

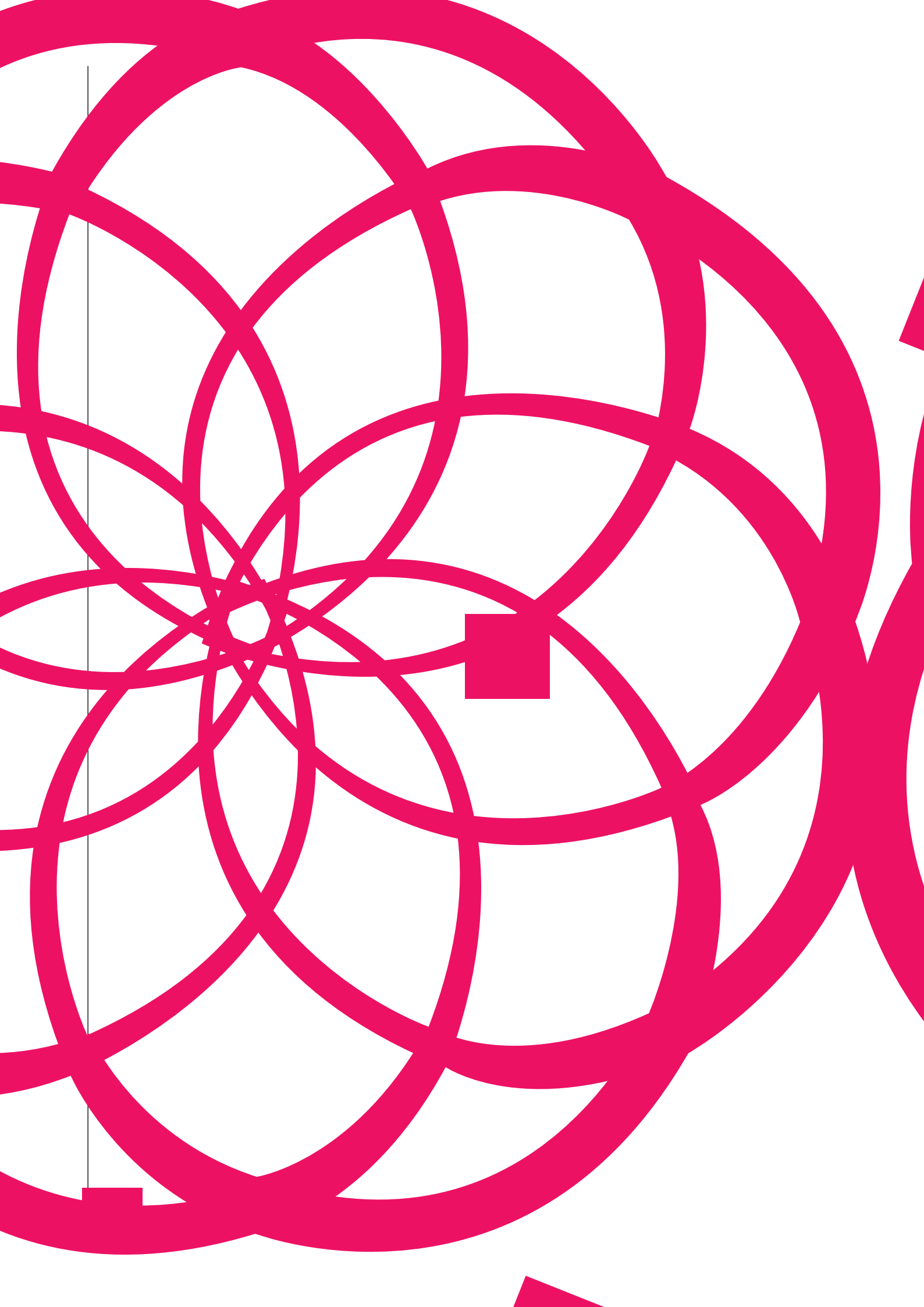
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Arab NGO Network for Development  
شبكة المنظمات العربية غير الحكومية للتنمية



