

Arab NGO Network for Development
Progress Report 2008



Arab NGO Network for Development:

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Vision

ANND envisions democratic, active, and effective civil societies in the Arab Region. These societies would be able to affect public policies, and would be open and interactive with other cultures and societies. These societies respect and protect the dignity and freedom of the individual and their political, social, economic, civic, and cultural rights, within a state of law and institutions, where peace, security, and stability are prosperous.

Mission

ANND is an independent, democratic, and civic organization that aims at strengthening civil society and enhancing the values of democracy and respect of human rights and sustainable development in the Arab region. It works towards its aim through programs of advocacy and lobbying on regional and national policy-making in three main areas; development, trade, and democracy. ANND is committed to the international convention on Human Rights, freedom, respect of the individual, respect of diversity, equality of resource division, and the protection of cultural heritage in the Region and to the developmental priorities of the local societies.

Forward by ANND Coordination Bureau Member

Dear reader,

Greetings,

Social theory considers development to be the goal of social, cultural and political action, where the development process is one of interlinkage and conditionality. In fact, economic development cannot be achieved without political, scientific and educational development.

Development is not realised through mere decision-making, nor can it be accomplished without considering its environment. Since development is interactive, educational and dynamic, it requires legal frameworks, institutions and individuals that are aware of its significance.

For procedural purposes, development is required to be divided into several categories, such as economic, political and women development, etc.; however, it remains an integrated process, where citizen development is the ultimate goal and citizens themselves are the means.

The last decades of the 20th century witnessed the expansion, and the reinforcement of the concept of development and its implications, as well as the expansion of the procedural concept of civil society and its developmental role, which has become known as the third sector. Even if only theoretically, civil society now became a partner to governments and to the private sector.

ANND, whose members consist of broad and diversified (legal, developmental, intellectual and cultural) CSOs, presented an important and realistic approach to expand the role of CSOs in the Arab World and to enrich the development process.

ANND follows a gradual and tangible path with the aim of improving people's lives. This is achieved through holding a clear vision and defining advanced strategies in light of the requirements that accompany change. Hence, ANND provided the civil society with concrete presence on Arab and international arenas.

In this respect, ANND tackled the most important and sensible issues, such as development

(in its different dimensions), within permanent programs and other portfolios that include free trade, democratic transformation, socio-economic reforms, poverty and MDGs. Thus, by embracing MDGs and working on achieving them in the Arab countries, ANND embodies the concept of partnership for development. Furthermore, ANND has become a major player in the political, social and economic transformations in the Arab countries.

In this context, the issue of women remains a major developmental concern. It is in fact one of the main challenges in Arab countries, where all human development reports in the region unearthed a close correlation between overall growth and women's advancement. Besides, the MDGs, which were adopted by ANND, brought forward the said issue and placed it as one of the top priorities. It should be however noted that despite ANND's momentum, the issue of women and gender equality ought to be given more attention. In this respect, ANND's strategy can encompass projects that address this topic in an independent manner that goes in line with this developmental challenge.

In fact, this issue is not being addressed out of gender-based prejudice or intellectual opulence; rather, it finds root in humane and legal requirements for tackling severe accumulated historical distortions at the social and political levels.

As members of ANND and of this significant framework that allows interaction and exchange of expertise, we hope to keep up communication and networks with our current and potential partners in order to realise all the set goals. We ultimately aim at achieving reform and modernisation through mobilising all capacities, as well as establishing economic reform that provides us with a true role in the international economic arena rather than being a market for dumping industrial countries' excess goods.

We support openness, but stand against subjection. We encourage economic growth and investment, on condition that the returns are distributed fairly within the society. We support cooperation and partnership with other countries, but refuse to be a tool for capitalists to maximise profits at the expense of nations, the environment, security and peace.

I would finally like to pay my respect to ANND board members and coordination bureau. Special thanks go to the executive bureau that puts in exceptional efforts in order to move forward with ANND's mission.

Head of Jordanian Women's Union
Amina Zoabi

Forward by ANND Executive Director

Year 2008 witnessed several events that impacted the Arab region, of which the most prominent remains the multi-dimensional world crises varying from economic, to financial, to rising food prices and global warming. As the region's citizens started to realise its consequences and understand their vulnerability, the need to act promptly and face the challenges raised becomes of paramount importance.

Furthermore, just before the year's closure, the region witnessed the most brutal Israel aggression against the Palestinian people, an aggression that caused the death, injury, and displacement of thousands of victims, mostly civilians. The warzone was left in severe devastation with aggravating political, economic and social consequences.

