

ANND ANNUAL REPORT 2016



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Arab NGO Network for Development
شبكة المنظمات العربية غير الحكومية للتنمية



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Arab NGO Network for Development
شبكة المنظمات العربية غير الحكومية للتنمية

We are working in 12 Arab countries with 9 national networks (with an extended membership of 250 CSOs from different backgrounds) and 23 NGO members.

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INTRODUCTION

Nobody expected all the repercussions of the uprisings by the peoples of the region demanding their right to freedom and a dignified life. However, the people behind the regimes decided to hold on to their privileges and those of their cronies and refused to give up the illegitimate gains they make while in power, so they decided to repress their people.

The tragic situation reached by the countries and peoples of the region calls for the reconsideration of priorities and paying attention to the causes and effects of armed struggles, regime collapse, intensive movement of people inside and across borders, direct and indirect foreign interventions, and across the board gross human rights violations.

The rapid collapse of states betrays the weakness of their institutions and their failure to protect citizens' rights or to establish mechanisms for conflict management and peaceful exchange of power based on accountability, as a self-evident question in modern states. These developments showed the importance of the division of power and increasing oversight over the political performance of the parties in power. Low human development indicators, the high levels of deprivation, and inequalities of all forms are evidence of the bad economic and social policies adopted in the past decades.

These models, which remain until today, are being reproduced without an in-depth evaluation and analysis or attempts to propose alternative approaches to achieving developmental goals. Challenges related to the weakness or absence of state institutions and the control of authoritarian powers are not divorced from choices related to policies to which no one is accountable.

However, this phenomenon is not limited to this region. It is one of the examples of the failure of the global financial and economic system witnessed around the world. In advanced countries, the quick response by public institutions mitigated the crisis and stopped it from reaching the point of no return, although the adopted measures were temporary, postponing the impact of the crisis and failing to address it in a radical and conclusive manner.

Thus, even those countries have not fully recovered from their crises. For example, Greece and several other European countries, such as Ireland, Spain, Italy, and Portugal, are reeling under challenges brought about by the huge disparities in income, high unemployment, and social marginalization.

These challenges are not incidental. They are linked to existing economic and trade relations and the nature of the financial system. Thus, they require the identification of an alternative developmental model that could overcome these structural challenges.

These questions form the scope of ANND's vision and strategy, which are based on the four following points:

- 1.** Monitoring the existing situation and providing an in-depth rights-based analysis,
- 2.** Focusing on the key elements of any developmental model based on human rights principles,
- 3.** Raising the awareness and building the capacity of CSOs, partners, and allies on economic, social, and trade issues, and
- 4.** Exerting pressure and influencing public policy, through working directly with decision-makers on the national, regional, and global levels.

ANND is convinced that the key influential elements in any developmental model are based on the following:

First is the need to build a national economy capable of providing the increasing number of job opportunities required to address unemployment, especially for youth, and reducing the incident of informal labor leading to more marginalization. This economy should take into consideration not only the structural challenges to national economies, but also global economic trends, including the growth of monopoly economy and capital-intensive and non-job-producing production, which represents an inextricable part of the “post-modern” economy. To achieve this shift, there is a need for a comprehensive approach to economy to enhance productivity based on value-added and sustainable sectors. However, a productive economy requires a series of measures.

First and foremost is the need to reconsider macro-economic policies, such as investment policies, technological advancement, intellectual property, exchange and interest rates, and state intervention in supporting and protecting vital sectors, along with the diversification of industrial and agricultural sectors, artisanal and food production, and so on. This is in addition to encouraging investment in SMEs, especially those working in productive and sustainable sectors.

Second is the need to adopt a fair taxation system targeting high income brackets and relieving the tax burden on limited income groups. Perhaps, the most important requirement for tax justice is reducing tax exemptions and tax evasion possibilities. A tax justice vision should also take into consideration its contribution to the redistribution of income to achieve justice among citizens and reduce inequalities.

Third is evaluating the contribution of the private sector to achieving development and compliance to binding standards in investment, production, and commercial activities, as well as partnership with the public sector to provide basic services to citizens, such as in education, health, electricity, water, communications, and transportation, as well as addressing the question of waste management and sanitation.

Fourth is the design of a national system for social protection, which guarantees the rights of citizens, improves their livelihood, contributes to wide sectoral coverage, and includes all social and age groups, whether formal or informal, unemployed or inactive.

The globally adopted sustainable development plan and rights-based standards should be the bare minimum and requires a commitment to international partnership in an enabling environment. This partnership should be based on a new consensus, which reconsiders IFI methodologies and policies, such as structural adjustment, austerity measures, and flexibility related to human rights and environmental standards. Thus, it is important to follow up on the principles of the global partnership for development effectiveness, as a main component in implementation, as agreed upon by UN member states.

In turn, this requires the respect of the enabling environment of civil society, as one of the key and active actors in the multistakeholder international partnership.

These are the elements that form the foundations of ANND’s strategy.

This report presents the modest achievements of ANND during 2016, which could not have happened without the great efforts of its members, partners, and friends, such as researchers, experts, universities, research centers, academic institutions, donors, and international and regional organizations.

Finally, the achievements are due to the working team and the efforts placed to achieve the goals set by the supervising bodies in ANND, which deserve a big thank you for their wise leadership and persevering efforts to provide support to the team.

Ziad Abdel Samad
ANND Executive Director
Beirut, 16 June 2017



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I- MONITORING

Monitoring is one of the most important activities of the Arab NGOs Network for Development. The monitoring process aims to provide information to civil society on development, economic and social rights as well as on capacity-building to influence public policy. In this area, ANND is implementing a number of watch-related programs.

SECTION 1:

Arab Watch on Economic and Social Rights 2016 – Informal Labor

Background:

The Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND) founded in 2011 a monitoring tool for strengthening civil society's role in monitoring social and economic policies with a Human rights based approach. The most important monitoring results and recommendations are reported in the Arab Watch on Economic and Social Rights, focused on national, regional, and international policies and factors leading to the violation of economic and social rights.

The first report was launched in October 2012. It focused on the "right to work" and "the right to education." The second report, published in 2014, was entitled: "Social protection in the Arab World: the Crisis of the State Exposed."

