



Summary of Semi-Annual Report on the Integrity and Anti-Corruption Support Index on Middle East and Arab region



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Summary of Integrity and Anti-Corruption Support Index Report

Executive summary

The Partners for Transparency Integrity and Anti-Corruption Index report analyzes the actions taken to uphold integrity and combat corruption across the wider Arab region and Middle East. Corruption remains one of the challenges that undermines economic development, erodes public confidence and helps to sustain social inequality. The report therefore emphasizes the significance of enhancing integrity by providing data to citizens, and the necessity of implementing strong anti-corruption measures, which are essential to maintain stability and sustainable growth. It also examines the legal, institutional and legislative contexts governing the practices of the relevant agencies, and the extent to which these practices are compatible with the three structures in different states in the region. Efficient Anti-corruption strategies are required to address specific challenges. In this report, Partners for transparency highlights challenges that are represented in, inter alia, the weakness of the legal, institutional and legislative framework in the majority of the countries in the region, in addition to the discrepancy of the relevant agencies' practices and the laws in place, despite their shortcomings.

Introduction

In the context of the contemporary geopolitical scene, that poses different challenges, enhancing integrity and combating corruption has become increasingly vital for stabilizing and strengthening the countries' capacities to achieve the SDGs in the Arab region and Middle East. While states in this complex region seek to enhance economic development and governance frameworks, corruption remains a major obstacle. Corruption, in its various forms, erodes the public confidence, hinders economic development, promotes sustainable inequality, undermines democratic institutions, distorts the rule of law, and creates barriers to sustainable development and the welfare of the society.

In terms of the Arab region and the Middle East, the corruption challenges are interrelated with various political, economic and social dynamics, which could be addressed through a precise understanding to the local contexts, and implementing targeted measures that align with the situation of each state, especially that the spectacle of the Anti-corruption efforts in the region combines traditional and innovative methods. Therefore, the integrity and Anti-corruption support index report in the Arab region and Middle East aims at assessing the ongoing efforts and strategies that support integrity and combat corruption, moreover, it presents an analysis to challenges facing each country, and the progress made under each of the 3 sub-indicators.

The first indicator focuses on the Anti-corruption initiatives, plans, laws, efforts and strategies in the Arab region and Middle East. The second indicator measures 5 levels of the rule of law considering the level reached by the relevant agencies procedures in handling corruption incidents and cases, especially those filed against government officials, with reference to effective practices and areas that need improvement under every indicator.

The third indicator addresses the transparency in governmental institutions and administration, aiming at perceiving combating corruption through a comprehensive approach incorporating legal reforms, institutional capacity building and public participation, in an attempt to emphasize that the pursuit of integrity is the cornerstone of sustainable development and the promotion of a more just and equitable society. Hence, reaching the ultimate goal of a corruption-free environment requires prolonged and uninterrupted efforts from all sectors of society. The report seeks to affirm the importance of maintaining strong momentum in dealing with anti-corruption initiatives and promoting collective commitment to enhancing transparency, accountability and good governance.

Methodology of the report

Partners for Transparency used a methodology to determine each country's situation by dividing it into three core indicators; each includes sub-indicators of relative weight, which their total value constitutes the value of the main indicator, which can be divided as follows:

Indicator 1: Government effectiveness

The Government Effectiveness Index measures Government actions taken by the Governments of the Middle East and Arab region to combat corruption, with the ratio of this indicator in the total value of the State "0.3". Under this specific indicator, the value of each State's grade ranges from 0 to 1 and has been determined in four main actions as follows:

Government Effectiveness Index: value between 0-1	
Existence of an independent anti-corruption body	0.3
Existence of a national anti-corruption strategy	0.3
Legal structure relevant to anti-corruption efforts	0.3
policies and efforts	0.1

Indicator 2: Rule of law

The Rule of Law Index measures the ability of the State's legal authorities to investigate corruption cases and hold perpetrators accountable, and evaluates the efficiency of the judicial system in achieving justice, punishing perpetrators and handling corruption cases. It also aims to provide a clear view on the State's commitment to law enforcement and the effectiveness of its judicial system in combating corruption, thereby enhancing transparency and impartiality in public administration, with the relative weight of this indicator being within the overall value obtained by the State "0.4".

