

WIRTSCHAFTS FORUM NAH- UND MITTELOST[®]

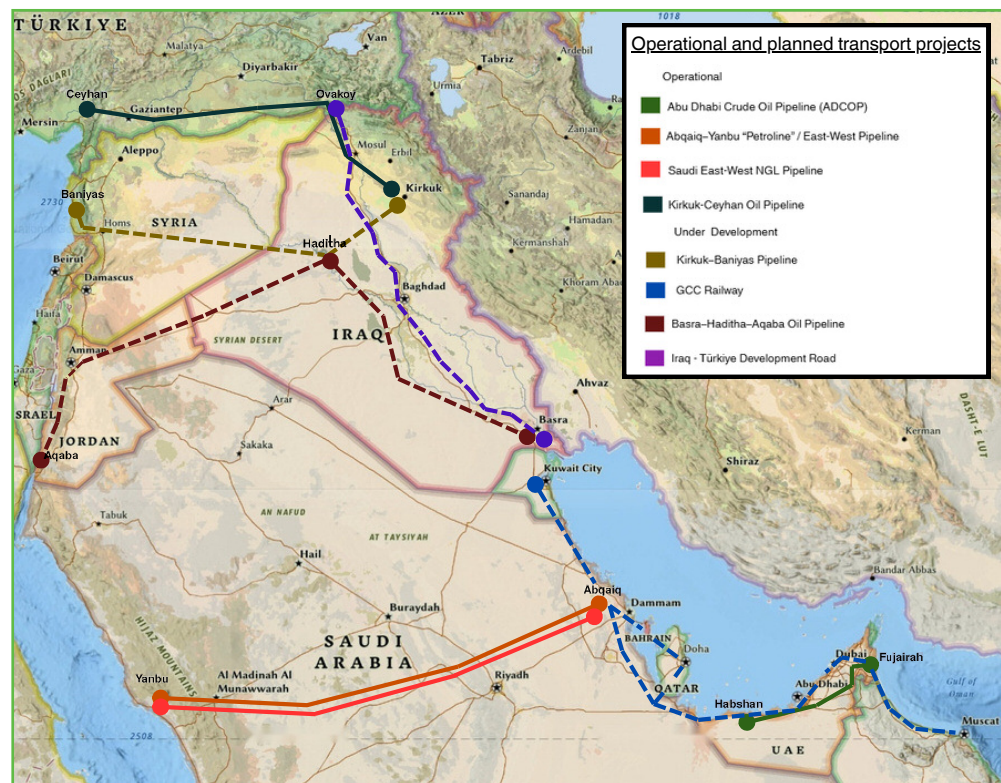
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Hormuz: Recalibrating Regional Trade and Global Logistics Infrastructure



Proposed Diversification Transport Routes in the MENA Region

Since the 28th February 2026, disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz, a corridor carrying roughly a fifth of the world's seaborne oil, LNG, and ammonia trade, caused Gulf economies to face an unusual test of—though previously only theoretically established—known vulnerability: how much of that trade can be rerouted at all. The answer is reshaping the region, as governments race to build out alternative export infrastructure and diversify away from dependence on a single waterway.

Saudi Arabia has pursued a strategy through the East-West Pipeline, known as Petroline, which links the Abqaiq processing hub, located

in eastern Saudi Arabia, to the Red Sea port of Yanbu. Throughput reached 7 million barrels per day (bpd) in the first quarter of 2026, a record in the pipeline's history. In Yanbu, loadings rose from 1.1 million bpd in February to 2.2 million bpd over the first nine days of March, with shipping data pointing to a record month for the port. Discussions are now underway on a further expansion of 1 to 2 million bpd, which would increase the network's total throughput toward 9 million bpd. The expansion could possibly be coordinated regionally, with Kuwait, Bahrain, and Qatar involved in discussions. If realized, this would extend the pipeline's function beyond a purely Saudi asset

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