The monitoring mission generally aims to promote civil engagement in decision-making processes on economic and social policies. The participation of civil

society in decision-making includes the monitoring of national, regional and global public policies, including the documentation of their impact on living conditions, building alliances, and reaching a common position on the issue subject of the Watch.



Arab Watch 2016: Informal Labor

About the project

The figures show that about 50-80% of the labor force in the Arab region is part of the informal labor force, which means this category of workers is deprived of social and economic rights and cannot benefit from social security coverage, making it more vulnerable and excluded from the formal economy, and therefore from labor laws protection.

There are many commonalities in informal labor in the Arab region, especially in light of the failure of Arab governments to secure decent jobs or improve the working environment.

In addition, a substantial segment of the labor force in the Arab countries lacks the incentives to participate in the official system of production. In other words, informal actors believe that the financial burden of working with the state, especially with regard

to taxation, outweighs the services provided by governments, in particular if the level of these services is low, as is the case in most Arab countries.

Informal labor has become commonplace among many social groups and has a greater impact on the most vulnerable people. According to the World Bank, women make up about 60% of workers from both sexes in the informal sector and their labor value is still low. Young people are widely



unemployed (representing 25% of unemployment in the Arab region according to ILO figures) and head towards the informal economy. This is also the case for migrant workers. Informal labor inflates inequality patterns in the structure of the global economy.

In this context, the Arab Watch Report addresses informal labor in the Arab region and includes 13 countries (Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Iraq, Sudan, Yemen, Mauritania, Jordan, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon) since Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) must make “informal employment” a central issue and a foundation

for statistical, research and struggle efforts that contribute to a new stability for the Arab societies based on dignity, rights and freedoms.

The Arab Watch report will be launched in the first half of 2017 and will include, in addition to the core national reports dealing with informal labor at the national level, other relevant regional reports, including: a paper on neoliberal policies and their implications on informal labor, a paper on migration, asylum and labor vulnerability, a paper on a gender approach to informal labor, and a comparative paper with other regions of the world prepared by WIEGO. Afterwards, preparations shall be underway for the 2017 Arab Watch report.



Activities completed

1. In 2015, a reference paper and a background paper were finalized in collaboration with regional experts on informal economy, to be used for setting a framework for national reports.
2. A series of analytical papers were prepared to give more depth to the dialogue on the informal economy. In 2016, two analytical papers were completed. The first tackled the gender dimension of informal labor and highlighted the challenges faced by women in informal labor. This phenomenon was linked to neoliberal structural adjustment policies and the adoption of non-inclusive development models in the region. Research indicated that the highest percentage of women in informal employment in the region is in domestic and agricultural work and is associated with poverty and education rates. The second paper sought to understand the effects of migration on informal labor in the Arab region, where migration and refugee influx (especially from Syria) create opportunities for fragile employment and informal working conditions. In addition, the WIEGO global Network, concerned with improving the status of women in the informal economy, prepared an analytical paper on the concepts of informal labor and the informal sector, containing a summary of the latest national figures on the size and composition of informal labor and the conditions of this type of labor in different parts of the world. The paper concluded that the recognition of informal labor and the support of informal workforce could be a fundamental path to peace and reconstruction in conflict-stricken Arab States.
3. A regional workshop was organized in Beirut on June 25, 2016 to discuss the two background papers and the development of work on national papers, with the participation of national and regional experts.
4. National reports were completed and national dialogue workshops were held for discussing them.



SECTION 2:

Development Effectiveness

A project in collaboration with the Civil Society Organizations Partnership for Development Effectiveness (2016-2017)

About the project

The role and scope of civil society in the Arab region is witnessing a remarkable transformation, with numerous implications at the national and regional levels. The deteriorating political situation and its repercussions, such as the migrants' crisis in the Mediterranean, are leading to increased pressure on communities in the region. The absence of peace, the state of instability and the focus on combating terrorist movements has substantially narrowed the civil society working scope. As a result, a new political wave is reshaping the region, with foreign political initiatives to find solutions to ongoing conflicts.

Lack of transparency and accountability also jeopardizes civil society action, which can be exploited as a means of weakening national sovereignty. These conditions negatively affect national democratic processes.

At the global level, the new development framework



On the other hand, the policies and approaches proposed by International Financing Institutions, whether governmental or multinational and leading to the adoption of austerity measures targeting the most vulnerable groups are being rejected by social movements and non-governmental organizations. This has prompted governments to further impose restrictions on civil society to prevent such protest movements from spreading. This also restricts the scope of work of civil society.

However, the shrinking civil society scope of work is not only a result of unstable political conditions, but is also related to funding. There is a growing trend to impose conditions on financing and to limit global financial cooperation.

and sustainable development goals, underlying aid operations and adopted by development key players focus on the financing of the private sector as a means of development, particularly within the framework of public-private partnership, in light of the increasing role of these partnerships as a tool for development in recent years. This has been noted by the new European neighborhood policies and the Busan Forum on Aid Effectiveness.

Therefore, the role of foreign companies, especially those involved in investing in the natural resources of developing countries (such as energy investments), should be raised and highlighted. Responsible accountability and transparency mechanisms are needed, as well as commitment to human rights, justice and environmental sustainability.

Activities completed

- Preparing 3 draft research papers on the implementation of the Istanbul Principles in Bahrain, Jordan and Sudan.
- Holding a coordination and strategic meeting on development's effectiveness in the region to prepare for the second high-level meeting of the Global Partnership on Effective Development Cooperation held in Nairobi, Kenya, from November 28 to December 1, 2016, and preparing for a regional position paper to be submitted to the meeting.
- Participating in the Nairobi meeting and parallel civil society meeting and organizing a workshop

Coordination and Strategic Meeting on Development Effectiveness

ANND in cooperation with the Partnership for Civil Society Organizations Partnership for Development Effectiveness¹ (CPDE) held a regional meeting in the Arab region with the participation of national focal points and experts representing national partner organizations working on development effectiveness

The aim of the meeting was to discuss strategies and share experiences on the work done in the previous year and to ensure consistency and complementarity between the national plan and regional action.

explore how to develop aid in quantity and quality to become effective alongside official assistance and fair policies, based on the principles of Istanbul² (2010), Accra (2008) and Busan (2010).

