Climate Transparency Network for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region

Capacity Needs Assessment Report

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

March 2024

Table of Content

Introduction

The Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency - Global Support Programme (CBIT-GSP) is a global support project for capacity-building on transparency, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), implemented by UNEP and executed by the UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre (UNEP-CCC). The CBIT-GSP is a five-year long project, running from 2022 to 2026, and offering a multitude of support to developing countries to enable them to comply with the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement reporting requirements.

The project aims at providing streamlined support and capacity building at the country, regional, and global level to enable developing countries under the Paris Agreement to better respond to reporting requirements and to catalyse increased ambition within country NDCs to contribute to the stated temperature goal of well below 2 degrees. Under the CBIT-GSP project, ten (10) Regional Transparency Networks have been established to provide support and foster south-south collaboration and knowledge exchange. The Climate Transparency Network for Middle East and North Africa (MENA) is one of them.

The Capacity Needs Assessment Report (CNAR) captures the results of the rapid capacity needs assessment that was carried out to evaluate the status quo of the transparency systems and related capacities of MENA Regional Network countries to comply with the reporting requirements of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. The assessment was done through an online survey conducted from January 24th to February 29th, 2024. The assessment garnered responses from 14 out of the 18 countries within the MENA regional network. These are: Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Mauritania and Libya, from North Africa, and Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Egypt, Sudan, Lebanon, Jordan, Somalia and Yemen, from the Middle East.

In this survey, a comprehensive set of targeted questions were asked focusing on the principal five key areas of climate transparency, notably on, Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory, NDCs Tracking, Adaptation efforts, Loss and Damage, Support Needed and Received and Gender Mainstreaming. Furthermore, the survey examined the institutional arrangements for the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) and the Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) systems implemented in the region. Additionally, the questionnaire also explored the different reporting documents submitted to the UNFCCC notably the Biennial Transparency Report (BTR). The survey also assessed the primary financial and technical support that countries have utilized to enhance their climate transparency and reporting frameworks.

Therefore, this report provides an analysis of the capacity needs in the region, summarising the main findings based on feedback from countries. The respondents mainly represented governmental organisations responsible for coordinating climate reporting and transparency actions. Additionally, the report recommends three primary priorities for capacity-building needs in these countries, which will serve as crucial input for preparing the 2024 Regional Network Work Plan.

I. GENERAL FINDINGS ON TRANSPARENCY CAPACITIES

This section provides an overview of the status of transparency systems and reporting capacities in the network. It presents the overall status of countries' transparency systems concerning their ability to consistently prepare and submit reports in accordance with the ETF. Additionally, it provides an overview of the transparency reports currently being prepared by countries.

Linguistic preferences:

Considering the countries' multilingual nature in the MENA region, countries were asked to select the most preferred language to be used for official communication, workshops, trainings, and webinars.

As shown in the figure below, six countries in the MENA Region (Iraq, Libya, Sudan, Lebanon, and Bahrain and Somalia) predominantly have chosen English, four countries prefer Arabic (Kuwait, Egypt, Jordan and Yemen) and four other countries from North Africa (Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, and Mauritania), have chosen French as the preferred language.
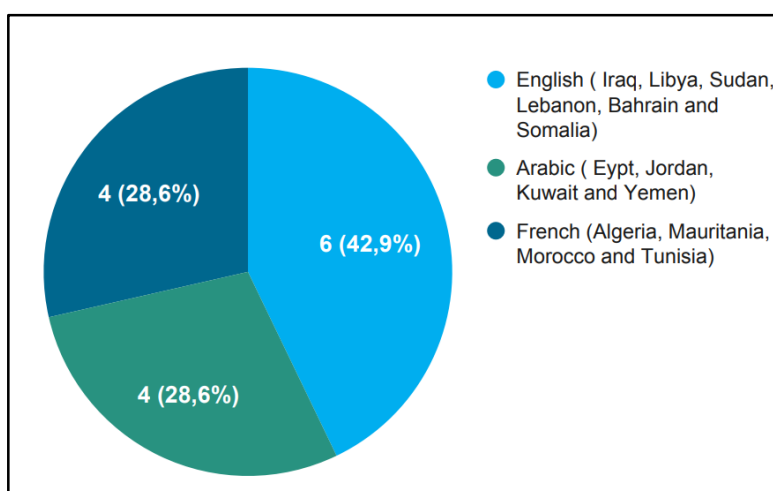
Figure 1. Language chosen for further communication and trainings

1. Overall transparency system and status of reporting

1.1. Reports submitted to the UNFCCC in the Region

Table 1 below, presents the different reports submitted to the secretariat of the UNFCCC for the 18 countries in the MENA region. These reports include National Communications (NCs), Biennial Update Reports (BURs), National Inventory Reports (NIRs), National Adaptation Communications (NCs), National Adaptation Plans, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and Long-Term Low-Emission Development Strategies (LT-LEDS). So far, all countries have submitted at least 2 reports to the UNFCCC, except for Libya, which has not submitted any reports yet. Regarding the NDCs, which signify the primary national commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions to contribute to the global climate objectives, all countries have submitted their first NDC, except for Libya and Yemen. Morocco and Oman are the only nations to have submitted updated NDCs in accordance with decision 1/CP.21 of the UNFCCC.

As depicted in the table below, all countries, excluding Libya, have submitted at least one National Communication, with only six countries having submitted their fourth NC report: Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, and Tunisia. Concerning BURs, six countries, Bahrain, Djibouti, Iraq, Libya, Sudan, and Syria, have not submitted any BUR yet to the UNFCCC, while Lebanon has already submitted its fourth BUR, followed by Morocco and Tunisia with three BURs each. The rest of the countries (seven countries) have submitted at least one BUR apart from Jordan and Mauritania who have submitted two BURs. Regarding NIRs, only seven countries have opted to submit them separately from BURs.

In terms of Adaptation Communications, merely six countries have reported on adaptation efforts within their territories: Kuwait, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Somalia, and Sudan. Among these, three countries have devised their National Adaptation Plans (Kuwait, Morocco and Sudan), while the remaining three have included adaptation actions as part of their NDCs.

Lastly, in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 19 of the Paris Agreement, only three countries, Morocco, Oman, and Tunisia, have submitted their Long-Term Low-Emission Development Strategies (LT-LEDS).

It is crucial to note that five countries in the region are classified as Least Developed Countries (LDCs), namely Somalia, Sudan, Yemen, Mauritania, and Djibouti. These countries benefit from the reporting special provisions that favours least developed countries based on their special circumstances as recognized by both the Convention and the Paris Agreement. However, despite the special provisions offered to these countries, Mauritania has submitted 4 NCs and 2 BURs.

Country	NCs	BURs	NIRs	AC	NAP	NDCs	Lt LEDS
Algeria	3	1	3	-	-	1	-
Bahrain	3	-	-	-	-	1	-
Djibouti	3	-	-	-	-	1	-
Egypt	3	1	1	-	-	1	-
Iraq	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Jordan	4	2	-	-	-	1	-
Kuwait	2	1	1	1	1	1	-
Lebanon	4	4	3	1	-	1	-
Libya	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mauritania	4	2	2	1	-	1	-
Morocco	4	3	-	1	1	2	1
Oman	2	1	-	-	-	2	1
Saudi Arabia	4	1	-	-	-	1	-
Somalia	1	1	-	1	-	1	-
Sudan	2	-	-	1	1	1	-
Syria	1	-	1	-	-	1	-
Tunisia	4	3	1	-	-	1	1
Yemen	3	1	-	-	-	-	-

Table 1.   Reports submitted to the UNFCCC in the MENA Region

1.2. Transparency report under preparation

The table below summarizes all the transparency reports currently under preparation in the fourteen countries that responded to the survey. Except for Libya, all the countries have at least one National Communication, ten of them are currently preparing subsequent NCs although six of them are already in the process of preparing their 5th NC, namely Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Mauritania, Lebanon and Tunisia, while Somalia has just started preparing its first NC report.

Regarding BURs, countries are more or less at the same level with three countries in the process of preparing their first BURs ((Bahrain, Iraq and Sudan) and Yemen preparing its second BUR. This is to meet the requirements of the ETF, which stipulates that all developing countries that have never submitted a BUR must submit their first report before December 2024.

In the same perspective, and in order to honour the commitment to Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, ten out of fourteen countries have already requested or received funding to begin the process of preparing their first BTR Report. Apart from four countries which have not yet begun preparation, notably Kuwait, Libya, Sudan and Yemen. The table below shows the projects in progress and those for which funding from the GEF has been approved or requested.