In this context, the measures taken by each State, in relation to incidents of illegal practices at the financial and administrative levels, have been divided into 5 levels, each of a relative value. So that the number of cases reached at each level within the State is divided by the total number of cases monitored in this State, and then the output of this process is multiplied by the relative weight indicated in each level. This process is replicated at every level, and then the output is collected to reflect the State's rule of law.

The Rule of Law Index: value between 0-1	
Sentencing level	1
Investigation procedure level	0.8
Arrest of the accused level	0.6
Disclosure of the incident level	0.4
Incident ignorance or negative action level	0.2

Indicator 3: Institutions or Administration Transparency

The administration or institutional transparency index measures the availability of government information and data to citizens in the States covered by the report, and the existence of effective laws stipulating citizens' right of access to information, thereby enhancing transparency and integrity, with the relative weight of this indicator being within the overall value obtained by the State "0.3".

The administration or institutional transparency index: value between 0-1	
The existence of a law regulating the circulation and access to information	0.5
The existence of an open digital platform to enable citizens to access government data smoothly	0.5

The 25 States covered in the report, all Arab States, in addition to Turkey, Iran and Israel, are placed within three levels, as follows:

Level	Rating
Safe countries	1 – 0.71
Stable countries	0.7 – 0.51
Threatened countries	0.5 – 0

The State's attainment of a "0" score means that it has not been able to take actions capable of undermining corruption and illegal practices financially and administratively, and its attainment of a "1" score means that the situation of fighting corruption and promoting integrity is best.

State of Integrity and Anti-Corruption Support in the Middle East and the Arab region

	State	Government Effectiveness Index	Rule of Law Index	administration or institutional transparency index	State's index rating
1.	Jordan	0.2775	0.304	0.225	0.81
2.	UAE	0.165	0.32	0.3	0.79
3.	Kuwait	0.3	0.256	0.225	0.78
4.	Tunisia	0.1575	0.356	0.225	0.74
5.	Morocco	0.2475	0.26	0.225	0.73
6.	Qatar	0.1425	0.21	0.3	0.65
7.	Egypt	0.2775	0.3	0.075	0.65
8.	Turkey	0.12	0.224	0.3	0.64
9.	Israel	0.09	0.32	0.225	0.635
10.	Iraq	0.3	0.26	0.075	0.635
11.	Algeria	0.255	0.304	0.075	0.63
12.	Bahrain	0.1425	0.332	0.15	0.62
13.	Saudi Arabia	0.1875	0.284	0.15	0.62
14.	Yemen	0.2775	0.196	0.15	0.62
15.	Lebanon	0.3	0.08	0.225	0.61
16.	Somalia	0.0675	0.32	0.15	0.54
17.	Comoros	0.2025	0.188	0.075	0.47
18.	Palestine	0.2775	0.08	0.075	0.43
19.	Iran	0.12	0.16	0.15	0.43
20.	Oman	0.1875	0.16	0.075	0.42
21.	Libya	0.165	0.16	0.075	0.4
22.	Djibouti	0.1425	0.16	0.075	0.38
23.	Mauritania	0.1125	0.08	0.15	0.34
24.	Syria	0.09	0.176	0.075	0.34
25.	Sudan	0.045	0.08	0.075	0.2

The 4 countries of Jordan, UAE, Kuwait, Tunisia and Morocco were able to be in the safe zone, respectively, where they all received a higher score than "0.7" on the index. Most of these countries are economically stable, especially with regard to the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait, or have some political stability, which is largely achieved in these countries, except Tunisia that witness an ongoing complex political crisis for years now, with the expansion of President Kais Saied's influence and powers.

This means that there is a certain correlation between the State's economic and political stability and its ability to adopt efforts and policies that promote integrity, transparency and the fight against corruption, resulting in strengthening citizens' capacities to participate effectively in public affairs. This would enhance citizens' confidence in political power, and thus the desire for effective participation, leading to common public benefit, especially at local levels.