At the end of this coordination and strategic meeting,



The meeting also aimed at formulating a position on financing development to be submitted at the second high-level meeting of the Global Partnership on Effective Development Cooperation (Nairobi, Kenya, 28 November- December 1, 2016).

In addition to the preparation for the Nairobi meeting, this coordination meeting sought to create a working group to follow up on the subject and to

the participants adopted the regional position paper which included an introduction to the general framework of the development effectiveness in the Arab region and the related tracks.

The paper enumerated development challenges in the region, such as deep and growing social and economic disparities, the dominance of the neo-patrimonial state model, the promotion of free economy, free market economies and liberalization of trade that helped dictator states at the expense of other countries, reduced policy space and the marginalization of rights in favor of certain groups



and the lack of binding human rights standards, and lack by most Arab countries of comprehensive national development plans and focus on short-term sectoral achievements, as well as the crisis of refugees, displaced and others.

The paper also determined the concerns and priorities regarding development cooperation for civil society groups and included Official Development Aid components, investment support as a response to development challenges, the role of the private sector, enabling environment, inclusive development, and transparency and accountability of all development actors.

4. The call to exert efforts to build an enabling environment that will enhance the contribution of civil society as an essential tool in development, and to develop the capacity of the government and parliamentarians to combat corruption and avoid bureaucracy;

5. The call to monitor development assistance and the effective issuance of reports to reduce development assistance risks in light of the urgent need to such assistance in the Arab region;

6. The need to recognize that the causes of migration are diverse. In addition to the economic, political and cultural reasons, security and armed conflicts also lead to migration, which means that assistance should contribute to stability and enhance social and humanitarian security;



The position paper concluded by clarifying the **most important messages of Arab civil society** to the second high-level meeting in Nairobi. These messages included the following:

1. The call to guarantee national ownership and promote transparency, accountability and inclusive partnership;

2. The call for qualitative, better, transparent and unconditional assistance;

3. The call to guarantee the development role of the state and its ability to organize to make sure that private and mixed sources do not undermine development, but contribute to its achievement;

7. The call to more partnership between the civil society in the region and abroad to face the radical changes taking place around the world and the return to the fanatic nationalities and the closure of many countries after the crisis of asylum and the growing xenophobia and racist trends.

-
1. Representative of the partners in the following Arab states attended the meeting: Egypt, Bahrain, Jordan, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia, Iraq, Yemen, Palestine, Syria and Lebanon.
 2. http://cso-effectiveness.org/IMG/pdf/mahmoud_final.pdf



SECTION 3:

Monitoring and follow-up on the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

On September 25, 2015, world leaders adopted a new global agenda for development in pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) entitled, “Transforming Our World: The 2030 Sustainable Development Plan.” The development agenda included 17 sustainable development goals and 169 targets. 193 countries supported the 2030 Sustainable Development Plan, including Arab countries.

The 2030 Development Agenda was the result of an intensive consultation process with the participation of civil society and the private sector as well as governments. The Agenda thus provided an opportunity to respond in a comprehensive manner to the development challenges.

The Agenda included many additions to the

order to improve the plan’s chances of success. For example, the approach was based on the development model adopted decades ago, which proved its inability to achieve fair and sustainable development.

Although some development indicators recorded a slight improvement, problems resulting from insufficient response to the desire of citizens to live in dignity kept accumulating. On the one hand, emphasis is exclusively placed on the three pillars of sustainable development, i.e. the economic, social



and environmental pillars, while the political and institutional dimension of development, which are represented in maintaining peace, security and democratic governance, are being neglected. There is also an almost complete disregard of the cultural-value-related dimension in development.

Millennium Development Goals and highlighted issues of importance and priority in the Arab countries. This important action plan faces a large number of challenges related to the plan itself or to the extent to which States are able to implement it, including Arab countries.

There is therefore a need to face these challenges in

The Action Plan includes a wide range of goals and objectives, which will be a great difficulty for the concerned states and parties regarding the transformation of these targets and goals into comprehensive, consistent and effective development plans. Moreover, the sustainable development goal are not legally binding, and therefore follow up and review of the extent of implementation of the Agenda are not clearly defined

and do not indicate that the Agenda must be abided by.

The Agenda is limited to a set of guiding principles based on voluntary implementation by governments in accordance with national priorities and strategies. This non-binding approach is matched by binding agendas in international trade negotiations that put the interests of international trading partners and businesses above the national interests and priorities and this narrows the space for national policy formulation. This paradox threatens the possibility of implementing sustainable development goals at the national level.

ANND aims to promote dialogue between civil society organizations, representatives of the private sector, political parties, academics and trade unions on the 2030 Agenda. ANND also seeks to contribute to effective and responsible implementation by building the capacities of different stakeholders and enabling them to participate in an inclusive social dialogue at different policy-making levels.

By providing a platform for dialogue and knowledge



sharing among different actors in the development field (civil society organizations, governments, the media, political parties, trade unions and the private sector), these actors will have an opportunity to effectively deal with social and economic policies within the framework of the development agenda for the post 2015 period.

The planned interventions include:

- Monitoring the Agenda implementation progress through reports highlighting the opportunities and challenges at the general policy level related to the implementation of the Agenda, and by suggesting recommendations at this level;
- Launching dialogues at the national level with the various stakeholders on the Agenda implementation plans and the role of civil society;
- Building the capacity of stakeholders through the provision of materials prepared by ANND and which reflect its orientation and target civil society organizations, trade unions, and parliamentarians.

Activities completed

During the year 2016, eight reports were submitted to the Social Watch as well as a special paper on the importance of the implementation of MDG 16 for the region. ANND participated in the High-Level Political Forum in New York. Reports were also in preparation (in Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, Sudan, Syria, Lebanon and Morocco) and national dialogues were held between December 2016 and January and February 2017. ANND is also preparing a comprehensive guide on the Agenda and small handbooks for various actors: civil society, trade unions, and parliamentarians.

Activities expected in 2017 include a meeting to discuss evidence in the first quarter of 2017 and a regional dialogue before the end of 2017 to discuss the results of national and regional reports.

