



Middle East and North Africa's Network Annual Report

Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency – Global Support Programme (CBIT-GSP)

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Executive Summary

The Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency - Global Support Programme (CBIT-GSP) has played a pivotal role in supporting the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) region in fulfilling the climate transparency obligations outlined under the Paris Agreement. In 2024, the CBIT-GSP MENA Network focused on strengthening the capacity of countries to comply with the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF), particularly in the preparation of Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs), Greenhouse Gas (GHG) inventories, and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) tracking. This report summarizes the key achievements, challenges, and lessons learned during 2024.

A total of 37 events were conducted across the region, including 20 regional activities and several in-country workshops. These efforts engaged 1343 attendees, with nearly 47% of them being women. A strong emphasis was placed on gender inclusivity and the active participation of vulnerable countries such as Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The activities were designed to strengthen national systems for climate transparency, especially targeting gaps in the preparation of BTRs, GHG inventories, and NDC tracking.

The first Section provides a comprehensive analysis of the MENA Network's activities and accomplishments throughout 2024. The activities are categorized by their type, geographic coverage, alignment with the ETF, and the level of engagement from participants. A comparison between the 2024 Work Plan and the actual outcomes reveals several key areas for improvement. A gender-focused analysis of participation shows that efforts were made to ensure equitable representation of women in capacity-building activities. The chapter also identifies lessons learned, challenges faced, and areas where more targeted efforts are needed, such as overcoming logistical barriers and enhancing gender mainstreaming in climate reporting.

In November 2024, a post-training survey was conducted to assess the effectiveness of the activities carried out by the MENA Network. The survey, which gathered feedback from 65 participants, revealed that 93% of respondents were satisfied with the training. The feedback highlighted the effectiveness of the sessions in improving participants' understanding of the ETF and national reporting processes. However, the survey also pointed to areas for further development, including the need for advanced tool training, the extension of hands-on sessions, and additional language support to accommodate the region's linguistic diversity. These insights will inform the design of future training programs, ensuring that they better address participants' needs.

Throughout 2024, the MENA Network encountered several challenges, such as delayed support requests, logistical constraints, and limited engagement from certain countries. Four countries did not respond to outreach efforts despite repeated attempts, underscoring the need for continued engagement and perhaps more localized subregional workshops to overcome political and security challenges. Another key challenge was the limited usage of the Global Transparency Platform, with 42% of survey respondents not engaging with it. This indicates a need for greater efforts in promoting the platform and its benefits to the region's countries.

The feedback gathered from participants also emphasized the importance of language support, with many requesting translations of training materials into Arabic and French. There was also a strong call for extended training durations, as many felt the hands-on components were too brief. These findings suggest that future activities should be more inclusive of the region's linguistic diversity and should provide more comprehensive training on technical tools.

In response to the feedback and challenges of 2024, the MENA Network plans to intensify its efforts in 2025, focusing on targeted capacity-building activities, particularly for countries facing delays in BTR submissions. This will include regional workshops, webinars, and subregional workshops that can overcome security and logistical challenges. Additionally, efforts will be made to promote the Global Transparency Platform more effectively and encourage its usage across the region.

The MENA Network will also continue to expand its partnerships with organizations such as UNDP, UNFCCC, FAO, and UNEP-ROWA to strengthen the support provided to countries. These collaborations will help share best practices, foster knowledge exchange, and ensure that MENA countries are well-equipped to meet their climate reporting obligations under the Paris Agreement.

The findings from 2024 will guide the development of the 2025 Work Plan, which will focus on inclusivity, multilingual engagement, and proactive planning. Through continued capacity-building efforts, the MENA Network aims to support countries in achieving their climate transparency goals and contribute to global climate action.

Glossary and Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Definition
ETF	Enhanced Transparency Framework
BTR	Biennial Transparency Report
MPGs	Modalities, Procedures, and Guidelines
PA	Paris Agreement
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
FTC	Finance, Technology, and Capacity-building
CRT	Common Reporting Tables
CTF	Common Tabular Format
SIDs	Small Island Developing State
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
NC	National Communication
BUR	Biennial Update Report
NIR	National Inventory Report
NAC	National Adaptation Communication
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
LT-LED	Long-Term Low-Emission Development Strategy
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
CBIT-GSP	Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency - Global Support Programme
UNEP-CCC	United Nations Environment Programme - Copenhagen Climate Centre
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
AUC	African Union Commission
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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Introduction

The Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency - Global Support Programme (CBIT-GSP) is a five-year global climate transparency project, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and executed by the UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre (UNEP-CCC), which commenced in 2023. The project is aimed at supporting developing countries in the transition to the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) and its Biennial Transparency Reports under the Paris Agreement.

The CBIT-GSP project includes multiple components and has various support modalities, supporting countries at the global, regional and national level. The main support modality of the project is its ten Transparency Networks, covering all developing countries around the globe, through which key support is provided to countries in the respective networks. The Transparency Networks are organized by region and/or language, and two of the Transparency Networks - the Lusophone Cluster and Francophone Network - are implemented through UNDP's Climate Promise Initiative, with funding from the Belgium government.

As of 2024, the CBIT-GSP has actively supported countries across all 10 CBIT-GSP Transparency Networks, implementing a wide range of activities, events, and technical support tailored to meet the unique needs of participating countries and their governments. This annual report focuses specifically on the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Network, providing a comprehensive summary of the work undertaken throughout 2024.

The report details the various initiatives implemented, highlighting their objectives, scope, and impact on enhancing transparency and capacity within the region. It also includes an in-depth analysis of findings from the post-training surveys conducted in November. This survey provided valuable insights into the effectiveness of the activities and the evolving needs of participating countries.

The report is structured into the following sections:

1. Overview of Activities and Achievements;
2. Annual Post-Training Survey;
3. Challenges and Lessons Learned;
4. Opportunities for 2025.

The first section gives a comprehensive overview of the Network's activities, focusing on the preparation of BTRs, GHG inventories, and NDC tracking. The activities are analyzed based on type, geographic coverage, ETF alignment, and participant engagement. This section also includes a detailed comparison of the 2024 Work Plan and actual achievements, highlighting lessons learned and areas for improvement, as well as a gender-focused analysis.

The second section presents the findings from the post-training survey conducted in November 2024. The survey gathered feedback from 65 participants, offering valuable insights into the effectiveness of the training activities. Key findings suggest that the training was well-received, with 93% of respondents expressing satisfaction. Areas for further

development include enhanced tool training, longer hands-on sessions, and additional language support.

By integrating the feedback from these assessments, the report identifies key lessons learned, outlines the challenges encountered, and explores emerging opportunities to enhance the Network's impact. These insights will inform the planning and prioritization of future work Plan for 2025, ensuring that the CBIT-GSP MENA Network continues to address the region's specific transparency and capacity-building requirements while aligning with the global transparency framework under the Paris Agreement.

This document serves not only as a reflection on 2024 but also as a strategic guide for fostering stronger collaborations, refining approaches, and delivering tailored support to meet the diverse needs of MENA countries in the coming year.

Network Background

The CBIT-GSP MENA Network was created to assist countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region in fulfilling the ETF requirements under the Paris Agreement. The network emphasizes capacity-building and technical assistance to enable national experts to prepare Biennial Transparency Reports and improve transparency in tracking and reporting on climate actions, GHG emissions, and mitigation efforts. This support is critical to ensuring countries can effectively monitor and report their progress toward achieving their NDCs. By strengthening national systems for transparency, the CBIT-GSP MENA Network contributes to fostering trust and accountability in the global fight against climate change, ensuring that efforts are measurable, comparable, and impactful.

The MENA Network includes the seventeen countries, including, Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia, and Yemen. This group represents a diverse mix of socio-economic, geographical, and cultural contexts, yet they share common challenges and vulnerabilities to climate change.

With a population exceeding 500 million, the MENA region showcases a rich social and cultural diversity. It includes nomadic communities, traditional rural societies, and urbanized populations in rapidly growing cities. The youth demographic is prominent, offering a unique opportunity to harness innovation and energy for climate action. However, the region faces significant social vulnerabilities, including political instability, armed conflicts, migration crises, and uneven access to education and healthcare. These issues often exacerbate the challenges posed by climate change, as populations in vulnerable situations have limited capacity to adapt to environmental stresses.

The geography of the MENA region is characterized by arid and semi-arid landscapes, vast deserts such as the Sahara and the Arabian Desert, and critical water bodies including the Mediterranean Sea, Red Sea, and Persian Gulf. Many countries in the region are already experiencing the adverse effects of climate change, such as prolonged droughts, extreme temperatures, water scarcity, desertification, and sea-level rise. These geographic realities place immense pressure on the region's natural resources, particularly water, and heighten the urgency for coordinated and effective climate adaptation and mitigation strategies.

Economically, the region spans a wide spectrum, from high-income oil-exporting countries with significant financial resources to low-income nations heavily dependent on agriculture and international aid. While the wealthier countries are exploring economic diversification through investments in renewable energy, technology, and tourism, others struggle with high unemployment, poverty, and political instability. The reliance on oil and gas remains a defining feature of the region, presenting both challenges and opportunities in the transition toward low-carbon and sustainable economic models.

Given these social, geographical, and economic complexities, the CBIT-GSP MENA Network plays a critical role in addressing the region's unique needs. It provides tailored technical assistance, builds institutional capacity, and facilitates the sharing of knowledge and best practices among countries. Through workshops, training sessions, and collaborative initiatives, the network empowers MENA countries to establish robust systems for data

collection, analysis, and reporting, enabling them to meet international transparency standards. Additionally, the network fosters regional cooperation, recognizing that addressing climate challenges often requires transboundary collaboration and shared solutions.

By supporting countries in developing their BTRs, strengthening NDC tracking, and improving GHG inventory systems, the CBIT-GSP MENA Network helps ensure that the region can actively contribute to global climate goals while addressing its own socio-economic and environmental priorities.

Network Achievements 2024

This first section provides a comprehensive overview of the CBIT-GSP MENA Network's achievements during its inaugural year, 2024. It delves into an in-depth analysis of all activities undertaken, categorizing them based on their nature (online or in-person), geographic coverage (regional or in-country), alignment with ETF areas (ETF implementation and BTR Preparation, GHG Inventory, NDC Tracking, Adaptation and Loss and Damage, Support Needed and received), and the number of participants involved. This structured analysis ensures a clear understanding of the scope and reach of the Network's efforts throughout the year.

Special attention is given to a gender-focused analysis, evaluating the participation of women in these activities. This component reflects the Network's commitment to inclusivity and gender equity, ensuring that women have access to capacity-building opportunities in climate transparency.

The chapter also explores the collaborations and partnerships established during the year, highlighting their critical role in maximizing the Network's reach and effectiveness. These collaborations with key regional and global stakeholders were pivotal in addressing the diverse needs of countries within the MENA region.

Moreover, a detailed comparison is presented between the commitments outlined in the 2024 Work Plan and the Network's actual achievements. This comparison is accompanied by a breakdown of activities by type, offering valuable insights into areas of success and identifying potential areas for improvement.

Lastly, the report distinguishes between regional events and in-country support provided to MENA countries. This differentiation aims to ensure clarity and transparency, showcasing the tailored approaches employed by the Network to address the unique challenges and priorities of individual countries while maintaining a regional perspective. This comprehensive analysis underscores the CBIT-GSP MENA Network's dedication to delivering impactful and inclusive support in line with its mission to enhance climate transparency in the region.

1. Summary of Activities

In 2024, the CBIT-GSP MENA Network conducted a total of 37 Activities, 20 activities conducted at the regional level, showcasing a comprehensive approach to enhancing transparency systems in the region. These events included a mix of in-person and virtual formats, tailored to address the diverse needs of participating countries. Regional events formed a significant part of the Network's efforts, comprising 13 webinars focused on essential ETF topics like GHG inventories, NDC tracking, and BTR preparation. Additionally, four in-person regional training sessions provided hands-on guidance, while three experience-sharing webinars facilitated peer learning and the exchange of best practices. The year's activities also included an inception meeting, which laid the groundwork for future collaboration and activities under the Network.

These events garnered a total of 1,048 participants, with notable gender inclusivity, as 47.7% of participants were female, representing 20 countries across the MENA region, including Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Lebanon, Sudan, Mauritania, Yemen, Egypt, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Somalia, Morocco, Kuwait, Syria, Libya, Jordan, Algeria, Tunisia, Bahrain, and Djibouti. Notably, representatives from five LDCs (Mauritania, Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen) and one SIDS (Bahrain) actively participated, in addition to representatives from non-GEF eligible countries (Qatar, the UAE, and Syria).

In-country support was a critical component of the Network's activities, with eight workshops organized in countries Mauritania, Libya, Iraq, Morocco, Egypt, Jordan, and Djibouti. These workshops reached 254 participants, 42% of whom were women, emphasizing inclusivity. The sessions focused on preparing mandatory BTR chapters, including GHG inventories, NDC tracking, and support needed/received. This hands-on approach played a crucial role in building national capacities for implementing transparency systems under the ETF.

Virtual events complemented in-person efforts, providing flexibility and accessibility, especially for countries facing logistical or political challenges. Five virtual sessions offered technical support to countries like Bahrain, Lebanon, and Djibouti. For instance, Bahrain received guidance on filling Common Tabular Format (CTF) tables for NDC tracking, while Djibouti benefited from experience-sharing sessions on CBIT project preparation. These virtual sessions proved vital for addressing urgent needs and enabling countries to progress in their transparency commitments.

Quality assurance reviews were another key aspect of the Network's support in 2024. Three QA reviews were conducted to enhance the quality and accuracy of BTR chapters for Lebanon and Morocco. These reviews focused on NDC tracking Chapters and GHG Inventory for the LULUCF sector, ensuring countries were better prepared for their submissions. The Network also provided tailored consultancy to Yemen, developing a BTR road map to guide their transition from BURs to BTRs, with a submission goal set for December 2026.

While the Network successfully addressed 17 of the 21 formal support requests received in 2024, a few could not be fulfilled due to time or logistical constraints. For instance, Tunisia withdrew its request for a BTR road map, and Bahrain's QA review could not be accommodated due to time limitations. These challenges underscore the adaptive approach taken by the Network in navigating complex country-specific circumstances.

Overall, the activities and outcomes from 2024 reflect the CBIT-GSP MENA Network's commitment to building national capacities and supporting countries in meeting their ETF obligations. The lessons learned, gaps identified, and opportunities recognized through this work have significantly informed the preparation of the 2025 Work Plan, ensuring a strategic and responsive approach to the region's transparency needs.

1.1. Total activities

During the first year of the MENA Network, a total of 37 activities were carried out, including 21 online events, 12 in-person events, and 4 support activities focused on quality assurance and BTR roadmap preparation. This means that 32% of the activities were organized in person, ensuring a meaningful impact on the countries and providing substantial support for their BTR preparation. Of these, 8 activities were conducted as in-country support, while 4 were regional events, either exclusively for the MENA Network or in collaboration with other networks such as the Francophone, Anglophone Africa, and Asia and Pacific networks. These events attracted 1,345 participants, with 877 attending virtual events and 474 participating in in-person events. Nearly half of the participants were women, making up 47% of the total.

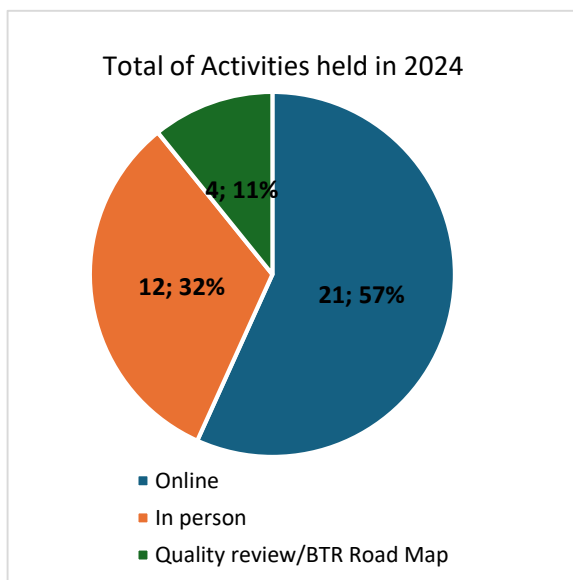


Figure 1.1. Total of Activities held in 2024

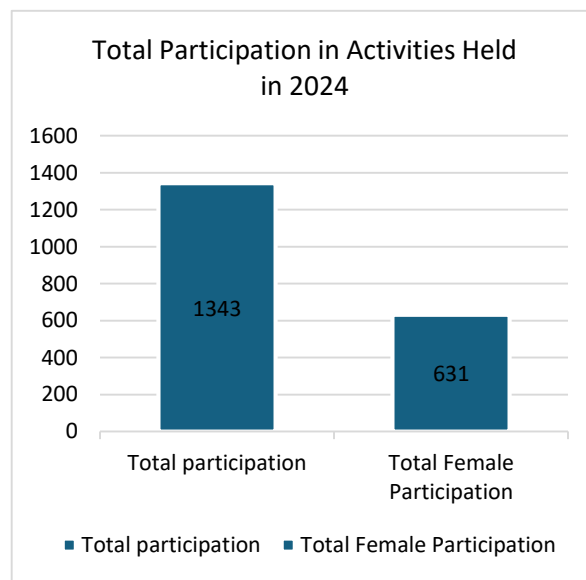


Figure 1.2. Total Participation in Activities Held in 2024

Following the inception meeting of the MENA Network in April, a total of 37 activities were conducted under the newly launched CBIT-GSP MENA Network. Online activities consistently outnumbered in-person ones each month, peaking in August with five events, while December recorded the fewest, with only one online activity. In-person events remained steady at 1-2 per month, except for November, when none were organized due to the focus on preparations for COP29. The busiest months overall were July and August, with 5 and 7 total activities, respectively. Even though this year marks the launch of the MENA Network, engagement ramped up significantly following its introduction in April, particularly from June onward, with a strong focus on in-country support to ensure the timely submission of BTRs. This highlights the network's pivotal role in capacity-building efforts and its ability to align activities with regional priorities and international deadlines. The figure below illustrates the activities held in 2024 by month and mode.