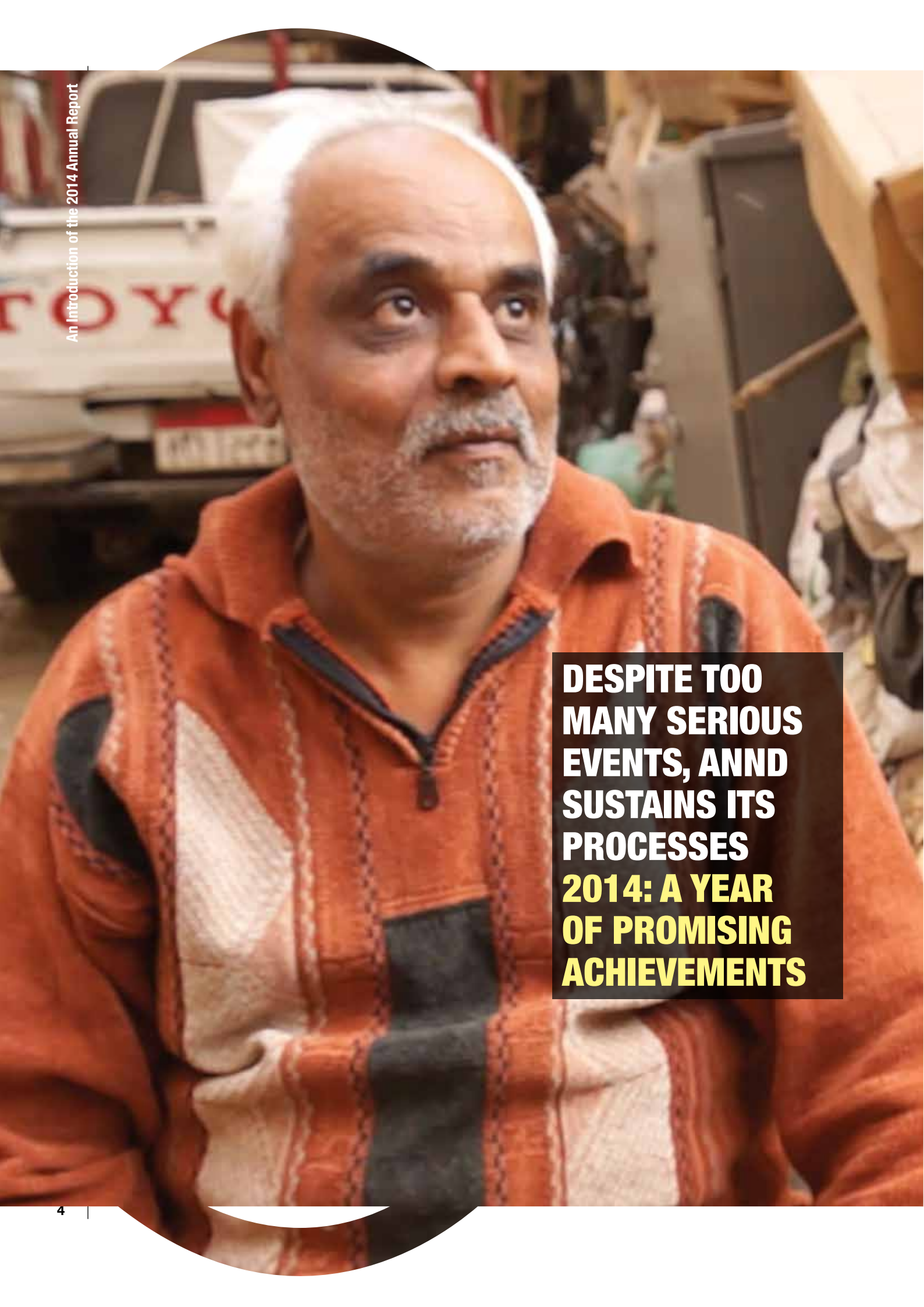
# ARAB NGO NETWORK FOR DEVELOPMENT

PROGRESS REPORT 2014



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**DESPITE TOO MANY SERIOUS EVENTS, ANND SUSTAINS ITS PROCESSES**  
**2014: A YEAR OF PROMISING ACHIEVEMENTS**

### Eye on Regional Conditions

Another year has elapsed while the challenges faced by the region may be the most serious in modern times. The Arab Spring, heralded in Tunisia at the end of 2010, has become storms and darkening clouds in the region. Developments in 2014 threaten to usher in severe geopolitical transitions with serious demographic, economic and social impacts, and the region is threatened with losing its pluralism and variation. The region has long been a meeting place for civilizations coming from the four sides; although it sometimes conflicted with these civilizations, the region was often a scene of civilizational coexistence leading to intellectual, philosophical, scientific, literary and cultural outcomes; the benefits reached the whole world and became an enriching part of the human civilization. The desired Spring first sought political change before pursuing better economic and social conditions; justice of all forms requires mechanisms of participation, questionability and accountability. However, our Spring clashed with the adherence of influential owners of interests with the positions they had exploited to accrue illicit wealth on the expense of citizens' rights and interests. Reactions by conservative and traditional forces prevented popular uprisings from achieving transition and change towards a development, civil and democratic state where all citizens enjoy dignity, decent living and legitimate rights.

Armed conflicts raged in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Libya and Somalia and reached Egypt. Upheavals spread into Lebanon, Sudan, Tunisia and Bahrain. This year, too, Israel launched one of its ugliest wars against the Palestinian people in Gaza, breaching all international laws and norms and causing terrible human and material losses.