SECTION 4:

Monitoring and follow-up on EU neighborhood policies

About the program

The past two years have witnessed significant developments at the level of European Union policies. The EU launched the “new” neighborhood policy in November 2015 that strengthened the security approach at the expense of the focus on development and human rights. In 2016, the European Union launched the Investment Plan 2016 and linked it to migration, where foreign investment was seen as a means of solving the root problems of migration.

The Migration Regulation Framework was launched; it aims to limit and address “root causes” but through approaches that violate human rights principles regarding freedom of movement of individuals. During the first year of the new Neighborhood Policy, stability and security became the main determinants of the European approach to the Arab region, especially after the terrorist attacks in some European cities and the continued illegal flow of refugees.



Advocacy visit to Brussels

In this context, ANND tracked these new policies and prepared position papers that reflect the views of the Arab civil society on these policies:

1. Position Paper on Migration Policies:
<http://www.annd.org/data/item/pdf/446.pdf>
2. ANND's position on the European Development Consensus:
<http://www.annd.org/data/item/pdf/447.pdf>

During the visit, ANND participated in the Steering Committee meeting and organized, in cooperation with the European NGO Network SOLIDAR, a delegation of civil society representatives from Egypt,

Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria and Palestine, who met members of the European Parliament (Social Democrats, Right-Wing and Green party) and officials from the European External Action Service and the European Commission.

Discussions with these officials have focused on the European central and security-based approach to address migration, as well as Europe's commitments to sustainable development. The visiting delegation noted that development-related aid is gradually becoming a tool for addressing European security challenges related to migration.

The 2017 European budget allocates more funds to strengthen the protection of European borders and to counter crime and terrorism.

It was pointed out that the “Migration Policy Framework” and the signed agreements have transferred the burden and responsibility to neighboring countries by providing deceptive tools such as livelihood assistance and infrastructure

of the visit, ANND issued a position paper on cooperation with the European Union <http://www.annd.org/data/item/pdf/442.pdf>, which included an explicit invitation to the European Union to shoulder its historic responsibility



to establish a global partnership to establish a political, social, economic and cultural cooperation framework.

support, without taking into account issues of inequality, human rights violations, human insecurity and social justice, which are the root causes of this flow.

On the other hand, the delegation discussed how to strengthen the roles of all development actors, including the private sector and civil society, in policy-making, while maintaining development and human rights as a benchmark for success. At the end

According to ANND, dialogue between civil societies on both sides of the Mediterranean is vital. In this context, the Civil Society Forum (CSF) was organized in Brussels on December 8, 2016 with the participation of about 50 people. The 2016 Forum provided an opportunity to share lessons learned, as well as to promote a convergence of strategies related to the future of the above-mentioned policies (Civil Society Forum Report:

<http://www.annd.org/data/item/pdf/444.pdf>



Workshop on Structured Dialogue with the European Union (December 11-12, 2016)

ANND organized a workshop for the civil society organizations in the EuroMed region entitled “Bridging the gap between the EuroMed civil society and the European Institutions: A EuroMed civil society-led initiative on the Structured Dialogue”. This workshop was held in Beirut on December 11 and 12, 2016 with the support of Solidar and Fondation de France.

This workshop comes as part of an initiative to strengthen and diversify the involvement of the civil society organization from the two shores of the

At the end of the meeting, it was agreed to:

- 1.** Keep working on issues with representatives of key regional networks and organizations (ANND, EuroMed Rights, Solidar, REF, etc.) in order to exchange and disseminate the information.
- 2.** A consultation should be done and sent to the partners in order to gather recommendations on the Structured Dialogue process and theme. This will serve as a base for the meeting of March 2017.
- 3.** Nominate a follow-up as a first step towards a consortium that will participate in the management of structured dialogue.



Mediterranean in the Structured Dialogue process with the European Institutions.

It also aimed at increasing the influence of CSOs in the decision-making process and promoting alternatives based on the principles of human rights and equality.

This workshop based its agenda on the evolving European context and the evolving role of Civil Society in the partnership, in order to come up with a strategic debate on the Structured Dialogue and the way forward. The workshop brought together 40 representatives of civil society organizations, trade unions, and experts.

The participants agreed on an outcome document, which reflects the issues at stake, key recommendations and suggestions on the modalities of the dialogue.

- 4.** Plan thematic workshops on key issues for the first part of 2017.
- 5.** Support human rights standards (eg, freedom of expression and association, etc...), demonstrate due diligence, include the environmental dimension and ensure inclusion of youth associations in the dialogue.

II- TAX POLICIES

By working on tax policies, ANND is seeking to reach a fairer society through the redistribution of wealth, the provision of services and social protection to citizens, as well as the mobilization of national resources for development. In this context, ANND is implementing two basic projects on tax justice in the Arab region. The first seeks to build the capacity of civil society and establish a regional alliance on tax justice, and the second seeks to consider gender equity in taxation.

SECTION 1:

Tax justice in the Arab region

The overall objective of the project is to build a coherent movement of civil society organizations and relevant stakeholders in the Arab region and to enhance the ability to engage in tax policy tracks. This requires the development of more equitable and interactive tax policies with stakeholders

It also requires these stakeholders to have the capacity to monitor tax policies and their design process in the national decision. This monitoring will document the effects of tax policies on economic and social rights, build alliances and coalitions that help advocate for and promote debate on more equitable tax policies.

policies and engaging in national, regional and global dialogues to discuss alternatives.

2. Strengthening and expanding the dialogue on taxation between civil society organizations, parliamentarians and trade union groups, as well as public debates at the national level.



3. Establishing an alliance on tax justice in the Arab region, which seeks to build a coherent movement of civil society organizations and stakeholders.

4. Preparing an extensive guide for civil society organizations that contributes to the development of capacities in advocacy and support with respect to the tax regulations.

The specific objectives of the project are:

1. Developing capacities and knowledge, raising the awareness of civil society organizations, parliamentarians and trade union groups in countries concerned with the program (Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine) and providing tools for monitoring tax

SECTION 2:

The Gender Equity Project in the Arab Region (in cooperation with Christian Aid)

This project aims to study gender equity in tax regulations in three Arab countries: Egypt, Lebanon and Tunisia. An extensive background paper, a standardized methodology, small case studies based on interviews and focus meetings, and a comparative and analytical regional report were prepared.