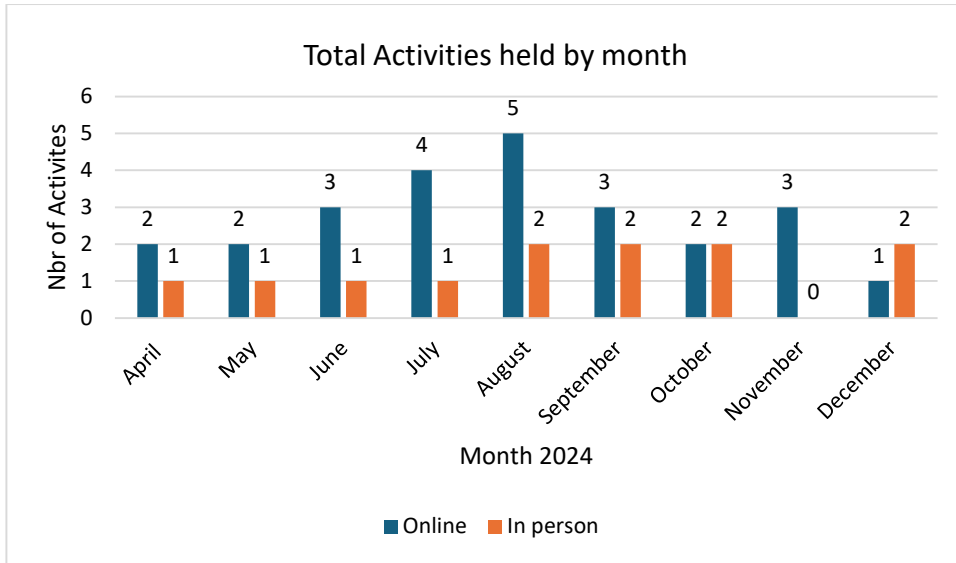


Figure 1.3. Total Activities held by month

As shown in the figure below, from June 2024 onward, there was a noticeable shift in focus toward in-country support to ensure the timely submission of BTRs. As shown in the graph, the number of supports provided by country steadily increased over the months, starting with just one support in June (Yemen) and peaking at four supports in both September (Lebanon, Bahrain, Morocco, Iraq) and December (Jordan, Djibouti, Lebanon, Morocco). August and October also saw a significant number of supports, each with three countries supported. The lower figure for November, with only two supports focused on Morocco, coincides with the preparation for COP29, which made it challenging to organize in-person events during that month.

This trend aligns with the earlier analysis of activities held in 2024. The focus on in-country support is reflected in the increased number of in-person events from August to October, as efforts were ramped up to assist countries with their BTR submissions. The steady growth in support and the targeted assistance to specific countries demonstrate a strategic and impactful approach to addressing capacity-building needs in the region.

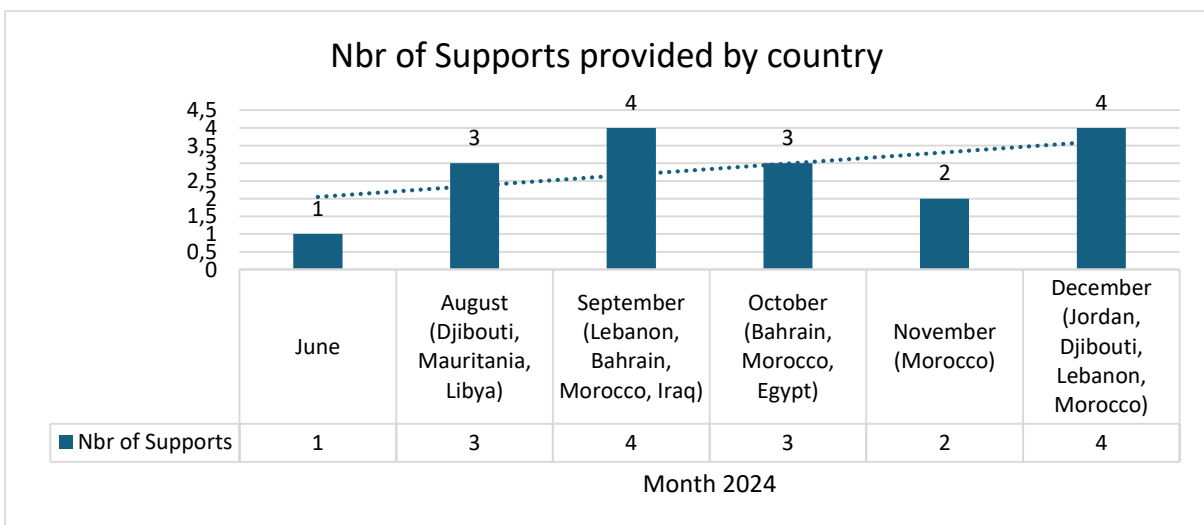


Figure 1.4. Number of Supports provided by Country in 2024

Overall Experience Sharing Among MENA Countries:

In 2024, several webinars, peer learning exchanges, and events were organized to foster South-South cooperation and enhance knowledge sharing among MENA countries under the CBIT-GSP MENA Network. Lebanon emerged as the most active contributor, sharing its experiences in six events, followed by Morocco with five instances of sharing expertise. Tunisia, Egypt, and Mauritania each contributed to two events, while Jordan participated once. These activities showcased the collaborative spirit within the region, emphasizing Lebanon and Morocco's leading roles in promoting transparency and capacity building. The diverse platforms, ranging from technical webinars to global forums, underscored the commitment of MENA countries to sharing best practices and advancing transparency under the Paris Agreement.

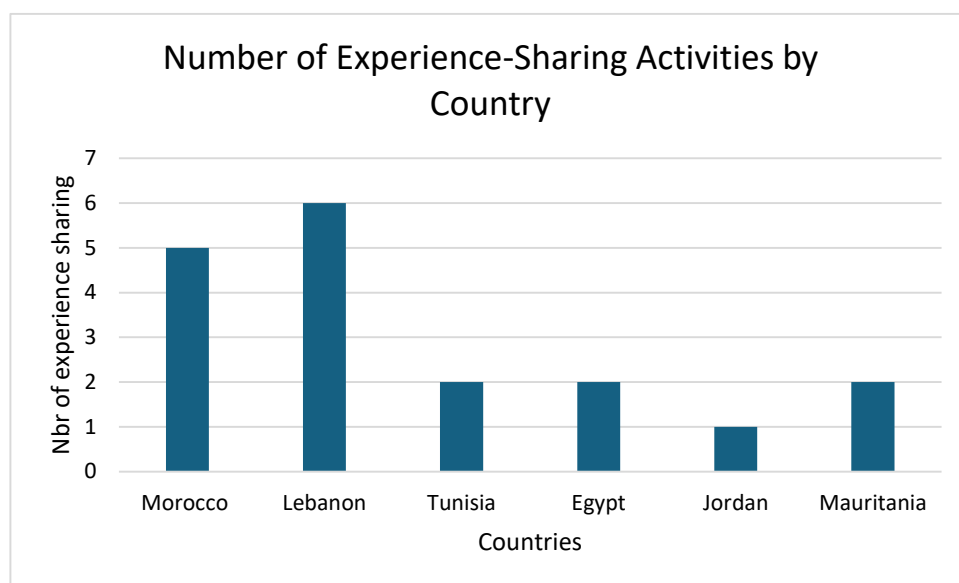


Figure 1.5. Number of Experience-Sharing Activities by Country

2. Comparison of Regional Events and In-Country Support Achievements with the Planned Work Plan of 2024:

In 2024, the MENA Network significantly exceeded its targets outlined in the Work Plan. While the plan committed to 15 regional virtual events, 2 in-person trainings, and 15 in-country support activities, the actual outcomes were 21 regional virtual events, 4 in-person trainings, and 17 in-country support activities. This demonstrates the Network's proactive approach in delivering more than planned, particularly in virtual events and in-country support, addressing the growing demand for technical assistance and capacity-building. The increased number of in-person trainings also reflects the Network's commitment to ensuring impactful, hands-on support for countries in the region.

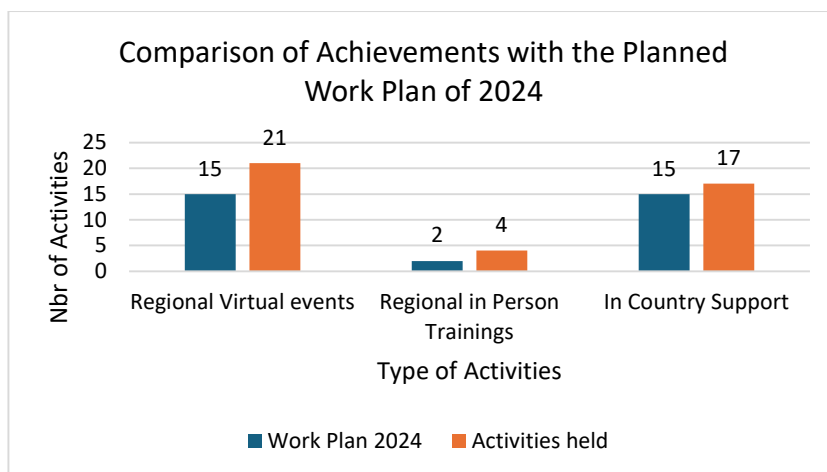


Figure 1.6. Comparison of Regional Events and In-Country Support Achievements with the Planned Work Plan of 2024

The detailed comparison of achievements to the 2024 Annual Work Plan is provided in the sections below on regional events and in-country support, as well as in the 2024 Work Plan annex 1. These offer a comprehensive overview of the planned versus actual activities, outlining the number of webinars, trainings, and support activities delivered, along with a breakdown of the countries involved.

Regional Events section

In the 2024 work plan, the MENA Network committed to providing 15 webinars and experience-sharing sessions. However, the Network exceeded this target by delivering 21 webinars, thanks to several collaborations with other networks and partners. In response to country requests, the focus was placed on key mandatory areas, such as NDC tracking and GHG inventory, given that NDC tracking is a new chapter in the BTR framework that countries must report on. Additionally, due to the high number of requests from countries, there was an increased emphasis on providing technical assistance and capacity-building support, particularly in-country, to ensure that the project addressed the real needs expressed by the countries.

As shown in Annex 1 (Work Plan 2024) and the figure above, all planned areas and virtual events were organized, except for those related to mainstreaming gender into climate reporting, implementing an online MRV platform system, and Article 6 (Transparency and Reporting requirements), as well as the Adaptation Webinar Series. The latter will be the first event under the 2025 Work Plan and will be covered next year.

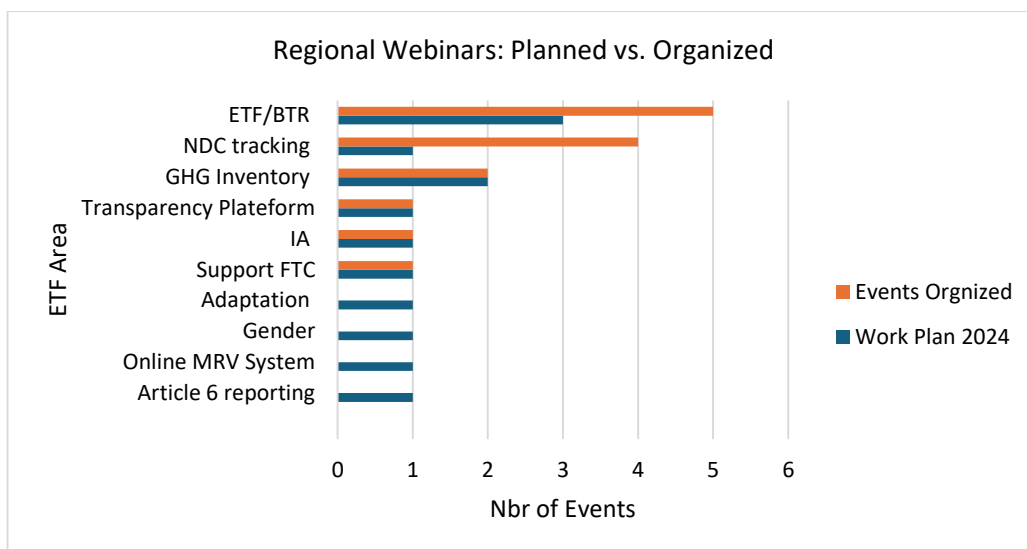


Figure 1.7. Planned vs. Organized Regional Webinars

CBIT-GSP was initially committed to delivering two regional in-person trainings. However, it exceeded this target by organizing two additional events, bringing the total to four regional in-person trainings. These additional events, not included in the original work plan, featured the Francophone Regional Training on NDC Tracking and Adaptation and the Training on Tracking NDC Mitigation under the ETF for African Union Countries.

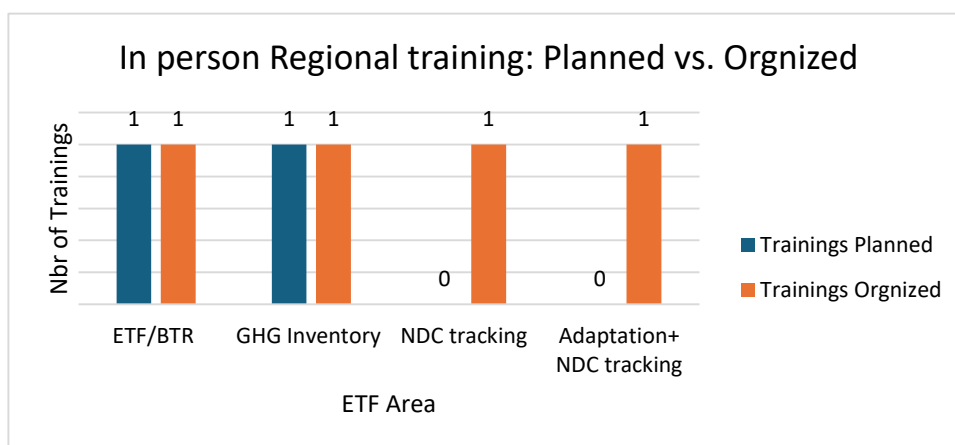


Figure 1.8. Planned vs. Organized Regional In Person Trainings

In Country Support Section

In 2024, CBIT-GSP committed to delivering 15 support activities as outlined in the work plan, but exceeded expectations by providing 17 supports to MENA Network countries that formally requested assistance. Of the 12 targeted countries, all (Morocco, Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Bahrain, Mauritania, Libya, Yemen) received support, except for three. Tunisia requested to postpone its workshop until February 2025, while Sudan and Somalia were unable to submit formal requests due to internal challenges. Additionally, in 2024, the MENA Network offered supplementary activities to several countries, allowing them to receive support multiple times. These included Morocco, Lebanon, Bahrain, and Djibouti, which was not originally included in the work plan. The graph below shows the number of support

activities provided to each country. A detailed status of these activities can be found in Annex 2. The comparison is illustrated in the figure below.

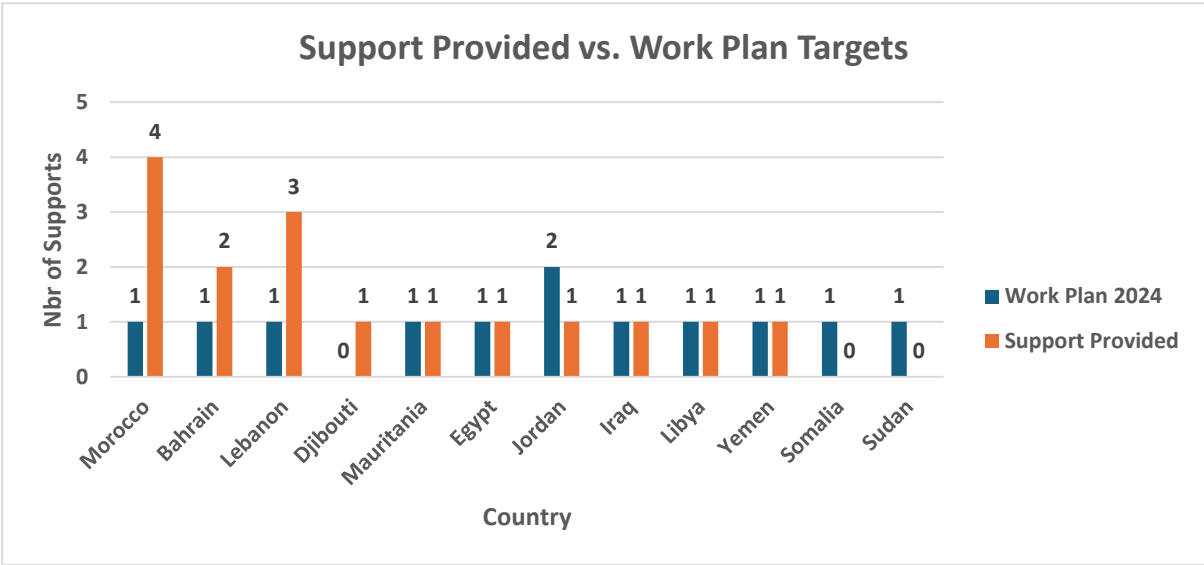


Figure 1 9. Number of Supports Provided compared to the Work Plan

Looking ahead to 2025, CBIT-GSP remains committed to supporting Sudan and Somalia by proactively offering tailored capacity-building and technical assistance. This approach ensures that all countries, including those unable to formally request support, are empowered to prepare their BTRs and fulfil their transparency commitments under the Paris Agreement.