Country	NC	BUR	BTR	Enabling Agency
Algeria	4	-	1-2	UNDP
Bahrain	-	1	1	UNEP
Egypt	4-5	-	1-2	UNDP
Iraq	2	1	1	UNEP
Jordan	5	-	1-2	UNDP
Kuwait	-	-	-	-
Lebanon	5	-	1-2	UNDP
Libya	-	-	-	-
Mauritania	5	-	1	UNEP
Morocco	5	-	1	UNDP
Somalia	1	-	1	UNDP
Sudan	3	1	-	UNDP
Tunisia	5	-	1-2	UNDP
Yemen	4	2	-	UNDP
Total	11	4	10	-

Table 2. Reports currently under preparation (number of submitted Report)

1.3. Overall transparency system

The overall status of countries' transparency systems, necessary for continuously preparing and submitting reports in line with the enhanced transparency framework, varies across network member countries. Nine countries (Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania, Lebanon, Bahrain, Jordan, Tunisia, Sudan and Somalia) assessed their transparency systems as "fair," indicating that systems were established but require significant improvement. On the other hand, four countries (Iraq, Libya, Kuwait and Yemen) claimed that their countries' transparency systems are at a "poor" level, either not established or in the early stages of development. Egypt is the

only country that defined the overall national status of the ETF-based transparency system as "good" meaning that the transparency system is fully established requiring only minor improvements.
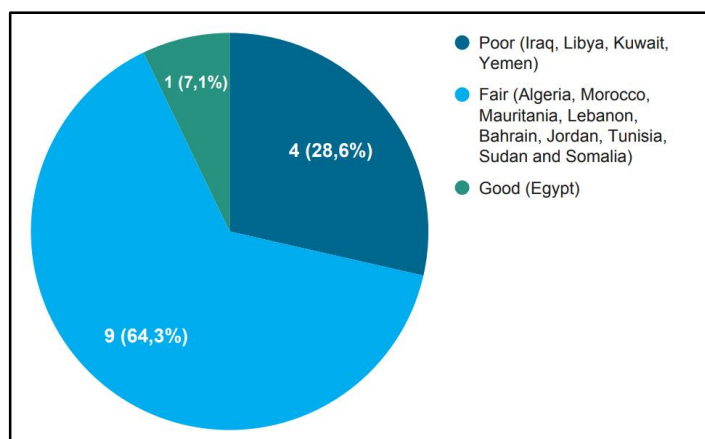

Figure 2. Overall transparency system and reporting in MENA Region

1.4. Institutional arrangements for transparency

In terms of institutional arrangements (IAs) for transparency (including clearly defined roles, Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs), data-sharing agreements, etc.) six countries (Mauritania, Lebanon, Kuwait, Egypt, Jordan and Somalia) assessed the status of their institutional arrangements as "fair", meaning that they are established requiring major improvements. Three countries (Morocco, Tunisia and Bahrain) noted that their institutional arrangements are advanced (IAs are fully established requiring only minor improvements). Only three countries, notably, Iraq, Libya and Sudan attested that their IAs are not established yet or only in their inception "very Poor". Algeria and Yemen (14,3%) mentioned that the current IAs in place does not cover all the areas required by the ETF and no country indicated to have established very advanced institutional arrangements. Figure 4 below shows the results of the analysis with regards to institutional arrangements for transparency in MENA.
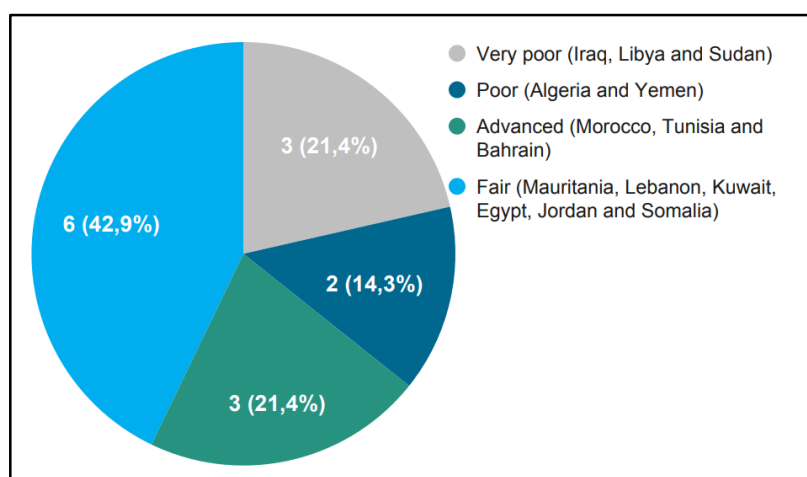

Figure 3. Overall status of the institutional arrangements for Transparency System in MENA

1.5. Transparency systems outcomes for national policy-making

As shown in the figure below, the majority (nine out of 14 countries confirmed that they had used the results of the transparency system in public policy-making processes, including Iraq, Sudan, Morocco, Lebanon, Tunisia, Kuwait, Egypt, Bahrain and Jordan. Some of them confirmed that the results of the transparency reports, NC, BUR and/or GHG inventory have provided input for public policies as well as for the NDCs and their revisions, in particular some countries also mentioned the LT-LEDS decarbonisation strategies (Morocco and Bahrain). Similarly, Sudan highlighted that the results of the Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) have been used to implement the national climate change policy, the NDC, and also for the preparation of funding proposals for several projects submitted to international donors. Tunisia is the only country to have certified that its MRV Platform will be capable of supporting the BTR Reports and the NIRs, and that it will integrate the policy monitoring component as part of the enhancement of this existing MRV Platform.

In fact, five countries (Libya, Yemen, Algeria, Mauritania and Somalia) have stated that the results of the transparency system have never been used in the public policy process, which is to some extent logical, given the immaturity of the systems at the moment in these countries, as we have already seen regarding the reporting to the UNFCCC.
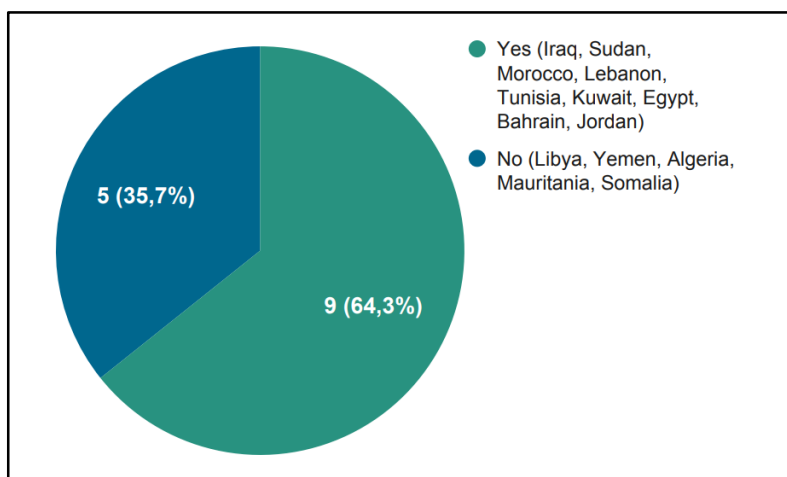
Figure 4. Using the Transparency Systems outcomes in national policy-making processes

1.6. Availability of online MRV Platform(s) in the region

According to the countries' feedback, more than half (57%) confirmed the absence of an online MRV System(s) (Iraq, Libya, Sudan, Yemen, Algeria, Mauritania, Kuwait and Somalia). While four countries stated that the system(s) is (are) still under development (Morocco, Lebanon, Egypt and Bahrain), however only two countries, Tunisia and Jordan, confirmed the availability of MRV Platform(s).
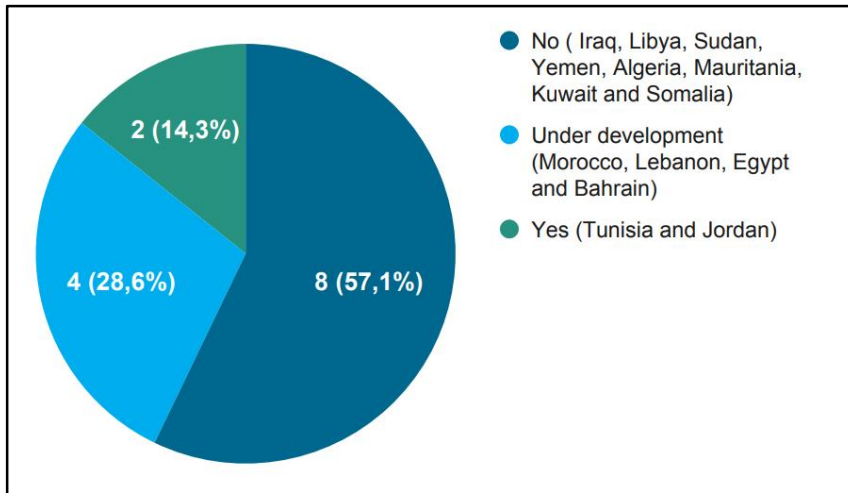
Figure 5. Availability of online MRV platform(s) in the region

It is important to mention that all these countries have confirmed the availability of a single integrated National MRV system, with only Jordan confirming the existence of several thematic MRVs, of which Energy remains the most mature.