Gender justice is an integral part of social justice and women are considered the most affected by the reality of current policies, in light of:

- Income disparity between men and women and the non-adoption of the progressive tax on income;
- The heavy presence of women in intermittent work and informal labor (domestic work and other unpaid work), and hence their lack of social protection;
- The indirect tax effect on women due to their heavy consumption of food commodities and others;
- The impact of wars and conflicts in the region on women in terms of increasing the number of female breadwinners and people



with disabilities, and thus exacerbating the poor situation of this marginalized group.

- Lack of equality and justice in laws and the relevant effect on the taxes on property and many other things.
- Gender discrimination resulting from patriarchal traditions and mentality, etc.

It is worth mentioning here gender inequalities resulting from social inequalities, which are further exacerbated by corruption, tax evasion, and poor public service that women in particular benefit from.

Case studies have been completed, demonstrating the importance of awareness-raising due to poor knowledge about gender in tax regulation.



III- Enabling Environment

ANND works to strengthen the enabling and suitable environment for the work of civil society organizations in various forms and to reach a democratic society that allows association, expression of opinion and representation of the interests of different groups, especially marginalized groups. Therefore, ANND carries out a number of projects on the freedom of assembly and expression and the promotion of the work of civil society in the region, including issuing research papers, monitoring rights and freedoms, and building the capacity of civil society so as to ensure its sustainability.

SECTION 1:

Research papers on freedom of assembly (supported by Norwegian People's Aid)

This program aims to strengthen the capacity of civil society to participate in national, regional and international dialogues on civil and political rights, awareness raising and capacity building, and seeks to strengthen alliances to meet the challenges facing civil space in the Arab region.

The project has two dimensions. The first is related to the analysis of the suitable environment for civil society organizations through national and regional research (6 national reports and one regional report) in the following countries: Iraq, Palestine, Egypt, Tunisia, Syria and Lebanon.

The second is related to the participation in advocacy delegations at the level of the European Union and/or the International Labor Organization and / or the United Nations.

National reports are aimed at achieving the following objectives:

- Highlighting the constraints related to the establishment and operation of civil society organizations and their ability to influence policies in these countries, while emphasizing on the social and economic context affecting the civil society's scope.
- Submitting tangible policy recommendations to improve the enabling environment for civil society organizations at the national level.
- The program avoids the legal approach and focuses on the policy aspect and the implications of security approaches and counterterrorism efforts on the enabling environment of civil society.

▪ This work is expected to be followed up on and implemented through the issuance of the report during 2017. It is expected to benefit from its results in advocacy and support at the regional and international levels and to organize a visit to Norway, Sweden and Finland in coordination with Norwegian People's Aid to discuss issue related to the enabling environment.

SECTION 2:

CIVICUS Monitor

ANND is collaborating with CIVICUS, World Alliance for Citizen Participation, through a new online tool ([CIVICUS Monitor](#)) to track and compare civil liberties worldwide.

The tool was launched on 24/10/2016. The Monitor will rate countries based on their observance of the three fundamental freedoms: freedom of association, freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of expression.

The Civicus Monitor tracks violations of civic space all around the world with daily updates seven days a week.

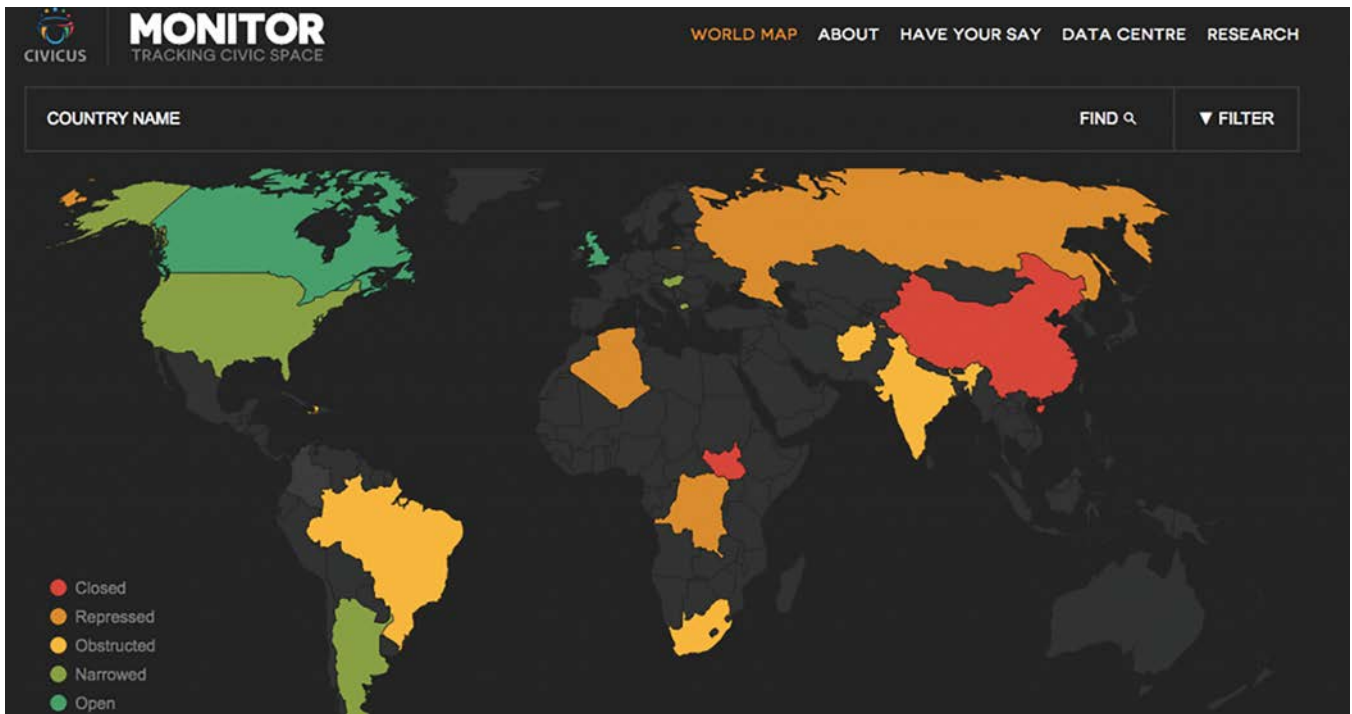
The ratings will be based on a mix of data generated by local civil society activist, regional civil society experts, partner researchers, local and global civil society organizations assessments, and data from users and media, with priority for local views.