3. Regional Events

The regional events organized by CBIT-GSP in 2024 under the MENA Network demonstrated a comprehensive approach to addressing critical aspects of the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF). These events provided a platform for countries across the region and beyond to engage in technical training, share experiences, and strengthen their capacity for implementing transparency commitments under the Paris Agreement. Over the year, a total of 21 events were organized, reflecting a diverse mix of formats and thematic focuses to meet the varying needs of the region (See Annex 2 Regional Events Organized in 2024).

The events featured a range of formats designed to ensure accessibility and hands-on learning. A majority of the events, 13 webinars (62%), focused on essential ETF topics such as NDC tracking, GHG inventories, and BTR preparation. Four in-person regional trainings (19%) provided direct, hands-on experience on specific themes like ETF implementation and national GHG inventory preparation. In addition, three experience-sharing webinars (14%) facilitated peer-to-peer learning, where countries exchanged best practices and lessons learned from their transparency efforts. Lastly, the inception meeting of the MENA Network (5%) played a key role in establishing collaboration and setting the foundation for future activities.

These events garnered a total of 1,048 participants, with notable gender inclusivity, as 47.7% of participants were female, representing 20 countries across the MENA region, including Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Lebanon, Sudan, Mauritania, Yemen, Egypt, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Somalia, Morocco, Kuwait, Syria, Libya, Jordan, Algeria, Tunisia, Bahrain, and Djibouti. Notably, representatives from five LDCs (Mauritania, Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen) and one SIDS (Bahrain) actively participated, in addition to representatives from -non GEF eligible countries- (Qatar, the UAE, and Syria).

As illustrated in the figures below, the program successfully engaged a wide audience, demonstrated gender inclusivity, and strategically addressed the most pressing transparency challenges, thereby setting a robust foundation for continued progress in 2025.

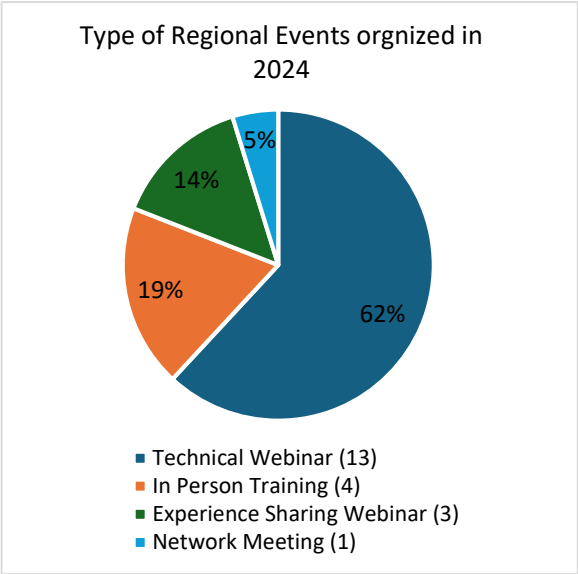


Figure 1.10. Type of Regional Events organized in 2024

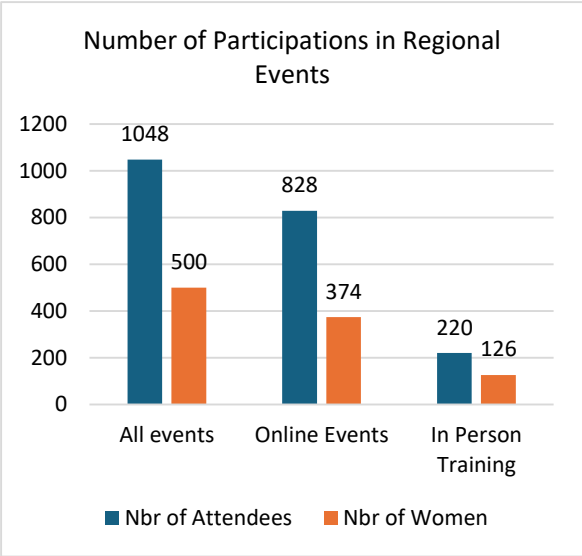


Figure 1.11. Participation Numbers in Regional Events Held in 2024

Thematic areas addressed by the events (see figures below) focused on key aspects essential for advancing transparency systems in the MENA region. Six events (29%) concentrated on ETF implementation and BTR preparation, focusing on the requirements, methodologies, and tools necessary to meet reporting obligations. Seven events (33%) were dedicated to NDC tracking, aiming to enhance countries' capacities to track and report progress in implementing their NDCs, with a focus on using Common Tabular Formats (CTFs) and the BTR Road Map. Three events (14%) provided guidance on GHG inventory development, a vital component of BTRs. A single event (5%) focused on institutional arrangements, discussing the establishment of sustainable frameworks for supporting transparency systems. Finally, three special-topic events (14%) covered various aspects such as using the Global Transparency Platform, implementing CBIT projects, and sharing experiences to inspire national efforts.

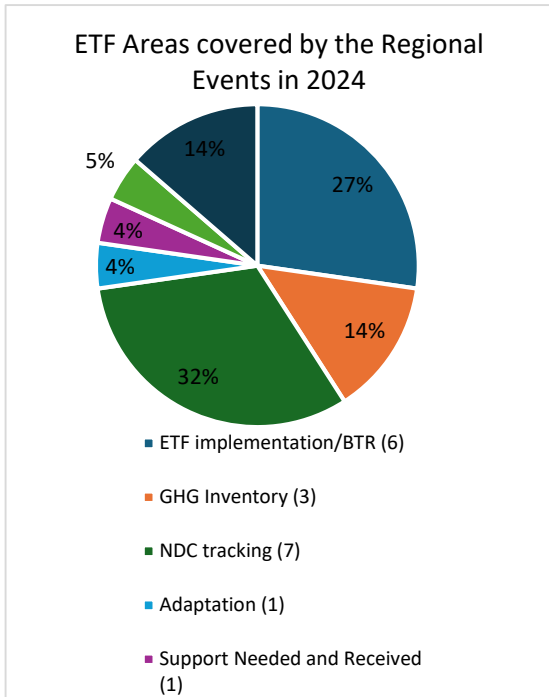


Figure 1.12. ETF Areas covered by the Regional Events in 2024

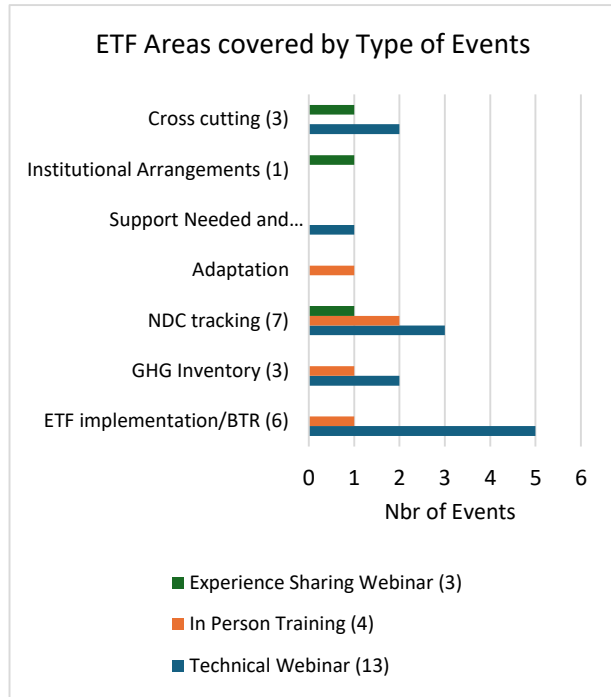


Figure 1.13. ETF Areas covered by Type of Events

3.1. In person trainings:

In 2024, in addition to the Global Transparency Forum, four in-person trainings were organized for the MENA Network, focusing on building regional capacity to meet the requirements of the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF). One of these events was exclusively tailored for MENA countries, while the other three were cross-network trainings, bringing together participants from the Francophone Network, Anglophone Africa, and Asia-Pacific Networks.

The workshops collectively attracted an impressive 220 participants, with a strong emphasis on gender inclusivity, 57.27% of attendees were women. Representatives from 13 MENA countries actively participated, including Morocco, Jordan, Tunisia, Bahrain, Lebanon, Djibouti, Somalia, Mauritania, Sudan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the UAE.

Three of the workshops focused on the NDC tracking chapter, specifically addressing electronic reporting using the Common Tabular Format (CTF) tables. One workshop was dedicated to GHG inventory preparation, while adaptation was tackled as part of one session, in addition to NDC tracking. Furthermore, the "Support Needed and Received" component was addressed during the regional workshop, alongside the two mandatory ETF areas: GHG inventory and NDC tracking.

Below are the key workshops organized:

- **Regional Workshop on ETF Implementation (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, April 20-24, 2024):** This workshop focused on building capacity for ETF implementation, including GHG

inventory preparation, NDC tracking, and reporting on Support Needed and Received, with guidance on BTR preparation. Organized in collaboration with the UNFCCC Secretariat, the event was attended by nine MENA countries: Morocco, Jordan, Tunisia, Djibouti, Somalia, Mauritania, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE. The training provided participants with practical tools and knowledge to meet ETF requirements effectively.

- **Global Transparency Forum (Tokyo, Japan, May 20-21, 2024):** The Global Transparency Forum aimed to strengthen transparency efforts to raise NDC ambition and facilitate peer learning. Eleven MENA countries participated, including Morocco, Jordan, Tunisia, Lebanon, Somalia, Sudan, Mauritania, Iraq, Bahrain, Qatar, and the UAE. The forum featured knowledge-sharing sessions where countries like Lebanon, Morocco, Mauritania, and Tunisia presented their experiences, fostering collaboration and highlighting best practices in transparency reporting.
- **Cross-Network Training on National GHG Inventories (Tokyo, Japan, May 22-24, 2024):** This cross-network training focused on enhancing technical capacity for preparing and reporting National GHG Inventories under the ETF. Participants were trained to improve National Inventory Reports (NIRs) and Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) in line with the MPGs. Attended by nine MENA countries—Morocco, Jordan, Tunisia, Libya, Mauritania, Somalia, Sudan, Iraq, and Qatar—the workshop also included bilateral discussions on in-country support needs. It was organized in collaboration with the UNFCCC Secretariat and FAO.
- **Technical Workshop of the Francophone Network (Kigali, Rwanda, June 25-28, 2024):** Held in collaboration with PATPA, UNDP’s Climate Promise, CBIT-GSP/UNEP CCC, and the UNFCCC, this workshop provided training on NDC tracking for mitigation, adaptation, and means of implementation reporting. Aimed at preparing countries for BTR submissions, it brought together 53 participants from 19 countries, including representatives from MENA. The workshop emphasized practical approaches to tracking NDC progress and adaptation actions, ensuring readiness for the ETF requirements.
- **Training for African Union Member States (Gaborone, Botswana, July 31 - August 2, 2024):** CBIT-GSP, in collaboration with the African Union Commission (AUC), organized a training workshop on ETF implementation, with a specific focus on NDC tracking. Held in Gaborone, Botswana, the event brought together participants from 16 African countries, including Algeria and Djibouti from the MENA Network. The workshop aimed to enhance the capacity of member states in meeting ETF requirements and advancing transparency efforts.

Technical Webinars:

In 2024, 13 technical webinars were organized, accounting for 62% of the regional events held. These webinars attracted over 828 participants, including 374 women, representing more than 45% female participation. Participants came from 20 countries, including Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Lebanon, Sudan, Mauritania, Yemen, Egypt, Oman, Somalia, Morocco, Kuwait, Syria, Libya, Jordan, Algeria, Tunisia, Bahrain, Qatar, Djibouti and the United Arab Emirates. Notably, representatives from five LDCs (Mauritania, Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen), and one SID, Bahrain, actively participated. Of these events, **five focused on ETF**

requirements, implementation, and BTR preparation, three on NDC tracking and completing CTF tables, two on GHG inventories, one on support needed and received, and one on editing and updating content on the **Climate Transparency Platform**. Additionally, an experience-sharing webinar on **institutional arrangements** included a technical session. Below is a summary of all Virtual Regional Events organized in 2024:

- **Regional Virtual Workshop on Climate Finance and Support Needed and Received (April 30, 2024)**: This workshop, attended by over 80 participants from the MENA, Anglophone Africa, and Eurasia networks, focused on tracking climate finance, reporting methodologies, and best practices, lasting more than two hours.
- **The Implementation of the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) Workshop (May 9, 2024)**: As part of the BTR Planning Webinar Series, this webinar provided insights on implementing the ETF, focusing on the preparation of Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) for the MENA Transparency Network.
- **Introductory Webinar for GHG Inventory Preparation and Reporting (May 13, 2024)**: This session introduced participants from the MENA, Pacific, and Asia networks to the preparation and reporting of national GHG inventories under the ETF of the Paris Agreement.
- **BTR Planning and Development Process Using the BTR Road Map Tool (June 6, 2024)**: This third webinar in the BTR Planning Webinar Series provided 63 participants from 18 countries with insights into BTR planning, focusing on the BTR Roadmap Tool developed by PATPA and FAO, and facilitated experience-sharing among MENA experts.
- **Editing and Updating Content in the Climate Transparency Platform (CTP) (June 13, 2024)**: This webinar trained 49 participants from 16 MENA countries on effectively updating and editing content on the CTP, which is crucial for maintaining accurate climate transparency reports.
- **MENA Webinar Workshops on NDC Tracking and CTF Tables (July 22-24, 2024)**: This series of three workshops focused on tracking NDC mitigation commitments and reporting progress using Common Tabular Formats (CTFs), attracting over 70 participants and generating formal requests for further engagement from Bahrain and Djibouti.
- **Transparency and Reporting under the Paris Agreement: Francophone Network Webinars (August 2024)**: A series of three webinars focused on enhancing the technical capacity of national experts from MENA and Francophone countries on preparing national reports, including NCs, NDCs, and BUR/BTR, with participation from countries like Tunisia, Djibouti, Morocco, and others.
- **Outline and Requirements for the GHG Inventory Chapter under the ETF (November 27, 2024)**: This MENA webinar aimed to enhance participants' understanding of the GHG Inventory chapter's requirements and structure, ensuring that countries' GHG inventories align with UNFCCC guidelines under the ETF.

Experience Sharing and Peer Learning Exchange Webinars in the MENA Network

In 2024, a series of webinars and peer learning exchanges were organized to promote South-South cooperation and enhance knowledge sharing among MENA countries on transparency. These initiatives aimed to foster collaboration, share lessons learned, and build capacity within the region. Below are the details of the key events:

- **Djibouti’s Webinar: Inspiring Djibouti’s CBIT Journey (August 6, 2024):** This webinar featured experience sharing on the implementation of CBIT projects by Tunisia, Morocco, and Lebanon. It provided Djibouti’s national team with valuable insights into the projects’ objectives, activities, implementation progress, expected outcomes, and lessons learned. The session aimed to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and practical experiences among regional experts.
- **Peer Learning Exchange: Developing the NDC Tracking Chapter of the First BTR (September 24, 2024):** This joint session brought together the CBIT-GSP Anglophone and MENA Transparency Networks. It facilitated peer learning between Namibia (from the Anglophone Africa network) and Lebanon (from the MENA network) on developing the NDC tracking chapter for their first BTR. Participants exchanged experiences on electronic reporting, particularly using CTF tables, and discussed strategies to streamline the process.
- **MENA Webinar Series: Best Practices and Lessons Learned on Institutional Arrangements for Transparency Systems (October 22, 2024):** Organized as part of the MENA Webinar Series, this webinar focused on sharing best practices and lessons learned regarding institutional arrangements for transparency systems under the Paris Agreement. Experts from Morocco, Egypt, and Mauritania shared their progress and approaches in establishing transparency frameworks. The session enriched participants’ knowledge and fostered collaboration to strengthen institutional arrangements across the region.

In addition to these webinars, other initiatives, including the Global Forum and training on GHG inventory, contributed to knowledge sharing. **Six countries, notably, Lebanon, Morocco, Egypt, Mauritania, Tunisia, Jordan,** actively participated in experience-sharing activities during the first year of the MENA Transparency Network. These events served to strengthen regional collaboration and advance transparency efforts under the Paris Agreement.