In terms of the transparency areas covered by these online MRV Systems available or under development (Figure 7.), only three countries (Tunisia, Jordan and Morocco) reported that their Platforms cover three areas, notably the GHG Inventory, the NDC Actions Tracking and the Support needed and received (Financial, Capacity Building and Technology Transfer). However, for Lebanon their system only covers NDC Tracking. For Egypt and Bahrain none of the areas mentioned are covered at present. It should also be noted that Mauritania is in the process of establishing a sectoral MRV for GHG inventory (not online).

Unfortunately, Adaptation and Impacts as well as Loss and Damage are not yet considered by any MRV system in the region.

Figure 6. Transparency areas covered by the MRV System(s)

2. Transparency support received and good practices and lessons learned in transparency

This session presents the various types of support received by countries in terms of climate transparency, including previous support considered the most useful. Furthermore, it provides the best practices and lessons learned in transparency that countries aim to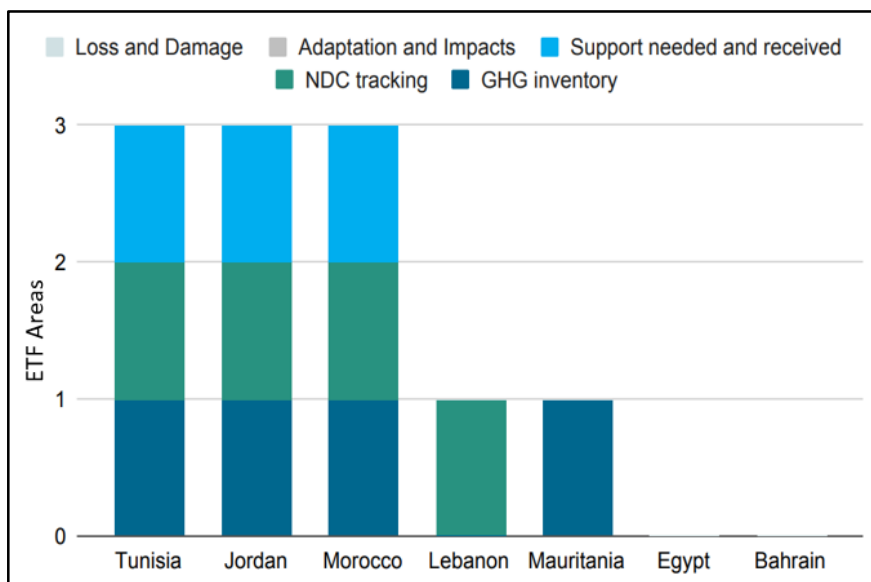 share with the other Network members, as well as areas where they seek to learn from the experiences of other countries.

2.1. Transparency support received

Apart from Libya, all the countries stated that they are in the process of receiving financial and technical support for transparency. Most countries confirmed to have received support from the **GEF** with its implementing agencies (**UNEP and UNDP**) for the preparation of NCs, BURs and BTRs. Morocco, Lebanon and Tunisia mentioned that they also have National **CBIT Projects** (see table below). In addition, three countries have mentioned to have received support from other organisations, such as **ICAT**, which is supporting (1) the implementation of an MRV system for the energy and transport sectors, as well as institutional arrangements and NDC tracking tools in Sudan, (2) a project in Morocco for climate financial flows tracking and (3) the implementation of a transparency system in Algeria. **PATPA** is also providing support to Lebanon through the "Technical discussions and sharing views on negotiations and transparency" project, While Mauritania is additionally receiving support from **UNDP's Climate Promise**.

Bilateral cooperation is also present in Bahrain with the **GIZ** and Egypt confirmed support from the **World Bank** and GIZ for the implementation of the Digital Transparency System. The table below show national CBIT projects currently under implementation in the MENA region.

Country	CBIT Project	GEF Agency	Project ID
Lebanon	Establishing Lebanon's Transparency Framework	UNDP	9925
Morocco	Developing an Integrated Transparency Framework for NDC Planning and Monitoring	UNDP	10004
Mauritania	Strengthening Mauritania's national capacity for transparency and ambitious climate reporting	UNEP	10428
Sudan	Sudan's Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency Project	UNDP	10479
Tunisia	Strengthening Tunisia's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Transparency Framework	UNDP	10595

Table 3. CBIT Projects currently under implementation in MENA

In terms of support received considered most useful, five countries acknowledged the **GEF support for NCs and BURs as most useful** and these are Iraq, Sudan, Morocco, Algeria and Jordan. Other countries mentioned different experiences, notably Mauritania, which judged the training of national experts on **IPCC2006 software**, **GACMO** with UNDP's Climate Promise

to be the most beneficial for the country in terms of transparency. Egypt referred to the **MRV Africa** project, financed by the **European Commission DG Clima Action**, which assisted the country in establishing the structure of the MRV system, with a focus on analysing the waste sector.

2.2. Good practices and lessons learned for sharing with other countries

As shown in the table below, only five countries have expressed their interest in sharing their good experiences with other countries.

Country	Good practices and/or lessons learned
Morocco	NIS-GHG, the Online National MRV Platform, the governance framework (institutional and regulatory arrangements)
Mauritania	Institutional arrangements (sectoral transparency units)
Tunisia	Transparency System, the Online National MRV Platform, the institutional arrangements
Bahrain	Stakeholders engagement
Sudan	Preparation process of the NCs

Table 4. Good practices and/or lessons learned to share

In terms of learning from other countries, all countries expressed their interest in acquiring knowledge about successful good practices and lessons learned from other Network members. Table 5 highlights the primary areas for learning identified by countries, which include Monitoring and Evaluation of Adaptation and Impact, NDC tracking, climate finance tracking, MRV online systems and institutional arrangements. Some countries also mentioned interest in ETF elements, GHG projections, and data collection. It is very important to note that three countries were interested in learning about all areas relating to Transparency, namely Algeria, Iraq and Kuwait.

Area	Countries interested
Monitoring and Evaluation of Adaptation and Impacts / indicators	Iraq, Libya, Algeria, Tunisia, Kuwait, Morocco
NDC Tracking	Iraq, Mauritania, Algeria, Lebanon, Jordan, Kuwait
Climate Finance Tracking	Iraq, Algeria, Morocco, Lebanon, Tunisia, Kuwait
MRV Systems /Online Platforms	Iraq, Algeria, Yemen, Lebanon, Kuwait, Egypt, Bahrain
ETF Institutional and Regulatory Arrangements	Iraq, Sudan, Algeria, Yemen, Kuwait

ETF Mechanism/System	Iraq, Kuwait, Algeria
GHG Projections	Iraq, Libya, Algeria, Jordan, Kuwait
Data Collection/ availability	Iraq, Sudan, Algeria, Kuwait
GHG Inventory	Libya, Iraq, Algeria,Sudan, Kuwait
Climate finance mobilisation	Libya, Somalia

Table 5. Primary areas identified for learning by countries

3. Implementing the ETF and preparation for the BTR

This section evaluates the countries' readiness to implement the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF). It considers their familiarity with this context, progress in preparing the First Biennial Transparency Report (BTR), and the challenges they encounter. The assessment provides insights from countries' perspectives.

3.1. Countries' familiarity with the ETF/BTR provisions

Nine countries (64.3%) indicated they are familiar with the Enhanced Transparency Framework and its reporting requirements, including the reporting templates. However, four countries expressed limited familiarity, particularly in the cases of Mauritania, Libya, and Somalia. Interestingly, Algeria stands out as the sole country asserting its strong familiarity with the framework.

The majority of respondents' comments reflect their personal experiences rather than representing their countries as a whole. Many of them are actively engaged in transparency and managing reporting projects at the national level. They are also UNFCCC negotiators, and some of them confirmed that they had received several training courses in this area, but none of them mentioned their knowledge of the UNFCCC's ETF Reporting Tools (the Common Reporting Tables (CRT) and the Common Tabular Format (CTF)).
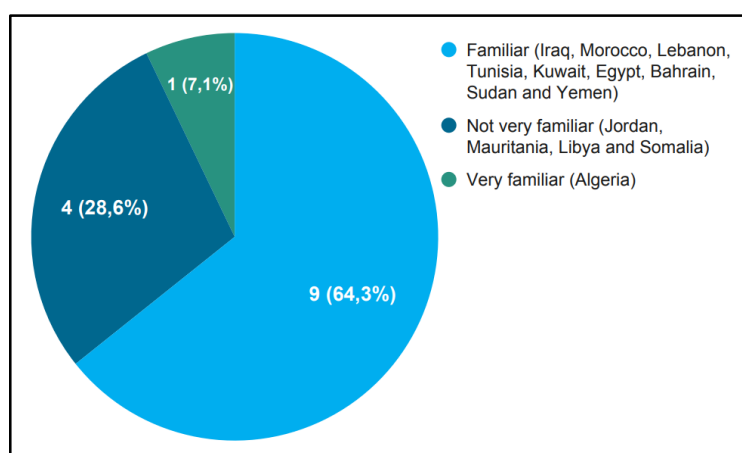

Figure 7. Countries' familiarity with the ETF/BTR provisions

3.2. Steps taken for preparing the first BTR

For the preparation of the First BTR Report, nine countries out of the fourteen have confirmed that funding has been approved by GEF, among which four (Bahrain, Morocco, Lebanon and Tunisia) have already started the preparation of the their BTR report. While, Somalia has already requested funding from GEF and still waiting for approval of its projects. Only, four countries in the region (Libya, Sudan, Yemen and Kuwait) have reported that no action has been taken yet. Yemen, on the other hand, has indicated that it intends to develop the 2nd BUR and the 4th NC as an entry point for the BTR.

