

ICTDAR

إقْتِدَار



*Different initiatives...one goal*

[www.ictdar.org](http://www.ictdar.org)

**UNITED NATIONS  
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**  
Regional Bureau for Arab States (RBAS)



# " Women enabling Technology in Communities "

**Meeting**

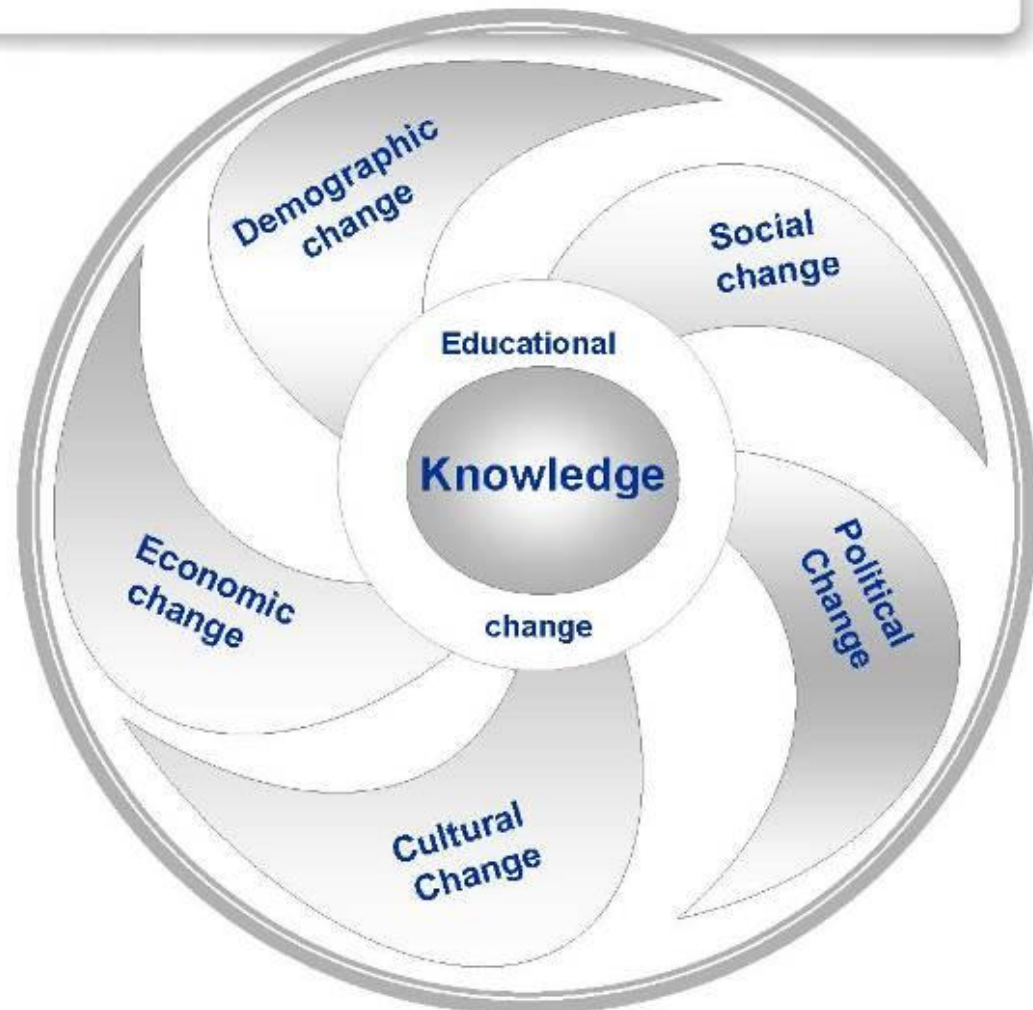
Tunis : 6-8 June 2007

**Najat Rochdi,**

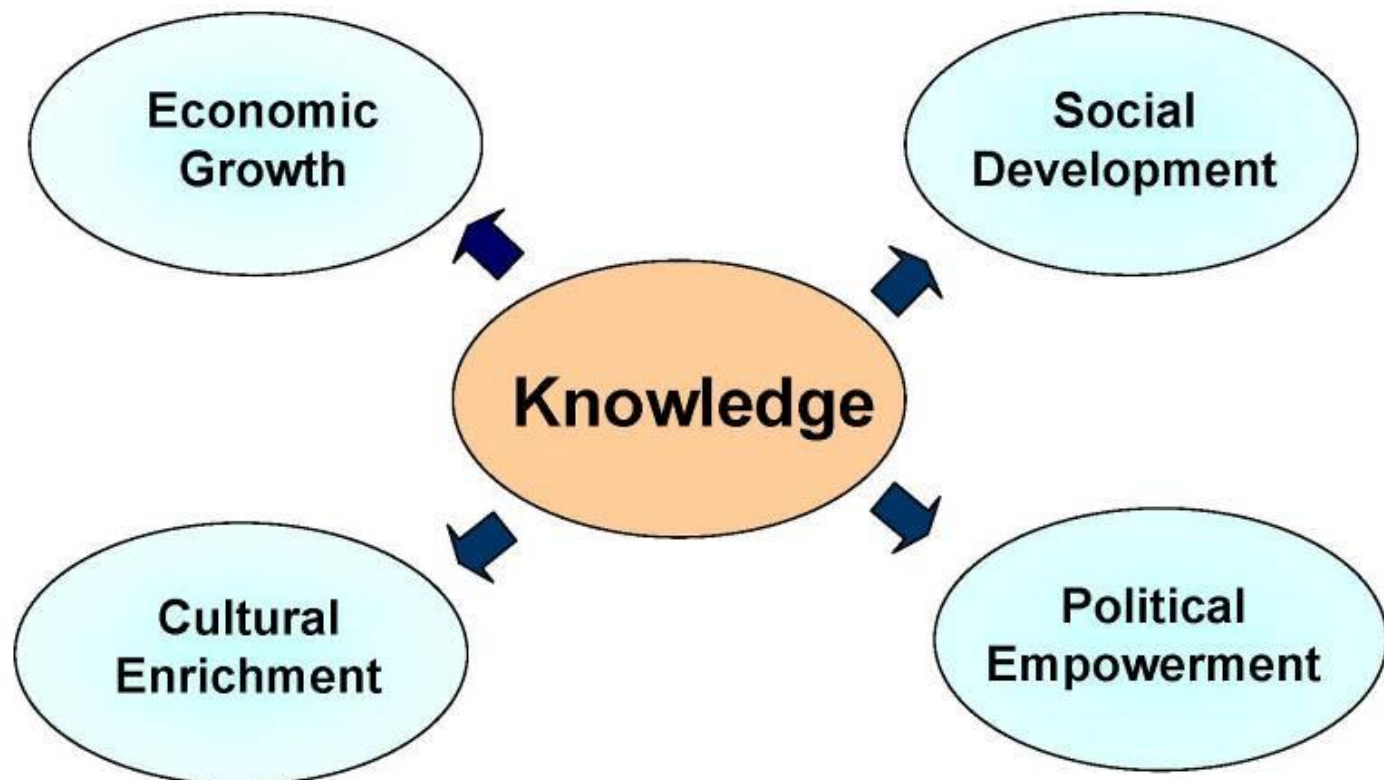
**Regional Coordinator**


“Development is about advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life.”

# Importance of change



# Central Role of Knowledge for Development





*“The ability to create and maintain knowledge infrastructure, develop knowledge workers and enhance their productivity will be the key factors in deciding the prosperity of the knowledge society.”*