This can only happen when a state holds by its duty to protect its citizens and respects and facilitates their fundamental rights to associate, assemble peacefully and freely express views and opinions. These are the four elements that form the analysis structure of Civicus Monitor.

ANND is responsible for updates on the following countries: Lebanon, Jordan, Tunisia, Morocco, Palestine, Sudan and Egypt. For other countries, one may participate directly through the website: <http://monitor.civicus.org>.

Between June 14, 2016 and January 17, 2017, ANND carried out 24 updates on the website: 5 related to Egypt, 4 to Sudan and Lebanon, 3 to Palestine,

Tunisia and Jordan, and 2 to Morocco, focusing on the most important news on freedom of association, freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of



Civic space is the bedrock of any open and democratic society. When civic space is open, citizens and civil society organisations are able to organise, participate and communicate without hindrance.

In doing so, they are able to claim their rights and influence the political and social structures around them.

expression. It should be noted that CIVICUS Monitor noted the status of these freedoms in the Arab countries is not healthy.

Civil space is considered closed in six countries (Libya, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain and Syria), repressed in 6 countries (Algeria, Egypt, Yemen, Iraq, Palestine) obstructed in two countries (Tunisia and Jordan), while the remaining countries were under review at the time of writing this report.



SECTION 3:

Promoting and ensuring the sustainability of civil society in Egypt (with the support of the National Endowment for Democracy (NED))

The program aims to promote and ensure civil society sustainability in Egypt, enable it to maintain political participation and play a crucial role in determining an open and fair future for Egypt.

It seeks to achieve three specific objectives:

1. Supporting monitoring by civil society organizations of violations against civil society.
2. Supporting joint cooperation between the components of civil society
3. Organizing capacity building activities (consultation, training, exchange of successful experiences) for civil society actors to enhance civil society's role in promoting reforms.

Main activities:

- Consultation and capacity-building sessions on the available space for civil society activity and its defense mechanisms
- Building an electronic database that monitors violations against civil society organizations.
- Disseminating as much knowledge as possible and documented violations against civil society organizations.

Two consultants (in the fields of law, campaigning and capacity development) were hired and two workshops were organized in Cairo to discuss the criteria for monitoring civil society organizations and agreeing on an e-platform strategy.

More than 15 representatives of trade unions and non-governmental organizations from different regions of Egypt participated and were committed to contributing to the rightsmemory.org platform under construction, based on the results of the consultations.



IV- Trade and Investment

Since its inception, ANND has been monitoring and following up on trade and investment agreements and the related international, regional and national tracks. In this context, it seeks to build the capacities of civil society in the Arab region to interact with and influence trade and investment negotiations and policies.

SECTION 1:

Study Week on Trade and Investment Policies in Geneva - South Center

Background

During the last three years, the Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND), along with the South Center and Third World Network organized study weeks on macro-economic, trade and investment policies for researchers and specialized activists from the Arab region.

The study weeks allowed the participants to have enriching discussions and debates with experts and deepen their knowledge on key issues of development,

investment agreements that reduce the role of State, that impose barriers on technology transfer, and that promote the corporate power and private interests over human rights.

ANND, in cooperation with the South Center and the Third World Network, has organized seminars on macroeconomic policies trade and investment for a group of researchers and activists from the Arab region.

The study weeks provided participants with the opportunity to engage in rich discussions and discussions with experts, as well as to deepen their knowledge on key issues related to development,



trade, investment with a rights-based approach. The fourth Study Week will be organized in late 2016

The Agenda 2030 became a universal commitment to reduce inequalities within and among countries. Indeed, ensuring equality and addressing inequalities at diverse levels, is directly linked to macroeconomic, trade and investment policies. It requires a shift towards diversification of economies, enhancing productive sectors, and adopting redistributive and inclusive policies, such as universal social protection, progressive tax policy and full enjoyment of economic and social rights. It needs revision of trade and

trade and investment through the rights approach. The fourth academic week will be held in late 2016.

The 2030 Agenda has become a global commitment to reducing inequality within and between countries. Ensuring equality and addressing disparities at multiple levels is directly linked to macroeconomic, trade and investment policies.



This calls for a shift towards diversification of economies, strengthening of productive sectors and adoption of policies for the distribution of income, wealth and inclusive policies, such as comprehensive social protection, progressive tax policy and full enjoyment of economic and social rights. This requires a review of trade and investment agreements that reduce the role of the state, put barriers to technology transfer and strengthen the power of companies and private interests over human rights.

In the Arab region, what we witness is the opposite trend; thus, the region has a long way to go to achieve sustainable development. In this context, an alternative development paradigm should be developed and civil society should play a key role in promoting rights-based policy reforms. Within the

The Fourth Study Week:

The Fourth Study Week aims to enhance civil society advocacy on economic policies in the region by building capacities and raising awareness on the elected priority-issues. It was also an opportunity to working towards establishing a working group of civil society activists from various Arab countries to have a wider scope of the development solutions and priorities for the Arab societies.



SDGs implementation, civil society, alongside other development actors, will play a significant role, also recognized by the international community.

Yet, their knowledge and understanding on macroeconomic, trade and investment policies need to be deepened. This will help them not only assess the Agenda 2030 implementation more effectively, but also monitor the impacts of these policies on development and human rights and advocate for changes.

In order to fit this purpose, ANND will organize the fourth study week, covering a wide range of topics including SDGs, international economy, investment treaties, debt, intellectual property, and innovation and health among others.

