



Summary of The annual report of the Integrity and Anti-Corruption Support Index In Middle East and Arab Region 2024



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Executive summary

The Integrity and Anti-Corruption Index report provides Partners for Transparency with an analysis of efforts in promoting integrity and fighting corruption in the Arab region and the Middle East. The report indicates that corruption impedes development and undermines public trust, which enhance social inequality. It also sheds light on the importance of providing data to citizens and applying strong anti-corruption measures to achieve stability and sustainable growth. The report reviews the current legal and legislative contexts in the region, and concludes that there is a weakness in most states' legal and institutional frameworks, as well as a discrepancy between the practices of relevant agencies and the applicable laws.

Partners for Transparency, through its first annual Integrity and Anti-Corruption Index report, has reached a bunch of general conclusions, including that there is a clear link between the state's security and political stability and its capacity to implement effective anti-corruption policies. It also stresses that the correlation exists to a great extent between stability in its various dimensions, the levels of the rule of law and States' willingness to enforce the law clearly against various cases of corruption, particularly those occurring at higher levels of the State.

Thus, it presents a number of recommendations, most notably calling upon the governments of Comoros, Somalia and Syria to begin the first and second review sessions under the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the work of the Working Group on Review of the Implementation of the Convention's provisions for chapters 2 to 5, as well as emphasizing the importance of adopting a law on whistleblowers and witnesses in Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, Syria, Turkey, Iran, Egypt, Israel, Algeria, Libya, and Somalia. It also recommended working on adopting a law regulating asset disclosure and preventing conflict of interest in Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Syria, Iran, Israel, Sudan, and Somalia.

The Report's Spatial and Time Frame

The report seeks to measure anti-corruption and integrity efforts during 2024 in the 25 countries of the Middle East and Arab region, which are as follows: the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Palestine, Israel, Yemen, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Sudan, Mauritania, Somalia, Comoros, Iran, Turkey, and Djibouti.

Report Methodology

Partners for Transparency followed a scientific methodology in building the Integrity and Anti-Corruption Support Index in the reporting regions based on breaking each country's major indicator into 3 sub-indicators with relative weight, whereby the value of the 3 sub-indicators as a whole constitutes the value of the major indicator. Each country's value on the Integrity and Anti-Corruption Index ranges from 0-1, where the value (0) indicates that the state has not taken actions capable of undermining corruption, illegal financial and administrative practices and promoting integrity, while the value (1) indicates that the situation of combatting corruption and promoting integrity in a country is at its finest. The sub-indicators that make up the main indicator are as follows:

Indicator 1: Government's effectiveness

Its relative weight is 30% of the total value of the main indicator equivalent to 0.3, and this indicator measures four main actions as follows:

| Actions measured in the Government's effectiveness index | Total value |
|---|-------------|
| Existence of an independent anti-corruption body | 0.25 |
| Existence of a national anti-corruption strategy | 0.25 |
| A supportive anti-corruption legal structure | 0.25 |
| Position on the review of the implementation of the UNCAC | 0.25 |

Indicator 2: Rule of law

The relative weight of the rule of law index is 40% of the core index's total value equivalent to 0.4. This indicator consists of three sub-indicators as follows:

| Indicators measured in the Rule of Law Index | Total value |
|--|-------------|
| Law enforcement in dealing with corruption | 0.5 |
| Order and security in the reporting States | 0.3 |
| Parliamentary oversight of the Government's powers | 0.2 |

Indicator 3: Institutions or Administration Transparency

Its relative weight is 30% of the total value of the main indicator equivalent to 0.3. This indicator consists of two sub-indicators of which it falls as follows:

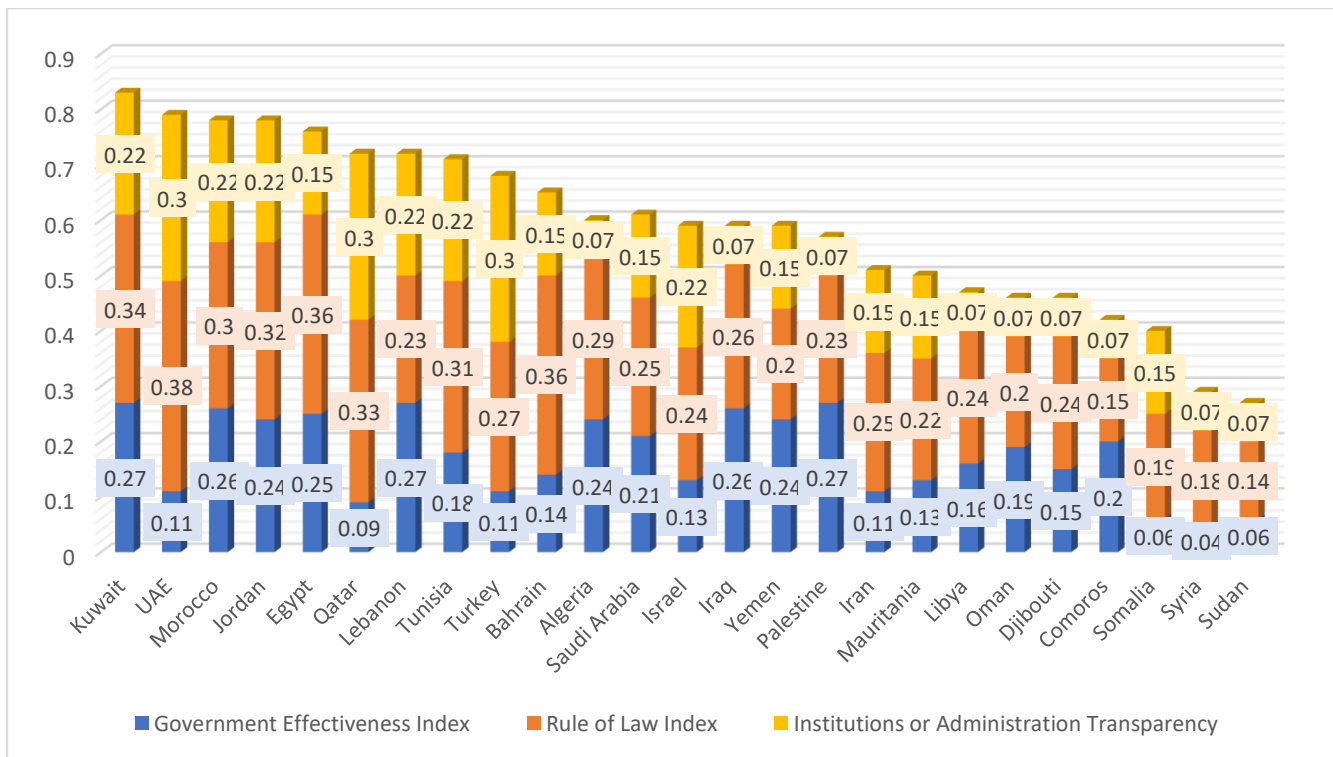
| Procedures measured in Institutions or Administration Transparency | Total value |
|---|-------------|
| The existence of a law regulating the circulation and access to information | 0.5 |
| The existence of an open digital platform to enable citizens to access government data smoothly | 0.5 |

The 25 States covered in the report should be classified into three main levels as follows:

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

State of Integrity and Anti-Corruption Support Index

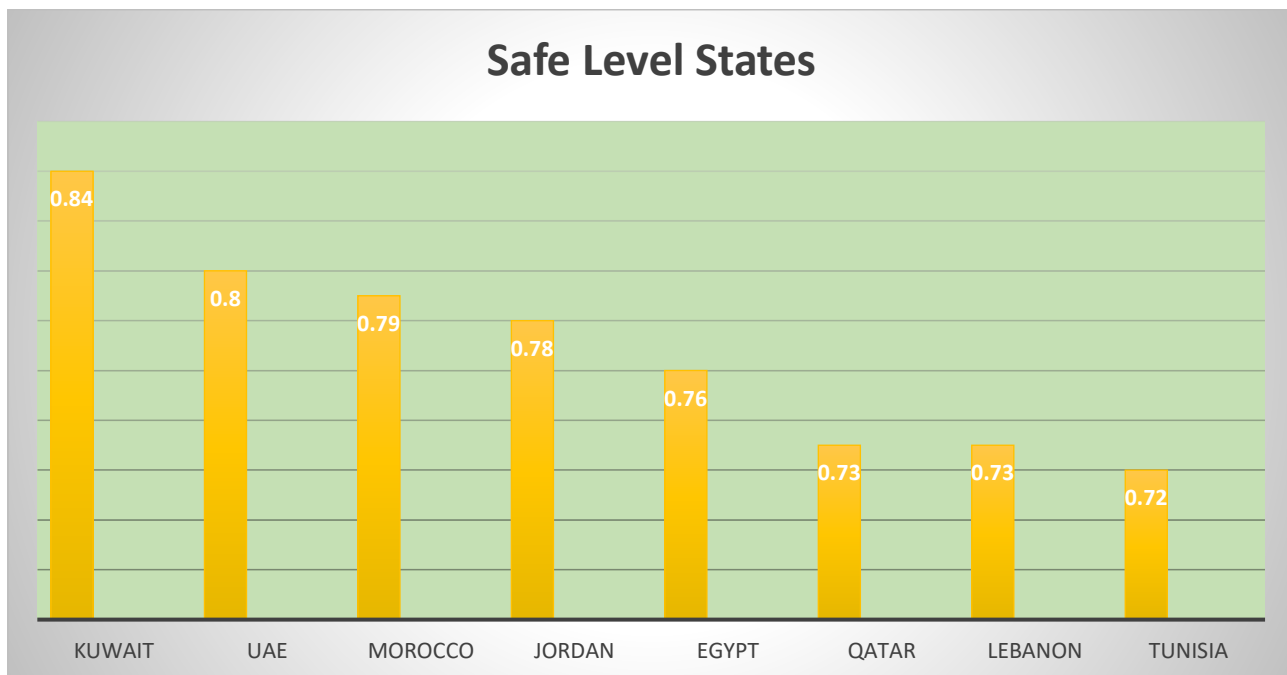
Figure 1: General situation of States in the Integrity and Anti-Corruption Support Index



The attached data shows that 8 countries out of 25 countries included in the report live within the safe level in terms of combating corruption, at a rate of 32%, and they are, in order: Kuwait, UAE, Morocco, Jordan, Egypt, Qatar, Lebanon, and Tunisia.

