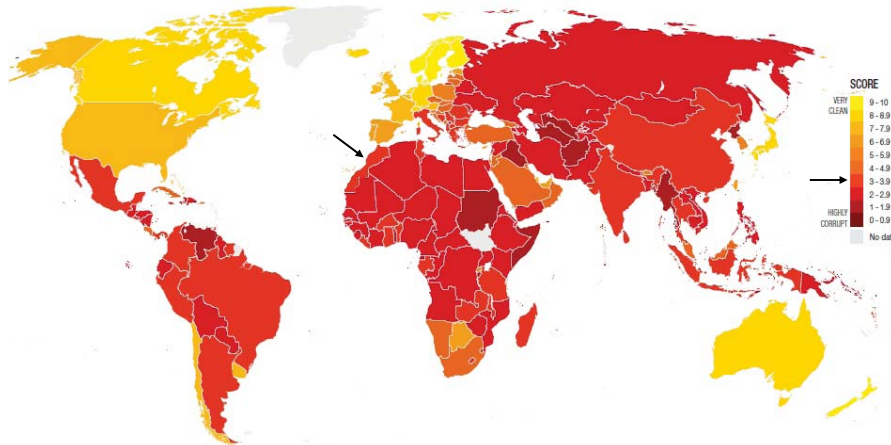


=> Human development at stake according to the « Report on Human Development in the Arab World » written by **young Arab experts** since 2002-2003

Main deficiencies pointed out by the RHD :

Freedom – Education – Women – Governance → backbone of sustainable development

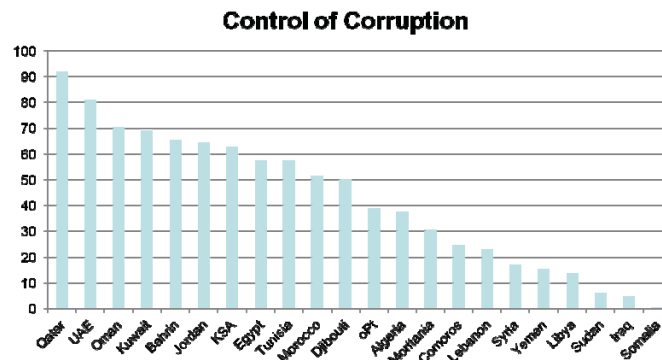
Corruption in the Arab World (CPI)



7

Control of Corruption in the Arab region (World Bank 2010)

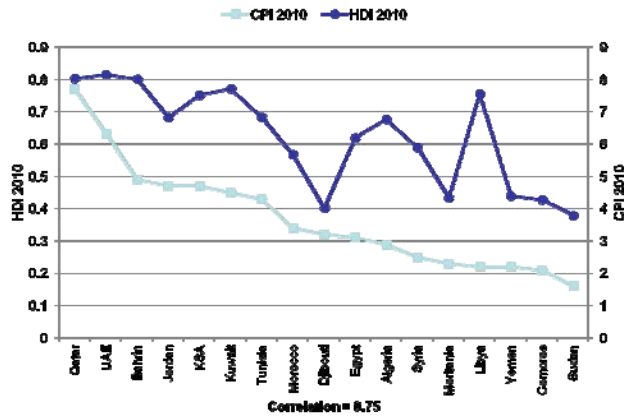
Control of corruption captures perceptions of the extent to which public power is exercised for private gain, including both petty and grand forms of corruption, as well as "capture" of the state by elites and private interests.



Source: UNDP unpublished study.

8

Corruption and development in the Arab region (HDI)



A strong correlation

Source: UNDP unpublished study.

9

Emergence of an international coalition

Main objectives :

- ✓ Establish mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of international conventions (UNCAC, OECD, GRECO ...);
- ✓ Understand the differences between socio-economic systems and policies of different states;
- ✓ Harmonize the legal and judicial frameworks of different states;
- ✓ Develop mutual assistance in criminal matters, mutual legal assistance, extradition, investigation, prosecution and asset recovery;
- ✓ Harmonize procedures for the analysis, monitoring and evaluation of anti-corruption policies.