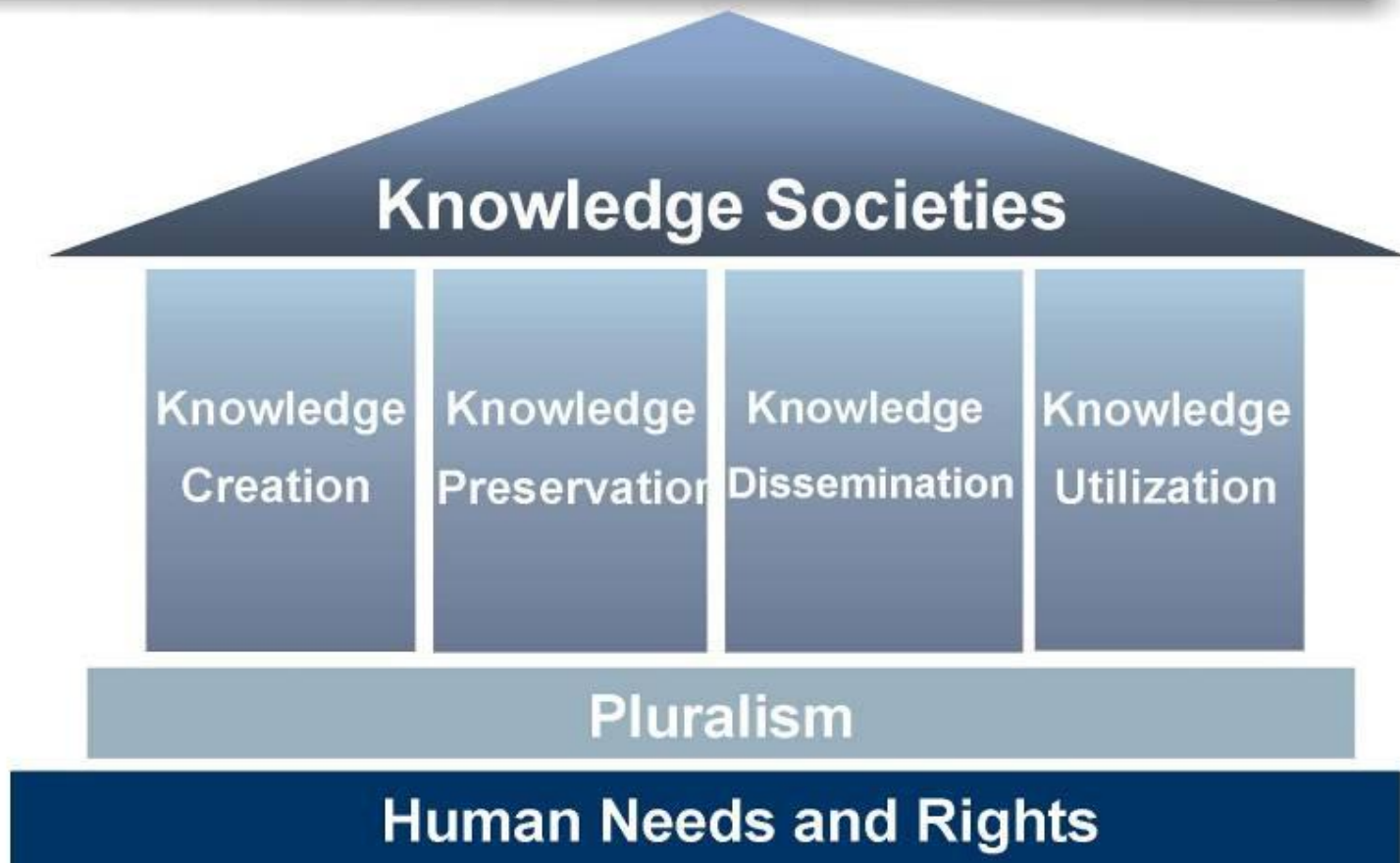
**Abdul Kalam, President of India**

# A World of Contrast





# Knowledge Societies



# Knowledge Creation

*"Half a hectare of land and one year of labour were required to feed one person in 1900 whereas that same half-hectare now feeds 10 persons on the basis of just one and a half days of labour".*

**UNESCO Science Report**



# Knowledge Dissemination: Role of technology

To reach 50 million people:

- Radio: 38 years,
- Television: 13 years
- Internet: 4 years

Countries connected to Internet:

- 1990: 20
- 2004: All

# Strategic objective

- Cultivating communities of practice that share and foster community-relevant knowledge in an open environment to create an open learning process that benefits the communities themselves, as well as contributing to the larger cultural paradigms of digital literacies and ICT use

# The enabling pillars

- learning,
- technology,
- community,
- Partnership,
- Mindset shift

# Framework of Action

- people;
- infrastructure; relevant content;
- applications and services;
- policy and organisational framework;
- and regulatory framework.