### ANND Continues to Operate Despite these Complicated Conditions

Difficult surrounding conditions didn't stop the Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND) from continuing to carry out its tasks to achieve the goals it set for itself. ANND and its members believe that the absence of justice is a key factor behind upheavals, conflicts and instabilities. Injustice, discrimination, exclusion, poverty, unemployment and marginalization contribute to violence and counter-violence. Thus, working on the achievement of social, economic, political and cultural justice is crucial for resolving conflicts, bolstering national peace and engaging in state construction. All these factors, which have become with time detonators of armed conflicts and systematic violence, are mere products of policies in which rulers indulged in service of their personal interests in making quick and hefty gains even

through illicit means. However, the same policies were implemented in line with international commitments to further engagement in the global financial system at the expense of citizens' rights and development goals. Rulers and their partners are convinced with the need for attracting investments to trigger high growth rates leading to more jobs and creating a better environment for development. Austerity measures, requested by international parties, seek financial and economic stability to encourage and protect investments. Yet, facts proved the opposite. These measures, while producing acceptable growth rates, can't redress the growing need for jobs, especially among the young; they absented justice even more and exacerbated injustices and discriminations on geographic, social and gender lines. This boosted popular discontent and brought us to the current situation. Hereby, work on achieving transition must be accompanied by a reconsideration of the policies, which are backed by international institutions and partner countries and have contributed one way or another to this mess.

ANND's compound tasks pursue the channeling of efforts towards participation in making national and regional policies and contribute to the achievement of justice according to international human rights standards. ANND has long developed aspects for the desired substitute development model, which should act as the center of new social contract, contribute to boosting production and distribution and redress structural disorders in financial, economic and social systems. In this regard, ANND produced many important research papers, including:

- The biennial Arab Watch Report on Social and Economic Rights, which covers social protection policies in 13 Arab countries. It included a discussion of regional and international challenges, especially traditional development approaches and the role of international institutions in designing social protection systems. The report contributed to the development of some measures of achieved progress.
- In cooperation with partners (the Palestinian Observatory of Economic and Social Rights, the Tunisian Forum for Economic and Social Rights, the Egyptian Center for Economic and Social Rights and the Phoenix Center for Economic Studies and Informatics in Jordan), ANND prepared studies on taxation systems in six Arab countries, concluded a comparative study of these systems and proposed models to achieve taxation justice in these countries.
- ANND started preparing for studies on the partnership between the public and private sectors in three countries and plans to conclude a comparative study of the models implemented in these countries in order to propose the best model that best serves

development goals.

In the meantime, ANND monitored UN-led international tracks for the post-2015 development agenda and the parallel track on financing development. A regional meeting was held to develop civil society's stance on matters under scrutiny on the international level. ANND calls for a reconsideration of the financial, economic and trade systems to boost commitment to the achievement of equality from the rights perspective. Therefore, the principle of "common but differentiated responsibility" is key to attaining justice among and within nations; it also requires a reconsideration of the sources of resources allocated to financing development, including taxing financial transactions to guarantee just distribution and curtail tax evasion and illicit financing.

International financial institutions play an active and influential role in making national and regional financial and economic choices and decisions. This is especially true about the International Monetary Fund, which prepared last year three reports and working papers on the Horizons of Economic Policies in the Region by 2020, subsidization energy and basic commodities and Inequality, Growth and Distribution. ANND commented on all these documents; the comments appeared in working papers, which were discussed in events held by ANND in Washington on the sidelines of the annual meetings of financial institutions. ANND took part in discussing programmatic and organizational documents issued by European banks operating in the region (the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development), which influence investments and development and infrastructure programs.

ANND continued to monitor the European Union (EU)'s policies, especially after the European parliamentary elections in 2014, which can bring in changes in the policies of the new European Commission and European Parliament, especially about the European Neighborhood Policy (ENP). ANND organized national and regional consultations about the ENP and national and regional action plans; it also organized visits to EU institutions, including the European Commission, Parliament and partner civil society organizations (CSOs).

Since ANND believes that the regional scope of its operation isn't restricted to civil society, it develops its relations with other regional organizations and frameworks, including the League of Arab States and its institutions (the office of information and

communications, the administrations of civil society and human rights) and organizations (including the Arab Organization for Administrative Development).

These are countless tasks but are a systematic ground for ANND's involvement in developing the role of civil society in outlining a substitute development model in consultation with national and regional partners and through dialogue with influential international partners. ANND concluded its year by launching the Arab Watch report in Cairo during a regional event held on the sidelines of the annual meetings of the Arab Organization for Administrative Development and attended by officials and government and civil society bodies. The launching ceremony was attended by representatives of more than 300 Egyptian civil society organizations and was held under the patronage of the minister of slums and the Arab thinker El-Sayed Yassin.

The year culminated with the plenary session, which endorsed the annual action plan and budget and elected a new coordination office.

### **The Process Continues**

Established in 1997, ANND had an almost special year in its sustainability in 2014, despite major transitions and serious upheavals. It was a special year because during it ANND deeply focused on sensitive matters in cooperation with its members and partners. It was a pioneering year because ANND connected advocacy and defense actions to research and analysis efforts by a group of special researchers who are committed to the social cause and bring together fieldwork and dialogue with decision-makers on several domestic, regional and international levels.