It is noted that 5 of these countries live under hereditary monarchies, namely Kuwait, UAE, Morocco, Jordan, and Qatar, which means that the state of stability in political leadership granted to a large extent by monarchies provides state institutions with a high degree of continuous work against corruption and illegal practices in institutions. It is also noted that 4 of these countries are at the level of political and security stability, within the security and order index, which is a branch of the rule of law index, and they are Kuwait, UAE, Qatar, and Egypt.

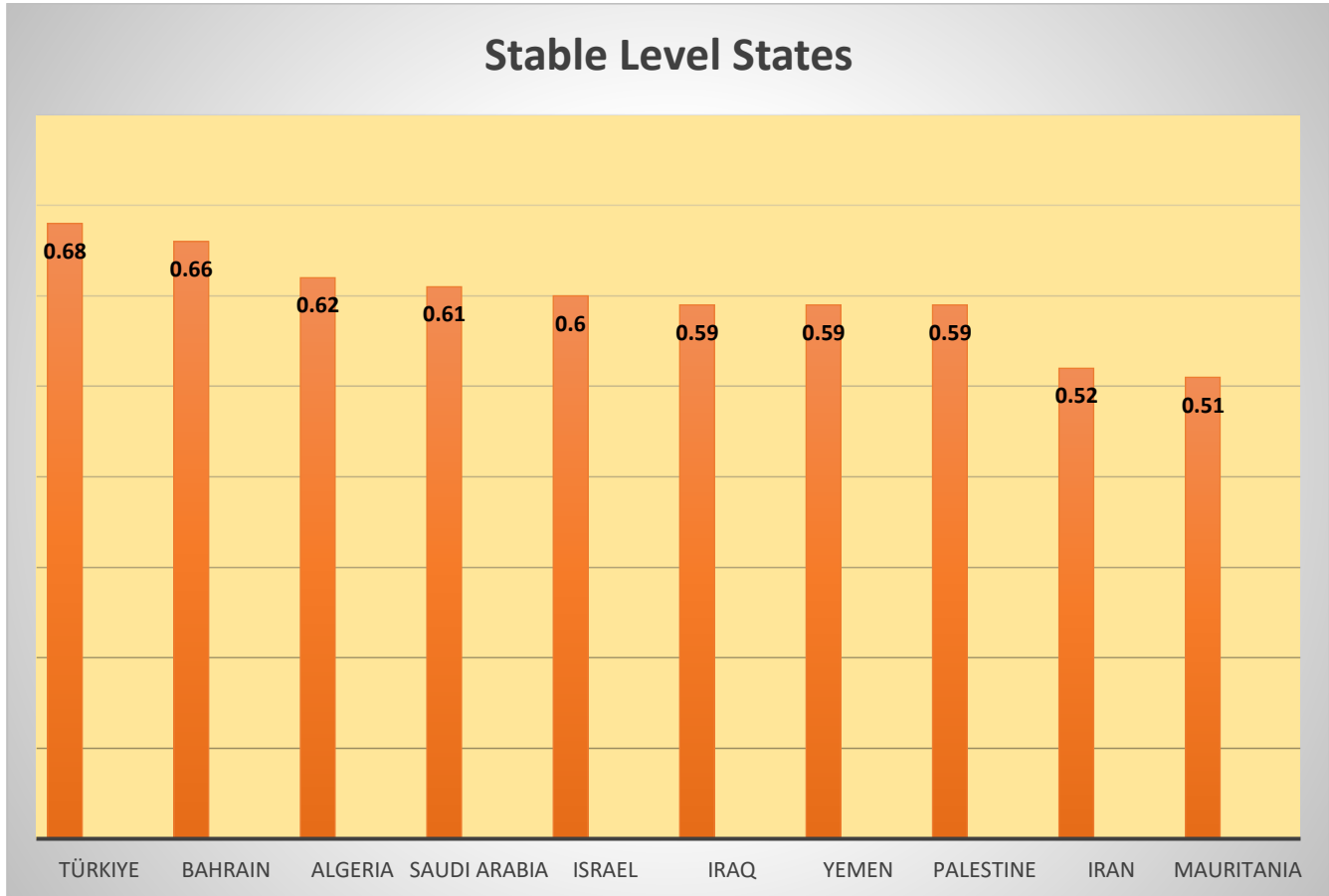
Figure 2: Safe Level States' Status



The level of stable countries in terms of combating corruption and supporting integrity includes 10 countries out of 25 countries included in the report, representing 40% of the total number of countries. These countries are, in order: Turkey, Bahrain, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Israel, Iraq, Yemen, Palestine, Iran, and Mauritania.

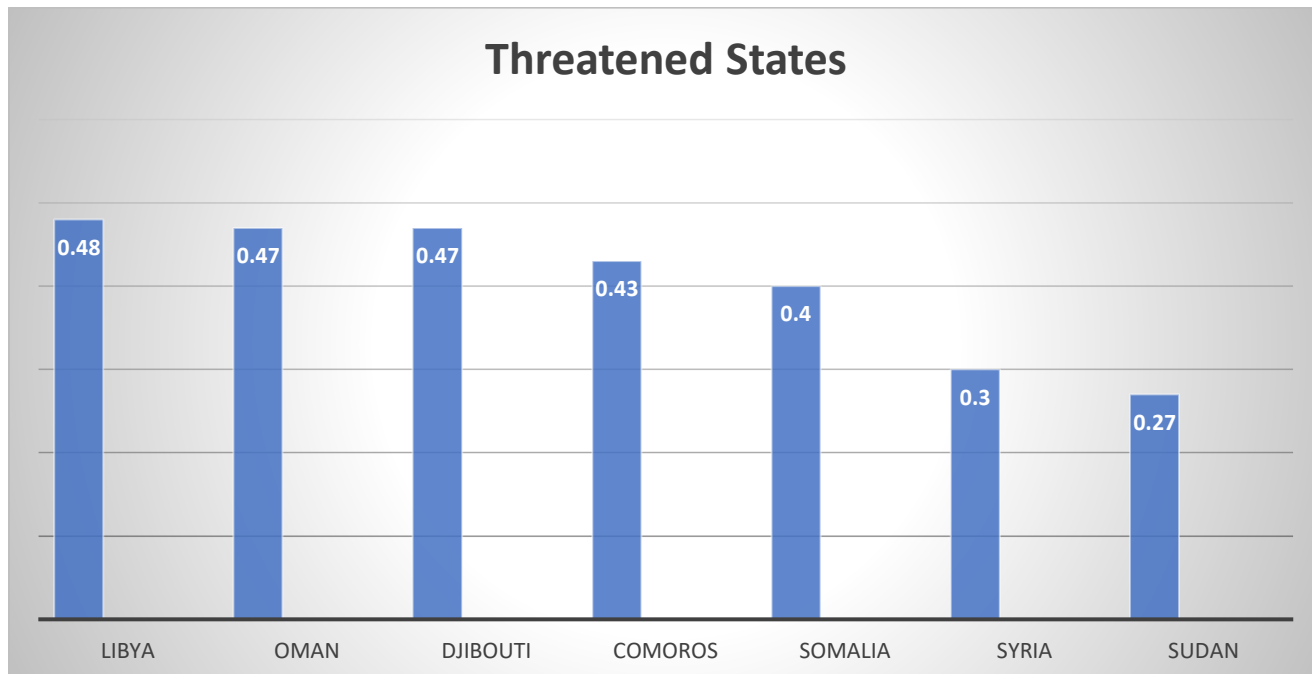
Countries at this level range between countries living in a state of political and security stability, especially Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, and other countries living in a state of internal tensions and unrest, which may affect the course of anti-corruption efforts, which is evident in Iraq, Turkey, Iran, Algeria, and Mauritania. Other countries are living in a state of armed conflict, such as Israel, through its ongoing attacks on Palestine and civilians in the Gaza Strip, as a result of the systematic settlement policies carried out by the occupation authorities, as well as the cases of Palestine and Yemen.