The following table summarizes the events organized in 2024 under the MENA Transparency Network and highlights the countries that actively shared their experiences:

Table 1.1. MENA Countries Engaged in Experience Sharing in 2024

Title of the Event	Type of Event	Countries shared their experiences
MENA Webinar Series/ Enhanced Transparency Framework / MPGs, Requirements and Provisions and Outlines of the first BTR	Technical Webinar	Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon
MENA Webinar Series/ BTR planning and development process using the BTR Road Map Tool	Technical Webinar	Morocco
Global Transparency Forum	Global Forum	Morocco, Mauritania, Lebanon
The preparation and reporting of national GHG inventories under the ETF of the Paris Agreement	Regional Training	Morocco, Tunisia, Lebanon
Inspiring Djibouti’s CBIT Journey - Experience sharing on the implementation of CBIT projects from Tunisia, Morocco and Lebanon	Experience sharing Webinar	Tunisia, Morocco, Lebanon
Peer Learning Exchange on the Developing NDC Tracking Chapter of the First BTR in Anglophone Africa and MENA Transparency Networks- Experience Sharing from Namibia and Lebanon	Peer Learning Exchange	Lebanon, Namibia
MENA Webinar Series/ Sharing best practices and lessons learned on Institutional arrangements for transparency systems in MENA	Experience Sharing Webinar	Egypt, Mauritania, Morocco
Side Event "Showcasing Collaborative Impact for Transparency: CBIT-GSP and Partners in Action"	Side Event- COP 29	Lebanon

3.2. In-country Support

In 2024, the CBIT-GSP MENA Network received 21 requests for support, of which 17 were successfully fulfilled, covering ten (10) countries out of the seventeen (17) in the MENA Network. These activities included in-country support, virtual events, and quality reviews of BTR chapters. This reflects the network’s commitment to providing targeted and impactful assistance to countries in the region, particularly in helping them prepare their Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) and ensuring their submission by the 31st December 2024 deadline.

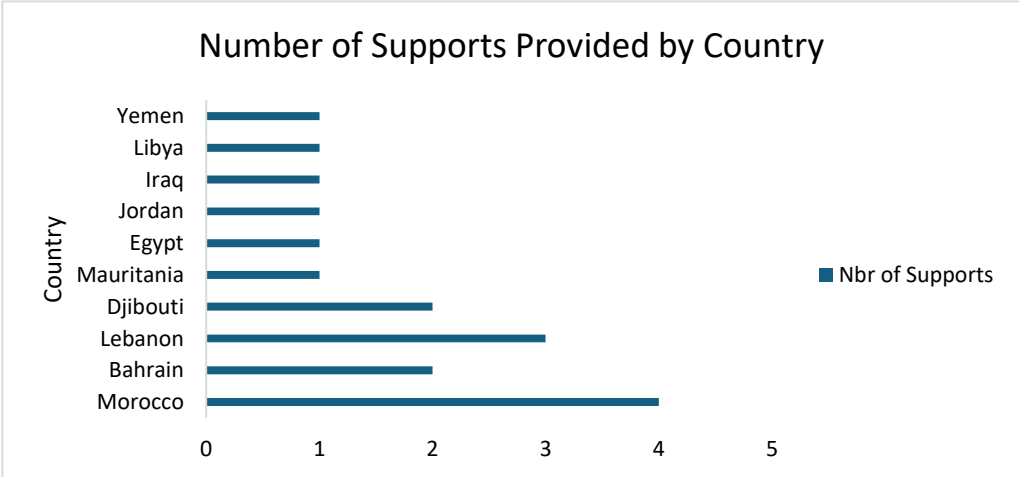


Figure 1.14. Number of Supports Provided by Country

A breakdown of the activities (see figure below) shows that 47% were in-person workshops, emphasizing hands-on capacity building, while 29% were virtual events, which included technical guidance and experience-sharing sessions. Additionally, 18% of the support activities consisted of quality reviews of BTR chapters, ensuring that the countries' reports met the required standards.

These events collectively engaged 303 participants, with 43.9% being women, showcasing the network's commitment to inclusivity and gender representation in its initiatives. The activities covered a wide range of areas within the ETF, notably GHG inventories, NDC tracking, and reporting on support needed and received.

Further details on each activity, along with their specific focus areas, can be found in the table in Annex 1. Notably, the figures below provide an overview of all in-country activities and support provided, including their type and the areas covered.

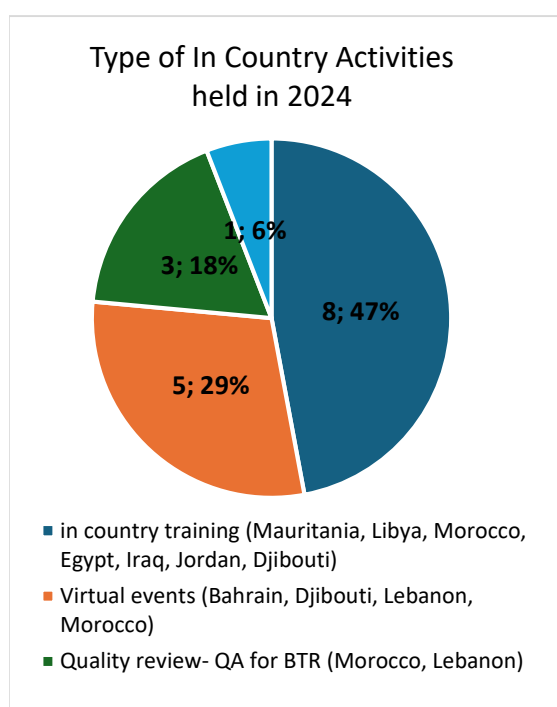


Figure 1.15. Type of in country Activities held in 2024

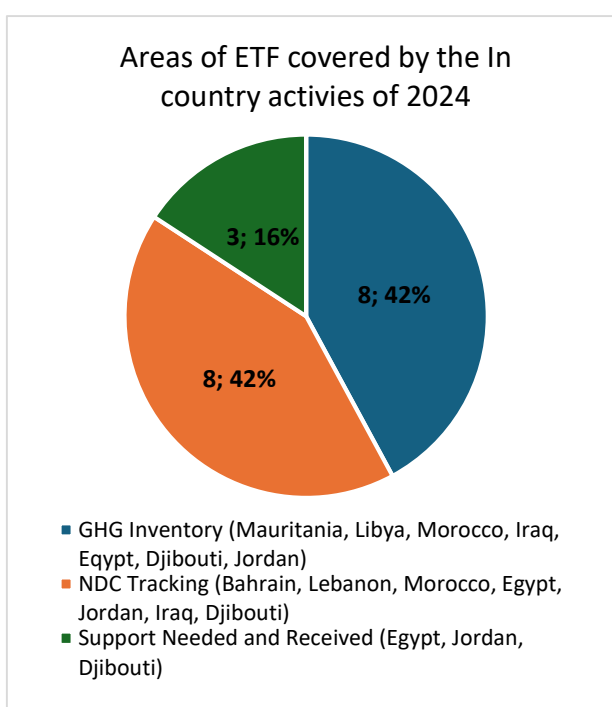


Figure 1.16. Areas of ETF covered by the in country activities in 2024

In-Country Trainings

In-country workshops accounted for **47% of the total support activities**, highlighting the CBIT-GSP MENA Network's emphasis on hands-on capacity-building. A total of **eight workshops** were organized in **Mauritania, Libya, Iraq, Morocco, Egypt, Jordan, and Djibouti**, reaching **254 participants** of whom **42% were women**.

These workshops primarily focused on the **mandatory chapters of BTRs**, including the **GHG Inventory** and **NDC Tracking**, which are critical for meeting the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) requirements. Additionally, the workshops incorporated sessions on **Support Needed and Received**, a key component for mobilizing climate finance and achieving NDCs.

The in-country activities illustrate the network's dedication to building institutional and technical capacities in the MENA region. They played a pivotal role in supporting countries, particularly those preparing their **first BTR**, to ensure timely submissions and compliance with the Paris Agreement.

Virtual Workshops:

Virtual events in 2024 played a crucial role in complementing in-country efforts, with five sessions attended by 49 participants, 38.8% of whom were women. These sessions provided targeted support to countries such as Bahrain, Lebanon, Morocco, and Djibouti, offering tailored technical assistance and fostering knowledge-sharing. For instance, Bahrain received hands-on guidance on filling Common Tabular Format (CTF) tables for NDC tracking, while Morocco benefited from follow-up support on the GHG Inventory for the LULUCF sector. Djibouti participated in an experience-sharing event focused on CBIT project preparation, gaining valuable insights from other countries' experiences.

The virtual format proved to be a flexible and practical solution for countries facing logistical or political challenges, such as Lebanon, where in-country workshops were not feasible. Additionally, virtual events addressed urgent needs in BTR preparation, as seen in Bahrain, where timely technical support was critical. For Djibouti, the experience-sharing event was a unique opportunity to enhance national capacity for CBIT project development. Overall, virtual events provided an accessible platform for collaboration and capacity-building across the MENA region.

Quality Reviews (QA for BTR)

In 2024, the CBIT-GSP MENA Network provided three Quality Assurance (QA) reviews to support countries in enhancing the quality and accuracy of their BTR chapters. These QA services addressed key areas of reporting, ensuring countries were better prepared for timely submissions. Lebanon received a QA review for the NDC tracking chapter under their BTR, while Morocco benefited from a review of their GHG Inventory database for the LULUCF sector, developed in collaboration with FAO. Additionally, Morocco's Common Tabular Format (CTF) tables for NDC tracking underwent a thorough review to ensure compliance with international reporting standards. Bahrain also formally requested the Quality Review, but the CBIT-GSP has not yet received any draft for review. Beyond the MENA region, the network extended its expertise to Fiji, reviewing the "Support Needed and Received" chapter of their BUR, demonstrating the program's global reach and adaptability.

BTR Road Map:

In addition to QA reviews, Yemen received a tailored consultancy service to develop a comprehensive BTR Road Map. This road map aims to prepare Yemen for the BTR process,

ensuring a seamless transition from the completion of their current BUR to the submission of their first BTR by December 2026. This support underscores the CBIT-GSP’s commitment to providing customized solutions that address specific country needs, even in challenging contexts.

Requests Not Addressed

Of the 21 formal support requests received by the CBIT-GSP in 2024, 4 could not be fulfilled due to various constraints. Tunisia withdrew its request for a BTR road map, deeming it unnecessary, while a capacity-building workshop on the IPCC Guidelines and software was postponed to February 2025 at the country’s request. Yemen had also requested a workshop on implementing the ETF for national stakeholders, but logistical challenges prevented its realization. Lastly, Bahrain sought a quality review of their BTR, but the request could not be accommodated due to insufficient time before their submission deadline. These instances highlight the program's proactive approach in addressing requests while navigating the limitations posed by country-specific circumstances and time constraints.

4. Gender Analysis

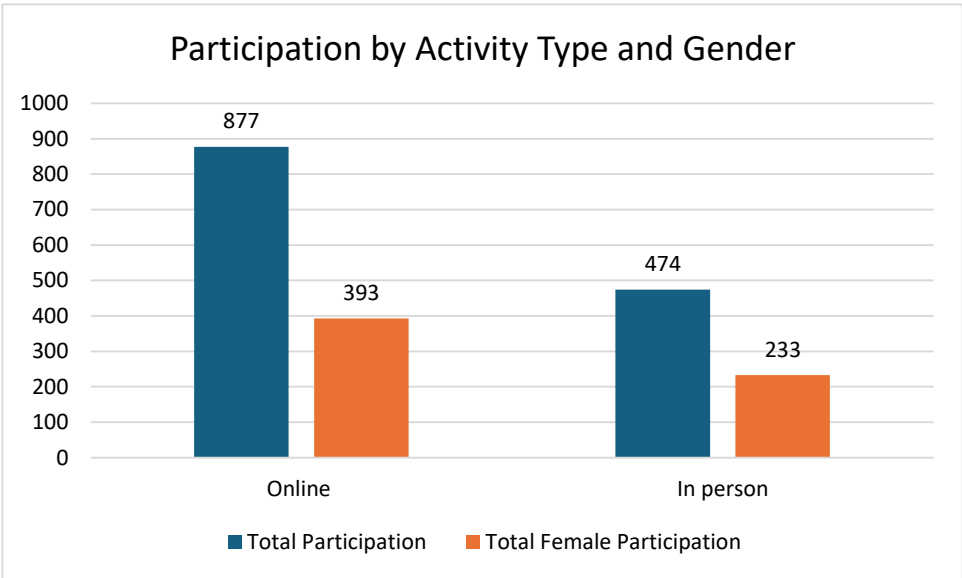


Figure 1.17. Participation by Activity type and Gender

The data analysis reveals important insights into the reach and gender participation in regional and in-country events held in 2024. The total participation across all regional and in-country events in 2024 was 1,343 attendees, with 631 women, representing 47% of the total. When broken down by event type, all online events had 877 attendees, with 393 women, accounting for 45% of participants. In contrast, all in-person events had 474 attendees, with 233 women, making up 49% of the total.

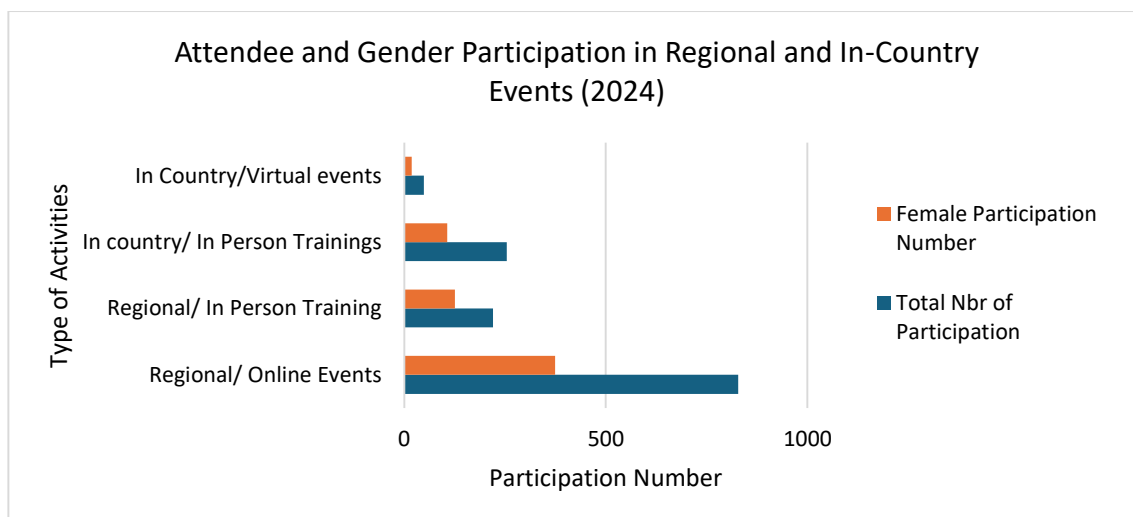


Figure 1.18. Attendee and Gender Participation in Regional and In Country Events of 2024.

When analyzing by event type, distinguishing between regional and in-country events, the highest number of attendees was recorded for regional online events, with 828 participants, followed by regional in-person training with 220 attendees. In-country in-person trainings attracted 254 participants, while in-country virtual events had 49 attendees, indicating a stronger preference for in-person interactions within countries.

Regarding gender representation, women made up a significant portion of the total attendance across all events. In regional online events, 374 women attended, representing 45% of the total attendees. For regional in-person training, women accounted for 126 out of 220 attendees, making up approximately 57%. In-country in-person trainings had 107 women participants, representing 42%, and in-country virtual events saw 19 women attendees, roughly 39% of the total.

This data suggests a healthy gender representation across both regional and in-country activities, with a notably higher proportion of women in regional in-person events, reflecting the Network’s efforts to ensure inclusivity. The lower turnout in in-country virtual events may indicate a preference for face-to-face interactions, which can be more effective in building capacity and fostering collaboration.

5. Satisfaction Results

Based on the Mentimeter feedback surveys conducted immediately after each activity, the analysis of satisfaction levels from activities organized in 2024 (see figure below), based on 309 responses, indicates a generally high level of participant satisfaction. A significant majority, 160 respondents (52%), reported being "Very Satisfied," while 189 respondents (61%) indicated they were "Satisfied." Combined, this means that 91% of participants expressed positive satisfaction with the activities.

Conversely, only a small fraction of participants expressed neutrality or dissatisfaction. Specifically, 19 respondents (6%) selected "Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied," while 1 respondent (0.3%) reported being "Dissatisfied," and 5 respondents (1.6%) were "Very Dissatisfied."

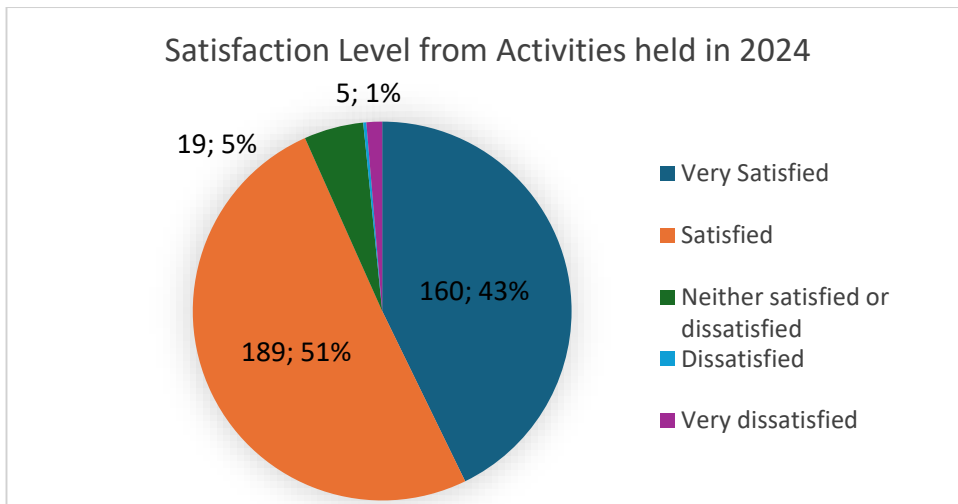


Figure 1.20. Satisfaction level from Activities held in 2024

Comparing online events with in-person trainings in 2024, the analysis reveals high overall approval, with online events achieving a 93% satisfaction rate (70 "Very Satisfied" and 71 "Satisfied" out of 152 responses) and no reports of dissatisfaction. In contrast, in-person trainings had an 82% satisfaction rate (90 "Very Satisfied" and 118 "Satisfied" out of 157 responses) but included a small share of dissatisfaction, Neutral feedback was slightly higher for in-person trainings (7%) compared to online events (5%), suggesting areas for improvement.