This process continues thanks to the efforts of many parties, especially the members of the plenary session and the coordination office, Arab and international civil society partners and a group of committed researchers who are brilliant in their expertise, knowledge and unlimited support. Finally yet importantly, the process relies on a special, enthusiastic working team, which is ready to give without hesitation in order for ANND to stay and survive.

For all of those, we dedicate this report.

**Ziad Abdel-Samad**  
2014



## ABOUT ANND

### A - Mission

The Arab NGOs Network for Development (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, while being 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 the implementing of the local societies' developmental priorities of.

### B- 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 respects and protects 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. The internal vision of the Network is based on responding to the challenges and changes on the regional and global levels, whereby it aims at establishing a special presence and effective and active positions regarding the decision-making locally, regionally, and globally. ANND works to preserve a democratic, flexible, growing, and developing body that encompasses Arab non-governmental organizations working in the fields of social and human development, democracy, human rights, and the environment. ANND is committed towards implementing the values of good governance and the development of best-practices models for capacity building and institutional structuring.

### C – ANND's Programs, approaches and strategic goals in light of major changes taking place in the Arab region

- Developing tools and capabilities of CSOs in the Arab region for advocacy on social and economic policymaking making processes.
- Reinforcing available channels of participation for CSOs to lobby and influence policy-making in economic, social and cultural development and to put forward alternative visions based on the principles of human rights and equality for all at the national, regional and international levels.
- Improving and developing knowledge materials in the Arab region and in connection with the role of civil society.
- Strengthening networking mechanisms within ANND, and improving the role of the members as well as the Network governance.

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### E- Follow us

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In Egypt, launching of the Arab Watch report.

ANND's long term objective is to contribute to socio-economic reforms in Arab countries and to promote CSOs engagement in the policy-making process by providing them with tools and channels for engagement. Within this context ANND considers the

Arab Watch report as an important opportunity for:

- Launching a dialogue on the national and regional levels around social protection policies.
- Enhancing engagement Arab CSO in an informed dialogue around social protection policies at different

#### 1.1 Brief:

In 2014 ANND produced the second Arab Watch Report on social and economic rights, entitled "Social Protection in the Arab World: the Crisis of the State Exposed". The report was produced after a two-year participatory process with the support of Open Society Foundation, Ford Foundation and Diakonia. It includes:

#### Part 1 : Prefaces

- 1- Social Protection: A Constituent Element of the New Development Model- Ziad Abdel Samad.
- 2- Bring the powerful to account- Roberto Bissio
- 3- ILO Reference Paper on Social Protection - Ursula Kulke
- 4- An Executive Summary - Salaheddine El-Jourchi,

#### Part 2: 5 thematic papers:

- 1-Reference Paper on Social Protection–Azzam

Mahjoub and Mohammed al-Monther Belghith

2-Social Protection in the Context of Development Strategies- Adib Nehme

3- IMF's policies and their effect on social protection- Mohammad Said Al-Saadi

4- Protection in Neighborhood- Laura Adwan and Iyad Al-Riyahi

5- Social Protection in North Africa-Joseph Chakla

#### Part 3: 13 National Reports about Social Protection Policies

#### Part 4: Social Protection in Arab Countries through international Data and indicators -

The report is now available on ANND website in Arabic:

<http://www.annd.org/cd/aw2014/#>

And English:

<http://www.annd.org/cd/aw2014/#english>



policy making processes including with the EU, at the IMF and in the post 2015 process.

- Bring up a joint publication, involving a big number of organizations and other stakeholder providing and enhancing the debate around a major Social policy that affect the life of all populations in the Arab Region: Namely the Social Protection policies.

- Building a baseline for indicator to assess the progress in the policy area.

During 2014, dialogues around social protection policies were launched at all policy levels with the aim to achieve social justice:

At the national level: ANND participated in organizing dialogues around social protection policies in different Arab countries: in Lebanon for example parliamentarians blocks were engaged in dialogues around retirement laws. This has been initiated by different political parties and CSOs were invited to contribute.

On the regional level, the League of Arab States put on their agenda discussion on Social protection policies and involved CSOs in these

dialogues, and ANND co-organized Arado annual conference and launched the Arab Watch Report in that occasion. The conference presented an important opportunity to interact and engage in dialogue with Arab policy makers around social protection policies.

And on the international level, social protection policies has been set high on the agenda of the EU, the United Nations (mainly in debate on the post 2015 development agenda) and the IFIs (as a mitigating policies for austerity measures). With the increased relevance of this topic, the report provided CSOs from the region an important tool for advocacy and engagement.





## **PART 2: ANND CHALLENGING EU POLICIES TOWARDS THE ARAB REGION**

In 2014, ANND maintained its efforts to follow and monitor the impacts of the EU foreign policies on the policy-making space at the national level. This included particularly the effects of aid policies, the economic relations, including Trade & Investment agreements and the role of CSO in the partnership. ANND has gained a key position as a voice from the Arab region in the various tracks founded by the EU including the process of the structured dialogue and the policy forum for development.

