Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Arab Digital Inclusion Platform

(ADIP) Project

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UNITED NATIONS
ESCWA

Shared Prosperity **Dignified Life**

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ADIP - Background

Disability in the Arab region

- Although Arab countries are increasingly committed to realizing the rights of persons with disabilities, progress towards that end is slow.
- In the region, persons with disabilities are one of the most marginalized population groups, facing multiple barriers which hinder their ability to participate in society on an equal basis with others.
- Women with disabilities in rural areas are particularly marginalized.

Digital development in the Arab region

- It is worth mentioning the vital role that ICT can play for people's empowerment and in promoting better accessibility to all towards building more inclusive societies.
- In the Arab region, the ICT sector has fortunately made some positive strides in development in the past few years and, as a result, can have a great impact in digital inclusion throughout the region.

Need to develop E-Accessibility in the Arab region
(Article 9 of UN-CRPD)

- Develop national policies to identify the vision, objectives and focus areas to enable persons with disability from using technology devices in their daily life, and to ensure the surrounding environment deploys technology and innovation efficiently to ease their access.
- Develop national technical guidelines to implement e-Accessibility in public websites, e-services, procured ICT tools and devices, and in media channels and TV.

ADIP – Guiding principles

United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD)

- The goal is to ensure that people with disabilities enjoy human rights and fundamental freedoms
- All ESCWA member States are signatories.

UN Disability Inclusion Strategy, (April 2018)

- Represents a UN system policy, action plan and accountability framework to strengthen system-wide accessibility and mainstreaming of the rights of persons with disabilities

Beirut Consensus on Technology for Sustainable development in the Arab region (June 2018)

- ESCWA is requested to continue to provide MCs with high quality advice and specific support on technology and innovation for sustainable development, with focus on the several fields, including the inclusion of youth, older persons and persons with disabilities in areas such as education, employment and access to public services, and promoting social well-being of all.

Different mandates, one message

ESCWA's Vision

ADIP will make changes in line with ESCWA's Vision

ADIP - Objective

Support policy makers in the Arab counties to develop/improve their national policies and guidelines for enhanced E-Accessibility.
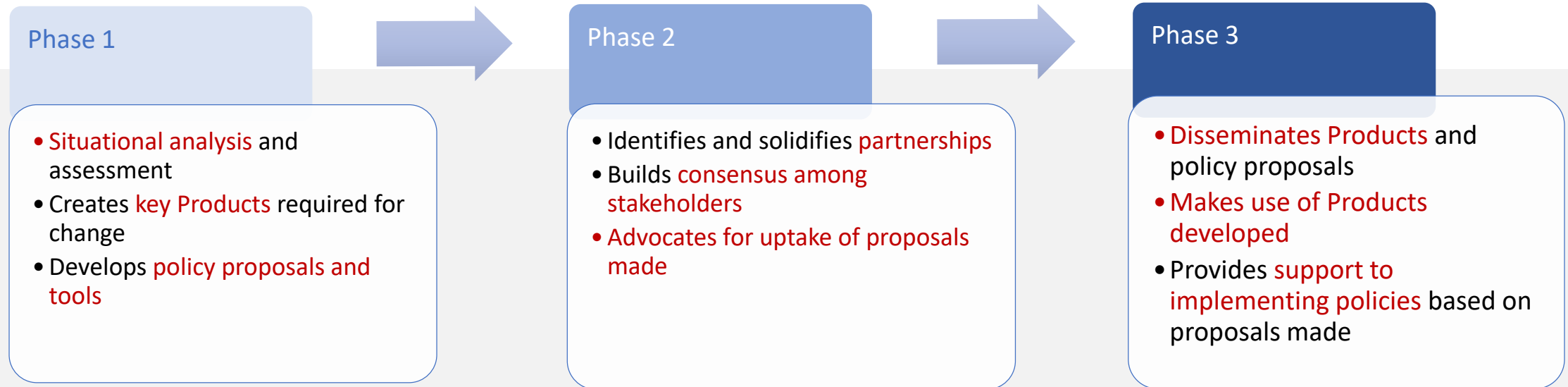
HELP

To bridge the digital divide and enable all society members to access and use ICT.
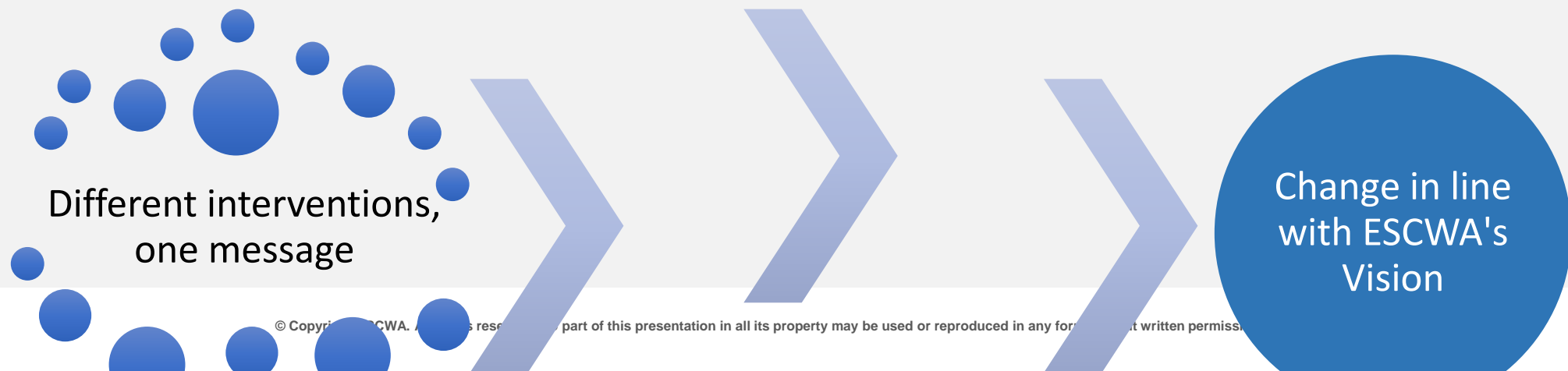
ADIP – Expected Results