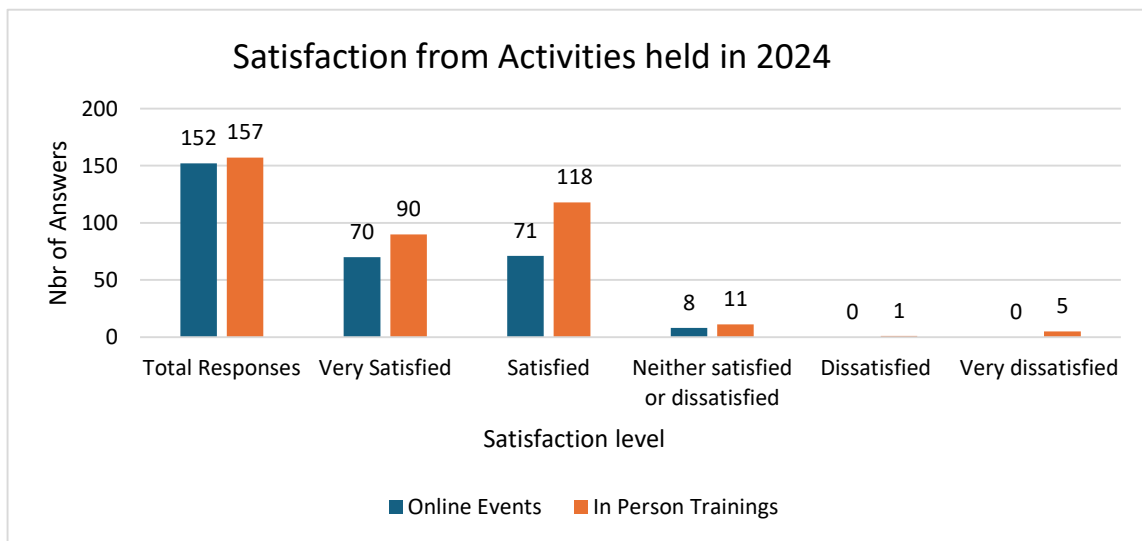


Figure 1.21. Satisfaction from Online and In-Person Activities Held in 2024

These results highlight the overall effectiveness of the activities in meeting participants' expectations and needs, with minimal dissatisfaction reported. The high satisfaction levels reflect well-organized events and relevant content delivery. However, the few instances of dissatisfaction warrant further analysis to identify areas for improvement. This is the purpose of the post-training questionnaire shared with all participants in November 2024, aimed at assessing overall satisfaction and identifying areas for enhancement. The detailed analysis of this assessment is presented in Chapter II of this report.

6. Partnerships and Collaborations

The information below provides an overview of the partnerships and collaborations CBIT-GSP has engaged in throughout 2024 with various partners. These partnerships have been central to CBIT-GSP’s capacity-building efforts under the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF), supporting countries in meeting their transparency obligations under the Paris Agreement. For clarity and accuracy, this section is divided into two parts: Regional Events and In-Country Supports.

6.1. Analysis of Regional Events and Partnerships

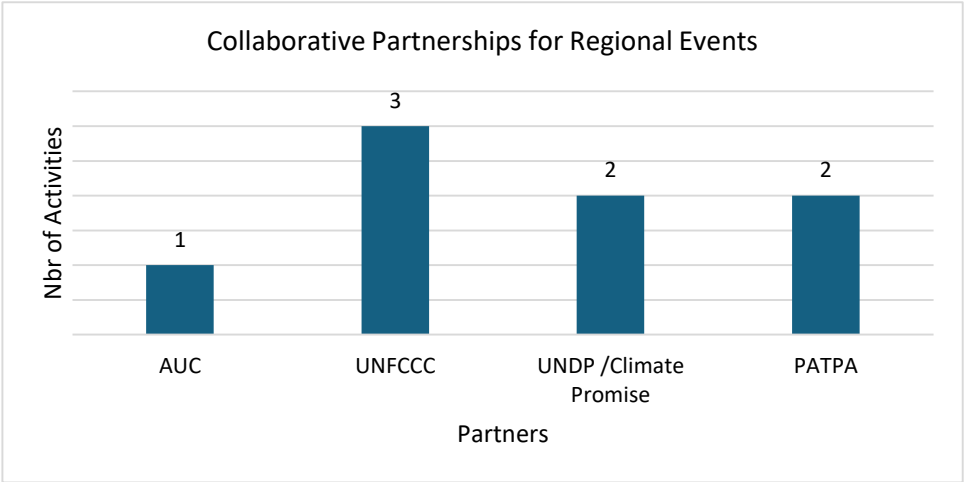


Figure 1.22. Partnership and Collaborations for Regional Events held in 2024.

The regional events organized by CBIT-GSP in collaboration with AUC, UNFCCC, UNDP/Climate Promise, and PATPA reflect a strategic, multi-faceted approach to enhancing capacity building under the ETF. These events addressed crucial topics such as NDC mitigation tracking, GHG inventory preparation, adaptation reporting, and key reporting elements under the ETF, including CRT, MPGs, and CTF. Through these partnerships, CBIT-GSP ensured that the events aligned with the Paris Agreement’s transparency requirements while also addressing the specific needs of countries across different regions. As illustrated in the figure and table above:

- UNFCCC:** UNFCCC played a significant role, partnering in 3 out of 5 regional trainings, showcasing its leadership in guiding countries to meet ETF requirements and global reporting standards. Their support focused on hands-on sessions using ETF reporting tools, providing participants with practical experience in implementing transparency obligations under the ETF.
- UNDP/ Climate Promise:** UNDP/Climate Promise participated in 2 regional workshops, including one in Kigali, Rwanda, which focused on NDC tracking and adaptation reporting. Additionally, they facilitated a webinar series for the Francophone network, concentrating on electronic reporting of the BTR using CTF and CRT tables. This collaboration emphasized UNDP/Climate Promise’s commitment to strengthening national capacities for adaptation, mitigation, and ETF implementation, particularly in BTR preparation.

- **PATPA:** PATPA contributed to 2 regional events, focusing on transparency and adaptation reporting. They supported the Francophone Network workshop and a cross-network event in Tokyo, Japan, where the emphasis was on GHG inventory preparation.
- **AUC:** CBIT-GSP also provided technical support to the regional training in Gaborone, Botswana, organized by AUC. This training focused on NDC mitigation tracking and catered to the specific needs of African Union member states.

Together, these partnerships combined technical expertise, financial support, and regional focus to deliver impactful and relevant capacity-building events. By collaborating with a diverse set of partners, CBIT-GSP ensured that the events covered a broad range of topics and reached a wide audience through various formats (in-person and online) across different locations. The global reach of these events, from Gaborone to Kigali, Riyadh, and Tokyo, ensured broad participation and the effective strengthening of countries' capacities to meet their transparency obligations under the Paris Agreement.

Table 1.2. Partnership and Collaborations for Regional Events held in 2024.

	Title of Event	Event Category	Collaborating Organisations	Location
1	Hands-training-tracking-ndc-mitigation-commitments-under-paris-agreement-gaborone-botswana	In Person Training	AUC	Gaborone, Botswana
2	Training Workshop on preparation and reporting of results of national GHG inventories under the ETF of the Paris Agreement	In Person Training	UNFCCC, PATPA	Tokyo, Japan
3	The Implementation of the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) Workshop	In Person Training	UNFCCC	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
4	Technical Workshop of Francophone Network: NDC Tracking for mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation and Adaptation reporting	In Person Training	UNDP/Climate Promise, PATPA, UNFCCC	Kigali, Rwanda
5	Webinar Series: Transparency and reporting under the PA in the Francophone network: A discussion on CRT, MPG, CTF	Technical Webinars	UNDP/Climate Promise	Online

6.2. Analysis of In-Country Activities and Collaborations

CBIT-GSP has formed several key collaborations with various partners to support national capacity-building for the ETF, with a focus on BTR preparation, NIR, and NDC tracking. As shown in the figure below, UNDP Climate Promise (3 activities) and UNDP Country Office (2 activities) remain key partners supporting CBIT-GSP, particularly for in-country support. FAO also emerges as an important partner that the MENA Network aims to engage more actively in its 2025 activities. Additionally, CBIT-GSP will strengthen its collaboration with UNEP-ROWA to ensure broader coverage of countries supported by both organizations. Together, these partners have worked with CBIT-GSP to address the specific needs of countries in the

MENA region and beyond, reflecting a strategic and tailored approach to meeting the transparency requirements of the Paris Agreement.

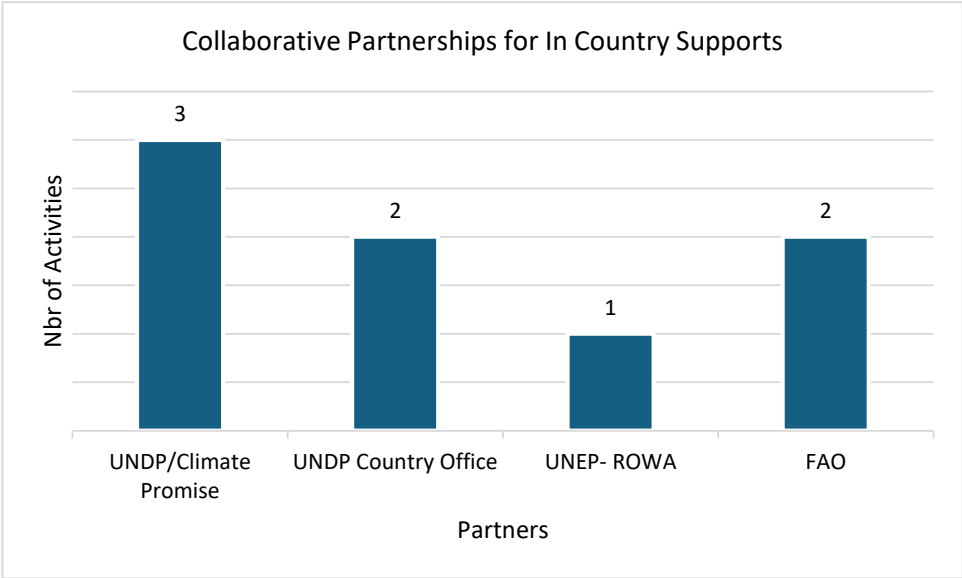


Figure 1.23. Partnership and Collaborations for In Country Activities held in 2024.

Below are some key insights about the in-country support provided in collaboration with all the mentioned partners (for more information see the table below):

- UNDP/Climate Promise:** In the context of in-country support, UNDP/Climate Promise, in partnership with CBIT-GSP, played a crucial role in assisting Mauritania, Morocco, and Djibouti with training workshops focused on GHG inventory methodologies and NDC tracking. These workshops helped national experts enhance their capacity in inventory preparation, enabling countries to prepare their NIR and NDC tracking chapters, and submit their CRT and CTF as part of their BTRs.
- FAO:** FAO played a pivotal role in supporting Morocco’s BTR preparation by conducting quality reviews of the GHG inventory for the LULUCF sector. FAO’s technical expertise ensured the quality and accuracy of Morocco’s BTR data, particularly for the LULUCF sector, which requires specialized knowledge. Additionally, FAO organized virtual hands-on sessions for Moroccan national experts to further strengthen their technical capabilities in GHG inventory reporting, contributing to more accurate and transparent climate data reporting.
- UNEP-ROWA:** CBIT-GSP contributed to a workshop organized by UNEP-ROWA, which supported Iraq in preparing its first BTR. The workshop focused on NDC tracking and GHG inventory preparation. CBIT-GSP provided technical sessions on ETF requirements and the BTR outline, with particular emphasis on NDC tracking. Hands-on sessions were conducted to guide participants on filling in the CTF tables, enhancing their ability to comply with the transparency standards under the Paris Agreement.
- UNDP Country Office:** The UNDP Country Office played a significant role in supporting CBIT-GSP by providing logistical support for the workshops held in Egypt and Jordan, including the venue and accommodation. These capacity-building workshops focused on the preparation of each country’s first BTR, specifically

addressing the development of the NIR, tracking NDC progress, and reporting on the support needed and received. Through these efforts, the UNDP Country Office helped Egypt and Jordan enhance their transparency and accountability in climate reporting, ensuring alignment with the Paris Agreement’s reporting mechanisms.

Table 1.3. Partnership and Collaborations for In Country Activities held in 2024.

	Country	Activity Title	Collaborating Organisations	Type of Support
1	Mauritania	Training Workshop for National Experts on Greenhouse Gases inventory Methodologies and tools for Mauritania-Energy and AFOLU sector	UNDP/Climate Promise	In-country workshop or training
2	Iraq	Preparation of the First BTR1/ Capacity building workshop on the preparation of the National Inventory Report and NDC tracking	UNEP- ROWA	In-country workshop or training
3	Morocco	Training Workshop for National Experts on GHG Inventory Methodologies and Tools for MOROCCO Energy Sector and AFOLU- Morocco, Marrakech	UNDP/Climate Promise	In-country workshop or training
4	Egypt	Capacity Building Workshop for the preparation of Egypt's First BTR, focusing on the National GHG Inventory Report, Tracking Progress on NDCs and Support Needed and Received	UNDP Country Office	In-country workshop or training
5	Morocco	Supporting Morocco in its BTR Preparation: Quality review of the GHG Inventory for LULUCF Sector in Morocco	FAO	Quality review- QA for BTR's NDC chapter
6	Morocco	Supporting Morocco in its BTR Preparation: Hands on Session for National Experts on GHG Inventory for LULUCF Sector in Morocco	FAO	Virtual Hands on
7	Jordan	Preparation of Jordan First BTR1 -Focus on National Inventory Report, NDC Tracking Progress and the Support Needed and Received-	UNDP Country Office	in country training
8	Djibouti	Preparation of Djibouti First BTR1 Capacity Building Workshop -Focus on National Inventory Report, NDC Tracking Progress and the Support Needed and Received-	UNDP Climate Promise	In-country workshop or training

The collaboration between CBIT-GSP/UNEP-CCC, UNDP/Climate Promise, UNEP-ROWA, FAO, and UNDP Country Office has provided an important support to enhance countries' capacities for implementing the ETF and meeting their Paris Agreement reporting obligations. These collaborative efforts have been crucial in enabling countries to improve their climate data reporting, especially in relation to the BTR, and underscore the importance of international cooperation in advancing climate action.

Annual Post-Training Survey

In November 2024, the CBIT-GSP MENA Network, conducted an evaluation survey to assess the support provided to countries in the MENA region during the first year of the project, 2024. This survey was designed to collect valuable insights from participants of the MENA Network's virtual and in-person training sessions, held at both regional and national levels. Sixty-five (65) participants from various countries in the MENA region responded to this survey.

The primary goal of the survey was to evaluate the effectiveness and impact of the MENA Network's activities in supporting countries' efforts to strengthen their climate transparency and reporting capabilities, in line with the requirements of the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement. By gathering feedback from those who participated in the training, the CBIT-GSP MENA Network aims to assess how well it has met the needs and expectations of the region, as well as identify areas for improvement. The goal is to better meet the needs and priorities of MENA countries in relation to climate transparency and reporting, as outlined under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement.

By evaluating the feedback, the CBIT-GSP MENA Network will be able to enhance its capacity-building activities and strengthen the overall transparency framework across the region, ultimately contributing to the global effort in combating climate change. Notably, this feedback will be used to assess the progress of the newly established MENA Network in 2024 and to fine-tune its activities for the upcoming year. The findings from this survey will play a crucial role in the preparation of the Annual Work Plan for 2025, ensuring that the project's activities align with the evolving needs of the countries in the region.

In this survey, participants were asked a series of questions to gather detailed information regarding the number and types of trainings they attended. The survey also sought to assess their overall satisfaction with the events, evaluating whether the trainings effectively contributed to enhancing their capacities, particularly in the preparation of the first Biennial Transparency Report (BTR). Participants were encouraged to share their specific needs and priorities, as well as any suggestions for improvement to help better tailor the trainings in the upcoming year, 2025.

The feedback provided valuable insights into the effectiveness of the CBIT-GSP MENA Network's capacity-building efforts and highlighted areas for further development. Below, you will find the key findings from the feedback survey:

1. Number and type of Trainings Attended by Participants in MENA

Sixty-five participants from various countries in the MENA region responded to this survey. As shown in the figure below, 40 participants indicated that they had attended between 1 to 4 events organized under the CBIT-GSP MENA Network, while 13 reported attending between 4 and 7 events. Additionally, 12 participants stated that they had participated in more than 7 events, with some attending up to 13 events.