On the national level, ANND conducted a consultation process in cooperation with National members, and reflected the outcomes in the report developed with Solidar on the European Neighborhood Policy (ENP) Progress Report 2014 with 7 national reports from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia reflecting civil society considerations on the implementation of the Action Plans and recommendations for the future ENP implementation at country-level.

On the regional level, ANND and the Euromed CSO Platform have organized a regional workshop to promote exchanges between ANND members around the reality of the partnership between the states and



At the European Parliament, discussing redistribution and social policies

the European Union. The workshop was organized in cooperation with CEE Bankwatch supported by the European Commission and the Friederich Eibert Stiftung.

The workshop contributed to foster the dialogue around the role of the private sector in EU policies towards the Arab Region, EU mechanisms for CSOs engagement in policy making processes and dialogues and the cultural dimensions in the EU-Arab partnership. The outcome of the workshop contributed to build a joined position around the above mentioned policy processes.

At the level of the EU institutions, ANND organized its annual advocacy visit to Brussels to meet with European officials and engaged with them directly on issues related to economic, social, cultural and political facets of the partnership based on the outcome of national work and regional dialogue. Aftermath of the advocacy visit, the delegation issued a statement highlighting concerns on key issues, including : addressing socio-economic inequalities at the heart of the new development agenda; binding the Private Sector with Human Rights standards; and aligning trade and investment policies with

development priorities.

On the policy level, ANND contributed to EU Communication on private sector entitled “Strengthening the Role of the Private Sector in Achieving Inclusive and Sustainable Growth in Developing Countries” ANND raised that increasing role of the private sector should not undermine the policy space of the state in designing its homegrown rights-based development path. And stressed that private sector engagement, especially in the framework of public private partnerships (PPPs), should be governed by a legislative framework that safeguards the fundamental rights of its citizens and protects their purchasing power in areas such as education, water, energy, housing, public transportation and health care. ANND gained in 2013 and 2014 strategic entry points to maintain its role as a key-partner in the EU-Arab partnership. ANND represents the Region in the structured dialogue for development and the Policy Forum for Development. ANND as Chair of the Euromed Platform enhanced the networking among the constituencies of both Networks on different EU policy processes.



## PART 3: ENGAGEMENT IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING MECHANISM: UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR)

During the year 2014, ANND's engagements reflected strategic processes, in particular :

**For Yemen**, the enablement of a post-UPR consultation session: attended by government representatives, civil society organizations, representatives of international organizations and foreign embassies and media institutions, this consultation gave the opportunity to the participants to agree on the establishment of a national group to follow-up, urge and convince Yemeni government of the importance of implementing the recommendation. Furthermore, ANND strengthened Yemeni activists' advocacy at UN offices in Geneva, organizing side events (together with international organizations such as FIDH, CIVICUS, HRW).

**For Syria**, the preparation a midterm report on the implementation of the recommendations: ANND, together with Syrian Center for Policy Research, prepared a midterm report as an occasion to assess the impacts of the crisis on the human rights situation in Syria, to re-stress on human rights obligations of the Syrian government and to raise further awareness at the international level. The report was sent to HRC Working Group members as well as to Geneva based international organizations.

**For Egypt** the preparation of a joint submission on economic and social rights: This joint submission examining the continuing failure of successive

governments to address continuing human rights deprivations in Egypt was produced through a collaborative process and was endorsed by 51 non-governmental organizations and 79 labor unions.

**For Bahrain**, the active participation at United Nations Human Rights Council in organizing side events and written statements: Bahrain already undertook two revisions, yet the engagement with the HRC processes brings an occasion to raise awareness on human rights situation in the country, particularly with respect to the lack of implementation of accepted UPR recommendations. ANND together with Bahraini members presented a written statement to the UN with an assessment of progress/regress in the country.

**For Lebanon**, ANND launched an inclusive process among civil society groups in Lebanon, towards a joint submission on economic and social rights. Based on the first cycle coalition-building experience and extending the coalition to further interested organizations, several groups took part in consultation and coordination meetings. Sectorial submissions were prepared in order to include women, children, and Palestinian refugees, labor rights in addition to two joint submissions on Economic and Social Rights and Civil and Political rights led by ANND.

<http://www.upr-info.org/followup/assessments/session26/syria/Syria-ANND+SCPR.pdf>

<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G1486/113//PDF/G1411386.pdf?OpenElement>

## PART 4: ANND'S ENGAGEMENT AT THE LEVEL OF INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (IFIS)

ANND continues to engage in advocacy and policy dialogue at the level of international financial institutions (IFIs). The IFIs that ANND focuses on are the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank Group (WBG), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the European Investment Bank (EIB).

### 1- Bretton Woods Institutions (IMF and WBG)

ANND actively participated in the Spring as well as Annual Meetings of the IMF and the WBG, both which have been held in Washington D.C. in April and October 2014, respectively.

