LibreOffice Localization Project

The National Program for Free and Open
Source Software Technologies
Motah @ KACST
Saudi Arabia

Introduction
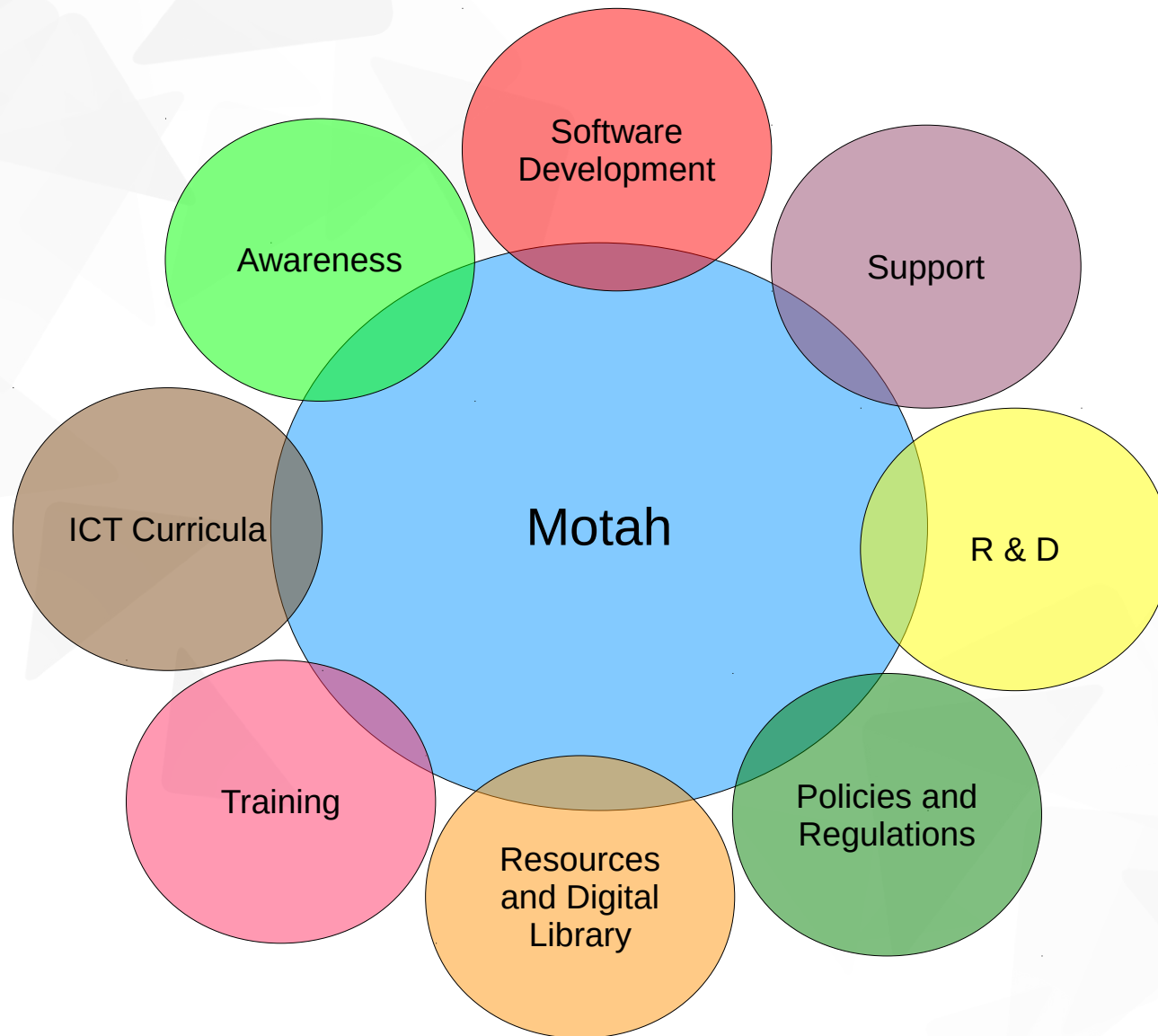
The national program for free/open source software technologies is:

- One of the Computer Research Institute programs
- Supported by KACST
- Provides and facilitates a variety of activities
- Partner with UNDP

البرنامج الوطني لتقنيات البرمجيات الحرة ومفتوحة المصدر

مدينة الملك عبدالعزيز
للعلوم والتقنية KACST

Objectives

Main Activities

- National policy
- National FOSS survey
- Motah award
- International Workshops
- Open Academy in collaboration with Saudi Computer Society
- Funding graduation project in FOSST
- Localization project - LibreOffice project

LibreOffice Project Objectives

- Detecting bugs and errors related to Arabic language
- Solving bugs and improving the functionality by adding new features
- Supporting Arabic documentation of LibreOffice