As it was mentioned before, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen, Mauritania are classified as LDCs. This implies that they benefit from the flexibility provisions in the MPG which are provided to LDCs and SIDs regarding submitting their initial BTRs and that the deadline of December 31, 2024, does not apply to these countries. However, despite these flexibilities offered to these countries, Funding has already been approved for Mauritania, and Somalia has already approached the GEF for support in initiating its initial BTR preparations.

Table 6 below show the different stages where countries are regarding the preparation of their BTR reports.

For this project, UNDP is the GEF implementing agency, with UNEP for a few other countries, such as Iraq and Mauritania.

Steps taken	Countries
A BTR submission roadmap or dedicated plan has been developed	Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia
Funding has been requested from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for the preparation of the first BTR	Somalia
Funding has been approved by the Global Environment Facility (GEF)	Algeria, Mauritania, Iraq, Egypt, Jordan
Implementation of the BTR project and the preparation of the BTR has started	Morocco, Lebanon, Tunisia, Bahrain
No steps have been taken yet	Libya, Sudan, Yemen, Kuwait

Table 6. Steps taken for preparing the first BTR by countries

3.3. Challenges for implementing the ETF

As indicated by their responses in the survey, most countries highlighted three main challenges they face in implementing the Enhanced Transparency Framework, specifically:

- Limited human and technical capacities and local expertise in transparency.

- Inadequate institutional/regulatory arrangements to ensure stakeholders engagement and ownership.

- Availability, reliability and accuracy of data.

Some countries (Bahrain, Kuwait, Iraq) pointed to the absence of a sustainable transparency mechanism, such as MRV Systems. Others also cited the lack of financial resources and

mobilisation of climate finance (Jordan, Egypt and Somalia). Whilst Sudan reflected the difficulties in analysing mitigation efforts. In addition, Tunisia added two major challenges, (i) in terms of monitoring adaptation actions and financial flows, as well as (ii) the absence of climate indicators in the National Budget or what is known as the Climate Sensitive Budget.

Challenges for implementing the ETF	Countries
Lack of Technical and Human Capacities/ local expertise	Iraq, Algeria, Mauritania, Lebanon, Egypt, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen
Institutional Arrangements / Lack of ownership and stakeholders engagement	Iraq, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt Mauritania, Lebanon, Sudan, Yemen
Data collection, availability and reliability	Iraq, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan, Mauritania, Lebanon, Sudan, Kuwait
Sustainable ETF System/MRV System	Bahrain, Kuwait, Iraq
Climate finance mobilisation	Jordan, Egypt, Somalia
Analysis of GHG mitigation measures	Sudan
Adaptation and climate finance tracking	Tunisia
Lack of climate-related indicators in the public budget (climate-sensitive budget)	Tunisia

Table 7. Challenges major for implementing the ETF in the region

3.4. Potential solutions for challenges faced

Respondents suggested the following solutions to these challenges that were mentioned above:

- The enhancement of capacity building in the ETF/MPGs requirements and all areas of reporting, especially in CTF and CRT templates, data management and calculation (GHG inventory and mitigation/adaptation efforts), and also in climate finance mobilisation.

- The establishment of a strong governance framework for transparency, through both institutional and regulatory arrangements for procedures and responsibilities.

- The implementation of integrated MRV systems for collecting, updating, and analysing data related to GHG inventory, mitigation and adaptation actions tracking, and the support received and needed, especially regarding climate finance flows.

- The mobilisation of technical support from international organisations.

- The mobilisation of financial support for implementing the transparency framework through both international and bilateral cooperation and domestic resources.

- Exchanging experiences and good practices with other countries / through knowledge-sharing platforms.

4. Assessment of capacities related to the ETF reporting areas

This section presents an assessment of countries' institutional arrangements and technical capacities in relation to each of the four ETF reporting areas: GHG inventory, NDC tracking, adaptation and impacts, including losses and damage, as well as support needed and received.

4.1. Institutional arrangement for ETF reporting areas

In the survey, countries reflected on their institutional arrangements (IA) concerning the four ETF reporting areas, categorising them as: "Advanced" (institutional arrangements are fully operational); "Good" (institutional arrangements are established requiring minor improvements); "Fair" (institutional arrangements are established requiring minor improvements); "Poor" (considerable support needed); or "Absent" (substantial support needed). Overall, countries provided the following assessment of their institutional arrangements for the ETF Areas (more informations in the figure and the annexe2):

- **GHG Inventory:** Six countries assessed their institutional arrangements for the GHG inventory area as "Poor". Additionally, four countries rated their IA as "Good", with Egypt being the only country to evaluate it as "Advanced". However, Somalia indicated that their IA for this area was "Absent."
- **NDC Tracking:** Five countries rated their IA for the NDC Tracking as "Poor" and four as "Good", with Bahrain the only country which is "Advanced ''. However, Libya and Somalia indicated that their IA for this area was "Absent."
- **Adaptation and Impacts:** Eight countries rated the IA as "Poor" for this Area, with three as "fair" and two countries as "Good" (Egypt and Jordan). Not to mention that Bahrain is the only country which assessed it as "Advanced ".
- **Loss and Damage:** For this area, seven countries noticed "Poor" with only two countries Egypt and Jordan as "Good" and Bahrain as "Advanced". Moreover, Sudan, Yemen and Somalia indicated that their IA is "Absent."
- **Support needed and received:** Five countries noticed "Fair" and the same number as "Poor", with only two countries as "Good" (Egypt and Jordan) as well as, "Absent" in Yemen and Somalia.
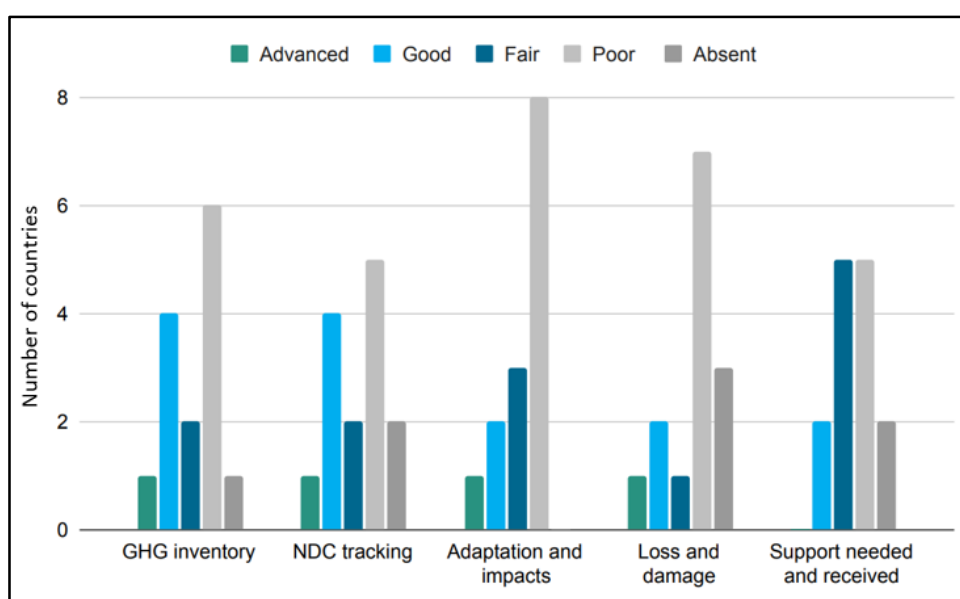

Figure 8. General assessment of institutional arrangement for the ETF reporting areas

4.2. Technical capacities for ETF reporting areas

As for the assessment of the institutional arrangements, Countries were requested to evaluate their Technical Capacities (TC) in each of the ETF reporting areas using the following scale: "advanced" (no support needed); "good" (little support needed); "fair" (some support needed); "poor" (considerable support needed); or "absent" (substantial support needed). Below, the countries' feedback (more informations are in the figure below and the annexe 3):