10

Pooling of States efforts and development of international solidarity

1- Several multilateral conventions for the prevention and fight against corruption have been adopted:

- ✓ 1996: the Inter-American Convention against Corruption
- ✓ 1997: the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions
- ✓ 1998: the Council of Europe Criminal Law Convention on Corruption
- ✓ 1999: the Council of Europe Civil Law Convention on Corruption
- ✓ **2003: the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC)**

11

Pooling of States efforts and development of international solidarity

2- Other international and regional anticorruption initiatives:

- ✓ February 1999: the **1st Global Forum on Fighting Corruption and Safeguarding Integrity** was organized in Washington D.C.
- ✓ March 30 – April 1, 1999: the **Expert Group Meeting on Corruption and its Financial Channels** took place in Paris
 -  *2 years later: launching of negotiations for the elaboration of the UNCAC*
- ✓ 2006: Establishment of the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities (**IAACA**)

12

Pooling of States efforts and development of international solidarity

3- Civil society and private sector initiatives :

- ✓ 1993: founding of **Transparency International**

- ✓ 1999: Mobilization of the private sector → **UN Global Compact**
 - **“Principle 10: Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery”**

- ✓ 2006: establishment of the **“UNCAC Coalition”** → a network of more than 300 civil society organizations committed to promoting the ratification, the implementation and the monitoring of the UNCAC

13

Lessons learned from the “Arab Spring”

Short-term vision Vs **long-term** vision of problems facing Arab states :

- **Short-term**: selection of new leaders – reform / setup of security systems - boost of the economy...
- **But: true structural problems have often been neglected** :
demographic growth – youth unemployment – governance deficiencies – security based on repression



No political or religious leader, regime, political party... who ignores such realities can duly serve the citizens of a state nor create the basis for real political stability



Need to adopt a long-term approach to reform

14

Critical factors for Arab countries to address crises :

- ✓ **Middle classes status** - incomes distribution - poverty threshold – perception of social fairness, etc.
- ✓ **Employment quality:** actual employment - corresponding to a status - allowing marriage and the starting of a family - seen as deserved → the mere creation of employment is not sufficient to ensure stability
- ✓ **Education:** level of investment, quality and relevance
- ✓ **The role of women:** participation, equity, productivity, etc.
- ✓ **Services and utilities:** access - quality - public subsidies (equitable distribution of government aid), etc.
- ✓ **Employment of foreign labor:** level of dependence (low cost) → imbalance of local employment market
- ✓ **Hyper-urbanization:** quality of urban life = real problem

15

- ✓ **Public sectors and employment:** need to develop the private sector and reduce the dependence on public services → merit - competency - efficiency
- ✓ **Agriculture:** demographic pressure - water PB - limited capital and modern agricultural techniques - government subsidies ...
- ✓ **Military budget:** massive investment in modern equipment but with uncertain mission value
- ✓ **Security services, national security courts and emergency laws:** impact / magnitude of response to terrorist threats
- ✓ **Rule of Law:** corruption in the judiciary and impact on the rule of law
- ✓ **Corruption:** major systemic problem and main source of public claims
- ✓ Failure of censorship and impact of **media** and **alternative communications**

→ **Key Success Factor : Good Governance**

16

Recommendations

- ✓ Effective **governance**, at the state and the local level, and adequate public services based on integrity and efficiency
- ✓ **Political parties** able to address key issues with **honesty and transparency** and ready to work with their more experienced opponents in order to fight corruption
- ✓ Promoting **accountability** and preserving **human rights**
- ✓ Effective **rule of law** based on **social justice** and capable of preventing the **abuse of power**
- ✓ **Security services** that respect **human rights** and ensure the **safety of citizens**
- ✓ **Military systems properly dimensioned**

17

Source: Center for Strategic & International Studies: « Rethinking the Arab Spring ». By Anthony Cordesman (November 8, 2011)

Recommendations

- ✓ Effective **economic planning**: freeing market forces and protecting citizens while creating real employment opportunities
- ✓ Restructuring of **public services** to reflect the needs and priorities of citizens
- ✓ **Education** reform: creating skills for the job market
- ✓ Effective **prevention and fight against corruption**
- ✓ Effective efforts to limit **population growth**
- ✓ Equitable policies for **women and minorities**
- ✓ Government action taking into account the **specificities of the country** (ethnicity, culture, ... - perception of governance - priorities of the population ...)

18

Thank you for your attention

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