Figure 3: Stable Level States' Status



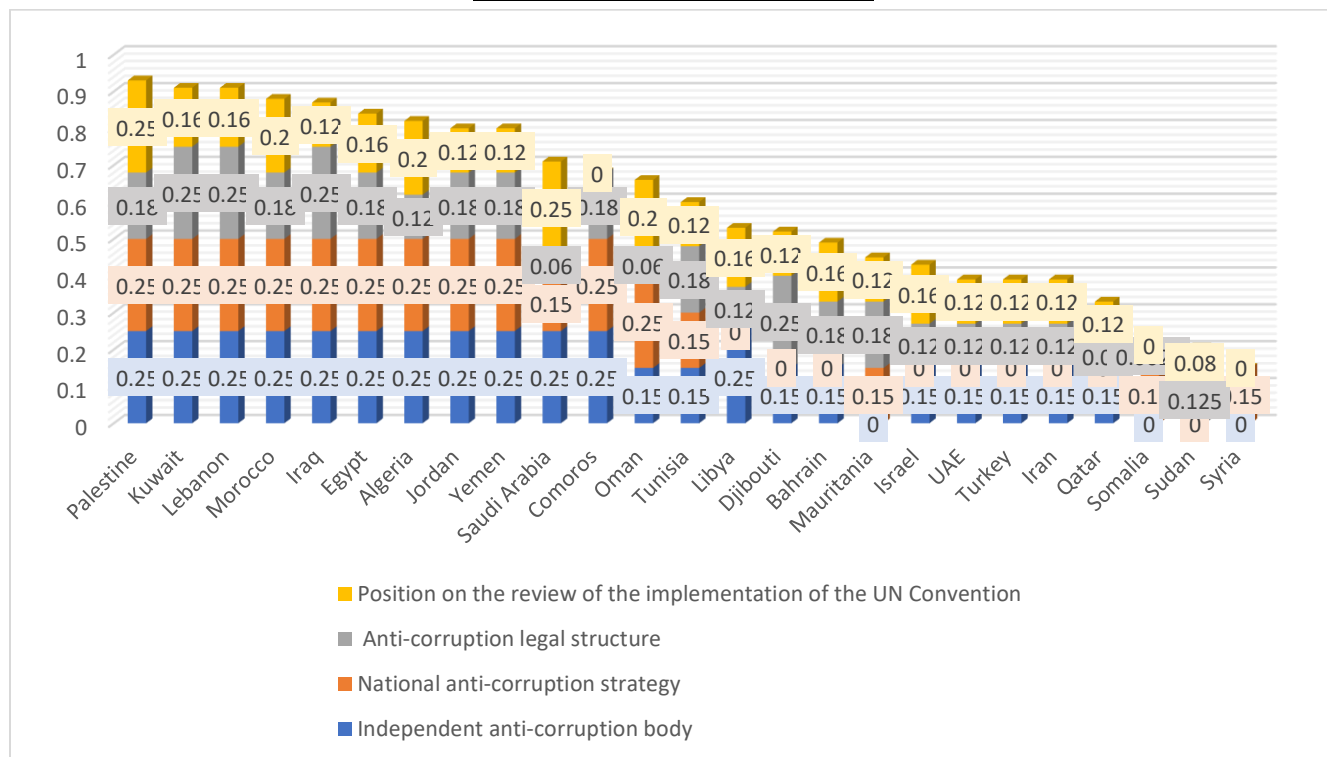
At the same time, 7 countries, representing 28% of the total number of countries included in the report, are threatened, none of which was able to reach 50% of the total index value. It is noted that 4 of these 7 countries are living in a state of conflict, namely Libya, Somalia, Syria, and Sudan, which reflects the clear impact of the state of stability at the security and political levels on the ability of institutions to seriously engage in combating corruption and enhancing integrity and transparency rates. Countries and governments usually tend to confront security or political risks that may affect the survival or existence of countries, and ignore interest in other files, including corruption.

Figure 4: Threatened Level States' Status



Indicator 1: Government's effectiveness

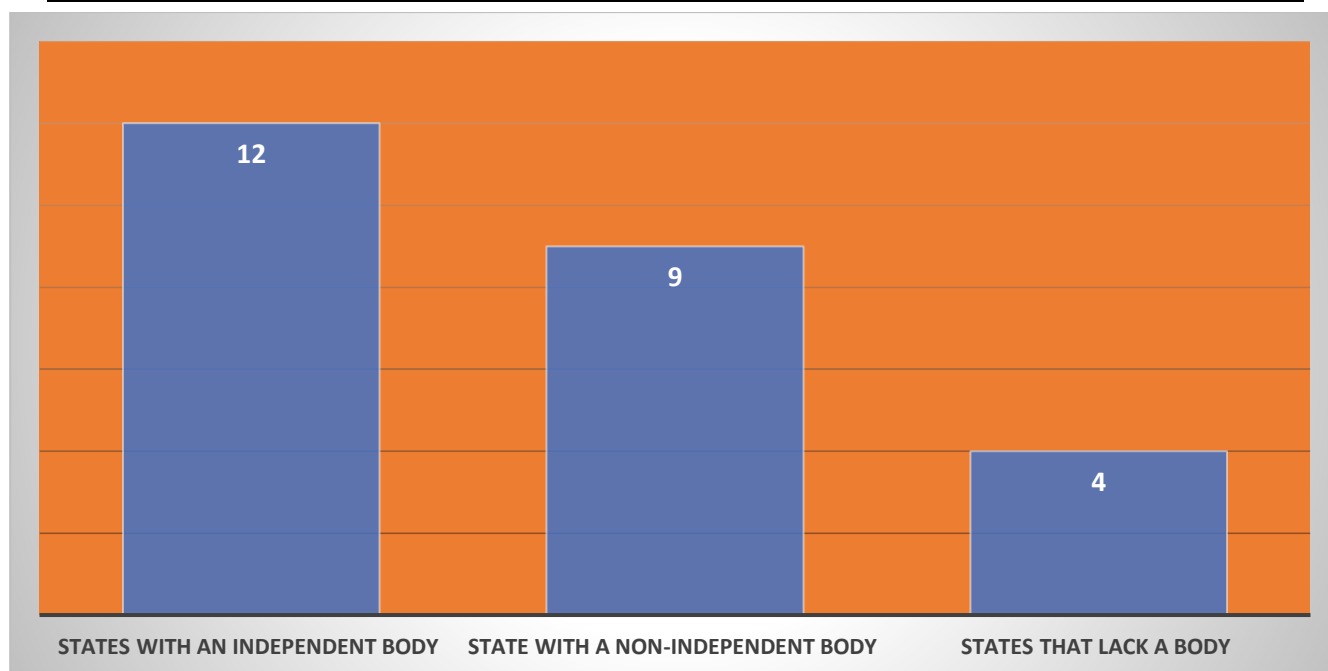
Figure 5: Status of countries in the Government's effectiveness index in the four measurement procedures



As for the first sub-indicator, which measures the extent of the existence of independent anti-corruption bodies in the countries concerned, the attached data shows that there are (12) countries in the Middle East and the Arab region, representing 48%, that have

independent anti-corruption bodies. These countries are: Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Egypt, Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan, Yemen, Palestine, Comoros, Algeria, Morocco, and Libya. (9) Other countries in the Middle East and Arab region, representing 36%, had bodies concerned with combating corruption, but they were not financially and administratively independent and were subordinate in their work to the executive authorities, which may affect the effectiveness of these bodies in confronting corruption in neutral and transparent ways. These countries are: the UAE, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, Turkey, Iran, Djibouti, Israel, and Tunisia. While (4) countries lacked official bodies concerned with combating corruption, at a rate of 16%, which limits their ability to confront this phenomenon in a systematic and effective manner. These countries are: Syria, Sudan, Somalia, and Mauritania.

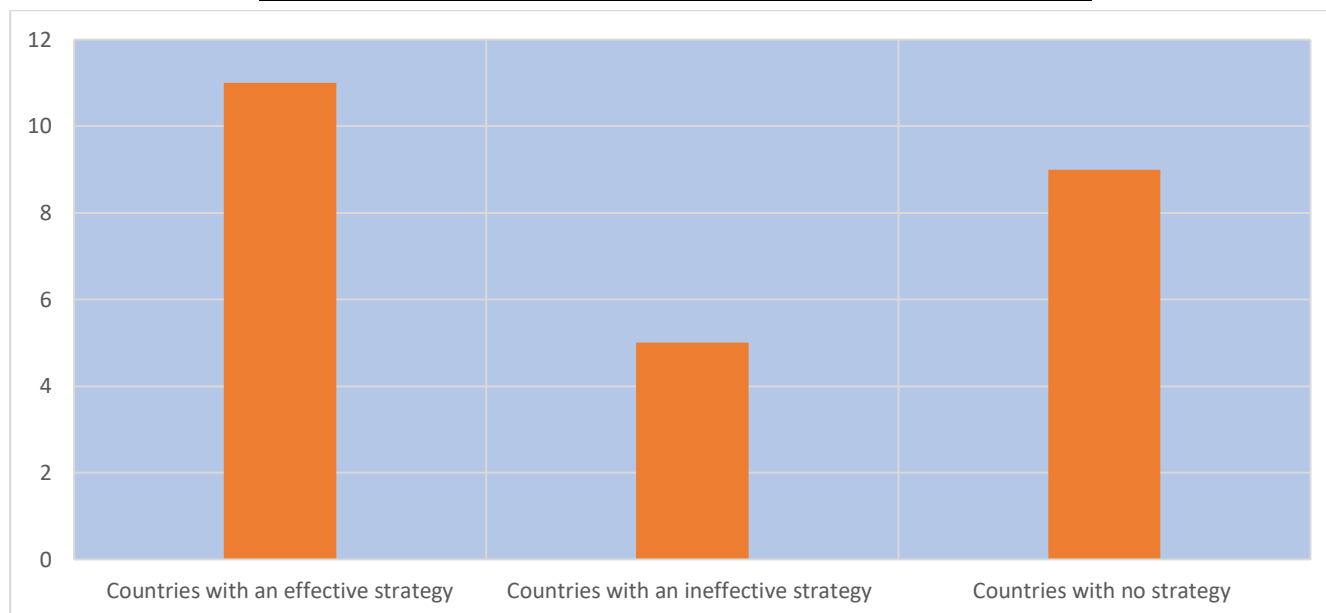
Figure 6: State's situation with regard to the existence of an anti-corruption body



As for the index that measures the extent of the existence of an effective national strategy to combat corruption, it was found that about (11) countries in the Middle East and the Arab region have effective national strategies to combat corruption, representing 44% of the total number of countries. These countries are: Kuwait, Oman, Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan, Yemen, Palestine, Egypt, Comoros, Algeria, and Morocco. (5) Other countries in the Middle East and Arab region, representing 20% of the total number of countries, had national strategies to combat corruption, but they were not activated during the year 2024. These countries are: Saudi Arabia, Syria, Somalia, Mauritania, and Tunisia. While (9) countries lacked a national strategy to combat