During the Spring meetings, ANND sponsored two events: "IMF Recommendations to Arab Countries in Transition" and "Reforming IMF Conditionality. Where do we Stand?" The first session highlighted the drawbacks of the IMF-backed Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs) that were followed by Arab countries since the 1980s and that have failed to place them on the path towards sustainable and inclusive growth. The second session exposed IMF conditionality attached to its loans, which are

often contingent on economic reform policies in areas related to trade and investment, tax as well as labour market conditionalities in addition to cuts in government spending notably through the phasing out of subsidies.

During the Annual Meetings in October, 2014, ANND hosted a session "New Horizons with Old Recipes? A Rights-based Assessment of IMF Recommendations to the Arab Countries in Transition." The session discussed IMF policy proposal to Arab countries, particularly trade liberalization, subsidy reform and taxation. The session showed that while the Fund acknowledges the different challenges facing Arab countries in transition, its policies are still predicated on a 'one-size-fits-all approach' notably through promoting the traditional set of neo-liberal reforms.

In addition to participating at the IMF/WBG Meetings, the ANND organized further exchanges with universities, academics and think tanks. This included a panel discussion at the American University in Washington that focused on elaborating the alternatives to the IMF's SAPs.



In Washington DC, during IMF annual meetings



In Warsaw, during EBRD annual meetings

## 2- European Banks (EBRD and EIB):

As regards the European Banks, particularly the EBRD and EIB, ANND has been advocating for a rights-based engagement of these banks in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean region.

ANND, in collaboration with 18 human rights organization from different Arab countries, issued a statement to the EIB prior to its Board meeting. The statement meant to advocate for a developmental focus in EIB's interventions outside Europe by demanding that the EIB ensures compliance between the binding EU legislation and the EIB's activities. ANND has also hosted at its premises Mr. Philippe de Fontaine-Vive, EIB Vice-President, along with a team of EIB staff and representatives of the EU Delegation to Lebanon. Discussion were centered on the new development paradigm that the EU Bank is expected to play a role in achieving, and which includes reforms current system that would enable developing countries to nurture their productive capacities, achieve fairer redistribution of wealth and resources as well as be capable of enacting inclusive social protection policies as a human right and central to addressing inequalities and social injustice.

In addition, ANND took part in the revision of EIB and EBRD governance policies. Much of the focus was on transparency, where ANND demanded further responsibility on behalf of the Banks in order to ensure wider, and more effective, engagement of local stakeholders. The revision process also included requests that the EIB should ensure timely, adequate and up-to-date access to information for all

stakeholders at each stage of its projects' cycles.

In order to raise CSO awareness on, and to build CSO capacity to monitor, EIB and EBRD interventions in the region, ANND organized meetings to enable exchange of opinions among relevant stakeholders and produced indigenous resource material for civil society in their monitoring and advocacy work. This included a preparatory meeting for CSOs in the Arab region, in preparation for the EBRD's public consultation meeting on its three main governance policies. CSOs from Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan and Libya were present at the meeting and with experts' presentations got acquainted with the three main governance policies of the EBRD, namely its Environmental and Social Policy (ESP), Public Information Policy (PIP) and Project Complaints Mechanism (PCM) and their major shortcomings.

ANND, together with Bankwatch, developed a Guidebook to the European Neighborhood Instrument and International Financial Institutions. The guidebook aims to present the details of the European Neighborhood Policy (ENP) and the new financial instrument. More importantly, it provides a tool that will help CSOs build their capacities to participate in the planning of program priorities at the national and regional levels, monitor the coverage and outcomes of EU financial instruments and ensures broader civil society involvement in EU, EIB and EBRD decision making processes and policy making. The Guidebook was launched during the Second Regional CSO Dialogue with presentations on ENI, IFIs and blending mechanism.

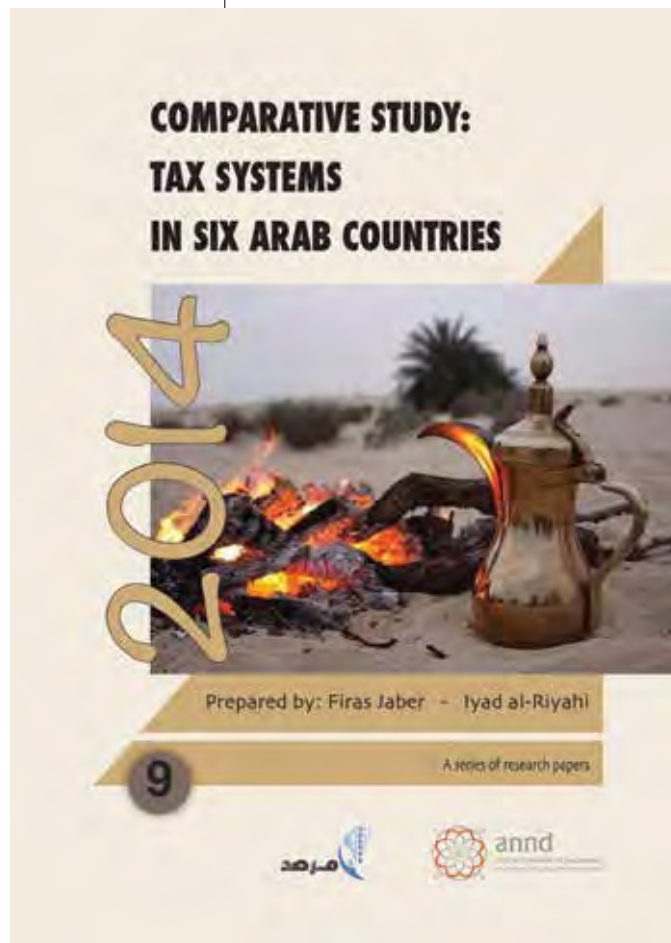
## PART 5: TAXATION POLICIES IN THE REGION