- **GHG Inventory:** Six countries assessed their technical capacities for the GHG inventory area as "Fair". Additionally, four countries rated their TC as "Poor", with Egypt and Morocco being the only countries to evaluate it as "Good". However, Somalia and Tunisia indicated that their TC for this area is "Absent."
- **NDC Tracking:** Seven countries rated their TC for the NDC Tracking as "Fair" and four (Libya, Sudan, Tunisia and Somalia) as "Absent", with Bahrain the only country which is "Good ".
- **Adaptation and Impacts:** Six countries rated the TC as "Poor" for this Area, with five as "fair" and two countries as "Good" (Egypt and Bahrain). Not to mention that Tunisia is the only country which assessed it as "Advanced ".
- **Loss and Damage:** For this area, six countries rated "Fair" with four as "Poor" and only Tunisia which is "Advanced". Moreover, Sudan, Yemen and Somalia indicated that their TC is "Absent."
- **Support needed and received:** Six countries noticed "Fair" and five rated as "Poor", with only Egypt as "Good", however TC in Tunisia and Somalia are "Absent".
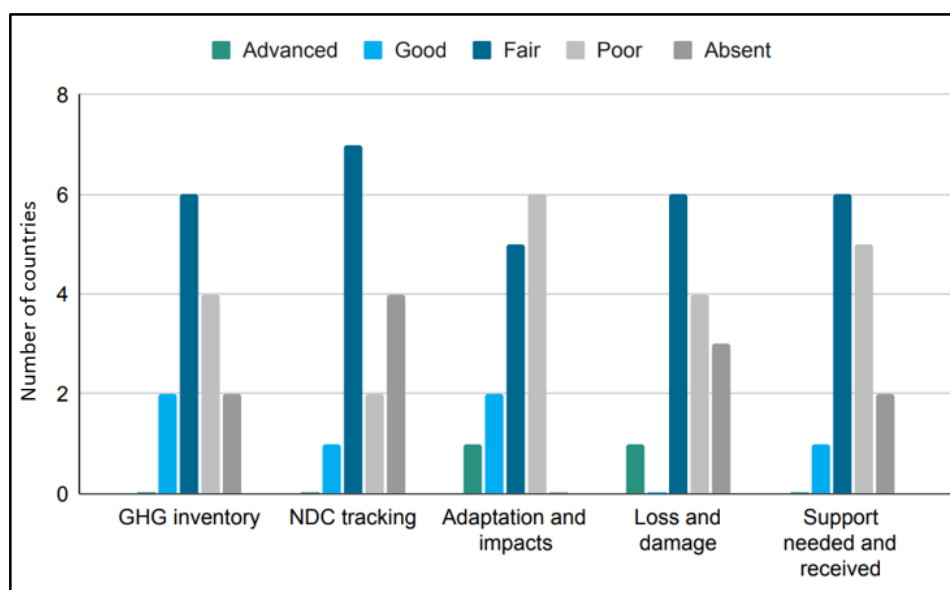

Figure 9. General assessment of technical capacities for the ETF reporting areas

5. Specific technical capacities related to GHG inventories

This section presents countries' technical capacities concerning GHG inventories as per the analysis of the survey results. It focuses on aspects such as the utilisation of IPCC Guidelines, related software, the presence of QA/QC procedures.

5.1. Use of IPCC Guidelines

As depicted in the figure below, most of the countries (86%) rely on the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for their greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory calculations. Only Tunisia occasionally incorporates the 2019 Refinement of the IPCC Guidelines. However, Somalia has never utilized it.
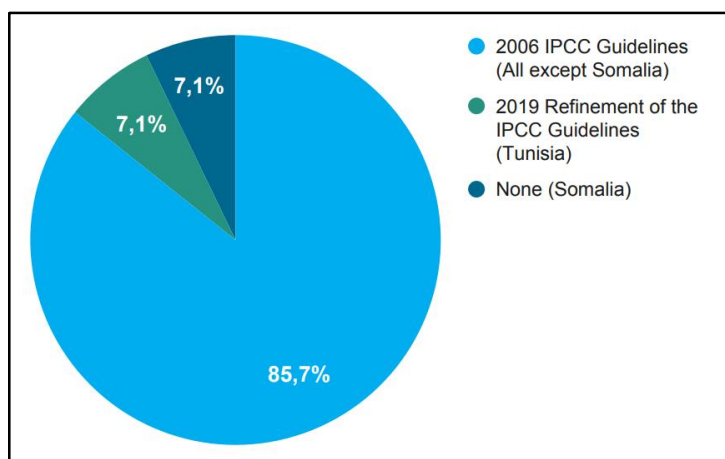

Figure 10. IPCC Guidelines used by countries in MENA

5.2. Use of IPCC Inventory Software

Regarding the use of the IPCC Inventory Software (figure 11.)e, eleven countries (78.6%) confirm using it for their inventory estimates, with Iraq reporting partial use. However, two countries, Libya and Somalia, have never utilised it before.
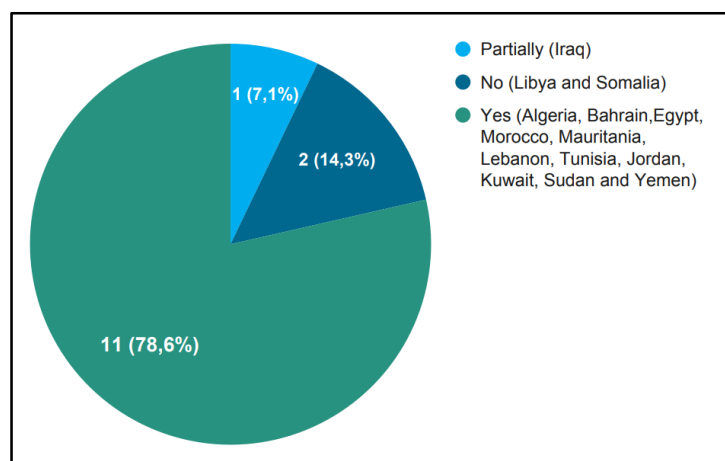
Figure 11. Use of IPCC Inventory Software

5.3. QA/QC Procedures in place

43% of countries confirmed that they do not have QA/QC procedures in place for GHG inventories, with only 28.6% stating the existence of such procedures, including Algeria, Morocco, Lebanon and Tunisia. The same percentage (Iraq, Kuwait, Egypt and Bahrain) stated that this quality assurance and control system has been put in place in their countries but is not operational.
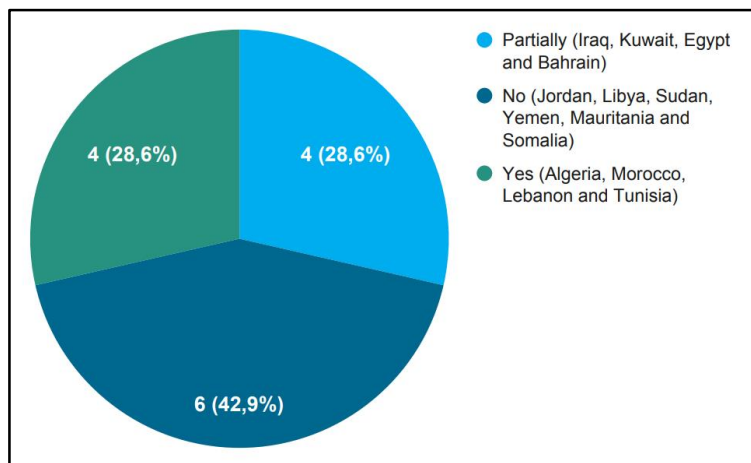
Figure 12. QA/QC Procedures in place in MENA

6. Specific technical capacities related to NDC tracking

This section of the report presents countries' technical capacities regarding NDC tracking. It also highlights their utilisation of and familiarity with modelling tools, as well as the presence of national NDC indicators for monitoring progress.

6.1. Modelling tools used for preparing NDC and GHG projections

In the MENA region, the majority (71.4%) of assessed countries reported using LEAP as a modelling tool for projecting scenarios in the preparation of their NDCs. Yemen expressed interest in utilising LEAP for its first NDC. Notably, Kuwait is the only country that has opted for TIMES (The Integrated MARKAL-EFOM System) for the same purpose. However, 21.4% of countries have never employed a modelling tool for their NDC preparation, including Bahrain, Somalia, and Libya, which has not yet submitted any NDC.
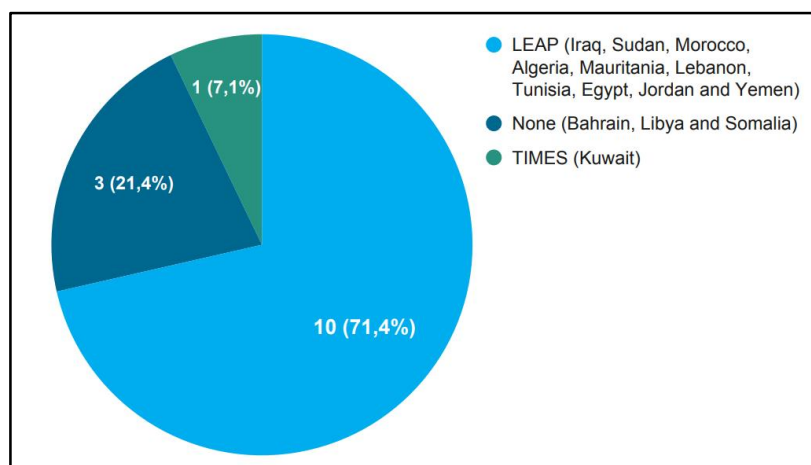