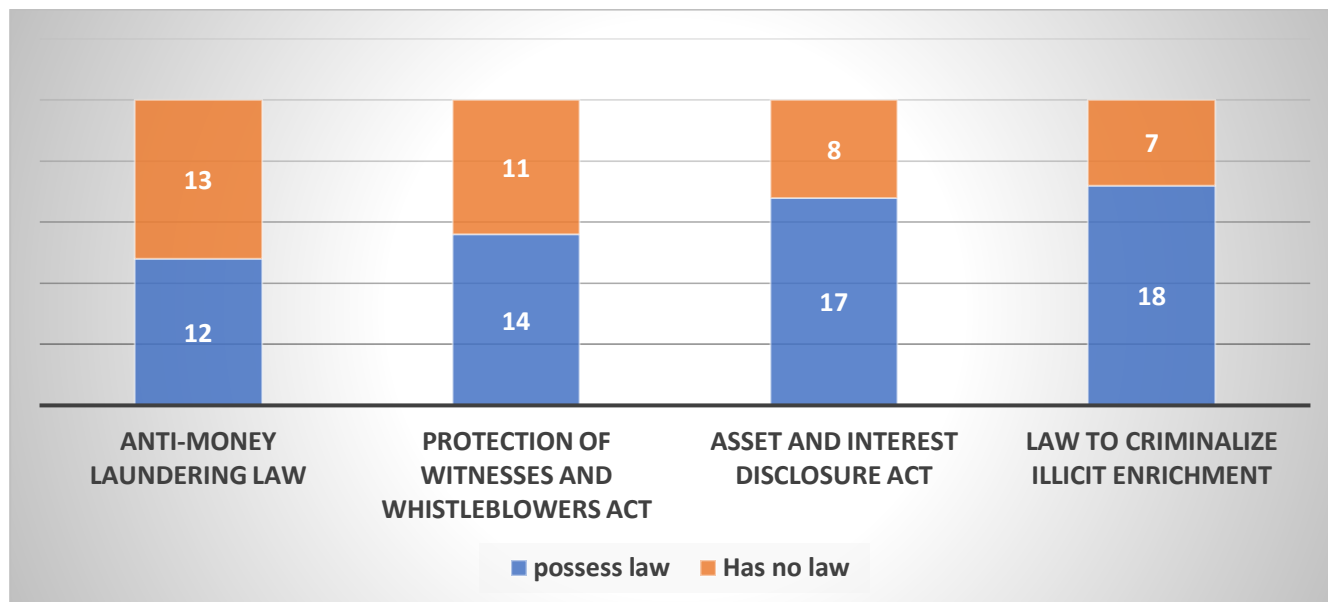
corruption in the first place, representing 36% of the total countries, and these countries are: the UAE, Bahrain, Qatar, Turkey, Iran, Djibouti, Israel, Libya, and Sudan, which reflects the absence of institutional efforts in these countries to develop a comprehensive framework to combat corruption.

Figure 7: Status of the State's anti-corruption strategy



Regarding the index that measures the extent of the existence of a legal structure that supports combating corruption, the results showed that 13 countries in the Middle East and the Arab region, representing 52% of countries, lacked a law to combat money laundering. These countries include Saudi Arabia, Oman, Syria, Jordan, Yemen, Palestine, Turkey, Comoros, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Sudan, and Mauritania. In addition, 11 other countries, representing 44% of countries, lacked a law to protect whistleblowers and witnesses, including Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, Syria, Turkey, Iran, Egypt, Israel, Algeria, Libya, and Somalia. 8 countries, representing 32%, do not have a law regulating the disclosure of assets and preventing conflicts of interest. These countries include Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Syria, Iran, Israel, Sudan, and Somalia. In addition, 7 of the countries concerned, representing 28%, still lack a law criminalizing illicit enrichment, namely Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Oman, Syria, Morocco, and Somalia.

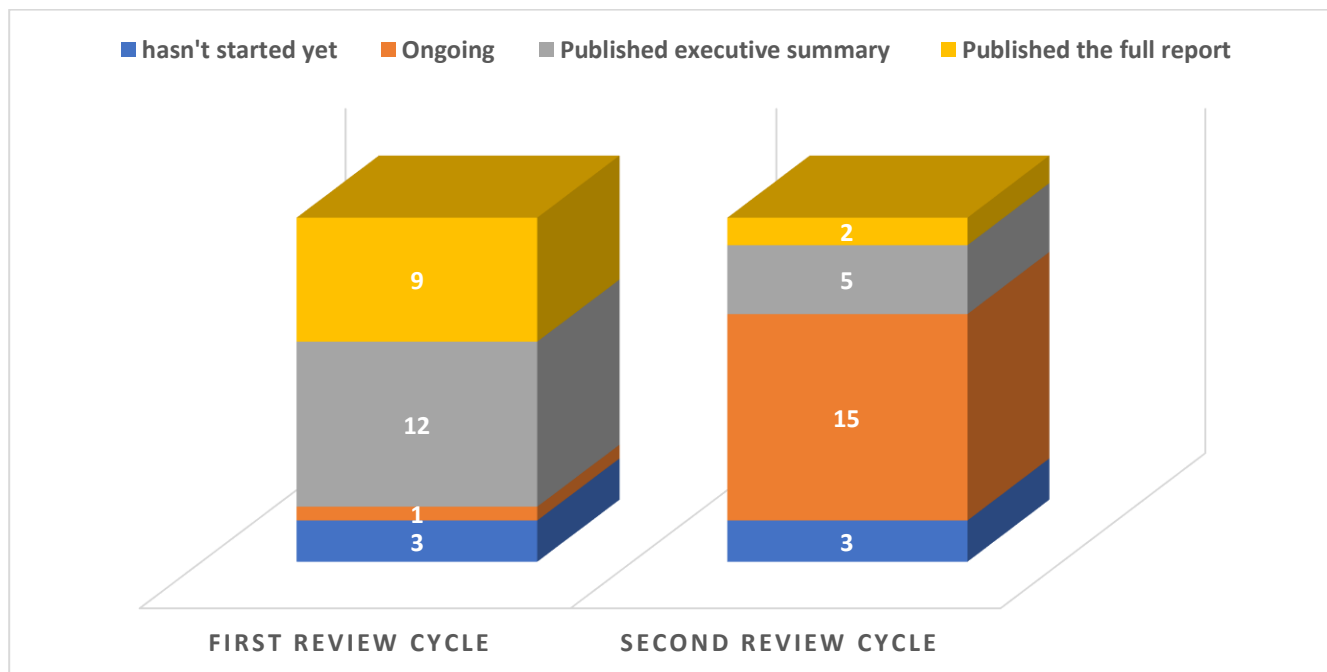
Figure 8: Legal structure of the States covered in the report



As for the indicator that measures the position of countries in reviewing their national reports on the UNCAC, it was found that during the first review cycle, (3) countries out of the countries included in the review of their national report did not comply, at a rate of 12%, namely the Comoros, Somalia and Syria. One country is still currently reviewing its national report, namely Sudan, at a rate of 4%, and 12 countries have completed the review procedures and published the summary of their executive report online, at a rate of 48%, and these countries are: Egypt, Tunisia, Lebanon, Djibouti, Yemen, Bahrain, Qatar, UAE, Jordan, Turkey, Mauritania and Iran. 9 other countries have completed the review procedures and published the executive summary and the country report in full online, at a rate of 36%, and these countries are: Israel, Libya, Oman, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Palestine, Algeria, Iraq, Kuwait and Morocco.

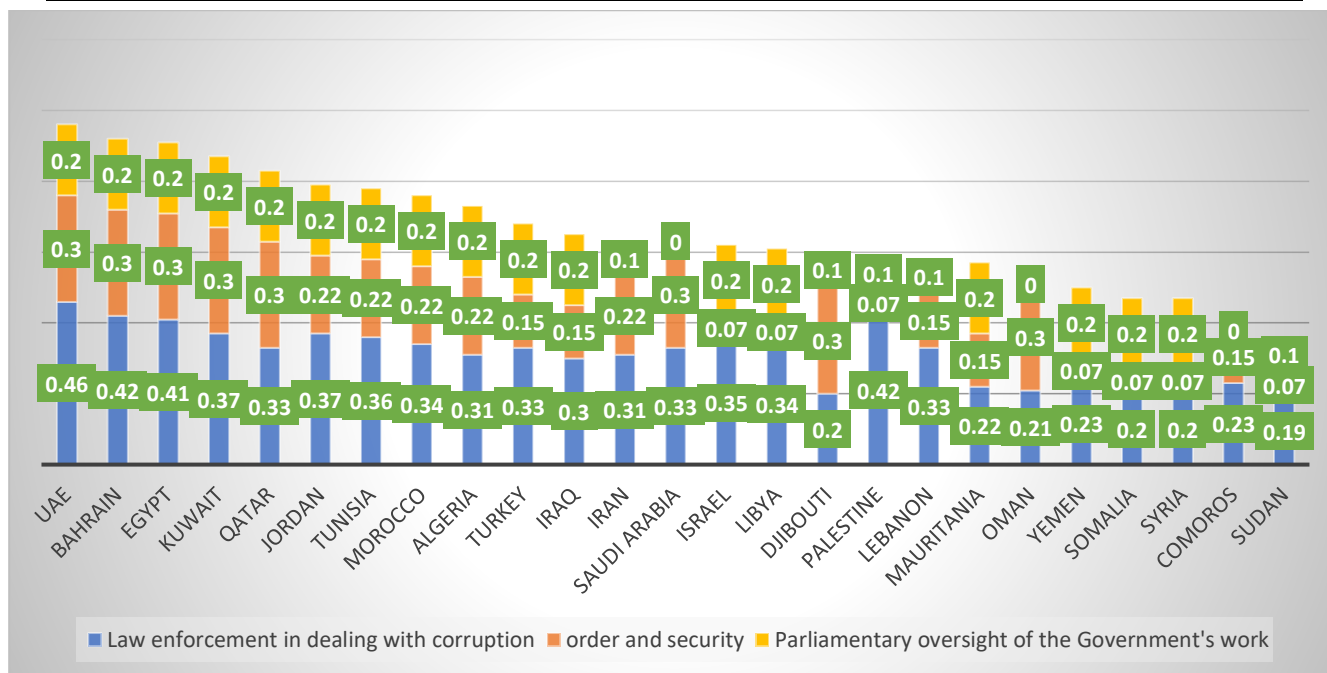
During the second review cycle, (3) countries, representing 12% of the countries included in the review of their national report, did not comply with the review, namely: Comoros, Somalia and Syria. (15) Countries are currently reviewing their national report, representing 60% of the countries. These countries are: Djibouti, Mauritania, Sudan, Israel, Lebanon, Qatar, Tunisia, Iraq, Jordan, UAE, Yemen, Libya, Kuwait, Iran and Turkey. (5) Countries completed the review procedures and published the summary of their executive report online, representing 20% of the countries. These countries are: Algeria, Oman, Bahrain, Egypt and Morocco. Two other countries completed the review procedures and published the executive summary and the country report in full online, representing 8% of the countries. These countries are: Saudi Arabia and Palestine.