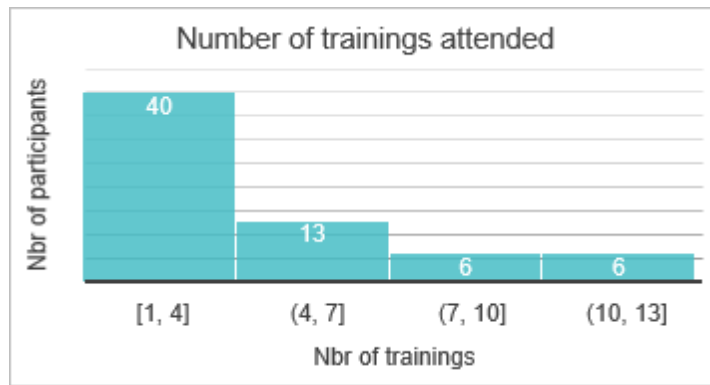


Figure 2.1. Number of Trainings Attended by Participants in the Survey

Based on the responses from participants and the graph below, 21 participants mentioned that they had attended capacity-building sessions organized at the national level in person, while 13 indicated that they had participated in all three types of training: in-person at the national level, regional sessions, and virtual trainings. Another 13 participants reported attending both online events and in-country trainings, while 10 participants mentioned attending only virtual events, and 5 reported participating in both online and regional trainings. This graph clearly shows that the majority of participants benefited from more than one form of training.

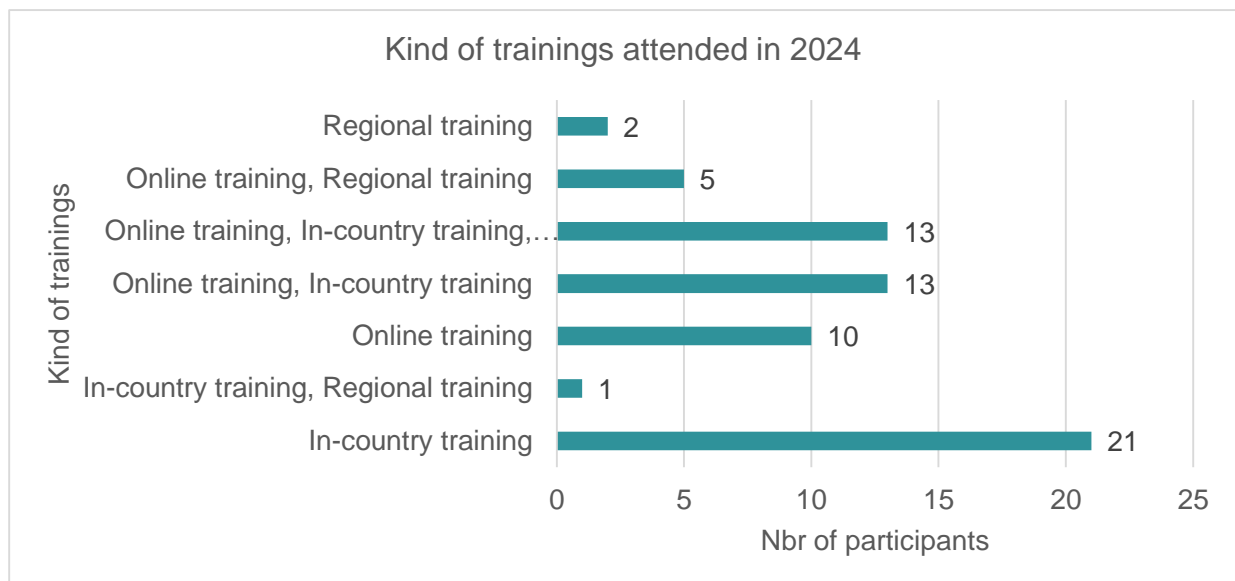


Figure 2.2. Kind of Trainings Attended by Participants in MENA

2. Areas of Capacity- Building Trainings attended

Based on the responses from participants and as shown in the graph below, the most frequently mentioned areas of the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) are the GHG inventory (46 responses), climate transparency (42 responses), and the tracking of NDC implementation and achievement (38 responses). These are followed by the areas of support needed and received, institutional arrangements, and climate mitigation, with 24 responses

for each of these domains. Other areas mentioned include data collection and management, cross-cutting issues, and adaptation. This indicates that the MENA Network, given the urgency of preparing the first BTR report before the December 31, 2024 deadline, has focused its efforts on strengthening capacities in the requirements of the Enhanced Transparency Framework and BTR preparation, particularly on the two mandatory chapters related to GHG inventories and the new NDC tracking chapter. Given the importance of reporting on financial support received and mobilized, this area was also considered beneficial and crucial to include in the first BTR.

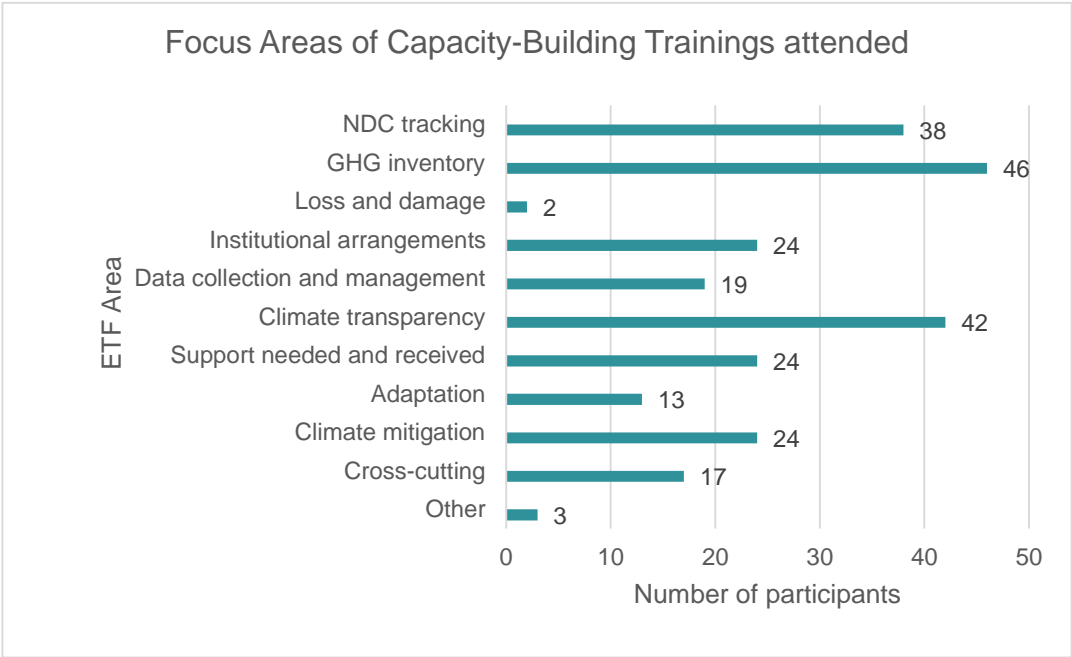


Figure 2.3. Focus Areas of Capacity-Building Trainings in MENA

3. Contribution of the training to improving and strengthening MRV/transparency activities

The survey responses from participants highlight the impactful role of the training sessions in enhancing MRV/transparency activities. A significant majority, 58%, rated the contribution of the trainings as "very significant," demonstrating the high value placed on the sessions in improving their capacity and understanding. Additionally, 31% of respondents described the contribution as "significant," further emphasizing the widespread acknowledgment of the training's effectiveness.

Only a small proportion, 9%, rated the impact as "moderate," and an even smaller 2% indicated a "slight contribution," suggesting that the training reached most participants effectively. Notably, no respondents selected "no contribution," which underscores that the trainings had at least some positive impact for all participants.

This feedback reflects a strong endorsement of the training program's relevance and its ability to meet the participants' needs in the field of MRV and transparency.

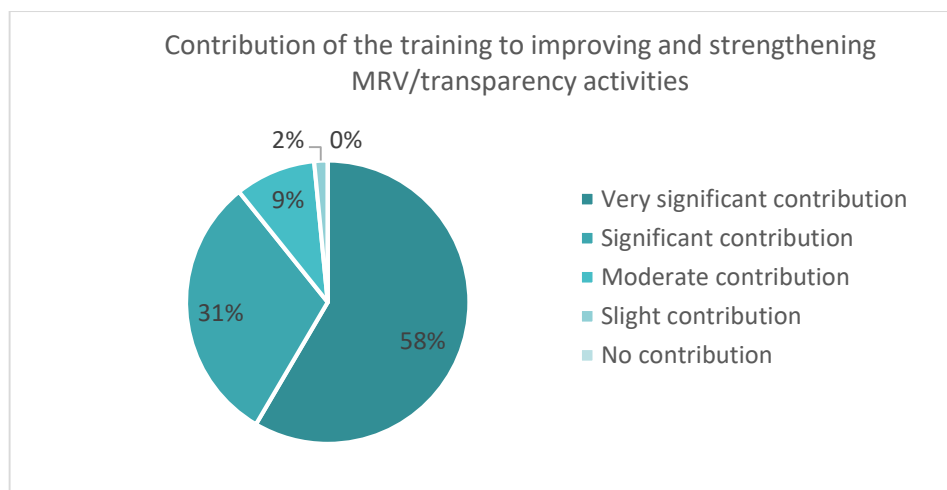


Figure 2.4. Contribution of the trainings to improving and strengthening MRV/Transparency activities

4. Strengthening MRV and Transparency Through Trainings

The survey results reveal that the trainings have significantly contributed to MRV/transparency activities under the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) and the preparation of Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) across multiple dimensions. A majority of participants (50 responses) reported an enhanced understanding of MRV/transparency processes, demonstrating the effectiveness of the sessions in building foundational knowledge crucial for ETF implementation. Results from this are shown in the below figure 2.5.

Additionally, 47 respondents noted improvements in the accuracy of data reporting, highlighting the trainings' practical value in strengthening the quality of data essential for BTR preparation. Furthermore, 39 participants indicated that the trainings provided clearer frameworks and methodologies, enhancing their understanding of the ETF. The sessions also fostered stronger knowledge sharing and collaboration within the MENA Network, as reported by 38 participants. Lastly, 36 respondents reported improved efficiency in data collection and analysis, emphasizing the trainings' impact on streamlining BTR-related processes. Overall, the trainings have had a positive impact, particularly in enhancing participants' understanding of ETF and BTR preparation, data reporting accuracy, collaboration, and efficiency, underlining the importance of continuing such capacity-building efforts to sustain progress in the region.

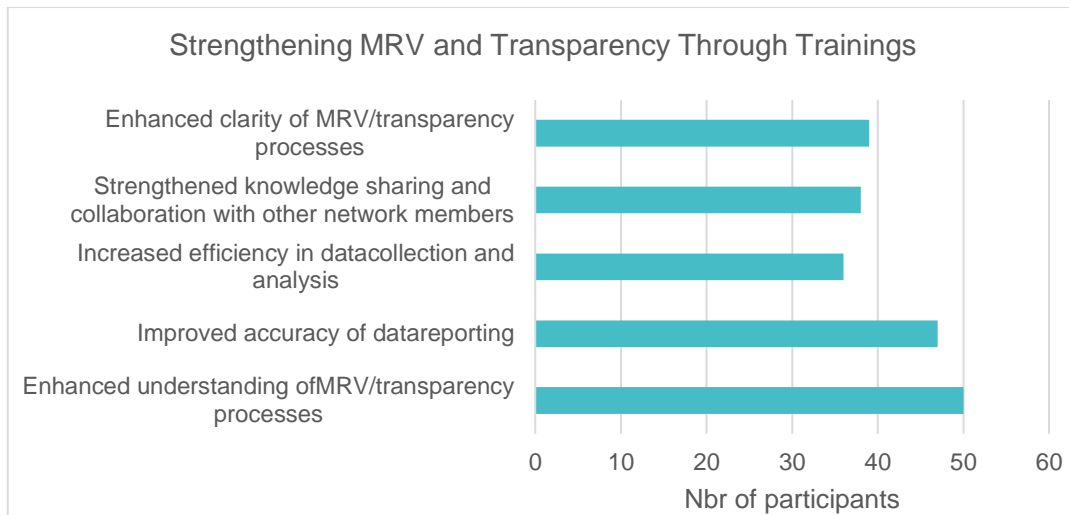


Figure 2.5. Strengthening MRV and Transparency Through Trainings

5. Impact of trainings on professional Development in MRV/Transparency activities

Figure 2.6 illustrates the impact of training on professional development in MRV/Transparency activities under the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF). A significant majority of participants (71%) reported a substantial impact, while 20% noted a moderate effect, and 9% experienced only a slight impact. This indicates that most participants found the training to be highly beneficial for enhancing their capacities in ETF implementation, with only a small proportion feeling that the training had minimal influence. Overall, the training has proven to be an effective tool in enhancing professional capabilities in MRV/transparency activities under the ETF for the vast majority of respondents.

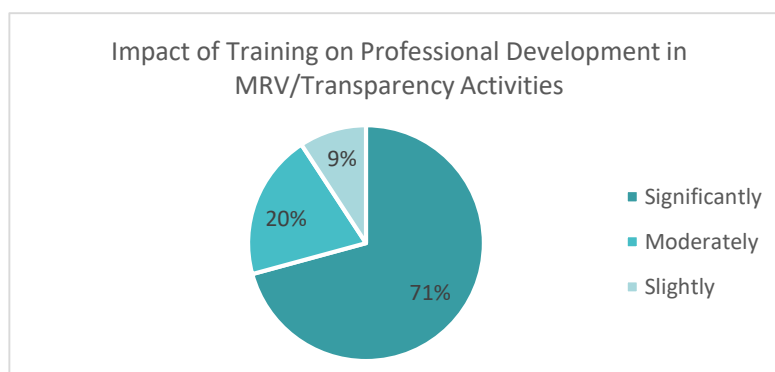


Figure 2.6. Impact of trainings on professional Development in MRV/Transparency activities

6. Overall Satisfaction with training events organized in 2024

The data on overall satisfaction with training events in 2024 (figure 2.7) shows a highly positive response. Most participants were satisfied, with 48% (31 respondents) being satisfied and 45% (29 respondents) being very satisfied. A small proportion, 6% (4 respondents), were neutral, neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, while only 1% (1 respondent) expressed dissatisfaction. No participants were very dissatisfied. Overall, 93% of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the training, reflecting its success and effectiveness, with only a small minority expressing neutral or negative views.

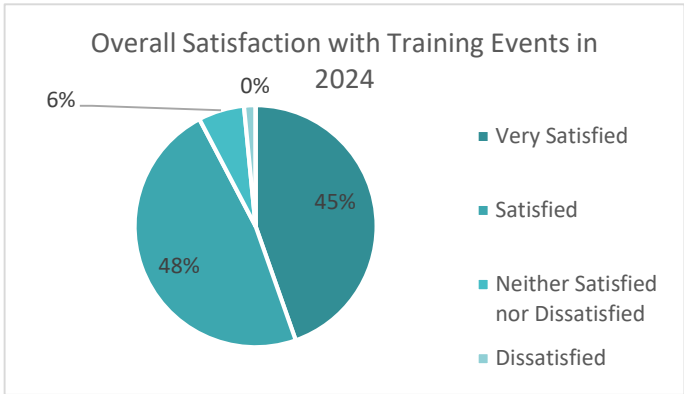


Figure 2.7. Overall Satisfaction with Training Events of MENA Network in 2024.

7. Impact of MENA Network Training on National Reporting Processes

The survey feedback from participants in the MENA Network events in 2024 reveals a positive response regarding the application of training knowledge and skills in national reporting processes. A significant majority of participants (80%, 52 respondents) reported successfully applying the knowledge and skills gained during the training, demonstrating its practical relevance and value. However, 20% (13 respondents) indicated they did not apply the training, suggesting potential challenges in implementation or limited applicability to their specific tasks. Several hypotheses could explain this gap: some participants may not hold roles directly linked to national reporting, suggesting a need to reassess the target audience; organizational or systemic constraints, such as lack of resources or institutional support, may hinder application; and some attendees might participate for informational purposes rather than practical implementation. Additionally, knowledge transfer gaps or insufficient alignment of training content with specific tasks could be factors. Overall, the feedback underscores the effectiveness of the MENA Network events in equipping participants with valuable skills for national reporting processes. Overall, the feedback underscores the effectiveness of the MENA Network events in equipping participants with valuable skills for national reporting processes.

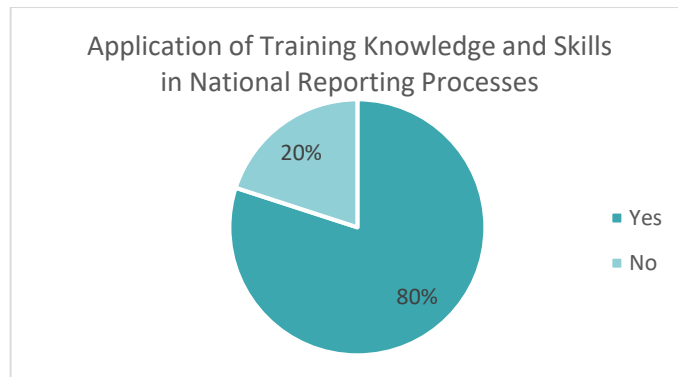


Figure 2.8. Application of training knowledge and skills in national reporting processes

8. Application of Training Knowledge in National Reporting Documents

This part shows how participants in the MENA Network applied their training to the preparation of various national reporting documents. The majority of participants contributed to the Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) (35 participants), the National Inventory Document/Report (NID) (36 participants), and the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) Report (28 participants), indicating that the training was most relevant to these key transparency and climate action documents. Fewer participants contributed to the Biennial Update Report (BUR) (7 participants), suggesting less emphasis or need for BURs in the region. Additionally, 13 participants contributed to other national reporting documents, reflecting the broader applicability of the training. Overall, the data highlights the strong impact of the training on essential national reporting processes under the Enhanced Transparency Framework.