Figure 13. NDC tracking modelling Tools in MENA

6.2. Countries' familiarity with modelling tools

The majority of countries (64.3%) stated that their technical personnel have limited familiarity with modelling tools for preparing their NDC and GHG projections. Only 35.7% of countries

reported that their technical staff is familiar with these tools, and none indicated a high level of familiarity "Very familiar". This highlights a significant need for support under the CBIT-GSP project, particularly for LEAP, which has already been chosen by the majority of countries. (See the Figure 14).
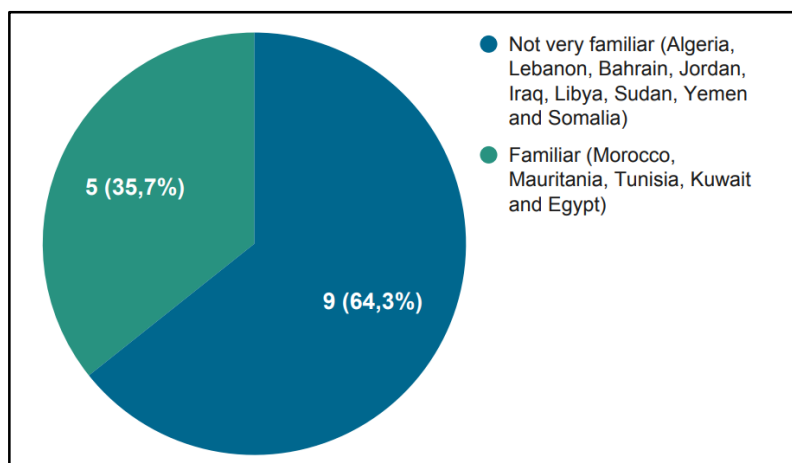
Figure 14. Countries' familiarity with modelling tools

6.3. Indicators for NDC tracking

In terms of the availability of national indicators for NDC tracking in MENA, as shown by figure 15, 50% of the countries have not yet identified any indicators to track progress towards the implementation and achievement of their NDC. Meanwhile, 28,6% responded to have partially identified relevant indicators, meaning that they are still working on it, notably, Lebanon which is currently working on the development of these indicators under the national CBIT Project and Egypt through a study for NDC Tracking Tool and Kuwait. However, Tunisia, Bahrain and Jordan are the only countries having already identified indicators for their NDC.

Figure 15. Availability of NDC tracking Indicators in MENA

7. Specific technical capacities related to adaptation, impacts and losses and damages

This section delves into the approaches, methodologies, and tools employed by countries to assess the impacts, risks, and vulnerabilities associated with climate change. It also assessed the establishment of domestic systems to monitor and evaluate the implementation of adaptation actions, as well as the development status of National Adaptation Plans or Adaptation Co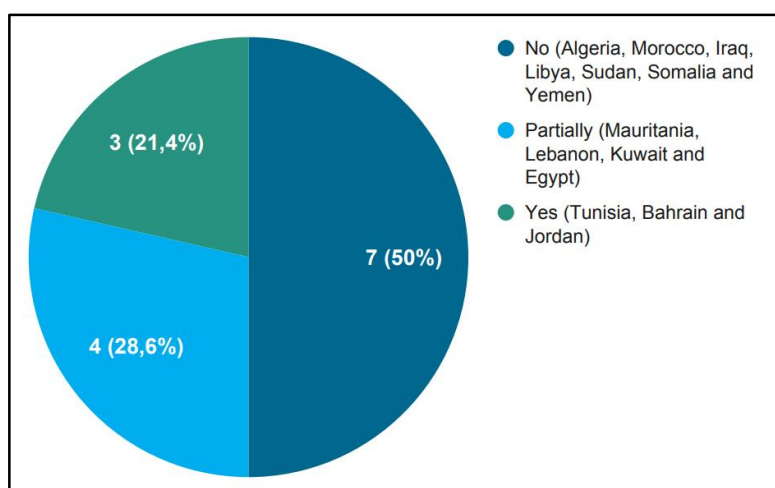mmunications in each country. Moreover, this part outlines the results regarding countries' ability to assess their losses and damages.

7.1. Approaches, methodologies and tools used to assess impacts, risks and vulnerabilities to climate change in MENA

In the region, most countries do not have a well-defined approach to assess impacts, risks and vulnerabilities to climate change, with only three countries citing the IPCC methodologies, notably Morocco, Egypt and Lebanon which uses ESCWA climate data. In addition to Satellite imagery, socio-economic approach, major risks approach as cited by Algeria and Egypt. Some countries referred to the National Adaptation Plan Process (LDC EXPERT GROUP December 2012), which enables countries to assess their vulnerability factors and take account of the risks associated with climate change, notably Iraq, Mauritania, Tunisia and Sudan. Also Sudan highlighted the participatory approach of all sectors involved in the process of developing a vulnerability and adaptation assessment at national level based on data collected from partners, literature and observations.

7.2. Domestic systems to monitor and evaluate the implementation of Adaptation actions

According to Figure 16, 35,7% of countries are currently working on the establishment of a domestics systems for the monitoring and the evaluation of Adaptation Actions, such as, Iraq, Morocco, Lebanon, Egypt and Jordan. Five countries (Tunisia, Libya, Sudan, Somalia and Yemen) have not yet established any domestic systems for Adaptation. However, three countries (21,4%) (Algeria, Mauritania and Kuwait) noted that their systems are partially established in some sectors as Meteorology and Forest. While Bahrain responded to having already a national system for monitoring and evaluation of adaptation actions in place.
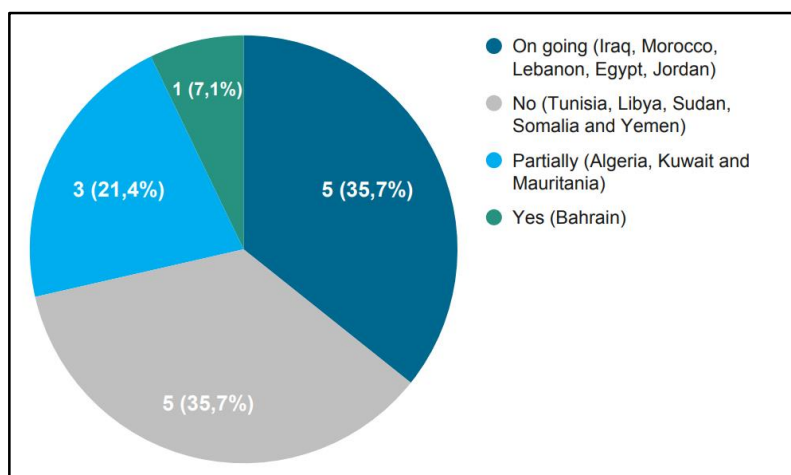

Figure 16. Availability of domestic systems for monitoring and evaluation of Adaptation actions

7.3. National Adaptation Plans/ Adaptation Communication

Half of the countries have already completed their National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), with three having submitted them to the UNFCCC, namely, Kuwait, Morocco, and Sudan. Meanwhile, five countries are currently in the process of developing their NAPs, including Iraq, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, and Somalia. However, Libya and Yemen have yet to begin this process. Additionally, six countries, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Sudan, and Somalia have also developed adaptation communications as part of their NDCs.
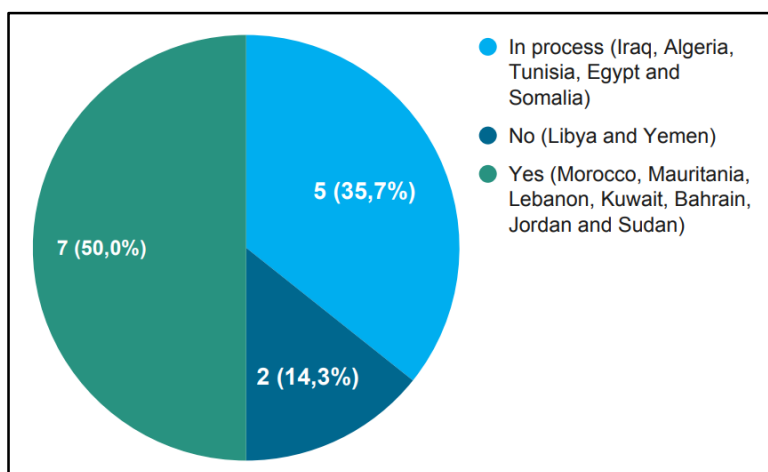
Figure 17. Development of a National Adaptation Plans in MENA