Figure 9: States' position on the review sessions of the UNCAC



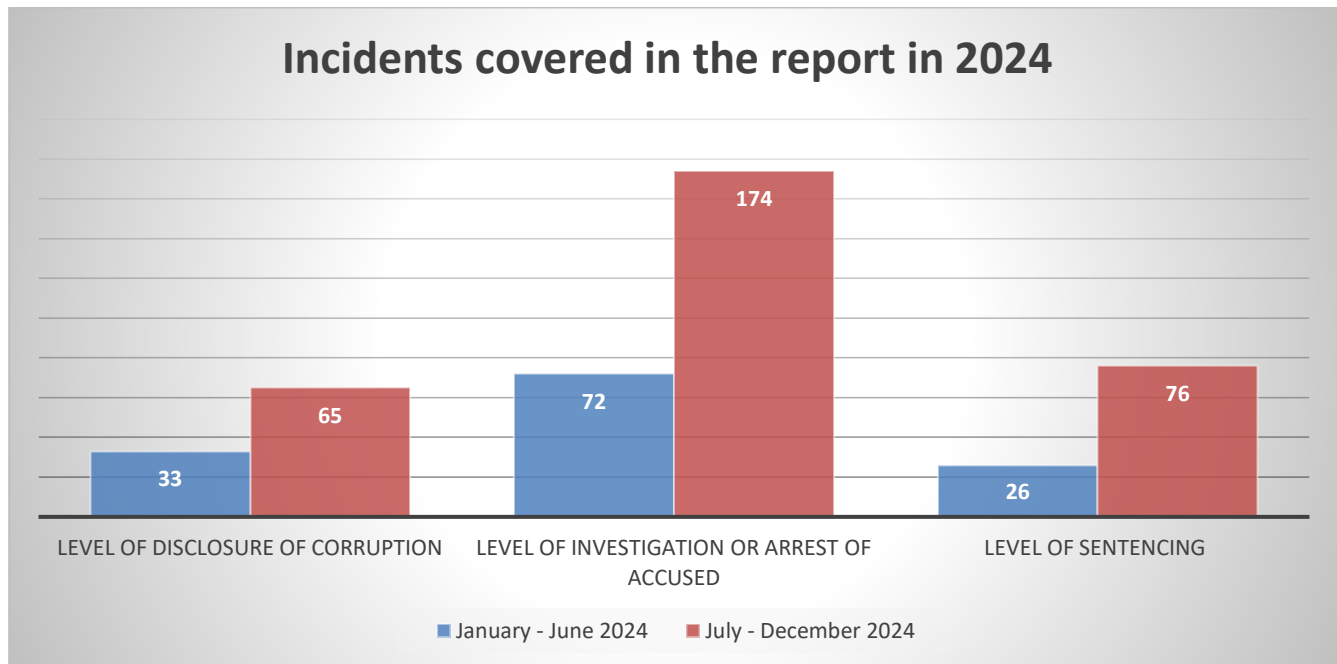
Indicator 2: Rule of law

Figure 10: Status of States in the Rule of Law Index in the three measured actions



1- Law enforcement in dealing with corruption cases

Figure 11: Status of incidents covered in the report in the first and second half of 2024



The previous graph shows that the number of incidents that Partners for Transparency was able to monitor and add to the report according to its work methodology, during the year 2024, reached 446 cases and incidents of corruption, including 131 incidents in the first half of the year, representing 29% of the total number of incidents, while 315 incidents were monitored in the second half of the year, representing 71%, which means that the total number of incidents in the second half in general is more than “two-thirds” compared to the first half of the year.

It is also evident that there is an increase in the number of incidents in the second half of 2024, at the three levels. With regard to the level of incident detection, while 33% of incidents were detected in the first half of the year, 67% of the total number of incidents were detected during the second half. Also, with regard to the level of incident investigation, 72 incidents were detected during the first half of the year, representing 29%, while during the second half of 2024, 174 corruption cases were detected in which an investigation or arrest of the accused was conducted, representing 71%. As for the third level related to issuing a judicial ruling regarding corruption incidents, it also witnessed an increase in the second half of the year. While 26 incidents were reached in the first half of the year, representing 25%, 76 incidents were reached in the second half, representing 75%.