The region's developments affect the goals and programs of CSOs in general, including ANND, as it is the poorest segments of the society that will suffer from aggravated conditions. Furthermore, several studies conclude that it is necessary to reconsider international relations, specifically the roles and mechanisms of international financial organisations. In fact, the report published by the committee assigned by UN General Assembly President suggested measures to remedy the world financial and economic crisis, in addition to the need to reconsider world governance and world agreements, namely trade agreements.

Despite all these events, ANND witnessed a year of important activities that revolved around solidifying economic and social rights through improving development indicators. ANND's programs and activities aim at building the capacities of Arab CSOs, as the only way to overcome the challenges resulting from the world crises is through strengthening citizenship and citizen participation, which in turn requires democratic systems that respect public and private liberties and human rights. In this respect, ANND aims at developing the civil society's capability to defend economic and social rights, as a priority for the future of the region and a direct response to the crises' impacts.

ANND decided to focus on economic and social rights based on its acknowledgement of the importance of tackling the issue of development as a human right. Besides, based on the

belief that a strong correlation exists between social and economic rights on one hand and free trade agreements on the other, ANND links the region's social and economic reforms to the requirements of integration in the global system.

Furthermore, ANND was involved in the preparation of the two international courses on the effectiveness of aid and development financing, as well as the economic and social development summit, in Kuwait. This allowed ANND to contribute to expanding research on economic and social reforms.

In order to develop its action in that direction, ANND will participate in activating social movements and act on providing knowledge and research tools to help these social movements in their daily tasks.

Finally, this report highlights some of the results of the efforts exerted by ANND, members and executive bureau, hoping for the acknowledgement of these efforts.

Ziad Abdel-Samad

Executive director

Introduction

The year 2008 witnessed an active role by ANND in supporting the enhancement of an active participation of civil society organizations from the Arab region in several decision making areas on both the regional and global levels. The year saw an expansion in the research work undertaken by ANND, as a result of building added-value cooperation with a number of researchers and experts active within the civil society circles in various Arab countries. Among the major policy moments that ANND engaged with during 2008 was the Arab Economic Social and Development Summit. The Network developed and widely circulated a periodical bulletin about the Summit, among civil society groups in Arab region.

Since 2001, ANND has evolved as an advocacy network and was able to successfully engage civil society groups with issues of development, democratic change, social and economic policies, as well as trade policies and their implications. Within this context, the network has been working towards laying down the foundations of a sustained civil society for the follow-up process on socio-economic reforms through discussing, testing and developing the monitoring and evaluation processes and their mechanisms.

Through this process, ANND will be building on several lessons learned through its previous programmatic work, specifically those indicating that Effective advocacy program necessitates the following

- (1) Strong policy analysis and research that are built on indigenous materials and that are not exogenous to the region. Accordingly, there is a need to step beyond imported materials towards building the analysis from the realities of various communities in the region.
- (2) A strong role for civil society in bringing alternative perspectives to policy making, that are rooted in local and national priorities and needs. This necessitates access by civil society groups to credible research and analysis that can be used to advocate for policy change, and they need the right kind of partnerships with academics and media groups to achieve the potential added-value in policy advocacy work.
- (3) Addressing the political economy of knowledge; i.e. tackling the question of who sets the research agenda, who owns the knowledge, and what kind of knowledge is reaching and influencing policy makers.

The following report includes a brief overview of the activities that ANND and its partners have implemented during 2008, within the framework of its three programs (the Trade and Development Program, the Democracy and Socio-Economic Reforms Program, and the Development and Millennium Goals Program).

The Trade and development Program

The work within the Trade and Development Program continued its focus on building the capacities of the civil society organizations in addressing the trade and economic agendas in the region. In addition, ANND worked towards enhancing its role as a source of information and analysis in relation to issues of trade and development in the Arab region. The activities that ANND implemented in this area included:

- Regional workshop on advocacy and trade policies (27-29 February, 2008): More than 25 participants from Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt took part in the meeting. It focused on building capacities in the field of advocacy, emphasizing the importance of building networks, and highlighting some examples from areas of public policy and related advocacy campaigns undertaken by civil society groups in the Arab region. In addition, the meeting addressed and elucidated trade policies and their effects on development and human rights. It served as an opportunity to experiment a module in the field of organizing advocacy campaigns that was developed by ANND. The module was further developed throughout 2008 and. It was published in Arabic under the title "A package of the working tools on advocacy with highlight on the field of trade policies and its socio-economic implications». The module is available to all organizations interested in the field of advocacy, and especially those concerned with trade agreements and their implications.
- Participation in the regional forum of the People's Health Movement (30 March – 2 April): The forum was held in Cairo, during which ANND organized two discussion sessions. The first dealt with economic reforms and the role of civil society in the Arab region (taking as example the health systems), and the second tackled the trade liberalization programs, economic reforms and issues of development in the Arab region. This participation was an opportunity to develop the relation with the People's Health Movement.
- Mobilization within the frame of preparing for the mini-ministerial of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva (July 2008): ANND worked with a group of members and partners in the region to develop a statement entitled «Trade as a mean to achieve better living standards and not an end by itself». The statement was signed by 29 organizations from the Arab region and the message was delivered to Arab countries missions in Geneva as well as the media in the region.

- Participation and contribution in the yearly conference on the WTO and the Arab countries: This conference was organized by the Arab Administrative Development Organization in Syria, in partnership with the Ministry of Trade and Economy in Syria. During the conference, which was attended by various governmental authorities, UN and Arab Union agencies as well as experts on the discussed topics, ANND presented a paper on economic reforms, trade policies, and the role of the civil society. ANND's delegation to the conference included Dr. Riyad Khoury, who presented a paper on the experience of Jordan in joining the WTO.



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- Contribution to the Euro-Mediterranean Civil Forum (October 2008): The Forum was held in Marseille, France. ANND, in partnership with the Organization for Enhancement of Civic Engagement in Egypt, organized a workshop on «The Socio-Economic Policies within the Euro-Med Partnership and its implications on Migration Trends in the Region». ANND continues to participate in the Board of the Euro-Mediterranean Civil Forum.
- Moreover, the work of ANND in this area included a continuation of monitoring the socio-economic agenda in Lebanon. ANND along with several Lebanese organizations organized an activity that highlights the socio-economic agenda of the Lebanese government that was elected during the summer of 2008. In addition, ANND worked during 2008 on developing the partnership with the Arab Administrative Development Organization, the United Nations Development Program, and the Third World Network, in an effort to prepare for the joint regional conference on policies of economic liberalization and its impact on human development in the Arab region. ANND published Arabic and English versions of the regional report on trade policies and sectoral implications in the Arab region.

Democracy and Socio-Economic Reforms Program

ANND continued its work on socio-economic reforms, within a regional framework that addressed the role of the regional and international institutions within this area. The activities that ANND implemented in this area included:

- The Regional Program on Socio-Economic Reforms in the Arab Region, whereby ANND continued implementing the project that was launched during 2007 in partnership with «The UN Democracy Fund». ANND organized national workshops in seven Arab countries: Jordan, Sudan, Yemen, Bahrain, Lebanon and Egypt in addition to a regional workshop (October 2008) at the end of the project. The objectives of the project were (1) to enabling civil society organizations and to enhance their level of awareness regarding the process of democratization and the socio-economic reforms through dialogue and research, (2) to encourage and to activate coordination among the civil society organizations regarding socio-economic reforms and democratization processes and (3) to enhance the role of the civil society organizations in engagement with the Arab Economic, Social, and Development Summit in Kuwait (January 2009). Moreover, the project included the publication of several research papers addressing socio-economic reforms (mentioned in the annexed list of publications). During the implementation period of the project, ANND undertook a process of outreach and networking with national and regional institutions, such as the League of Arab States, the Issam Fares Foundation based in the American University of Beirut, the Arab Center of Law, the Federation of Chambers of Industry, Agriculture, and Commerce in the Arab countries, the Carnegie Endowment Middle East Office, and others. This period included significant efforts by ANND to enhance cooperation and collaboration efforts with the media groups and include them as partners in elaborating the discussions around the addressed topics. In addition, ANND worked towards building relations with a network of researchers interested in continuing the work with ANND around socio-economic issues in the region.
- Pilot project on the role of the human rights organizations and its impact. The project aimed at enhancing the study of concepts and understandings related to mechanisms of monitoring and evaluation in the field of human rights. The project included the preparation of a research paper entitled «The Human Rights Programs and their Impacts on Altering Cultural Value-

Systems in Lebanon between 1990 - 2005». The paper was prepared by a team of researchers from the Lebanese University. The work included interviews with human rights activists, trainers and trainees in this domain, in addition to a regional workshop that tried to study the frameworks for developing indicators for impact assessment of the human rights projects (December 2008). The study will be published during 2009.