7.4. Assessing losses & damages in MENA

Many countries in the region do not have experience in terms of loss and damage monitoring, especially as this area is still relatively new. For this reason, 57% confirmed that they had never carried out a loss and damage assessment before. Three countries, namely Lebanon, Mauritania and Egypt, said that they plan to take this aspect into account in their BTR and NCs. However, three countries (Kuwait, Bahrain and Algeria) confirmed that they have carried out loss and damage assessments and Algeria mentioned to have used, the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction in doing so.
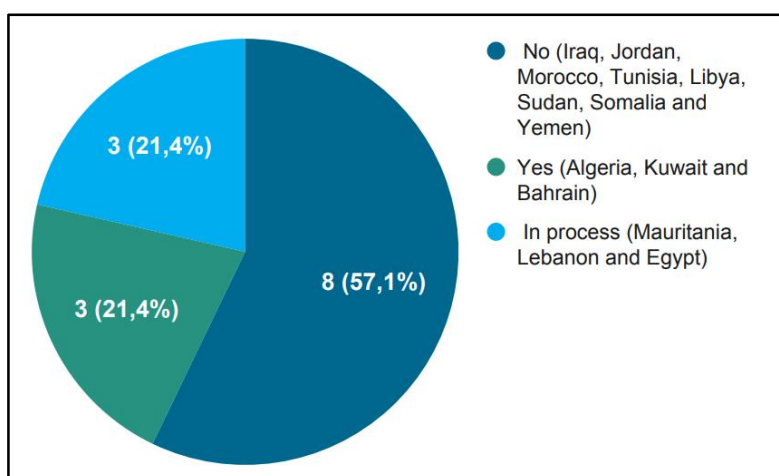
Figure 18. Countries in Mena assessing Losses and Damages

8. Specific technical capacities related to support needed and received

This section provides an evaluation of countries' technical capacities, focusing specifically on the support required and received. It examines the presence of systems for tracking climate finance received and estimating support needs.

8.1. Systems for tracking climate finance received flows

In terms of the availability of systems for tracking financial flows, six countries (43%) stated that no systems were available. As many as four other countries (28.6%) stated that the tracking is only partially done (Morocco, Algeria, Egypt and Kuwait), which means that only part of its flows are tracked, such as the support received from GEF as mentioned by Kuwait.

The other four countries namely, Jordan, Tunisia, Mauritania and Lebanon, confirmed having a system for tracking financial flows. In particular, Mauritania which responded that the tracking of climate finance is done at the level of the Ministry of the Economy. Tunisia, refers to its National MRV Platform covering also climate finance, but it's encountering many difficulties in the absence of a green taxonomy and indicators for calculating climate finance and the cost-benefit of adaptation and mitigation. In addition, Lebanon also mentioned that this aspect had already been reported in the 4NC and the BUR4 without specifying the existence or not of a national system for monitoring its financial flows.
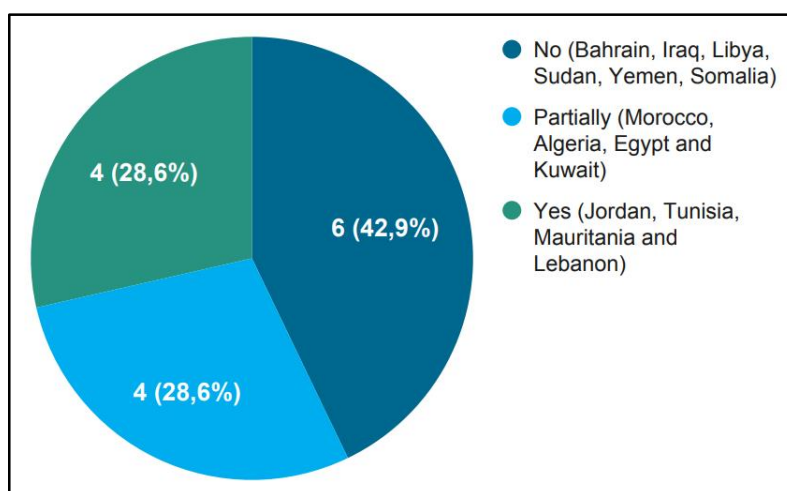
Figure 19. Climate finance received tracking Systems in MENA

8.2. Estimation of support needs

Most countries (64.3%) have confirmed their estimates of the support required for the three components of support (financial support, capacity building, and technology transfer), and some have stated that their estimates are reported in the transparency reports submitted to the UNFCCC. However, five countries (Iraq, Libya, Sudan, Somalia, and Yemen), have reported that they are unable to estimate their needs so far. It is important to note that even for those countries that have confirmed this, it does not necessarily mean they have accurately estimated their needs. Very few countries have been able to estimate their NDC (Nationally Determined Contributions) costs based on well-defined calculations and projections. Morocco, for example, has only done so for its mitigation component, where it has calculated the sum of the costs of

all the national development projects and not just the cost of mitigation. As for adaptation, a preliminary estimate has been made for the total of all actions and not per action.
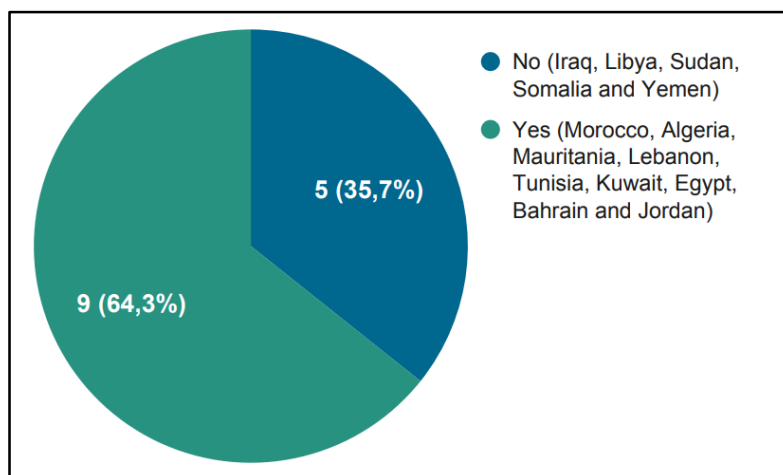
Figure 20. Estimation of support needs in MENA

9. Efforts to integrate gender considerations into the national transparency system, including NDC

This part reflects efforts undertaken by countries to integrate gender considerations into the national transparency system, including NDCs.

As shown in table 8, in the region, several countries (twelve) have taken steps to consider gender into their transparency systems. These steps include integrating gender considerations into the reports of NCs, BURs, and NDCs. However, Morocco, Libya, Sudan, and Somalia have yet to initiate such actions.

Conversely, ten other countries have implemented various measures. Notably, six countries (Algeria, Mauritania, Lebanon, Tunisia, Kuwait, Yemen) confirmed collecting sex-disaggregated data within their national transparency systems. Also, five countries (Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Mauritania, Tunisia) have noticed conducting capacity building to mainstream gender and promote inclusivity for disadvantaged groups through NDC indicators and other reporting mechanisms. In addition, Bahrain, Jordan and Mauritania advocate for inclusive approaches in analysing climate change impacts.

However, only three countries (Tunisia, Iraq, Mauritania) have developed Climate Change and Gender Action Plans. Not to mention, that just Tunisia and Yemen confirmed the monitoring of specific gender-responsive indicators related to climate actions and analysing sex-disaggregated data to influence climate policy, planning, and reporting.

Efforts to integrate gender considerations into the national transparency system, including NDC	Countries
Country collects sex disaggregated data in the national transparency system through the NC, BUR, and other reporting instruments	Algeria, Mauritania, Lebanon, Tunisia, Kuwait, Yemen,
Specific gender-responsive indicators are being monitored in relation to climate actions/measures/projects	Tunisia, Yemen,
Country has a Climate Change and Gender Action Plan that has clear actions to support or strengthen gender mainstreaming in monitoring and reporting	Tunisia, Iraq, Mauritania

systems	
Country has undertaken capacity building for gender mainstreaming and inclusive processes for disadvantaged groups through the NDC indicators, transparency systems and/or other reporting instruments/processes	Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Mauritania, Tunisia,
Gender analysis and sex disaggregated data is actively analyzed to influence climate policy, planning, and reporting	Tunisia, Yemen,
Country supports inclusive approaches in analyzing the impacts of climate change and benefits of climate actions for the disadvantaged groups	Bahrain, Jordan, Mauritania
No specific steps have been taken yet	Jordan, Morocco, Libya, Sudan, Somalia

Table 8. Countries Efforts to integrate gender considerations into the national transparency system and NDCs.

II.   Priority Support Needs

The Table 9 below indicates the responses of the network's countries regarding their pressing needs and priorities for aligning with the requirements of on ETF and climate reporting under the Paris Agreement.

Based also on the analysis of this capacity needs assessment report and the challenges already identified in Table 6, it appears that it is difficult to identify only three needs, as the region needs support at all levels and in all areas of the ETF. However, the majority agreed on a few areas of support for the Enhanced Transparency Framework, notably:

1. **Cross cutting of The Enhanced Transparency Framework:**

Most countries prioritised their capacity needs in relation to the ETF, i.e. the requirements, provisions under the ETF and the Modalities, Procedures and Guidelines (MPGs). Notably, given the tight deadline for submission of the First BTR Report in December 2024, countries also reflected their interest in learning about the BTR preparation and planning process, especially the reporting tools (CRT and CTF) for GHG inventory and NDC tracking. Particular attention should be given to countries that have not yet started the process, through the BTR Roadmaps and the use of the BTR Guidance and Roadmap Tool developed by PATPA and the FAO.