Figure 12: Status of States' detection of corruption in 2024

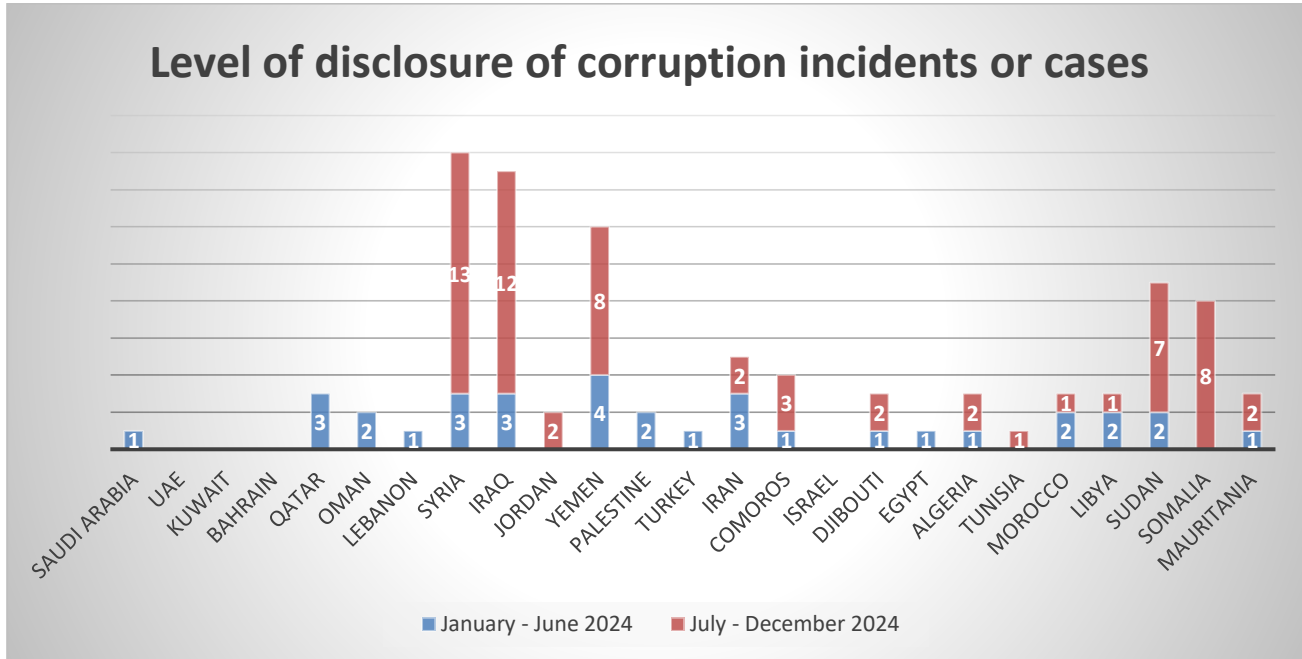


Figure 13: Status of the State's investigation in 2024

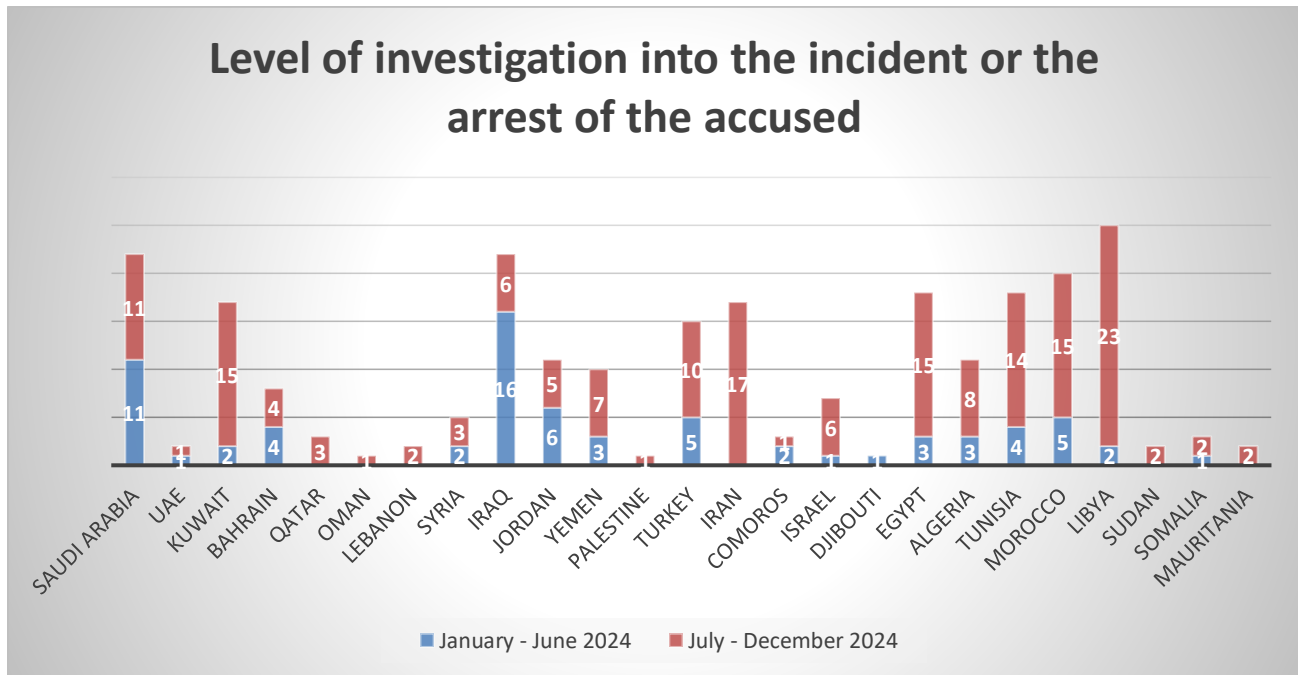


Figure 14: Status of States at the level of sentencing in 2024

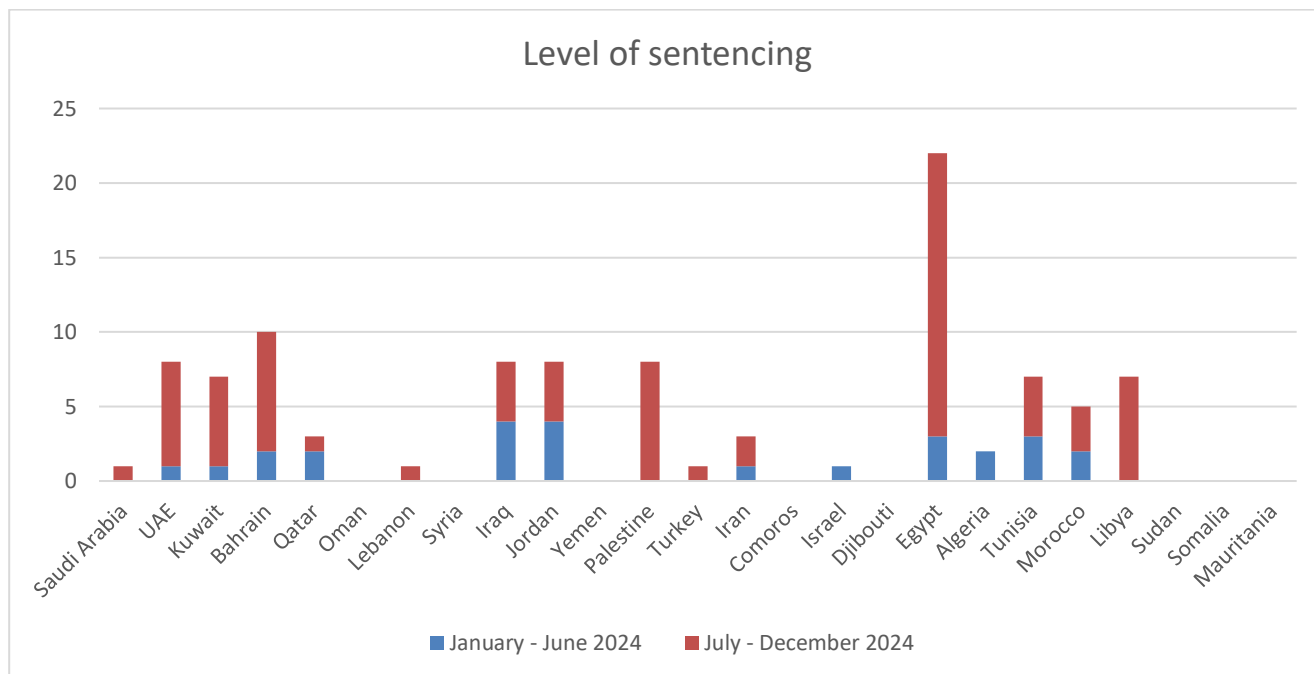
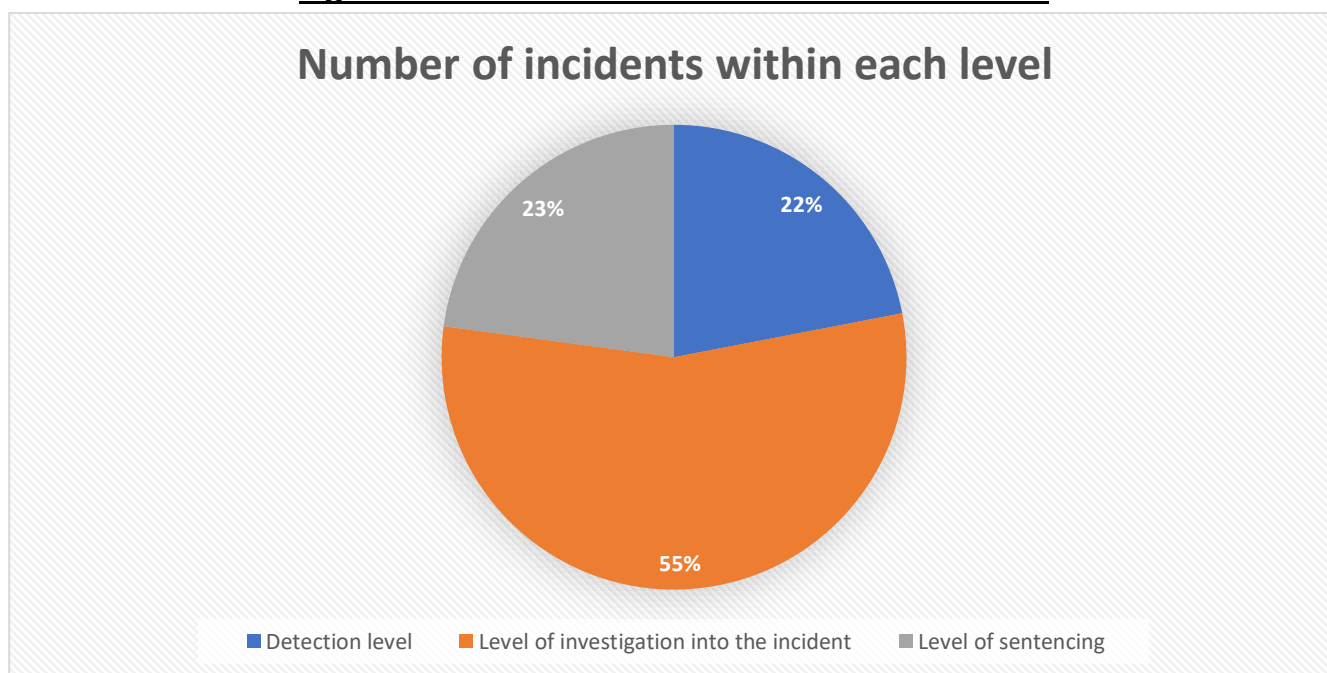


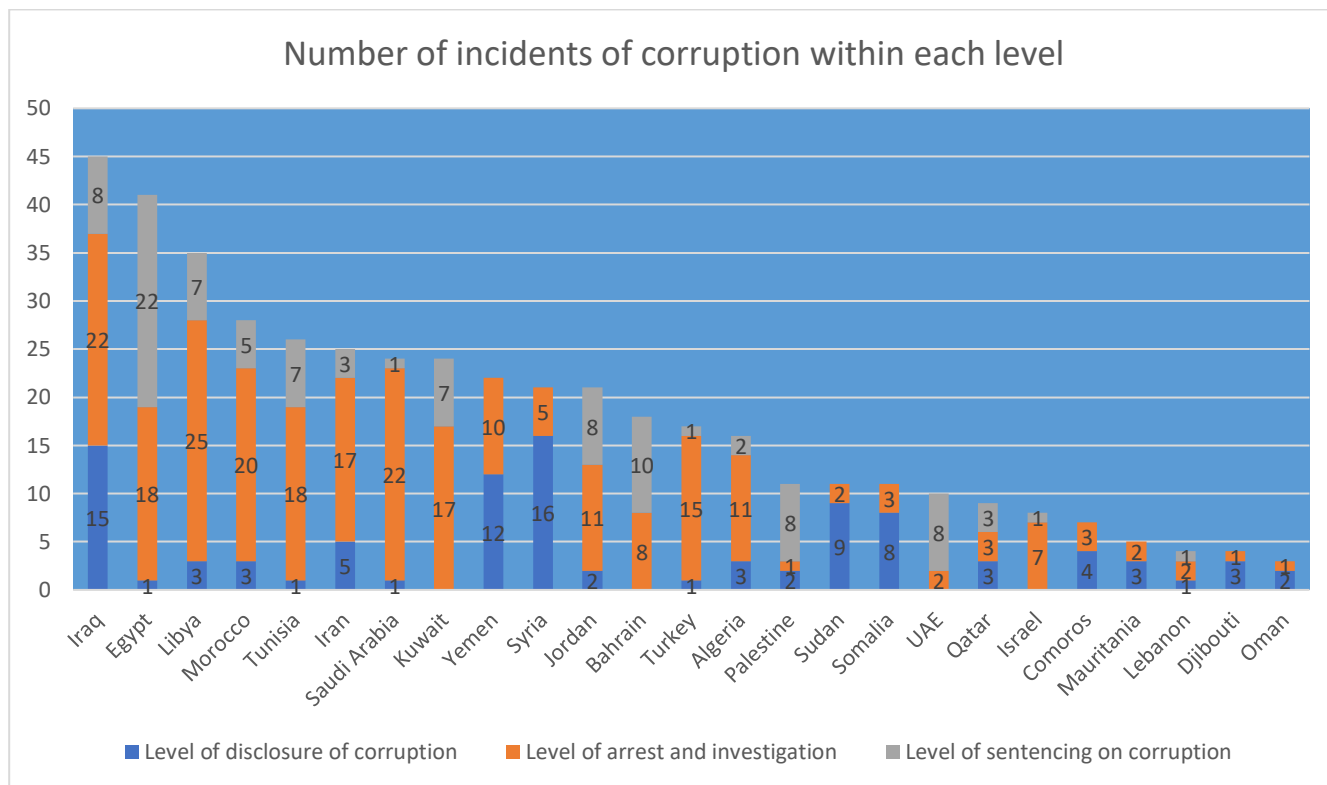
Figure 15: Number of incidents within each level



The previous graph shows that 55% of the incidents included in the report, amounting to 246 incidents or cases of corruption, the procedures regarding them stopped at the level of investigating these incidents or arresting the accused in preparation for starting the trial, while the relevant judicial authorities did not take any measures regarding 98 incidents, representing 22% of the total incidents that were monitored. In some of these incidents, the procedures were negative, reaching the assassination of an official after

uncovering incidents of corruption in Syria, while the judicial authorities issued judicial rulings regarding 102 incidents, representing 23% of the total incidents.