The Fourth Study Week aims issued the following recommendations:

1. Joining this study week's delegation to the previous delegations, introducing them to each other, and creating a hub/ online platform to promote and facilitate their communication and the sharing of information among them
2. Dissecting the information that was delivered during the study week/s and initiating studies on each of the retrieved subtopics before joining the output in an inclusive report
3. Monitoring and watchdogging the corporations around the world and the evolution of the trade and investment agreements as well as the related events such as the dispute settlements, law adjustments, etc. and creating a unit for this purpose would ensure its efficiency.
4. Presenting the results of our activities objectively to the policy makers through campaigns, lobbying and advocacy events, nationally, with the help of the different stakeholders: CSOs, think tanks and research entities, etc.

V- Other programs

SECTION 1:

Promotion of Social Dialogue in the Southern Mediterranean Neighborhood

About the Project

SOLiD-South Mediterranean Social Dialogue is a pilot project for the promotion of social dialogue in the Southern Mediterranean Neighborhood. It is a three years programme (2016-2018) financed by the European Union. SOLiD brings together regional and international representatives of social partners as well as a number of relevant partners from the EU.

The project is implemented by a consortium which consists of 10 members: ITUC (International Trade Union Confederation), BUSINESSMED (Union of Mediterranean Confederation of Enterprises), SOLIDAR (European network of NGOs), CNT Belgium (National Labor Council), CESE Morocco (Economic, Social and Environmental Council), ATUC (Arab Trade Union Confederation), ANND (Arab

Trade Unions and their homologues of Employers' Associations with the participation of civil society in the three targeted countries and at all levels;

2. Promote civic and multipartite dialogue with civil society organizations and regional and local authorities in order to build consensus on common interest issue, including a institutionalizing social dialogue through the economic and social councils and concerned institutions;

3. Promote a community of practice by identifying and sharing innovative tools and models of effective social dialogue, including economic and social councils, with social partners, public authorities, non-governmental organizations, local authorities and the media on both sides of the Mediterranean



NGO Network for Development), ISCOS (Italian Union Institute for Cooperation and Development), Progetto SUD Italy (The Institute South Project), and AIP (Portugal Industry Association).

to better address the challenges associated with sustainable economic and social development in targeted countries.

The three specific objectives of the project are:

1. Create and improve an enabling environment for social dialogue between the



Regional Workshop on Business and Human Rights (Beirut, 7 and 8 September 2016)

The workshop looked at human rights challenges under the specific economic, social, and political environment and the contribution of social dialogue to improve human rights compliance. The workshop reached a number of conclusions related to stimulating the participation of civil society organizations in social dialogue, including:

- Promote accountability, determine and build capacities about how to use the international mechanisms and accountability;
- Enforce the right to access the information and be acquainted with policies and agreements;
- Integrate and take an essential space related to women issues;

dialogue. The Seminar suggested promoting social dialogue through a CSO working group by answering the following three:

1. Is social dialogue possible in absence and weakness of the political power outside the State?
2. Is social dialogue possible in absence of trade union movement?
3. Is social dialogue effective in absence of a substitute and sustainable developmental vision?



- Protect the right for union organizing and independent community organizing;
- Strengthen cooperation between the community, trade unions and some specialized business segments, especially the marginalized ones and do a strategic agreement at the State level covering all sectors.
- Activate dialogue through dialogue institutions, such as social and economic councils

Two training workshops for local civil society in Jordan and Tunisia on social dialogue techniques

The workshops sought to strengthen capacities on the concepts of social dialogue, legal bases and framework, negotiation practices and skills.

The seminar acknowledged the importance of creating joint working groups from among the unions representatives and CSOs to follow up on the issues raised by the seminar so as to promote social

Regional workshop (Jordan, Tunisia, Morocco) on the participation of civil society organizations in social dialogue and community dialogue (Amman, Jordan, December 17-18, 2016)

ANND in cooperation with the Arab Confederation of Trade Unions (ACFTU) organized a joint regional workshop (Jordan, Tunisia, Morocco) bringing together CSOs and trade unions to discuss the added value and basic conditions for civil society participation in the institutionalized dialogues broader than traditional social dialogue. The workshop aimed to:

1. Assess social dialogue in the targeted countries: Jordan, Tunisia, Morocco;
2. Provide suggestions on support for social dialogue in the targeted countries;
3. Discuss the content of social dialogue and address issues other than professional relationships, such as economic and social rights, environmental issues, tax policies, private sector accountability, trade policies and investment policies, and the informal sector;
4. Determine the role of civil society in social dialogue.

At the end of the meeting, a number of recommendations were issued, concerning the participation of civil society and trade unions in social dialogue. These included mainly:

- Initial recognition of the need for interaction between trade unions and civil society and to identify the areas and quality of participation in dialogue;
- Highlighting the importance of the role of civil society in democratic development and building bridges of trust and mutual recognition.

At the end of the workshop, participants stressed the need to further expand and further discuss these issues during the second regional workshop between civil society organizations and trade unions to be held in the second year of the project (2017).





SECTION 2:

Program for the representation of Syrian people with disabilities

Between 2014 and 2016, ANND in Lebanon implemented the program “Empowering persons with disabilities and injuries within the Syrian population affected by the crisis,” which aims to support movements in civil society organizations dealing with Syrian refugees with disabilities.

The program also called for guaranteeing the rights of men, women and children with disabilities and



The project worked on supporting emerging groups of Syrian refugees to know their rights as an essential step, to express and demand integration.

urged institutions and organizations concerned with persons with disabilities to respond to their demands and rights by providing the best services.

The program has led to the creation of 7 groups of persons with disabilities, which contribute to the development of technical skills and rights advocacy networking. A directory has been developed that provides information on available services.