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- Continuing the collaboration with Action Aid International:
Two papers dealing with the role of regional and international institutions in relation to reform processes in the region were produced. One of the papers discussed the role of the World Bank while the other tackled the role of the League of Arab States.

Development and the Millennium Goals Program

ANND continued the work related to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which it considers a tool to observe the development progress and to hold the governments accountable to their commitments. The activities that ANND implemented in this area included:

- The pilot project on development in Lebanon: This project is a continuation to the work that has started in the year 2005 in partnership with Oxfam- Quebec / The Canadian Fund for Social Development and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). This phase of the project focused, on implementing a model of cooperation among municipalities and civil society organizations active at the local level, and on supporting the process of establishing local coordination councils including both groups. The councils worked on implementing pilot development projects at the local level. The project was implemented in each of North Bekaa and the region of Mariiyoun/ Hasbayya. The work during 2008 included production of publications entitled «Priorities and Challenges of Development and Rehabilitation in Lebanon: A Civil Society Perspective», which reflects the outcomes of the work that was implemented between 2005 and 2007.
- Finalizing the regional report on the MDGs: The report includes three cross-cutting chapters: (1) gender issues (2) financing for development in the Arab region and (3) mainstreaming the MDGs in national development policies. The work included organizing a regional discussion session (February 2008) for a group of experts who discussed the directions of the report, its content and main issues to be considered under each chapter. The first copy of the report will be published during the beginning of 2009.
- Publishing the capacity building module for the civil society organizations and media groups on the MDGs; «Planning and Working for the MDGs»: This work was carried out in partnership with the Arab Women Center for Training and Research (CAWTAR) and the UNDP. The module aims at developing the statistical, analytical, and planning capacities related to using the MDGs in the development planning at the national, local, and sectoral levels. The module is considered an accumulation of a year and a half of work implemented by the three partners with a number of civil society organizations. This included a capacity building workshop organized at the end of 2007 in Rabat (Morocco). The workshop dealt with developing the statistical capacities of civil society organizations and media groups, based on the material produced

by the United Nations Development agencies within the framework of its Statistical Literacy Program. 36 participants from 16 Arab countries took part in the workshop. The module was published as a booklet as well as compact disc.

- Launching work related to Climatic Change: With the support of the UNDP, ANND started research work to contribute towards informing the network's members and civil society groups in the region about



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implications of climatic change on the Arab region. The work also discusses the related policy positions of Arab countries both at the national level as well as in global negotiations. This work includes preparation of a regional discussion session entitled «Climatic Change; implications on the Arab Region and Related Governmental Policies». ANND supported the launch of «The Arab Climate Alliance» and participated in the launch press conference that the Alliance organized.

ANND's International Partners and Contributions

- The Aid Effectiveness Process; where ANND actively contributed to the international civil society preparatory process. The network organized a well a regional preparatory meeting in Bahrain, in which several government representatives participated. The meeting resulted in a report entitled «Effectiveness of Aid in a Region at Multiple Turning Points». Moreover, ANND organized the participation of a delegation of civil society organizations in the High-Level official conference on Aid Effectiveness, which was held in Accra – Ghana (May 2008 and September 2008).
- The Global Summit to Review the MDGs; ANND followed the process related to the summit through its engagement with the Global Call for Action against Poverty (GCAP). The network with several GCAP coalitions in the Arab region, developed a policy position on the MDGs, which was raised to the Summit through the GCAP representatives there (September 2008).
- The Financing for Development Review Conference; ANND participated as part of an international NGO group in organizing the civil society preparatory forum in Doha – Qatar, which was held before the official summit. ANND also coordinated the participation of a delegation from the civil society organizations in the Arab region and GCAP at the official Review Conference (November 2008).
- Partnership with the Social Watch; ANND continued its active participation in the Social Watch, and contributed to the annual report 2008 that was entitled: «Rights are the Answer». ANND prepared two articles that were published in the report: the first addressed the impacts of economic liberalization on the socio-economic rights in the Arab region, and the second tackled the socio-economic reform agenda in Lebanon. Moreover, ANND participated in two launch sessions of the report (the first in Qatar and the second at the World Social Forum).
- Continuing the engagement with the GCAP; ANND was elected to GCAP Global Council and the GCAP Foundation Board. It also continued its coordination efforts with the various coalitions of GCAP in the Arab region, and worked with them on a number of moments during in 2008. This included work related to the International Women’s Day (8 March),

the International Day for Peace (21 September), the Aid Effectiveness process, the MDGs review process, the Review of Financing for Development, as well as the preparations for the Arab Economic, Social, and Development Summit. Furthermore, ANND in cooperation with its member organization the Jordanian Women's Union organized the regional face-to-face meeting of the GCAP coalitions in the Arab region during 2008 in Jordan. During the meeting, the regional secretariat of the GCAP coalitions in the Arab region was turned over from ANND office, where it was hosted for three years, to the office of the GCAP coalition in Palestine.