# Overall Goal

- Achieving the full potential of ICT in society, so as to transform the way people learn to stimulate cultural change in the communities they serve, in building a culture that supports entrepreneurship, leadership, learning, innovation, and creativity.
- **Empowerment leading to new citizenship**

# Women in action

- AjialCom/MYTECC
- WRCATI
- MASHROATI
- ICTARB
- Al Mowatana: e-citizenship



# AjialCom & MASHROATI: Initiative for Youth Empowerment

**AJIALCOM** aims to empower youth in the Arab region, allowing them to reach their potential by providing dedicated venues (Community Access Centers), for young people to:

- use computers,
- access the Internet at affordable costs
- receive computer and language training
- facilitate access to knowledge

in an effort to:

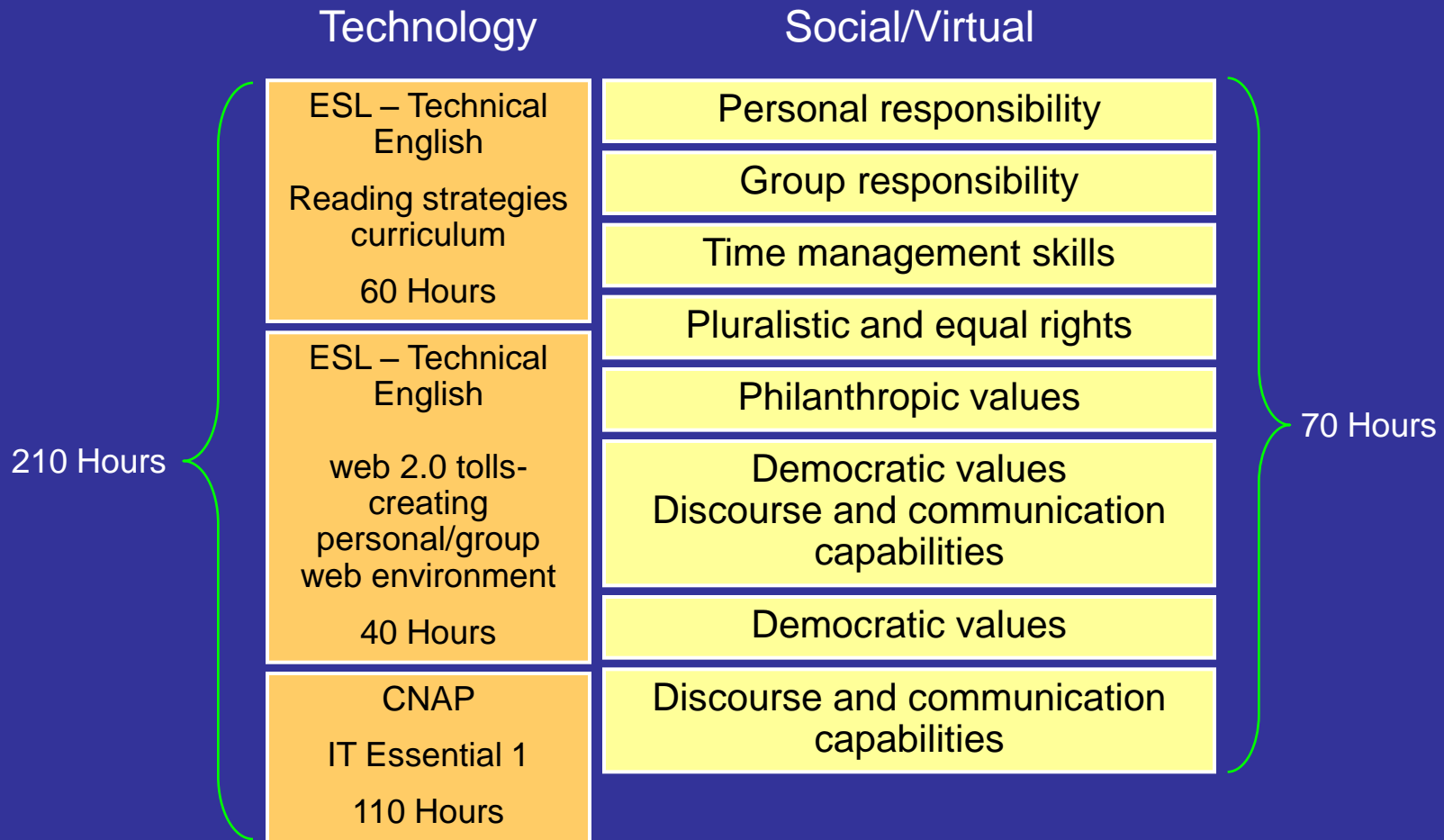
- reduce illiteracy
- build leadership
- build entrepreneurial skills
- reduce poverty
- help prepare Youth for the job market