Figure 16: Number of incidents of corruption in each State



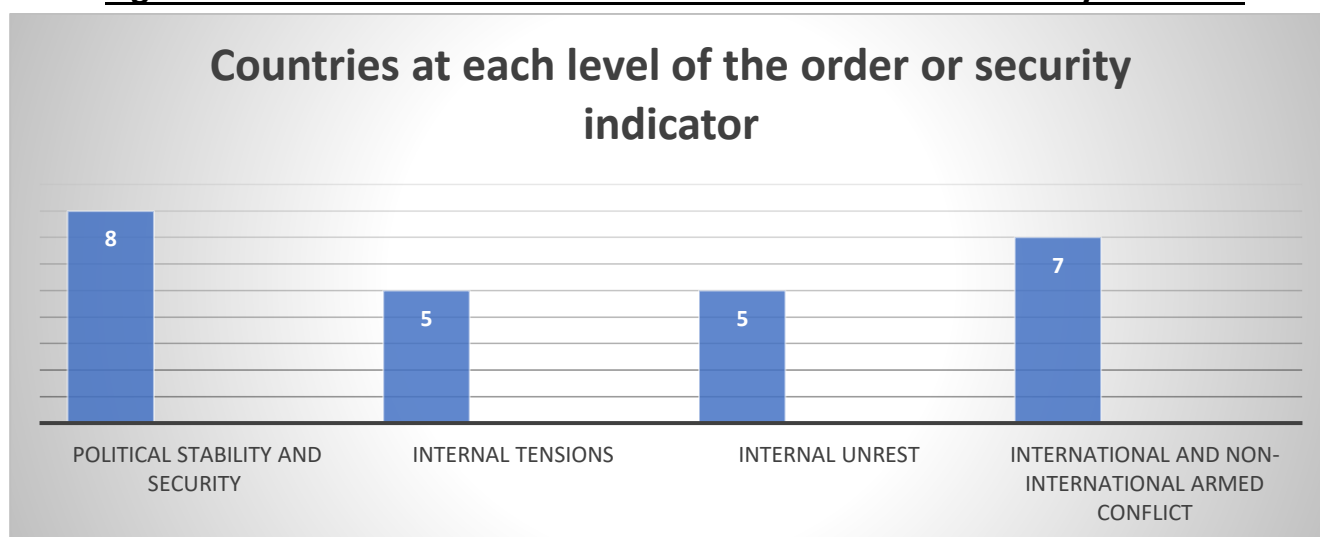
Regarding the level of issuing judicial rulings regarding corruption incidents, Egypt topped the list of countries in which the concerned authorities were able to issue sentences in dealing with corruption cases and incidents. Out of 102 corruption cases in which a judicial ruling was issued, Egypt had a share of 22 incidents, representing 22% of the total number of incidents, followed by Bahrain, where the authorities issued judicial rulings regarding 10 incidents, representing 9% of the total incidents. In each of Iraq, Jordan, Palestine, and the Emirates, the concerned authorities issued judicial rulings regarding 8 incidents that were monitored in each of them, representing 8% of the total number of incidents for each of them. In each of Libya, Tunisia, and Kuwait, the judicial authorities issued rulings regarding 7 corruption cases, representing 7% of the total number of incidents in which a judicial ruling was issued, for each of the 3 countries. As for the level of arrest of the accused or the initiation of investigations with the accused in corruption cases in preparation for their trial, it was found that only 12 countries out of 25 countries included in the report arrested or investigated 189 cases of corruption that were monitored, representing 77% of the total incidents that were investigated or arrested. These countries, in order, are: Libya - 25 cases of corruption, representing 10%,

then Iraq and Saudi Arabia - 22 cases each, representing 8.9%, then Morocco - 20 cases, representing 8%, then Egypt and Tunisia - 18 cases each, representing 7.3%, as well as Iran and Kuwait - 17 cases each, representing 7%, then Turkey - 15 cases, representing 6%, then Jordan and Algeria - 11 cases each, representing 5%, and finally Yemen with 10 cases, representing 4%.

Regarding the level of corruption disclosure, the data collected showed that only 5 countries accounted for 61% of the total incidents that were disclosed, without any positive steps taken by the agencies and authorities to deal with them, and sometimes the procedures tended to be negative. These countries are, in order: Syria - 16 incidents, representing 16%, then Iraq - 15 incidents, representing 15%, then Yemen - 12 incidents, which it forgot 12%, then Sudan - 9 incidents, representing 9%, and finally Somalia - 8 incidents, representing 8%.

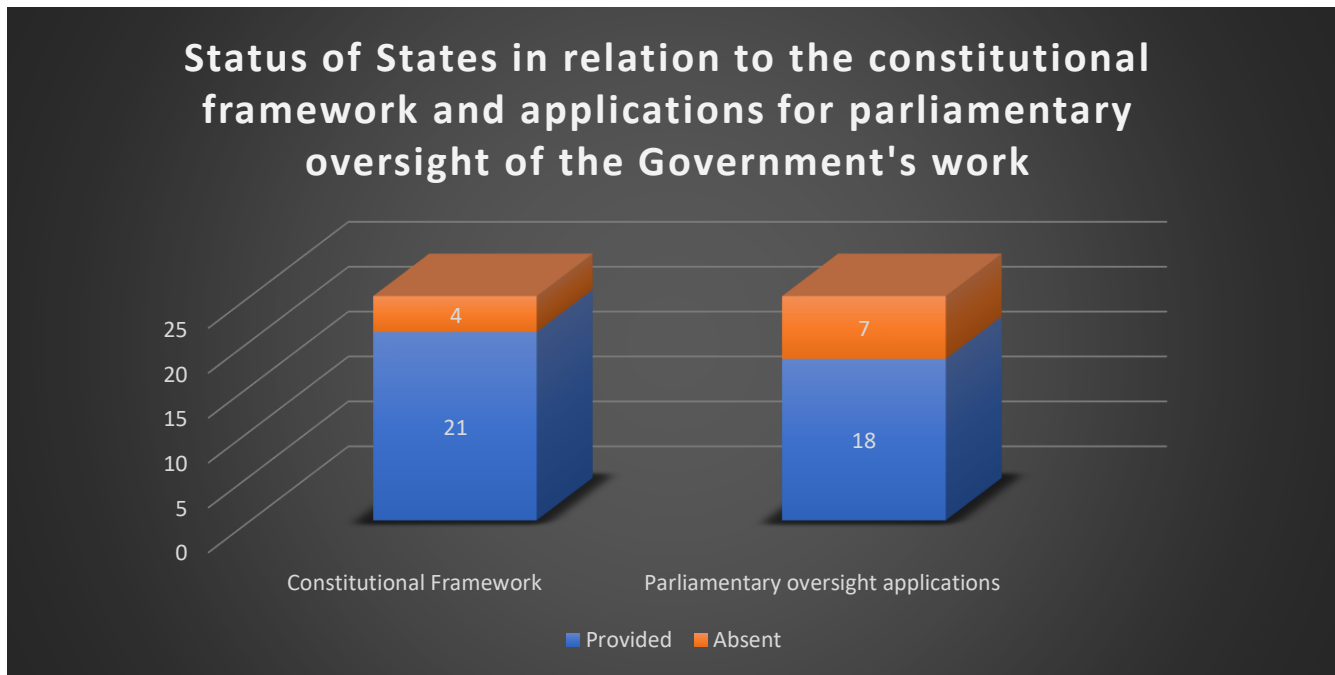
2- Order and Security

Figure 17: status of States at the levels of the order and Security indicator



3- Parliamentary oversight of the Government's work

Figure 18: Status of States in relation to the constitutional framework and applications for parliamentary oversight of the Government's work