2. **GHG Inventory :**

In this area, several countries have indicated relatively low capacities in terms of data collection, calculation and management, and of course quality assurance and quality control procedures. Similarly, capacity building in the IPCC 2006 Guidelines and Software, not forgetting the CRTs, are essential for the region.

3. **NDC Tracking :**

Several countries have already expressed their need to strengthen their capabilities in terms of tracking NDC actions, identifying indicators, estimating mitigation efforts and filling in the CTF tables as required for reporting in the BTR. Also, with regard to scenario projections, as part of the NDC revision process, notably through modelling tools such as LEAP and GACMO.

In addition to the areas already mentioned, other priorities were expressed, in particular:

- **Institutional arrangements and MRV platforms:**

The establishment of online MRV systems was also mentioned several times among the countries' priorities. To achieve this, regional capacity-building sessions could be organised in which countries that are more advanced in these areas could share their experiences and best practices.

- **Climate finance :**

Tracking climate finance flows and estimating the costs and benefits of mitigation and adaptation were also cited as priorities for some countries, especially Morocco, Tunisia and Iraq. Other countries, on the other hand, stressed the need to build capacity in mobilising and accessing climate finance.

Country	Cross cutting aspects	GHG Inventory	NDC tracking and Mitigation	Adaptation and impacts	Loss and damage	Support needed and received
Iraq	- ETF/MPGs requirements and provisions. - BTR preparation /Reporting templates (CRT and CTF).	- IPCC Guidelines and Inventory Software.	√		Assessment	Climate finance tracking
Libya		√		√		Mobilization of climate finance
Sudan	- Institutional arrangement / legal framework. - ETF/MPGs requirements and provisions. -Data management System.	GHG Analysis	√	Adaptation Communication		
Yemen		√	- NDC tracking. - Modelling Tools (LEAP and GACMO)			
Morocco			√	√		Climate finance tracking flows
Algeria	- ETF/MPGs requirements and provisions. - Institutional arrangement / legal framework. - Capacity Building in all areas.	√	√	√	√	√
Mauritania	- ETF/MPGs requirements and provisions. - BTR preparation /Reporting templates (CRT and CTF).					√
Lebanon	- ETF/MPGs requirements and provisions. - BTR preparation /Reporting templates (CRT and CTF).					
Tunisia	- Article 6 :(Institutional arrangements, preparation of reports, UNFCCC Registry, Corresponding adjustments. - Institutional and legal arrangements for a sustainable national system.	√		√		- tracking climate finance flows. - Indicators of monitoring.

Kuwait						Financial support, technology and capacity building
Egypt		√	Modelling tools	- Vulnerability assessment. - Modelling tools.		
Bahrain	MRV System	√				
Somalia	- ETF/MPGs requirements and provisions. - Data collection an management. - Capacity building for stakeholders and local expertise	√				Climate finance mobilisation
Jordan	Capacity building in all areas					Climate finance mobilisation

Table 9. Most pressing transparency support or training needs by country in the MENA Region.

Conclusion

North Africa and the Middle East is a multicultural region that encompasses 21 countries, with 18 eligible for GEF support. The majority of the countries in the region are considered leading nations committed to climate action. They have ratified the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol, and the Paris Agreement. MENA countries have submitted various reports to the UNFCCC Secretariat, expressing their commitments, including NDCs, National Communications, BURs, NIRs, NAPs, Adaptation Communications, and even recently LT-LEDS. However, the countries in the region differ significantly from one another. These differences are not always due to careful consideration but rather to varying socio-economic priorities and political instability in some countries, which have hindered progress on the climate agenda.

In the region, almost all countries have already submitted at least one National Communication. However, this does not apply to the BURs, as despite the requirement to submit at least one BUR with the BTR before December 2024, some countries have yet to submit their first BURs. Nevertheless, it is important to mentioned that some of the LDCs in the region even though they benefit from special provisions provided for LDCs in the UNFCCC regarding to reporting they have already submitted either the fourth or third BUR.

In transitioning to the ETF, not all countries are at the same stage of preparing their first BTRs. The majority have either received funding from the GEF and commenced preparation or are awaiting approval of their projects. Only a few countries have not yet taken any steps in requesting funding or initiating any processes.

Regardless of the considerable progress made so far, the implementation of the ETF framework in the region faces several challenges. These include inadequate domestic technical capacities, limited human resources, weak institutional and legal frameworks for ensuring effective engagement, ownership, and commitment of all stakeholders, particularly concerning data sharing. These challenges are consistent across all four areas of the ETF: GHG Inventory, NDC tracking, Adaptation and impacts, Loss and Damage, and support received and required. Additionally, some countries also highlight challenges in accessing and mobilizing international climate funding, along with the absence of a climate-sensitive budget for domestic resources.

Notably, in terms of GHG inventories, even though in the region all countries have predominantly used the IPCC 2006 guidelines and Inventory Software, however challenges persist is the area of QA/QC procedures and available domestic capacities in countries. In this regards several countries have requested support for training in the use of IPCC 2006 guidelines and Software including the CRTs. Moreover, many countries expressed needs for support in data management, MPG requirements and institutional arrangements.

Regarding NDC tracking and mitigation major challenges have been expressed in the use of modelling tools and formulating indicators for tracking progress. Several countries have identified needs such support for formulating NDC indicators, NDC tracking and training of national teams on the use of Modelling tools for scenario projection such as LEAP and GACMO.

Considering that most countries do not have a well-defined approach to assess impacts, risks and vulnerabilities to climate change and very few countries have established M&E systems for adaptation actions countries have expressed the need for support in this area. This includes training on methodologies and tools for assessing and quantifying the impacts of climate change, including economic and non-economic losses, and how these impacts are being

managed. These needs extend also for loss and damage considering that this is a new area of reporting. Hence support to countries on the reporting requirements, methodologies and tools to assess loss and damage will be beneficial.

Furthermore, financial flows tracking is limited, with most countries lacking systems for monitoring climate finance flows. Some are developing tools, but the absence of indicators for estimating mitigation and adaptation costs raises data reliability concerns. Additionally, gender mainstreaming in climate change is relatively advanced, with several countries implementing Gender and Climate Change Action Plans and specific indicators for sex-disaggregated data analysis.

With regards to support needed and received several countries have prioritized the need for training on how to accurately report on support needed and for establishing institutional arrangements and systems needed to track support received across the economic sectors and institutions.

Notwithstanding the challenges faced by countries in the region, several countries have expressed interest in sharing their experiences and best practices with other Network members, particularly regarding institutional arrangements for the Transparency System and national MRV Platforms. Similarly, countries are keen to learn from others' experiences in areas such as NDC tracking, adaptation monitoring and assessment, monitoring of climate financial flows, data management, GHG projections, and inventories.

To this end, based on the results of this assessment and the bilateral meetings held with the vast majority of countries, we have formulated a Work Plan for the first year, 2024. This Work Plan encompasses activities capable of addressing all the needs expressed by the countries, particularly through workshops, training sessions, and webinars organized at both regional and national levels, responding to the priority needs for this critical year. Not to mention that the project will offer technical assistance in terms of preparing the BTR Road Map and will provide Quality Review of the BURs, and potentially the BTRs, before submission to the UNFCCC Secretariat.

Annexe1: Assessment of institutional arrangements for the ETF reporting areas by country

Country	GHG inventory	NDC tracking	Adaptation and impacts	Loss and damage	Support needed and received
Iraq	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor
Libya	Poor	Absent	Poor	Poor	Poor
Sudan	Poor	Absent	Poor	Absent	Poor
Yemen	Poor	Poor	Poor	Absent	Absent
Morocco	Good	Good	Poor	Poor	Fair
Algeria	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor
Mauritania	Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Fair
Lebanon	Fair	Fair	Fair	Poor	Fair
Tunisia	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor
Kuwait	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
Egypt	Advanced	Good	Good	Good	Good
Bahrain	Good	Advanced	Advanced	Advanced	Fair
Somalia	Absent	Poor	Poor	Absent	Absent
Jordan	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good

Annexe2: Assessment of technical capacities in the ETF reporting areas by country

Country	GHG inventory	NDC tracking	Adaptation and impacts	Loss and damage	Support needed and received
Iraq	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor
Libya	Poor	Absent	Poor	Poor	Poor
Sudan	Poor	Absent	Poor	Absent	Poor
Yemen	Poor	Poor	Poor	Absent	Poor
Morocco	Good	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
Algeria	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
Mauritania	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor
Lebanon	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
Tunisia	Absent	Absent	Advanced	Advanced	Absent
Kuwait	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair

Egypt	Good	Fair	Good	Fair	Good
Bahrain	Fair	Good	Good	Fair	Fair
Somalia	Absent	Absent	Poor	Absent	Absent
Jordan	Fair	Fair	Fair	Poor	Fair