V- Miscellaneous

SECTION 1:

Reports

<http://www.annd.org/data/item/pdf/446.pdf>



بيان شبكة المنظمات العربية غير الحكومية للتنمية حول اطار الشراكة الأوروبية للهجرة
في 21 سبتمبر، غرق مركب في البحر المتوسط قبالة سواحل مصر وعلى متنه 600 مهاجر

لأسف، لا يبدو هذا الخبر مفاجئاً في ظل أزمة الهجرة والنزوح التي تواجه العالم حالياً. ومن المهم ذكر وقوع هذه الحادثة بعد يومين من انعقاد قمة الأمم المتحدة للنزوح والهجرة. فالرغم من عدم تغير أي من المبادئ المطروحة والاصرار على مبدأ "المسؤولية المشتركة" في مواجهة هذه الأزمة، يستمر نقاش الأرواح في الواقع، شكل رفض اقتراح الأمين العام للأمم المتحدة بأن كي مون في إعادة توطين 10 بالمئة من اللاجئين. إشارة إلى أن اجتماع الأمم المتحدة الرفيع المستوى الذي عقد في 19 سبتمبر أن يكون على قدر التواضع. كما اشترت بطاقات الأداء المطورة من قبل منظمات المجتمع المدني عن أرجحية نيل إعلان نيويورك الصادر عن القمة. في تنفيذ ما وعد به. ولذلك، نحن في حاجة ماسة لتدخل سريع لترجمة المنطق عليه إلى أفعال ملموسة، خاصة فيما يتعلق بمشكلة المسؤولية، باعتبار أنه لم يتم طرح الكثير عن كيفية وضع هذا المبدأ موضع التنفيذ أو تقديم التزامات جديدة.

في هذا الصدد، يجب أن نولي اهتماماً لخطاب المسائل الأعلى للاتحاد الأوروبي للشؤون الخارجية والسياسة الأمنية موجهين خلال اجتماع قمة الأمم المتحدة للهجرة والنزوح، حيث شدت على أن الاتحاد الأوروبي "بدأ أخيراً بت ترجمة الأفعال إلى الأعمال". كما اشترت إلى المقاربة الأوروبية الجديدة والأدوات المشعة لمعالجة الموضوع؛ تحديداً إطار الشراكة للهجرة والسياسة الأوروبية للاستثمارات الخارجية.

تدعم شبكة المنظمات العربية غير الحكومية للتنمية موقف المسائل الأعلى بالتشديد على مبدأ الشراكات في معالجة الأزمة؛ ولكن تعبر عن مخاوفها إزاء المقاربة والأدوات المطروحة.

1- طرح الأولويات ضمن إطار الشراكة للهجرة استناداً إلى المخاوف الأمنية الأوروبية عوضاً عن اعتماد مقاربة حقوقية. تركز الأولويات على إنقاذ اللاجئين من البحر، زيادة نسبة المعتمدين، تمكين اللاجئين والمهاجرين من البقاء قرب بلادهم؛ وعلى المدى البعيد، تقديم الدعم لتنمية البلدان للعمل على الأسباب الجذرية للهجرة غير النظامية. في الواقع، يتواجد 5 مليون نازح سوري في بلدان الجوار الأوروبية منذ حوالي 6 سنوات. ومن الواضح أن هذا الواقع يشكل تحدياً تنموياً لهذه البلدان ولكن يخلق بيئة تؤدي إلى انتهاكات حقوقية للاجئين أيضاً. لذلك، خيار الاتحاد الأوروبي في تمكين اللاجئين من البقاء قرب بلادهم هو ليس فعل مبنى على مبدأ "تقسيم الاعياء" بل لتحصيل البلدان المجاورة العبء، أننا نترك أن هذه المقاربة تهدف للحد من المخاطر الأمنية التي يتعرض إليها الاتحاد الأوروبي ولكن يجب عليه احترام التزاماته القانونية ضمن إطار القانون الدولي لحقوق

¹ <http://www.icmc.net/sites/default/files/documents/statement-and-scorecard-for-un-summit-for-refugees/migrants.pdf>
² <http://www.icmc.net/sites/default/files/documents/statement-and-scorecard-for-un-summit-for-refugees/migrants.pdf>
³ https://ec.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/10090/mohetini-calls-for-global-consent-to-meet-challenge-of-migration_en
⁴ http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-2072_en.htm

<http://www.annd.org/data/item/pdf/447.pdf>



ANND Input for the Public Consultation on Revising the European Consensus on Development

This document includes the input provided by the Arab NGO Network for Development to the Public consultation on revising the European Consensus on Development. The consultation sought views on how development policy, in the context of EU external action as foreseen by the Lisbon Treaty, should respond to the range of landmark 2015 summits and conferences, and also to the rapid changes happening in the world.

<http://www.annd.org/data/item/pdf/442.pdf>



Policy position by Arab CSOs during the Advocacy Week to European Institutions 2016

The Call of ANND Delegation to the European Union in shouldering its historical responsibility on cementing a global partnership to create a significant zone of political, social, economic and cultural cooperation




December 22, 2016

<http://www.annd.org/data/item/pdf/444.pdf>



Report of the Euro-Arab Civil Society Forum

December 8th, 2016
Brussels, Belgium

The Civil Society Forum takes place with the collaboration and support of:  
This activity is organized with the financial support of the European Union 



SECTION 2:

Financial Report

Project: All Projects	Currency: USD	Date: December 31, 2016
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Description	Income
Cumulative results from previous years	-16,862
From Funders	
Bank Watch - 2015 Balance	27,442
Handicap International	71,900
Christian Aid	115,048
IBON International	51,825
United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF)	41,000
Individuell Människohjälp -Swedish Development Partner	54,625
Ford Foundation	125,990
National Endowment for Democracy (NED)	13,183
Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)	164,437
International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)	139,689
Diakonia	136,961
Civil Society Innovation Initiative (CSII)	17,190
CNCD 11.11.11	13,093
CIVICUS	21,406
Fondation de France	10,508
The International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR-Net)	32,460
Canada Fund for Local Initiatives	13,986
Membership Fees	850
Others	39,029
Total	1,073,759

Description	Expense
Administrative cost	134,034
Networking	81,112
IT & communication	50,500
ANND projects and activities for the year 2016	583,953
Solidarity	2,243
Total	851,842

Balance	221,917
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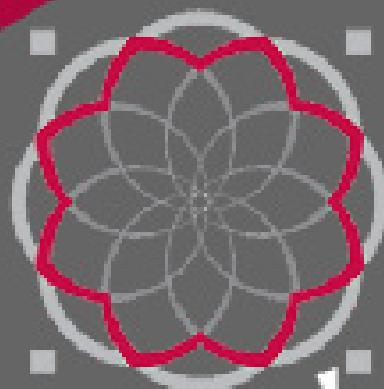


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Arab NGO Network for Development
شبكة المنظمات العربية غير الحكومية للتنمية

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Arab NGO Network for Development

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