- ANND's activities during 2008 included as well co-launch of the International Report on Accountability (Beirut, December 2008) in partnership with ONE WORLD TRUST based in London, co-launch of the report on food security issued by Oxfam UK within the framework of the global food price crisis (Beirut, October 2008), in addition to the participation in the World Assembly of Civicus World Alliance (Glasgow. June).



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ANND's Publications during 2008

1	Report on « Effectiveness of Aid in a Region at Multiple Turning Points»
2	Report on «Priorities and Challenges of Development and Rehabilitation in Lebanon; A Civil Society Perspective»
3	Research paper on "Promoting Democracy in the Arab Region: A Comparison of Regional and International Reform Initiatives"- Dr. Sana'a Abou Chakra (Lebanon)
4	Research paper on "Civil Society Organizations and the Challenges of Democratic Reform in the Arab Region" – Mr. Salah Eddine Al-Jourchi (Tunisia)
5	Research paper on "The League of Arab States; Reform Processes between Frequent Launches and Failing Achievements"- Dr. Shafiq Shoayb (Lebanon)
6	Research paper on "The Role of the World Bank in Influencing Governance Policies in the Arab Region" - Dr. Jad Shaaban (Lebanon)
7	Research paper on "The Socio-Economic Reforms in Bahrain" – Mr. Abdullah Salman and Mr. Abdul Nabi Al-Akari (Bahrain)
8	Research paper on "Marginalizing the Socio-Economic Roots of the Authoritarian Regime in Egypt and its Relation to Marginalizing the Socio-Economic Rights on the Egyptian Reform Agenda" – Dr. Omro Abdul Rahman (Egypt)
9	Research paper on "The Reform Processes in Jordan; the Socio-Economic Issues" – Dr. Ibtissam Al-Atiyat (Jordan)
10	Research paper on "Reform Initiatives in Lebanon" – Dr. Sana'a Abou Chakra (Lebanon)
11	Research paper on "A Vision of Socio-Economic Reforms in Sudan" – Dr. Mourtada Al-Ghali (Sudan)
12	Research paper on "The Democratic Reforms in Yemen; Pragmatic Shifts and Obstacles of Transformation" – Dr. Abdelbaqi Shamsan (Yemen)
13	Research paper on " Civil Society and the Socio-Economic Reforms in the Kingdom of Morocco" – Dr. Mohammed Said El Saïdy (Morocco)

14	Research paper on " Socio-Economic Rights in the Arab Region: A Preliminary Consideration of International and Regional Initiatives" – Mr. Salah Eddine Al-Jourshi (Tunisia)
15	Report on Trade Liberalization Policies and Reflections on Sectoral Implications
16	A capacity building module for civil society organizations and media: "Planning and Working for the MDGs"
17	A module on advocacy tools with specific focus on trade policies and its socio-economic implications
18	A regional report on "Progress in Achieving the MDGs: A Perspective from Civil Society" – Dr. Azzam Mahjoub (Tunisia), Dr. Riyad Khouri (Jordan) and Dr. Manal Abdul Halim (Sudan)

Financial Report for the period from 12/1/2008 to 31/12/2008

Project: all Projects

Currency = US Dollar

A- 2008 Expenses:

Description	Incomes 2008
A- Opening Balance	85,156.96
B- Incomes	
Ford foundation	152,240.00
Oxfam Q	175,500.00
UNDEF	153,610.00
CIDA	85,261.00
APRN	15,358.00
CIVICUS	16,731.00
Oxfam -UK	20,615.00
Action Aid	17,585.00
Diakonia	38,219.04
UNDP	10,000.00
NPA	5,716.00
Others	28,141.00
Total funders incomes	718,976.04
Total incomes	804,133.00

B- 2008 expenses

Description	expenses 2008
Administrative cost	91,103.00
Networking	42,325.00
Information & Communication	18,571.00
Development Program	186,899.00
Trade Program	85,922.00
Democracy Program	188,889.00
Activities related to GCAP	30,346.00
Aid Effectiveness meeting	97,203.00
Solidarity	1,667.00
Total Expenses Year 2008	742,925.00
Surplus Balance at 31/12/2008	61,208.00