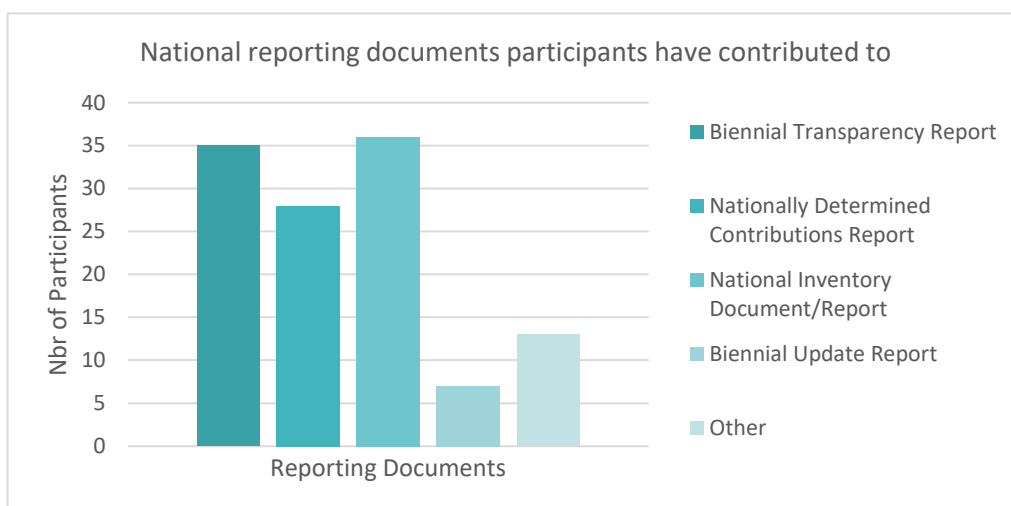


Figure 2.9. National Reporting Documents Participants have contributed to.

9. Effectiveness of trainings and guidance in Enhancing Capabilities for preparing NCs and BTRs

The graph below shows that the majority of participants found the training and guidance effective in enhancing their capabilities to prepare NCs and/or BTRs. Specifically, 42% (26 participants) considered it very effective, and 50% (31 participants) found it effective. Only 11% (7 participants) were neutral, while just 2% (1 participant) found the training ineffective. Overall, the data indicates that the training had a positive impact, with most participants reporting significant improvements in their ability to prepare national communications and Biennial Transparency Reports.

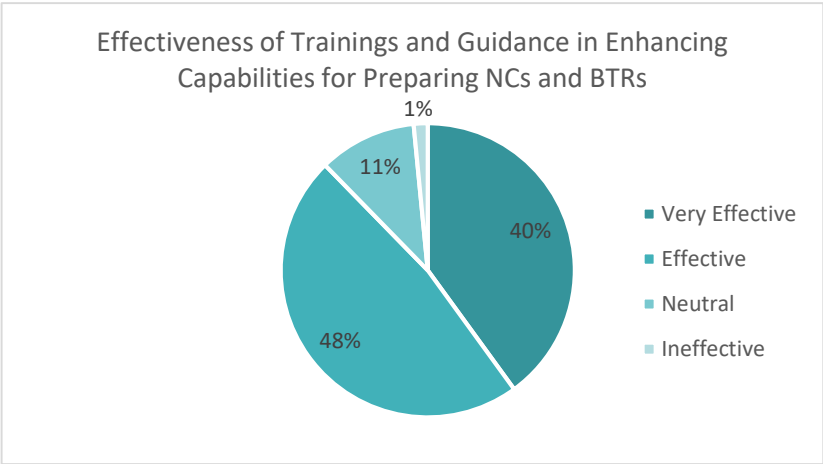


Figure 2.10. Effectiveness of trainings and guidance in Enhancing Capabilities for preparing NCs and BTRs.

10. Utilization of the Climate Transparency Platform Post-Training

Feedback from survey participants (see figure 11.) reveals that 58% (38 respondents) have utilized the Climate Transparency Platform following their training, demonstrating its value as a resource for accessing news on activities, events, materials, and other knowledge products. However, 42% (27 respondents) reported not using the platform.

The platform, which supports the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) of the Paris Agreement and UNFCCC reporting, provides a global overview of transparency initiatives, detailed country-specific information, and opportunities for peer-to-peer exchange through its Global Forum and Network Forums. This feedback highlights the platform’s importance while also underscoring the need for targeted efforts to enhance awareness and engagement among users to fully leverage its potential.

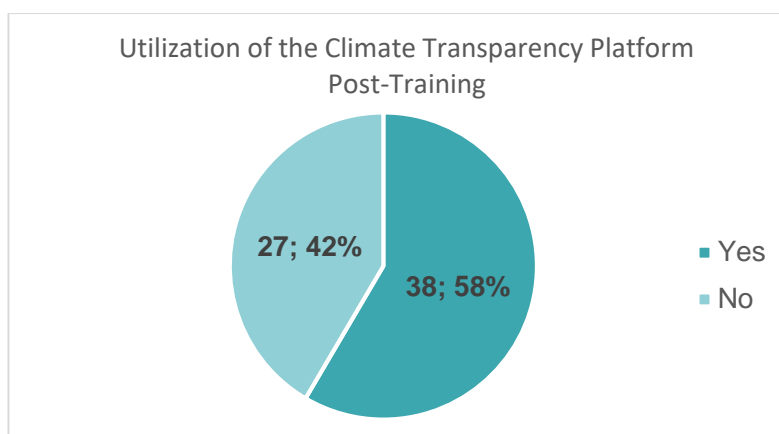


Figure 2.11. Utilization of the Climate Transparency Platform Post-Training

11. Priority Support Needs

The survey feedback highlights a diverse range of priority areas for training focus in 2025, reflecting the participants' varied interests and needs to strengthen their capacities under the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF). Key themes include:

- NDC preparation, tracking and projections:** Participants expressed a strong interest in NDC preparation, updating, tracking, and projections. This includes requests for advanced modelling tools (such as LEAP, GACMO, TIME...), methodologies, and techniques to support the effective monitoring and evaluation of NDC targets.
- IPCC Software and GHG Inventory:** The use of IPCC software was a recurring theme, with specific mentions of capacity building for calculating inventories in the LULUCF and agriculture sectors. Training on uncertainty analysis, quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC), and higher-tier methodologies (Tier 2 and Tier 3) was also highlighted.
- Enhanced Transparency Framework Tools and Reporting:** Participants sought training on ETF reporting tools, notably the requirements and guidance for preparing key national reports, such as BTRs, NIDs, and NCs. Practical exercises, case studies, and clarity on the differences between various reports were identified as needs.
- Article 6 reporting:** Several participants expressed interest in training on the operationalization of Article 6, including carbon market mechanisms, carbon pricing, and opportunities for leveraging financial support. This reflects the growing need to understand the intersection between transparency and market-based approaches.
- Reporting and M&E of Adaptation and Loss and Damage:** There is significant demand for training on adaptation planning, loss and damage reporting, and their integration into national reporting frameworks. Participants also highlighted the importance of capacity-building in financial preparation for adaptation measures and effective monitoring of these efforts.

- **Climate Finance and Institutional Arrangements:** Participants emphasized the need for capacity-building on climate finance, including tracking financial flows, carbon pricing mechanisms, and institutional arrangements to enhance national reporting processes.
- **Practical and Peer-to-Peer Learning:** The need for practical, hands-on training through case studies and peer-to-peer exchanges was underscored, with participants requesting examples of best practices and lessons learned from other countries.

The feedback highlights the critical need for targeted, hands-on, and advanced training in several key areas, including NDC tracking and projections, GHGI methodologies and tools, Article 6 reporting, as well as monitoring, evaluation, and reporting on adaptation and loss and damage, while ensuring alignment with ETF requirements. To effectively address these diverse needs, the capacity-building initiatives in the 2025 work plan should incorporate technical tools and practical case studies. Additionally, fostering peer-to-peer learning within the MENA Network, as well as with other networks, will be essential for enhancing knowledge sharing and collaboration to support the region's capacity-building efforts.

Other needs expressed

The comments reveal several key themes and suggestions aimed at improving the effectiveness and accessibility of the trainings for MRV and transparency activities:

- **Practical, Hands-on Training:** A strong request for more practical sessions focused on data analysis, electronic reporting, and transparency practices.
- **Extended Training Duration:** Participants suggested increasing the length of training courses to allow more time for practical exercises and in-depth exploration of topics.
- **In-Person Regional Events:** A preference for regional in-person events to enhance interaction, collaboration, and peer-to-peer learning.
- **Language Support:** Requests for training materials and sessions in Arabic or French to better accommodate participants from non-English speaking regions.
- **Targeted Training for Specific Stakeholders:** Calls for training tailored to the needs of various stakeholders, particularly those involved in data collection and sector-specific topics like AFAT.
- **Post-Training Support:** Suggestions for ongoing support such as webinars, self-learning modules, and tools to help participants stay updated on new methodologies and regulations.
- **Ongoing Expert Exchange:** Interest in creating permanent platforms for continuous communication and knowledge exchange among experts.

- **Long-term Capacity Building:** Emphasis on the need for region-specific and tailored training programs to support both immediate and long-term MRV and transparency efforts in the MENA region.

Conclusion of Annual Post Training Survey

The survey results underscore the significant impact of the MENA Network's training initiatives on enhancing the region's capacities for MRV and transparency activities. The majority of participants attended multiple training sessions, benefiting from diverse formats such as in-person, regional, and virtual sessions. The focus on critical areas, including GHG inventories, climate transparency, and NDC tracking, directly aligned with the urgent need for preparing the first Biennial Transparency Report (BTR), particularly the GHG inventory and NDC chapters.

Participants reported substantial improvements in their understanding of the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF), data reporting accuracy, and the efficiency of data collection and analysis. The training also fostered stronger collaboration within the MENA Network, enabling participants to share knowledge and best practices effectively. The vast majority of respondents applied the knowledge gained to national reporting documents, such as BTRs, National Inventory Documents (NIDs), and NDC Reports, demonstrating the practical relevance and effectiveness of the training.

Moreover, the survey highlights a high level of satisfaction with the training, with 93% of participants expressing contentment with the sessions. On the other hand, 42% of respondents had not used the Climate Transparency Platform, underscoring the need for enhanced awareness and targeted efforts to boost engagement, including a second webinar on platform access and usage in 2025.

Additionally, language barriers during webinars were highlighted, with participants from Francophone and Arabic-speaking countries requesting translations into French or Arabic. This linguistic diversity, reflective of the MENA region, will be addressed by tailoring support to countries' preferred languages, as already practiced in national workshops.

Looking ahead to 2025, the survey identifies key areas for further capacity-building, including advanced tools for NDC preparation, tracking, and projections, as well as IPCC software training. There is also a growing interest in training related to Article 6 reporting, climate finance, and adaptation and loss and damage, reflecting the evolving priorities in the region. To enhance the accessibility and effectiveness of future training, participants suggested extending training durations, focusing on hands-on learning, providing language support, and offering ongoing post-training resources.

In conclusion, the feedback emphasizes the importance of targeted, practical, and region-specific capacity-building initiatives to address the diverse MRV and transparency challenges in the MENA region, ensuring continued progress in meeting the ETF and reporting requirements under the Paris Agreement.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

As outlined in the Work Plan, which is detailed in the annex, certain activities were not implemented during the first year of the MENA Network. This was mainly due to the fact that support requests were only received starting in June. Consequently, the CBIT-GSP had to prioritize requests that reflected the real needs of countries, aiming to support them in implementing the Enhanced Transparency Framework at the national level and increasing their chances of submitting their first BTR on time.

Most of the activities deferred to the following year pertain to non-mandatory areas under the BTR or additional support activities, including four virtual events: Implementing an Online MRV Platform System aligned with ETF requirements; Article 6 - Transparency and Reporting Requirements (Cooperative Approaches); Adaptation Webinar Series (MPGs requirements and provisions, Adaptation Reporting); and Mainstreaming Gender into Climate Reporting, featuring the Gender Toolkit. All of these events will be taking into consideration in the Work Plan of 2025.

Regarding in-country support, as announced during the Network's launch meeting, all listed activities are indicative, based on bilateral meetings held in March with countries. These activities require official requests from the respective countries. In this context, all countries mentioned in the Work Plan received support except Sudan and Somalia, as no formal requests were submitted due to national circumstances and institutional instability. Tunisia opted to postpone the workshop initially scheduled for December to the following year.

Looking ahead to 2025, CBIT-GSP remains committed to providing proactive and tailored capacity-building and technical assistance to support countries like Sudan and Somalia. This approach ensures that all countries, including those unable to formally request support, are empowered to prepare their BTRs and fulfil their transparency commitments under the Paris Agreement. This strategy aligns with the project's commitment to inclusivity and ensures that no country is left behind in advancing transparency goals.

One of the key challenges faced by the CBIT-GSP has been the inability to engage four countries in the MENA region. Despite multiple attempts to establish contact, the project has not received responses from these countries regarding the support it can provide to strengthen their transparency systems. Looking ahead, the CBIT-GSP is committed to continuing its outreach efforts until all countries in the region are actively engaged. This ongoing effort reflects the project's dedication to inclusivity and ensuring that all countries have access to the resources and support necessary to advance their transparency frameworks.

Despite the late launch of the MENA Network in April 2024, the achievements of the first year are commendable. This success is attributed to the serious commitment of Middle East and North Africa countries, who trusted CBIT-GSP to support their BTR preparation processes. The provided support had a recognized impact, as expressed by countries in feedback surveys conducted after each activity and in post-training feedback shared in November (see Chapter 2).

Participant feedback indicated discomfort with the language used during webinars (English). Several countries requested translation into French or Arabic, reflecting the multilingual nature of the MENA region, which includes five Francophone countries, while most Middle Eastern countries primarily work in Arabic. However, this issue was not raised during national capacity-building workshops, as support was always tailored to the preferred language of the country, Arabic for Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, and Libya; French for Morocco, Mauritania, and Djibouti; and English for Lebanon and Bahrain. Addressing this linguistic diversity will be a priority in 2025 to ensure equitable benefits from the project for all countries.

According to the post-training feedback survey, 42% of respondents indicated they had not used the Global Transparency Platform, which provides an overview of transparency initiatives, country-specific information, and opportunities for peer-to-peer exchange. This feedback highlights the platform's importance and the need for targeted efforts to raise awareness and engagement among users. A second webinar on using and accessing the platform will be included in the 2025 Work Plan.

Survey results (see Chapter 3) indicate that several MENA countries (Djibouti, Iraq, Somalia, Libya, Yemen, Mauritania, and Sudan) are unlikely to submit their BTRs on time. This necessitates increased CBIT-GSP support to help these countries submit their reports as soon as possible, focusing on mandatory areas such as GHG inventory and NDC tracking.

In the GHG inventory area, needs remain significant. The regional workshop, attended by representatives from eleven MENA countries (one person per country), and two webinars underscored a gap in areas such as completing CRT tables, using IPCC software, applying IPCC guidelines, and implementing QA/QC procedures. Similarly, NDC tracking needs are oriented toward projections and modeling, which will benefit not only BTR preparation but also the development of NDC 3.0. Needs related to electronic reporting, such as filling out CTF tables and developing tracking indicators, were also highlighted. In 2025, a series of technical webinars on NDC tracking and a regional workshop on modeling and projections using the LEAP tool will be organized to address these gaps.

A new priority area, mentioned frequently in feedback, is Article 6, specifically focusing on cooperative approaches and ETF-related reporting. Adaptation, loss and damage, monitoring, and evaluation also emerged as key areas requiring attention. In 2025, tailored activities will be organized based on the expressed needs of countries.

Gender considerations in climate reporting were identified as a major gap in most countries. This issue will be addressed in regional webinars in 2025. Additionally, countries emphasized the need for designing monitoring and evaluation systems for NDC progress, financial flow tracking, and adaptation. Technical events and experience-sharing platforms will be organized to address these needs.

Countries in the MENA region also expressed interest in learning about the development and implementation of CBIT projects at the national level. Given that only five countries in the region are currently developing such projects, CBIT-GSP will organize events to introduce and clarify the CBIT project's benefits and application processes.

Throughout 2024, CBIT-GSP worked with various partners to maximize support for countries and respond to requests. Key partners included UNDP's Climate Promise initiative and UNFCCC, which provided technical support for regional events. Collaborations were also initiated with the African Union Commission (AUC) and UNEP ROWA, with plans to expand partnerships in 2025 to include GGGI for Article 6 reporting and MRV systems.

The MENA Network also developed collaborations with other CBIT-GSP networks, including the Francophone, Anglophone Africa, and Eurasia networks, enhancing peer-to-peer learning and South-South cooperation. Six countries shared their experiences multiple times, demonstrating a commitment to supporting other network members and fostering collaboration.

Organizing in-country activities proved challenging in politically and security-unstable countries. CBIT-GSP ensured UN accommodations and emergency evacuations where necessary. Subregional workshops are being considered as alternative solutions to address these challenges and ensure continuity in capacity-building efforts.

In conclusion, the following points summarize the key lessons learned from the first year of the MENA Network:

1. **Tailored Language Support:** Multilingual webinars with Arabic and French translations are essential for equitable participation.
2. **Enhanced Platform Utilization:** Greater promotion and training are needed to increase engagement with the Global Transparency Platform.
3. **Focused Support for Delayed BTRs:** Prioritize countries unlikely to meet their BTR deadlines, focusing on mandatory areas like GHG inventory and NDC tracking.
4. **Regional Collaboration:** Strengthen peer-to-peer learning and South-South cooperation within the Network's strategy.
5. **Adaptation to Security Challenges:** Subregional workshops can mitigate security concerns and ensure effective capacity-building.
6. **Strategic Partnerships:** Collaborate more with partners like UNDP, UNEP, and GGGI to expand technical assistance.
7. **Proactive Planning:** Early engagement with countries to formalize support requests will improve workplan implementation.