One of the most effective tools for redistribution of wealth, including addressing inequality and poverty, lies in tax policy.

In 2014 ANND published the Comparative Study Tax Systems in Six Arab Countries. This study is based on a two-year research project carried out by ANND in collaboration with several national organizations and institutions. <http://www.annd.org/english/data/publications/pdf/35.pdf>

Publication of two national reports on tax systems and their role in achieving social justice in Egypt and Tunisia, produced in collaboration with the Egyptian Center for Economic and Social Rights (ECESR) and the Tunisian Forum for Economic and Social Rights (FTDES), respectively. The findings of this publications were used in different policy processes namely at the EU, the IMF, the league of Arab States and during the engagement in the post 2015 development process.

ANND organized in cooperation with Christian Aid, a regional meeting on tax justice in the Arab region "tax and social justice" in Beirut - Lebanon on 21-22 March 2014. The meeting brought together experts and practitioners from the Arab region (Lebanon, Palestine, Tunisia, Egypt, Bahrain, Yemen, Iraq, Morocco, and Algeria) and beyond in order to discuss the main findings of the national studies and the comparative evaluation, as well as the establishment of a regional advocacy strategy on more just tax policies.





In Beirut, during the regional forum on addressing social and economic inequalities: The need for a new development paradigm

## PART 6: DEVELOPMENT PROCESSES

In the perspective of building the Post-2015 Agenda, ANND actively worked with its partners in order to participate in the drawing of effective development policies for the Arab region. Along its works, ANND tried to reflect the need for transformative changes to global governance systems and to national policy choices in order to overcome inequality, exclusion and vulnerability. In this regard, during 2014, ANND got involved in:

Regional consultations both on Development effectiveness and on the Post-2015 agenda, putting together the ESCWA, the League of Arab states' representatives and representatives from the Arab region's CSOs. The consultations and the workshops organized along the year 2014 was the expression of an actual governance on development policies

The development of key-concepts to draw democratic and human policies for development:

- In this perspective, the concept of aid-effectiveness has to be replaced by the concept of development-effectiveness, in order to promote an actual right to development.
- Thus, countries institutions should foresee room for CSOs in the development's policy-making process.
- Moreover, the accountability and responsibility of each stakeholders (governments, donors, CSOs) have to be discussed and clearly determined in order

to seek an actual development effectiveness, going along with a clear and effective governance.

- A needed change of paradigm concerning the private sector has to be introduced, in order to turn this economic segment into a support and not anymore as a mere condition or priority for the development policies of the region. Thus, the private sector should be monitored and bonded by the Human Rights standards.

- On this purpose, changes should be introduced to the global financial architecture with a view to reverse the expansion of financial economy at the expense of the real economy. Thus, the concept of strategic integration should come as a replacement for the principle of open-market, in order to support productive sectors, to create required jobs and to advance national development priorities.

Providing written input to global processes reflecting civil society concerns with regard to the new development model that foster a new social contract including a global commitment by the international community to provide adequate financial and technical supports to developing countries to build social protection systems and highlighting that the genuine political will is key and that a list of SDGs without binding political commitments documented in an approved declaration will be another goal-oriented format.



## PART 7: REACHING EFFECTIVE CSOS IN THE REGION

In line with its strategic approaches, ANND acknowledges that a major challenge facing CSOs in the region is the Shrinking space for their engagement in policy areas. Accordingly ANND tried to address this challenge through different interventions including: Efforts to analyze the legal framework and identify the main legal challenges and Supporting campaign national partners. Moreover, ANND believes that reaching effective civil society in Arab countries necessitates coupling these efforts to alleviate external factors and challenges with efforts to alleviate internal factors as well. Accordingly, this necessitates strategies for developing capacities of CSOs to support their engagement them in decision-making processes. In this context, ANND implemented the following activities:

1. Study the enabling environment for civil society organizations in Lebanon in partnership with CIVICUS and ICNL: ANND conducted a study aiming at developing a detailed assessment of the working environment of CSOs in Lebanon. The study included an analysis of the laws and regulations that rolled and reviewed different reports and studies that have examined aspects of civil work and community in Lebanon. Moreover, the methodology included interviews and working groups with experts and activists, and representatives of working with organizations and ministries. This study resulted in the publication of a report in English and Arabic and focused on the nine dimensions of the work of the organizations, the rights and freedoms enjoyed by the relationship with the state and donors as well as the potential impact on public life and participation in policy formulation. This study concluded that, despite the lack of serious obstacles to the establishment and work of the organizations, however, there are challenges and obstacles limiting their engagement in policy processes with the state in the absence of institutionalized mechanisms for dialogue and engagement.