There were 11 States in the stable region, respectively, Qatar, Egypt, Turkey, Israel, Iraq, Algeria, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Lebanon, and Somalia, each of which varied between 0.5 - 0.7 on the index. Most of these countries live in crises of different dimensions, which would contribute to weakening their ability to adopt policies that uphold integrity and combat corruption, except Qatar, which is the most stable among the countries of this level, in addition to Saudi Arabia, while the rest of the countries face different crises.

In the cases of Yemen, Somalia and Lebanon, in addition to economic challenges, societal instability, internal division and the growing influence of external actors play a significant role in scaling down those States' capacities to engage in policies that enhance integrity, transparency and the fight against corruption.

Countries that could not exceed 0.5 in the index, stood at 10, respectively, Comoros, Palestine, Iran, Oman, Libya, Djibouti, Mauritania, Syria, and Sudan. 4 States are in a situation of violent crisis of a predominantly security and military nature, which undermines any attempts to talk about corruption or the circulation of information and the rule of law, thus placing these States in the "threatened regions".

Indicator 1: Government effectiveness

State	Independent anti-corruption body	National anti-corruption strategy	Anti-corruption laws	Anti-corruption activities	Total score
Kuwait	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.1	1
Lebanon	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.1	1
Iraq	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.1	1
Jordan	0.3	0.3	0.225	0.1	0.925
Yemen	0.3	0.3	0.225	0.1	0.925
Egypt	0.3	0.3	0.225	0.1	0.925
Palestine	0.3	0.3	0.225	0.1	0.925

State	Independent anti-corruption body	National anti-corruption strategy	Anti-corruption laws	Anti-corruption activities	Total score
Algeria	0.3	0.3	0.15	0.1	0.85
Morocco	0.3	0.3	0.225	0	0.825
Comoros	0.3	0.15	0.225	0	0.675
Saudi Arabia	0.3	0.15	0.075	0.1	0.625
Oman	0.15	0.3	0.075	0.1	0.625
UAE	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.1	0.55
Libya	0	0.3	0.15	0.1	0.55
Tunisia	0.15	0.15	0.225	0	0.525
Bahrain	0.15	0	0.225	0.1	0.475
Qatar	0.3	0	0.075	0.1	0.475
Djibouti	0.15	0	0.225	0.1	0.475
Iran	0.15	0	0.15	0.1	0.4
Turkey	0.15	0	0.15	0.1	0.4
Mauritania	0.15	0	0.225	0	0.375
Israel	0.15	0	0.15	0	0.3
Somalia	0	0.3	0	0	0.3
Sudan	0.15	0	0.075	0	0.225

Data in the table prepared by Partners for Transparency based on data collected.

Independent anti-corruption bodies exist in 12 countries, accounting for 48% of the total number of countries, namely Kuwait, Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan, Yemen, Egypt, Palestine, Algeria, Morocco, Comoros, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar. Some countries also possess an anti-corruption body; however, its independent work is impeded due to some challenges, such as being within one of the ministries or other government agencies, which exists in 10 countries, accounting for 40% of the total. These countries are Oman, UAE, Tunisia, Bahrain, Djibouti, Iran, Mauritania, Türkiye, Israel and Somalia, while 3 countries lack an anti-corruption body, Sudan, Syria and Libya, accounting for 12% of the total number of countries.

With regard to the indicator of the anti-corruption strategy, countries have been divided to a large extent between countries with an effective strategy, namely Kuwait, Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan, Yemen, Egypt, Palestine, Algeria, Morocco, Oman, Libya, and Syria, accounting for 48% of the total countries, while 36% of States lacked any strategy within their anti-corruption framework, namely, Bahrain, Qatar, Djibouti, Iran, Mauritania, Turkey, Israel, Somalia, Sudan. While there was a strategy in 4 countries, that did not have an effective role, namely, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Comoros, accounting for 16%.