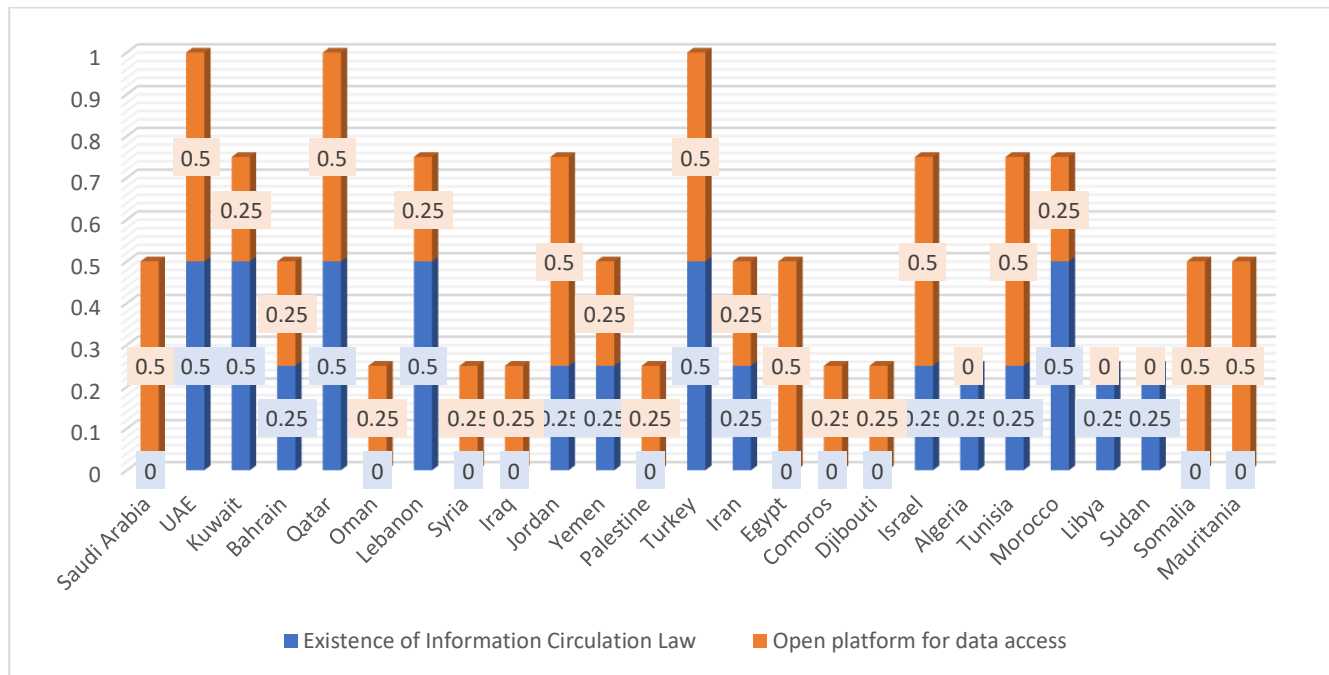


The previous graph shows that 21 countries have in their constitutions texts that emphasize parliamentary oversight of government work, within the framework of the work assigned to the legislative authority, regardless of its names and nature of its composition, which represents 84% of the total number of countries included in the report, with the exception of 4 countries, namely Saudi Arabia, Oman, Lebanon, and the Comoros.

In the same context, it appears that 18 countries, representing 72% of the total number of countries, have exercised these constitutional entitlements related to parliamentary oversight of government work, whether through interrogations in their various forms, or through requests for general discussion, or requests for briefing, while it was impossible to exercise these powers in a number of countries amounting to 7 countries, representing 28% of the total number of countries. It is worth noting that some of these countries do not have a legislative authority at the present time, as is the case in both Sudan and Palestine.

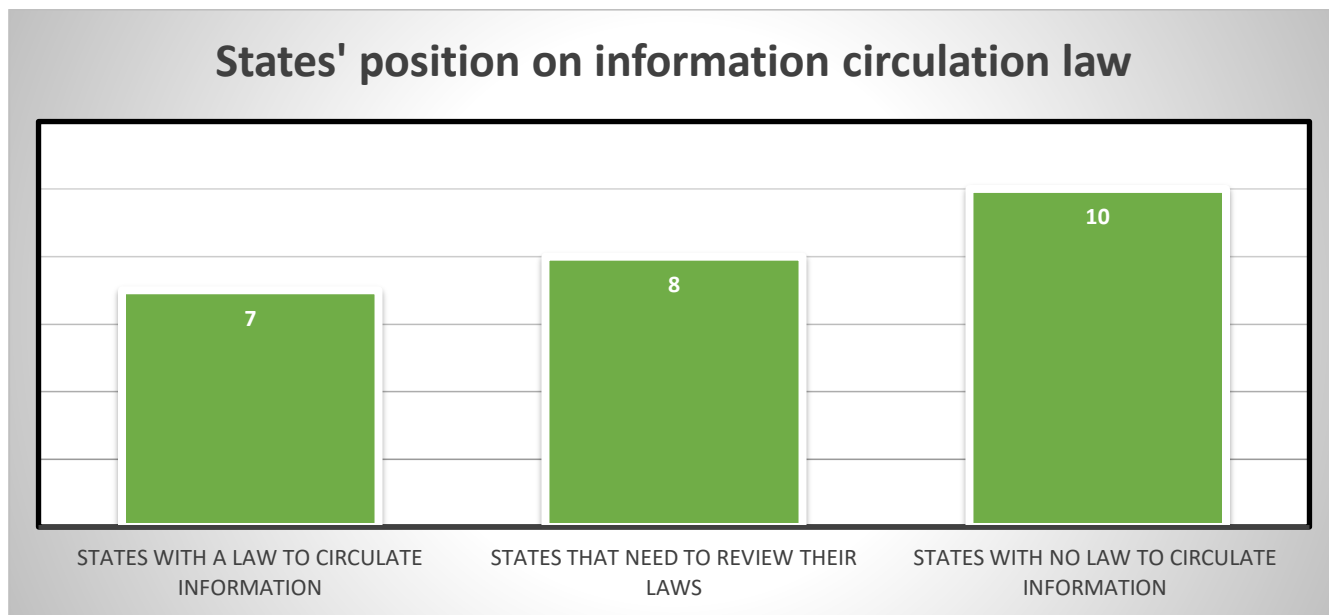
Indicator 3: Institutions or Administration Transparency

Figure 19: Status of States' administrative and institutional transparency index as measured

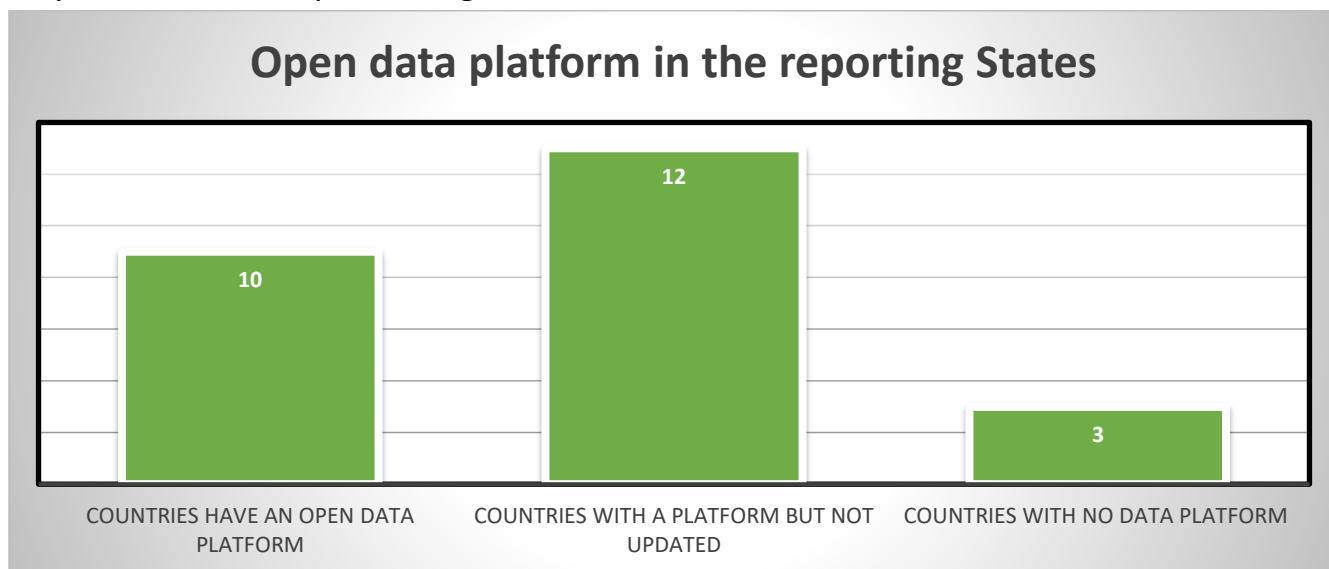


Data on the procedure related to the existence of a law for the circulation of information shows that 7 countries, representing 28% of countries, have an effective law to regulate the process of circulation of information, namely the UAE, Kuwait, Qatar, Lebanon, Yemen, Turkey, and Morocco. It is also noted that 32% of countries either need their laws to be updated or activated in line with current digital changes, with 8 countries: Bahrain, Jordan, Israel, Tunisia, Algeria, Libya, Sudan, and Iran. At the same time, it is clear that 40% of the countries included in the report need a law for the circulation of information and data, with 10 countries: Syria, Iraq, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Comoros, Mauritania, Somalia, Oman, Djibouti, and Palestine.

Figure 20: States' position on information circulation law



Regarding the existence of an open digital platform to enable citizens to obtain data, the data showed that 10 countries, representing 40% of the countries included in the report, have effective digital platforms, namely the UAE, Qatar, Egypt, Turkey, Jordan, Israel, Tunisia, Mauritania, Somalia, and Saudi Arabia. It also showed that 48% of the countries have a government digital platform, but they face challenges, either because it contains outdated data, or because it is limited to providing government services to citizens without data and information, with 12 countries, namely Oman, Palestine, Syria, Iraq, Djibouti, Comoros, Bahrain, Iran, Morocco, Yemen, Lebanon, and Kuwait. The data also showed that 3 countries do not have an open digital platform for data, namely Algeria, Libya, and Sudan, representing 12%.



Recommendations

In the light of its findings, Partners for Transparency recommends that:

- 1- Recommends that the Governments of the Comoros, Somalia and Syria begin the review process for the first cycle, the second cycle of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and the work of the working group on the implementation of the Convention's provisions in chapters 2 to 5.
- 2- Recommends that the Governments of Saudi Arabia, Oman, Syria, Jordan, Yemen, Palestine, Turkey, Comoros, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Sudan and Mauritania passage an anti-money laundering law.
- 3- Stresses the importance of adopting a law to protect whistleblowers and witnesses in all Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, Syria, Turkey, Iran, Egypt, Israel, Algeria, Libya and Somalia.
- 4- Recommends the adoption of a law to regulate asset disclosure and prevent conflicts of interest in Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Syria, Iran, Israel, Sudan and Somalia.
- 5- Stresses the importance of passing a law criminalizing illicit enrichment in Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Oman, Syria, Morocco and Somalia.
- 6- Calls on governments to build a platform to enhance citizens' access to government information and data in Algeria, Libya and the Sudan.
- 7- Stresses the importance of a law for the circulation of information and data, both in Syria, Iraq, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Comoros, Mauritania, Somalia, Oman, Djibouti, Palestine.