These lessons will guide the development of an effective and responsive 2025 Work Plan.

Opportunities For 2025

Building on the points outlined above and considering the numerous challenges and lessons learned during the first year of the MENA Network, it is evident that 2025 must address as many of these challenges and needs as possible. These needs were expressed by countries

and encountered by CBIT-GSP during its missions. In response, the opportunities for 2025 are summarized as follows:

1. Capacity-Building and Technical Support

CBIT-GSP will continue providing tailored capacity-building and technical assistance for MENA countries, prioritizing those struggling to meet transparency commitments under the Paris Agreement, particularly those unable to submit their BTRs within the deadline. As mentioned, the in-country supports outlined in the 2025 Work Plan are potential opportunities based on bilateral meetings. These will require reinforcement through an official request to the CBIT project by completing the support request form available on the Global Transparency Platform.

2. Regional Trainings

CBIT-GSP intends to organize a regional workshop addressing the needs expressed by the majority of countries, focusing on monitoring progress in NDC implementation. The training will emphasize reporting on projections and scenario development using modeling tools like LEAP, which have already been used in NDC preparation. This approach will not only bridge gaps in projection reporting under the BTR framework but also support countries in preparing their NDC 3.0.

3. Regional Workshops and Webinars:

A series of regional online workshops and webinars will address critical areas such as GHG inventory, NDC tracking, Article 6 cooperative approaches, adaptation reporting, and gender mainstreaming in climate reporting. These sessions aim to cover the priorities expressed by the majority of countries.

4. Promoting the Climate Transparency Platform:

To enhance engagement and awareness, a second webinar on accessing and utilizing the Climate Transparency Platform will be included in the 2025 Work Plan.

5. Addressing Security Challenges:

Subregional workshops will be organized to mitigate risks and ensure effective capacity-building in politically and security-unstable countries on ETF implementation. These will focus on mandatory BTR reporting areas, especially for countries that missed submission deadlines and anticipate delays.

6. Promoting Experience Sharing and Peer-to-Peer Learning:

CBIT-GSP plans to strengthen experience-sharing sessions, particularly with countries that have already submitted their BTRs. This will enhance South-South cooperation and facilitate mutual learning among countries.

7. Promoting National CBIT Projects:

Events will showcase the benefits of CBIT projects, encouraging countries to initiate and develop national CBIT projects to strengthen their transparency systems.

8. CBIT Peer-to-Peer Learning Event:

An in-person peer-to-peer learning event is also planned. This event will enable countries currently developing their CBIT projects to learn from each other, share best practices and lessons learned, and discuss challenges. Potential collaboration with the Anglophone Africa Network, which has had a successful experience with such events, could further strengthen South-South cooperation between African and MENA countries.

These are the Key Focus Areas for 2025:

- **Linkage Between BTR and NDC:** NDC tracking, modelling, projection tools like LEAP, fill in CTF tables and Article 6 reporting.
- **GHG Inventory:** IPCC Guidelines, CRT tables, and QA/QC procedures. In-person training sessions on IPCC software are also planned for countries which will request it.
- **Adaptation and Loss & Damage:** Communication and reporting on climate change impacts and adaptation, BTR adaptation chapters, and experience-sharing from exemplary countries within and outside the Network.
- **Gender and Inclusivity in Climate Reporting:** Integrating gender considerations into climate reporting using tools like the Gender Toolkit.
- **Promoting National CBIT Projects:** Events highlighting the benefits of CBIT projects and encouraging their development.

Future/Potential Collaborations and Partnerships

Given the positive outcomes of CBIT-GSP's collaborations with partners in supporting MENA countries, it is crucial to continue leveraging and expanding these partnerships to address the prioritized needs of the countries:

1. **UNDP Climate Promise:** Expanding collaboration with UNDP will provide enhanced support for MENA countries through technical expertise, capacity development, and integration of transparency systems with NDC implementation. Continued collaboration with UNDP Country Offices, particularly for francophone countries, will build on the strong cooperation demonstrated during the MENA Network's first year.
2. **UNFCCC Partnership:** Collaboration with the UNFCCC Secretariat presents significant opportunities, particularly for organizing regional events. Close coordination with the UNFCCC will ensure alignment with ETF requirements, providing expert guidance during regional activities and ensuring adherence to global transparency standards.

3. **FAO Collaboration:** Partnering with FAO will address transparency needs in the AFOLU sector, focusing on GHG inventory practices, data management, and reporting in agriculture and land use. MENA countries can benefit significantly from the recently launched CBIT-Forest project, with CBIT-GSP planning to collaborate with FAO in this area throughout 2025.
4. **African Union Commission (AUC):** The professionalism demonstrated by AUC in organizing workshops for the African continent has inspired CBIT-GSP to explore further collaboration opportunities. Continued partnership with AUC will strengthen regional engagement on ETF implementation and BTR preparation through joint capacity-building initiatives.
5. **Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI):** Collaboration with GGGI is a priority for the MENA Network in 2025, given their expertise in domains such as Article 6 reporting, MRV systems, and integrating transparency frameworks with sustainable development goals. This collaboration will be key to planning regional training on NDC tracking and Article 6 reporting.
6. **Cross-Network Collaborations:** Strengthened partnerships with CBIT-GSP Francophone, Anglophone Africa, Eurasia, and other networks will facilitate peer-to-peer learning, South-South cooperation, and the exchange of best practices among member countries.

In 2025, CBIT-GSP aims to expand collaborations with organizations such as UNDP Climate Promise, UNFCCC, FAO, AUC, and GGGI. Through proactive engagement, multilingual support, and innovative partnerships, the MENA Network will ensure that all countries in the region receive the assistance necessary to advance their transparency commitments under the Paris Agreement.

Annex 1: Status of implementation of the 2024 Annual Work Plan for MENA Network

	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Approach and level</i>	<i>Status</i>
I	Initiating the project		
1.1.	Analysis of the Capacity Needs Assessment	Write-up/ regional	Completed
1.2.	Inception Workshop	Virtual/ all countries	Completed
1.3.	Inception Report	Write-up/ regional	Completed
1.4.	Approved Work Plan	Write-up/ regional	Completed
1.5.	Cooperation Plan/Concept with transparency partners	Compilation table, based on interviews	Completed
II	Regional activities		
2.1.	ETF/MPGs , requirements and provisions for the BTR	Webinar / all countries	Completed
2.2.	The Implementation of the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) Workshop	In person/all countries	Completed
2.3.	Introduction to the Climate Transparency Platform	Webinar / all countries	Completed
2.4.	Preparation and planning of the first BTR / BTR Road Map tool	Webinar – all countries	Completed
2.5.	GHG Inventory Training for MENA Network	In Person Training/ all countries	Completed
2.6.	Institutional Arrangements for Transparency Systems- best practices and lessons learned (Morocco, Egypt, Mauritania)	Webinar / all countries	Completed
2.7.	GHG Inventory / IPCC Guidelines : Data collection, QA/QC procedures, methodologies	Virtual Workshop /all countries	Completed
2.8.	NDC tracking : Reporting requirements, tools and indicators, CTFs tables	Virtual workshop/ all countries	Completed
2.9.	Implementing an Online MRV Platform System aligned with the ETF requirements + Experiences sharing from Morocco, Tunisia, Sudan	Webinar/ all countries	Postponed
2.10.	BTR electronic Reporting / Using the ETF Reporting Tools : fill in the CTF	Virtual Workshop / All countries	Completed
2.11.	Article 6 - Transparency and Reporting requirements (Cooperative approaches) + Sharing Morocco's Experience	Virtual Workshop / all Countries	Postponed
2.12.	Support Needed and Received Tracking : Reporting requirements	Virtual Workshop / All countries	Completed
2.13.	Adaptation Webinar Series (MPGs requirements and provisions, Adaptation Reporting)	Webinar Series	Postponed
2.14.	Mainstreaming gender into climate reporting : Gender Toolkit + experience sharing from Tunisia	Virtual Workshop / All countries	Postponed
2.15.	CBIT-GSP Annual Network Meeting	Regional Meeting / In person	Completed
III	National activities		
3.1.	Yemen: Preparation of the BTR Road Map	Technical assistance	Completed
3.2.	Morocco: NDC indicators and ETF Reporting Tools (fill in CTF)	Hands-on training	Completed

3.3.	Tunisia: NDC indicators and ETF Reporting Tools (fill in CTF)	Hands-on training	Re-scheduled
3.4.	Lebanon: NDC indicators and ETF Reporting Tools (fill in CTF)	Workshop (virtual)	Completed
3.5.	Jordan: Preparation of the BTR Road Map	Technical assistance	cancelled
3.6.	Jordan : 2006 IPCC Guidelines and the IPCC inventory software (CRTs fill in)	Hands-on training	Completed
3.7.	Iraq: IPCC methodology and Software focus on Energy (oil and gas), AFOLU and Waste	Hands-on training	Completed
3.8.	Somalia: Alignment of the National CBIT Project with the new requirements under the ETF	Technical assistance /Hands on	Postponed
3.9.	Sudan: Revision of the National CBIT Project activities to be aligned with the new requirements under the ETF	Technical assistance	Postponed
3.10.	Egypt: ETF Reporting Tools Platform (CRTs an CTF fill in)	Hands on training (in person)	Completed
3.11.	Somalia: 2006 IPCC guidelines and Software (CRTs fill in)	Hands-on training (in person)	Postponed
3.12.	Yemen + Sudan + Libya : 2006 IPCC guidelines and Software (CRTs fill in)	Training (hybrid/virtual)	Postponed
3.13.	Mauritania: LEAP Modelling (projections and scenarios) for the NDC Updating	Hands-on training	Completed
3.14.	Libya: Projections and scenarios for the first NDC via GACMO (if virtual include Yemen)	Hands-on training	Completed
3.15.	Bahrain: NDC tracking reporting requirements and indicators	Training (Virtual/ In person)	Completed
IV	Knowledge products and publications		
4.1	Regional transparency best practices: institutional arrangements, climate action and reporting		Completed
4.2.	Summaries from key decisions from COP29		Completed
4.3.	Report on activities carried to support the exchange of knowledge and experience in the Network exchange forum		Completed
4.4.	Regular update of the global transparency platform		Completed
V	Closing the project year		
5.1.	Final report on lessons learned and recommendations on how to enhance capacity building through the network		Completed

Annex 2: Regional Events organized in 2024 for MENA Network

No.	Title of Event	Event Category	Month	ETF Area	Nbr of participants	Nbr of Women
1	Inception Meeting of the CBIT-GSP Climate Transparency Network for the MENA	Network Meeting	4	Cross-Cutting	77	42
2	Climate finance and support needed and received: Tracking, Reporting, Methodologies and Best Practices	Technical Webinar	4	Support Needed and Received	114	53
3	The Implementation of the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) Workshop	In Person Training	4	ETF implementation/ BTR	84	49
4	Asia-Pacific-MENA : Deep-dive into preparation and reporting of results of national GHG inventories under the ETF of the PA	Technical Webinar	5	GHG Inventory	50	25
5	Training Workshop on preparation and reporting of results of national GHG inventories under the ETF	In Person Training	5	GHG Inventory	67	29
6	Enhanced Transparency Framework / MPGs, Requirements and Provisions and Outlines of the first BTR	Technical Webinar	5	ETF implementation/ BTR	58	23
7	BTR planning and development process using the BTR Road Map Tool	Technical Webinar	6	ETF implementation/ BTR	63	30
8	Editing and Updating Content in the Climate Transparency Platform	Platform Webinar	6	Cross-Cutting	49	18
9	Technical Workshop of Francophone Network: NDC Tracking for mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation and Adaptation reporting	In Person Training	6	NDC Tracking + Adaptation	53	35
10	Introductory Webinar: Hands on Training on Tracking NDC Mitigation Commitments under PA	Technical Webinar	7	NDC Tracking	8	5
11	Hands on Training on Tracking NDC Mitigation Commitments under PA	In Person Training	7	NDC Tracking	16	13
12	NDC Tracking Webinar Series/ Workshop 1: Tracking NDC mitigation commitments under the ETF	Technical Webinar	7	NDC Tracking	52	17
13	NDC Tracking Webinar Series/ Workshop 2: Tracking progress in implementing and achieving the NDC using the Common Tabular Formats (CTFs)	Technical Webinar	7	NDC Tracking	78	30
14	NDC Tracking Webinar Series/ Workshop 3: Reporting on NDC projections under ETF	Technical Webinar	7	NDC Tracking	85	36
15	Inspiring Djibouti's CBIT Journey: Experience sharing on the implementation of CBIT projects from Tunisia, Morocco and Lebanon	Experience Sharing Webinar	8	Cross-Cutting	12	6

16	Webinar 1/Transparency and reporting under the PA in the Francophone network: A discussion on CRT, MPG, CTF	Technical Webinar	8	ETF implementation/ BTR		
17	Webinar 2/Transparency and reporting under the PA in the Francophone network: A discussion on CRT, MPG, CTF	Technical Webinar	8	ETF implementation/ BTR		
18	Webinar 3/Transparency and reporting under the PA in the Francophone network: A discussion on CRT, MPG, CTF	Technical Webinar	8	ETF implementation/ BTR		
19	-Peer Learning Exchange on the Developing NDC Tracking Chapter of the First BTR in Anglophone Africa and MENA Transparency Networks- Experience Sharing from Namibia and Lebanon	Experience Sharing Webinar	9	NDC Tracking	10	4
20	Sharing best practices and lessons learned on Institutional Arrangements for Transparency Systems in MENA	Experience Sharing Webinar	10	Institutional Arrangements	71	40
21	MENA Webinar Series / Outline and Requirements for the GHG Inventory Chapter under the ETF	Technical Webinar	11	GHG Inventory	101	45

Annex 3: In country Support Activities held in 2024 for MENA Network

<i>N°</i>	<i>Recipient Country</i>	<i>Title of the Activity</i>	<i>Month</i>	<i>Type of Support</i>	<i>Area of Support</i>	<i>Nbr of participants</i>	<i>Nbr of Women</i>
1	Yemen	BTR Road Map for Yemen	6	Consultancy services	BTR Road Map preparation	Na	Na
2	Djibouti	Inspiring Djibouti's CBIT Journey: Experience sharing on the implementation of CBIT projects from Tunisia, Morocco and Lebanon	8	Virtual Experience sharing	Experience sharing on CBIT project implementation	12	6
3	Mauritania	Training Workshop for National Experts on Greenhouse Gases inventory Methodologies and tools for Mauritania- Energy and AFOLU sector	8	In person training	GHG Inventory	26	3
4	Libya	Capacity Building Workshop on the development of national GHG inventories under the ETF of the Paris Agreement - Libya, Tripoli.	8	In person training	GHG Inventory	31	7
5	Lebanon	Assisting Lebanon in the BTR preparation: Hands on workshop on reporting on Tracking NDC mitigation and the Support received and needed	9	Virtual Hands on session	NDC tracking	5	4
6	Bahrain	Assisting Bahrain in the BTR preparation: Workshop on Tracking NDC mitigation commitments under the ETF	9	Virtual Hands on sessions	NDC tracking	7	5
7	Morocco	Supporting Morocco in BTR Preparation: Hands-on Workshop on Reporting NDC Mitigation Progress	9	In person training	NDC tracking	5	3
8	Iraq	Preparation of the First BTR1/ Capacity building workshop on the preparation of the National Inventory Report and NDC tracking	9	In person workshop	NDC tracking + GHG Inventory	47	21
9	Bahrain	Assisting Bahrain in the BTR preparation: Follow up session on Tracking NDC mitigation commitments under the ETF Workshop	10	Virtual Hands on	NDC tracking	7	5
10	Morocco	Training Workshop for National Experts on GHG Inventory Methodologies and	10	In-country workshop or training	GHG Inventory	18	10

		Tools for MOROCCO Energy Sector and AFOLU- Morocco, Marrakech					
11	Egypt	Capacity Building Workshop for the preparation of Egypt's First BTR, Focusing on the National GHG Inventory Report, Tracking Progress on NDCs and Support Needed and Received	10	In-country workshop or training	NDC tracking + GHG Inventory + Support Needed and Received	46	21
12	Morocco	Supporting Morocco in its BTR Preparation: Quality review of the GHG Inventory for LULUCF Sector in Morocco	11	Quality review- QA for BTR's NDC chapter	GHG Inventory	Na	Na
13	Morocco	Supporting Morocco in its BTR Preparation: Hands on Session for National Experts on GHG Inventory for LULUCF Sector in Morocco	11	Virtual Hands on	Quality review (GHG Inventory)	8	2
14	Jordan	Preparation of Jordan First BTR1 -Focus on National Inventory Report, NDC Tracking Progress and the Support Needed and Received-	12	In person training	NDC tracking + GHG Inventory + Support Needed and Received	42	23
15	Djibouti	Preparation of Djibouti First BTR1 Capacity Building Workshop - Focus on National Inventory Report, NDC Tracking Progress and the Support Needed and Received-	12	In person workshop	NDC tracking + GHG Inventory + Support Needed and Received	39	19
16	Lebanon	Quality Review for BTR's NDC Tracking Chapter	12	Quality review- QA for BTR's NDC chapter	Quality review (NDC tracking chapter)	Na	Na
17	Morocco	Hands on session and review of the CTF tables for NDC tracking	12	Quality review- QA for BTR's NDC chapter	Quality review (CTF tables-NDC tracking)	2	2