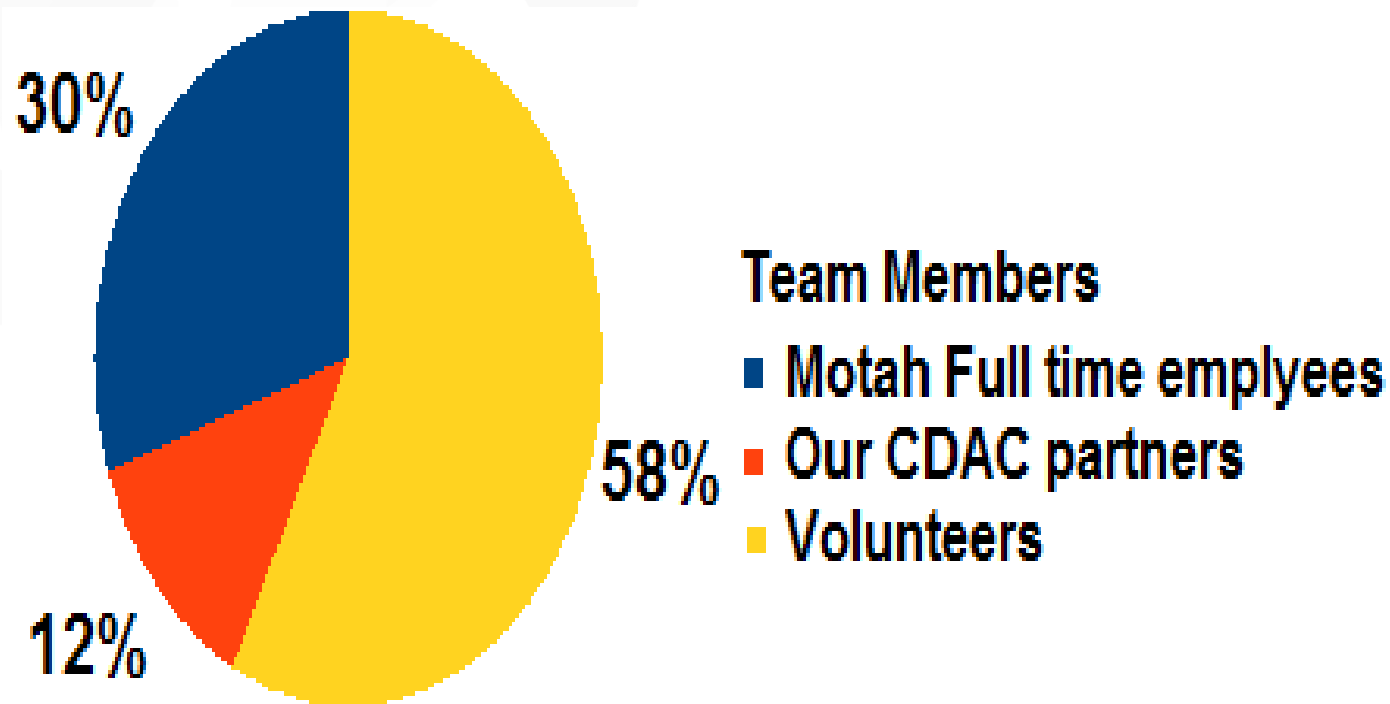LibreOffice

LibreOffice Project Activities

	Duration (months)											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Planning & Training	■	■	■									
Implementation		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Analyse Arabic User Needs		■	■	■								
Solving bugs			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
OS Feasabilty study									■	■	■	■
Finalizing phase											■	■
Documenting lessons learnt											■	
Get approval												■
Archieve resulted code												■

Expected Outcomes

- **LibreOffice Arabic users needs**
- **A List of bugs and features to be solved**
- **A full documentation of the delivered code**
- **A feasibility study to develop national operating system**
- **Trained Team members**

Our Team

30%

12%

58%

Team Members
- Motah Full time emplyees
- Our CDAC partners
- Volunteers

LibreOffice

Challenges

- Attracting volunteers
- Building local LibreOffice community
- Adequate Training
- Full time vs Volunteers
- Trustworthiness
  - Community
  - Decision makers
- Building right future plan

LibreOffice

Future Plans ?

- 3-5 years
- Increase team size (10-15 employees)
- Volunteers engagement
- Collaborate with document foundation to shape our future plan directions

Suggestions are appreciated

RTL Issues in LibreOffice

- User Interface
- Functions & Tools
- Documentation
- Text rendering
- Missing Features

User Interface

- Reversed buttons and icons
- Some toolbars are LTR and some have handlers at left
- Print Preview is LTR while the UI is RTL
- New RTL LibreOffice users don't know about CTL to enable RTL support
- No horizontal scroll bar in RTL UI for Calc (GTK only)

Colors: Fixed   Not Fixed

Function and Tools

- Missing Arabic numerals for page numbering
- Find doesn't work with diacritics

<div dir="rtl">مرحباً   مرحبا   مرحبا</div>

- List box contents take the direction of the UI not the sheet

Documentation

- No Arabic LibreOffice wiki
- No Books, Manuals, ...etc.
- No Arabic support, training, ...etc.
- No Arabic Help files

Text Rendering

- Mixing Symbols, Roman, and Arabic letters result in a corruption
- Numbering in RTL Text-boxes are reversed
- Changing 'Locale' settings may destroy number formatting persistent
- Rotated RTL text with numbers produces a complete mess

Text Rendering (cont.)

- Incorrect formatting for Arabic subtending marks
- The 'underline' breaks when adding numbers to RTL sentence
- Mixing RTL text with numbers and signs (- #@%... etc.) doesn't work correctly
- 'Justify' misplace '‪ـ‬' in Arabic words

Missing Features

- Arabic formula
- Grammar Checker
- Poor Spell Checker

BERLIN 2012 CONFERENCE

Thank You...

Q & A