With regard to the indicator of laws on the promotion of anti-corruption policies in its various forms, the absence of anti-money-laundering law in 52% of countries was found to be 13 countries, namely, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Syria, Jordan, Yemen, Palestine, Turkey, Comoros, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Sudan, and Mauritania. 12 States also lacked a law that would regulate the protection of whistleblowers and

witnesses to corruption, namely Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, Syria, Turkey, Iran, Egypt, Djibouti, Israel, Algeria, Libya, and Somalia, with 48% of States. The legal structure of 8 countries also needs a law to regulate asset disclosure and prevent conflicts of interest, namely Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Syria, Iran, Israel, Sudan, and Somalia, by 32%. In addition, 7 countries need a law to criminalize illicit enrichment and graft, namely Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Oman, Syria, Morocco, and Somalia, with a 28% of countries.

With regard to the Government's activities related to raising awareness of the threats of corruption and the tools for combating it, related activities could not be achieved in 8 States, namely, Morocco, Comoros, Mauritania, Israel, Somalia, Syria, Sudan and Tunisia, in 32% proportion.

Indicator 2: Rule of law

State	Sentencing level		Investigation procedure level		Arrest of the accused level		Disclosure of the incident level		Incident ignorance or negative actions		Total score
	value	1	value	0.8	value	0.6	value	0.4	value	0.2	
Tunisia	0.43		0.46		0		0		0		0.89
Bahrain	0.33		0.4		0.1		0		0		0.83
Somalia	0		0.8		0		0		0		0.8
UAE	0.5		0		0.3		0		0		0.8
Israel	0.5		0		0.3		0		0		0.8
Algeria	0.33		0.4		0		0		0.03		0.76
Jordan	0.4		0		0.36		0		0		0.76
Egypt	0.43		0		0.26		0.06		0		0.75
Saudi Arabia	0		0.44		0.27		0		0		0.71
Iraq	0.17		0.035		0.39		0.05		0		0.65
Morocco	0.22		0.09		0.27		0.04		0.02		0.64
Kuwait	0.2		0.16		0.12		0.16		0		0.64
Turkey	0		0.13		0.4		0		0.03		0.56
Qatar	0.4		0		0		0		0.12		0.52
Yemen	0		0.34		0		0.06		0.09		0.49
Comoros	0		0		0.4		0		0.07		0.47
Syria	0		0.32		0		0		0.12		0.44
Iran	0.25		0		0		0		0.15		0.4
Djibouti	0		0		0.3		0		0.1		0.4
Oman	0		0		0		0.4		0		0.4
Libya	0		0		0.3		0		0.1		0.4
Palestine	0		0		0		0		0.2		0.2
Lebanon	0		0		0		0		0.2		0.2
Mauritania	0		0		0		0		0.2		0.2
Sudan	0		0		0		0		0.2		0.2

Based on the relative values estimated for each level of action to assess the relevant state institutions capacity to enforce the law and emphasize the rule of law in handling corruption incidents, specifically where there are former or current officials at a high level in governmental bodies, Most States that did not reach 50% of the index value were found to be currently living, and during the reporting period, instability for various reasons, either political, regional conflicts or civil wars. This is evident in Yemen, Syria, Iran, Libya, Palestine, Lebanon and Sudan, and represents 28% of the total countries covered in the report.

The previous figure shows that there is a discrepancy in the number of cases reached during the reporting period within each level of measurement of the rule of law within a State and between States and each other, and that the total number of cases reached was 135 in the five levels developed.

The proportion of cases within the sentencing level as well as the investigation level was approximately 19% of the total cases for each level, with 26 cases for each level. While Cases where proceedings were interrupted at the level of arrest or suspension of the accused pre-investigation constituted the largest proportion of cases, reaching about 34% with a total of 46 cases. As for the cases that were revealed by regulatory authorities or anti-corruption bodies, they amounted to 10 cases, representing 7%. However, the cases for which there was a weak or negative procedure or were ignored by the relevant authorities constituted 20%, with a total of 27 cases.