# Pedagogical aspects

## MYTecC Course

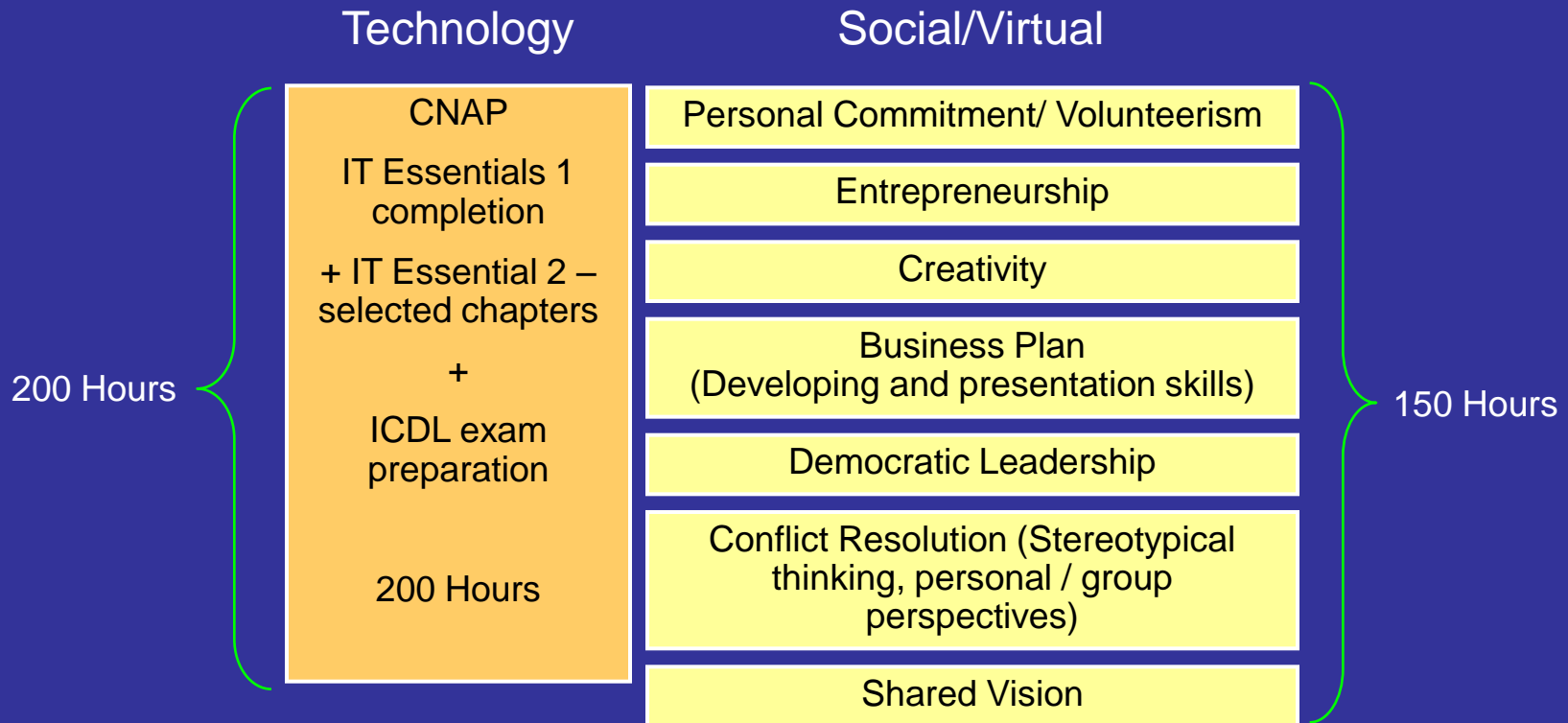
First year



# Pedagogical aspects

## MYTecC Course

Second year



# Youth Empowerment

Ultimately, the objective is to provide Youth with choices, hope, alternatives, and the ability to choose a better future!

The *Community Access Center* is the tool for reaching these objectives.

It is therefore NOT an Internet Café; rather it is the focal point for local community development activities.



## Most recent launch: 3 Centers in Yemen



## Promoting Women Rights through Access to Information

*WRCATI*

Funded by: European Union and UNDP/ICTDAR

Yasmine Soliman, Administrative Officer



## Objectives

- Empowering women
- Providing women with support systems
- Appoint and train social workers and NGO volunteers
- Assist domestic and family courts through ICT

# Implementation

## Phase I:

In collaboration with local partners:

- CD ROMs, websites and videotapes w
- Volunteers were selected and trained on the CD Rom
- CD ROMs were distributed to several community centers and NGOs



## 3 Pilot Countries

- The project was initiated in 3 pilot countries Egypt, Lebanon and Tunisia.