- Arab governments and other stakeholders have developed, adopted and/or implemented policies and plans to promote E-Accessibility.

- Greater potential for an equal society is created where all is treated fair and equal despite differences, with special focus on people with specific needs and in particular persons with disabilities, which is a cross-cutting development issue in the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

- An effective and efficient platform that provide policy makers with the required assistance to improve inclusive and sustainable development of all.

ADIP – Cumulative Change

Phase 1

- Situational analysis and assessment
- Creates key Products required for change
- Develops policy proposals and tools

Phase 2

- Identifies and solidifies partnerships
- Builds consensus among stakeholders
- Advocates for uptake of proposals made

Phase 3

- Disseminates Products and policy proposals
- Makes use of Products developed
- Provides support to implementing policies based on proposals made

Cumulative Change informs how ADIP is PLANNED and MANAGED

Different interventions, one message

Change in line with ESCWA's Vision
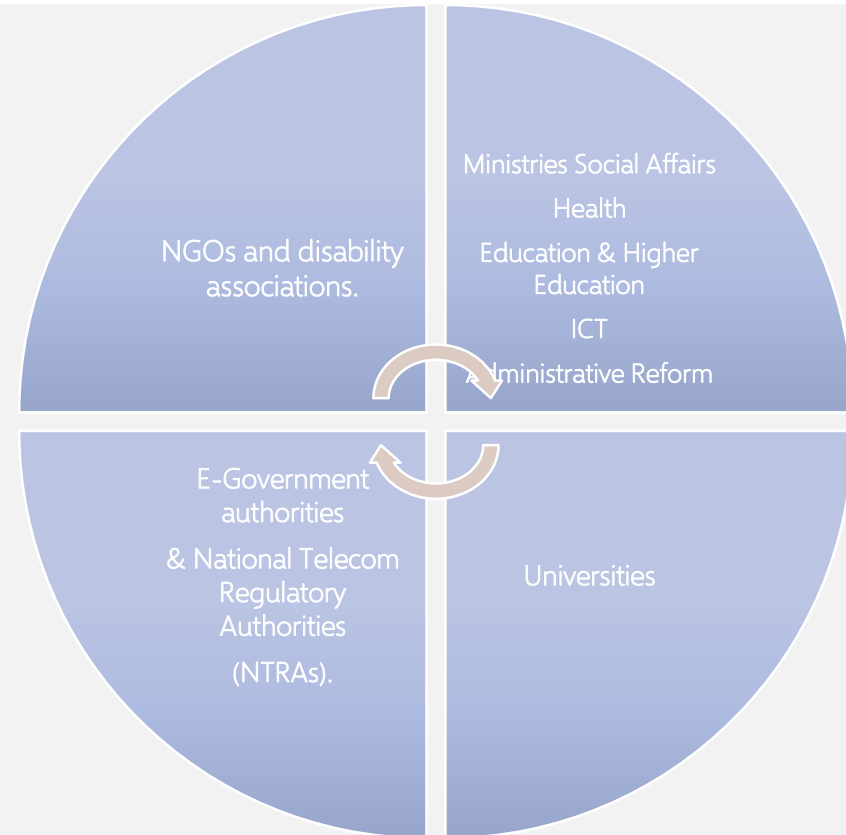
ADIP - MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Product/Channel	Starting Month	Implementing Month
ESCWA toolkit/template on e-Accessibility national policy for the Arab region (including a situational assessment).	April 2020	October 2020
ESCWA toolkit/template on guidelines to enhance e-Accessibility at national level (including a situational assessment).	April 2020	October 2020
Digital Platform to host the developed toolkits, best practices, and other related material, and online community of practice for disability focal points.	August 2020	May 2021
Online regional consultation on developed toolkits towards their improvement.	September 2020	December 2020
Regional workshop to discuss/adopt the final versions of the ESCWA toolkits.	February 2021	June 2021
Regional Training of Trainers (ToT) on the use and adaptation of the ESCWA toolkit/template on e-Accessibility national policy as well as on the use of the ESCWA toolkit/template on guidelines to enhance e-Accessibility at national level.	May 2021	September 2021
Three National capacity building workshops on the use and adaptation of the ESCWA toolkit/template on e-Accessibility national policy and the related developed guidelines.		**TBD**
Three advisory missions to member countries, to support the development and implementation of e-Accessibility national policy and/or guidelines.		
ESCWA-ITU Regional conference on "Accessible Arab Region", to ensure digital inclusion, bridging the digital divide and equipping all groups of society, including people with specific needs, to take advantage of the ICT, by enabling capacity building and sharing experience on how to design, develop and use accessible ICTs.		

In Progress

ADIP – Potential partners & Beneficiaries

Partners

Beneficiaries