Indicator 3: Transparency in Administration and Institutions

State	law on circulation of information	open digital platform to access government data	Total score
UAE	0.5	0.5	1
Qatar	0.5	0.5	1
Turkey	0.5	0.5	1
Kuwait	0.5	0.25	0.75
Lebanon	0.5	0.25	0.75
Jordan	0.25	0.5	0.75
Israel	0.25	0.5	0.75
Tunisia	0.25	0.5	0.75
Morocco	0.5	0.25	0.75
Mauritania	0	0.5	0.5
Somalia	0	0.5	0.5
Yemen	0.25	0.25	0.5
Bahrain	0.25	0.25	0.5
Iran	0.25	0.25	0.5
Saudi Arabia	0	0.5	0.5
Oman	0	0.25	0.25
Palestine	0	0.25	0.25
Egypt	0	0.25	0.25

State	law on circulation of information	open digital platform to access government data	Total score
Syria	0	0.25	0.25
Iraq	0	0.25	0.25
Djibouti	0	0.25	0.25
Comoros	0	0.25	0.25
Algeria	0.25	0	0.25
Libya	0.25	0	0.25
Sudan	0.25	0	0.25

Data in the table prepared by Partners for Transparency based on data collected.

Data show that 40% of the countries covered in the report need a law on circulation of information and data, with 10 countries, namely, Syria, Iraq, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Comoros, Mauritania, Somalia, Oman, Djibouti, and Palestine. Also 32% of countries either need to update or activate their laws in line with current digital variables, with 8 countries: Bahrain, Jordan, Israel, Tunisia, Algeria, Libya, Sudan, and Iran, meanwhile, 28% of countries have an effective law on regulating the circulation of information, namely, UAE, Kuwait, Qatar, Lebanon, Yemen, Turkey, Morocco.

Regarding the existence of an open digital platform to enable citizens to access information, the data showed that 36% of the countries covered in the report have effective digital platforms, namely, UAE, Qatar, Turkey, Jordan, Israel, Tunisia, Mauritania, Somalia, and Saudi Arabia. Also 52% of countries have a digital government platform, but face challenges, either containing out of date data, or are limited to providing government services to citizens without data and information, by 13 countries, namely, Palestine, Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Djibouti, Comoros, Bahrain, Iran, Morocco, Yemen, Lebanon, and Kuwait. Data also showed that 3 countries do not have an open digital data platform, Algeria, Libya and Sudan, by a 12% percentage.

Overall, while three countries reached the highest index value of “1”, 15 countries, amounting to 60% of the listed countries, could not exceed 50% of the index's value. This is either for reasons related to the absence of the law on circulation of Information, or to the existence of an ineffective platform and therefore citizens cannot access data smoothly and securely.

Conclusions and recommendations

Among the most important conclusion of partners for transparency, while only three countries covered by report lack an anti-corruption and promotion integrity bodies , another 10 possess anti-corruption bodies, although they do not have sufficient independence to exercise their oversight role, as well as their role in the investigation process, Thus, more than 50% of the covered States require an independent anti-corruption body. Moreover, over 50% of the States covered in the report also need an effective anti-corruption strategy and promote integrity , which supports citizens' political confidence, leading to effective citizen participation in public affairs, which would support the achievement of the SDGs in their various forms.



Although the legal structure of some States is complementary, with laws to combat corruption, witnesses protection and disclose assets and sources, the procedures followed by State institutions are incompatible with this legal structure. This indicates that a political and societal will is required to enforce the law and strengthen its rule, in addition to the fact that activities in some states are fragile, despite the existence of an anti-corruption body.

Partners for Transparency therefore recommends that the Governments of Oman, UAE, Tunisia, Bahrain, Djibouti, Iran, Mauritania, Turkey, Israel, Somalia, Syria, Libya and Sudan provide what is necessary for the establishment of an independent anti-corruption body that support integrity and transparency. **Partners for Transparency also recommends** that the governments of Bahrain, Qatar, Djibouti, Iran, Mauritania, Turkey, Israel, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia, UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Comoros work on building a new phase of their anti-corruption strategies, or building a national strategy and action plan. **Partners also call for** the adopting of a law that would regulate the protection of whistleblowers and witnesses to corruption incidents, in Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, Syria, Turkey, Iran, Egypt, Djibouti, Israel, Algeria, Libya, and Somalia.