### Partners:

Egypt: NCW (National Council for women)

Lebanon: LECRVAV (Lebanese Council to Resist Violence Against Women) and KAFA

Tunisia: CAWTAR (Center for Arab Women Training and Research)



## Outcomes

- 1 CD ROM for each country and more than 3 000 CD ROMs have been produced
- More than 825 centers were involved in the dissemination of the CD ROM
- 3 Websites and 3 training manuals.
- Over 1000 have been trained on the CD ROM
- The project teams organized several press conferences and were involved in many workshops including WSIS where the CD ROM was presented.
- Over 100 press articles have been published on WRACTI in Tunisian, Lebanese and Egyptians newspapers along with several interviews
- Over 500 FAQs were prepared and published and also translated to colloquial Language.

## Outcomes-Cont'd

- The project initiated inter faith dialogue between various religious leaders in the countries
- Documentary film in Lebanon and Tunisia with beneficiary testimonials showing the impact WRACTI had on the lives of women who needed it.
- Tape Cassettes were produced in Lebanon and Egypt with the FAQ for illiterate women.
- Hotline was established in Lebanon supporting women against violence.
- Update to publication “Women in Egyptian Legislation” was performed in Egypt.
- CD ROM incorporated in the curriculum of Law University in Lebanon.



- **Replication: WRACTI is to be replicated in Jordan, Morocco and Palestine with Spanish Funding.**



Amira El Serafy, Programme Officer

# ICTARB: Initiative for Visually Impaired Empowerment

**ICTARB** aims at using ICT to help the blinds & visually impaired persons in the Arab region (7 million – WHO estimate) acquire new social & employment skills that will enable them to integrate into their communities as independent & productive members of the society.

**ICTARB** opens new opportunities for the visually impaired, therefore, contributing towards the achievement of two of UNDP Millennium Development Goals (MDGs):

- Eradicate Extreme Poverty: better chance to new job opportunities
- Illiteracy Reduction: training on basic ICT skills & set-up of a Braille/Audio library

# ICTARB - Objectives

ICTARB main objectives are:

- Enable visually impaired individuals to communicate with their society & become productive members
- Help them build their capacities and skills in the use of ICT, and therefore provide them with more opportunities to access to job market
- Creating specialized section for the visually impaired in the community access centers in Arab countries
- Provide the visually impaired with knowledge through the Braille/Audio library, by converting various resources in Arabic, English & French into Braille books & audio tapes
- Facilitate exchange of knowledge & information among the visually impaired
- Training of trainers (TOT) on Arabic software specialized for blinds “Ibsar”

# ICTARB - Activities

ICTARB centers provide various services & activities for blinds:

1. Establishment of community facilities to provide ICT services for the visually impaired:
  - Computers
  - Internet & Network
  - Braille Printer
  - Audio Cassette
  - Printer & scanner
2. Audio and Braille library (national resources from pilot centers in Egypt and Syria)
3. ICT Skills Development – TOT
4. Networking between ICTARB centers in the region for experience & knowledge sharing

# ICTARB - Activities



## ICTARB - in a Glance

- Project phase I (2005 – 2006) implemented in Syria (Salameya), Egypt (Giza, Alexandria & Heliopolis), and Tunisia (Tunis);
- By January 2007, ICTARB Yemen & Morocco will be launched as phase II;
- ICTDAR developed a regional partnership to joint efforts with governments in the Arab countries, Private Sector and Civil Society to implement ICTARB project;

## ICTARB - Indicators

- Number of beneficiaries used ICTARB center in Egypt & Syria (2005 – 2006):
  - No. of visually impaired & **blinds** completed the training **425**
  - No. of visually impaired & **blinds** used the centers facilities **1403**
  - No. of visually impaired & **blinds** used the Audio/Braille library **1302**
  - No. **deaf & mute** persons used the centers facilities **608**
  - No. of persons with **other disabilities** used the centers facilities **184**



**“Opening a gate of Opportunities  
for the Majority”**

**“L’avenir n’est que du Present a  
mettre en ordre, il ne suffit pas  
de le prevoir, il faut le  
permettre”**

**St Exupery**

Thank you

More on  
[www.ictdar.org](http://www.ictdar.org)