2. ANND launched three studies to assess the enabling environment for civil society from the point of view of the effectiveness of development (in collaboration with CPDE) in order to determine the level of contribution of different forms of development actors to democratic rule. ANND has chosen to conduct the study in Lebanon to complement the efforts that began in this area and to evaluate aspects related to aid policies and their impact of CSO work, moreover ANND launched the work in both Tunisia (in cooperation with Association Ado+) and Palestine (in

cooperation with PNGO). These reports allow drawing an initial picture of how organizations engage in Development (study focuses on the political and legal conditions, governance framework and cultural social and economic aspects,) allowing to take steps in the future to address the challenges and weaknesses. Those studies should be published in 2015.

3. ANND together with the National Council for Voluntary Organizations (NCVO) and Civicus started implementing the Building Bridges Project for CSO in North Africa. This project passed through 3 main phases: the first phase aimed to assess the needs of CSOs in the Arab region, the second phase included training session on strategic planning. In 2014 the project activities included capacity building workshops in Tunisia and Egypt on campaigning and advocacy. The beneficiaries were a network of 30 CSOs (including trade unions, NGOs and cooperatives) in each country. Out of this work, the beneficiaries of this project launched two campaigns supported by the project: 1) In Tunisia, the campaign aims at institutionalizing the dialogue between CSOs and the government 2) In Egypt, the campaign seeks to influence the legislative process for trade unions to favor a conducive environment for trade unions engagement in policy areas. The work of these campaigns will be continuously supported in 2015.

4. ANND cooperated with Oxfam Novib in the context of a regional project to strengthen an enabling environment for CSOs, ANND's role consisted of developing two modules that address 1) the organizational viability of targeted organizations and 2) the enduring impact. In 2014, the work included designing 2 training module in a participatory approach and Organizing a pilot regional TOT to test out the material.

5. A study week on trade and investment policies: From 29 September to 3 October 2014, ten participants from the Arab region participated in the Study Week organized by the Arab NGO Network for Development in cooperation with South Center and Third World Network at South Center premises in Geneva. The Study Week aimed at deepening the knowledge among participants on macro-economic trade and investment policies and related institutions and building towards establishing a working group of civil society activists from various Arab countries who cooperate with the Network on studying macro-economic policy issues, international financial institutions, human rights and development in the Arab region.



6. ANND in partnership with the ETO consortium organized a two day meeting on the 30th and 31st of January on Extraterritorial Obligations (ETOs). The meeting brought together Civil society organizations representatives and academics from the Arab region working on promotion and protection of human rights and representatives from the ETO Consortium. The meeting served as an important opportunity raise awareness on ETO Principles as an additional tool to advocate for social and economic policies. States have human rights obligations also abroad, outside their borders. This understanding has been further strengthened by the adoption of the Maastricht Principles on Extraterritorial Obligations of States in the area of Economic, Social and Cultural rights on 28 September 2011. Participants agreed on the importance of campaigning for ETOs, and referring to them when engaging with diverse mechanisms and processes, including the post-2015 process and UN human rights monitoring mechanisms.

7. General assembly: the General Assembly gathered to discuss the achieved progress in the implemented strategy. The assembly's work was divided into two parts, the first treated the monetary approach of development especially in the context of international courses concerning the post-2015 work plan; as for the second, it was dedicated solely to members who treated financial, organizational and membership issues including the election of a coordination office and the launching of the Arab Watch for economic and social policies which treated the social security systems in 14 Arab countries.

The first part included an intervention concerning the framework of the economic policies and their relations

with the current developmental status. The focus was on the importance of a review of the development indicators and focal points, in addition to the emphasis on the role of the network in international dialogues and on fundamentals of work in the social justice concept amidst the economic-productive shift. The important international courses of the network were also discussed especially those in the lane of the post-2015 development agenda; also, the discussion treated several other subjects: the work related to the Universal Periodic Review mechanism and the reinforcement of the national coalitions in this context, the watch and follow up of the policies and orientations of the international monetary institutions especially the IMF, the World Bank and European Banks, also the watch of the European Union and USA's policies and especially trade and investment agreements. The discussion included the enabling environment of the civil society's organizations in Lebanon. After introductions and interventions, the participants worked within two work groups that separately treated the economic policies and their relation with the developmental status in one, and international developmental approaches and their reflection on the Arab region in another. The debate focused on the priorities of the upcoming phase, the interventions that the network should do and the capability of the network in developing knowledge and potential. The result was a setting of a working plan for the upcoming year that relies on fundamental strategic orientations of the network with some changes in approaches and an essential focus on reinforcing partnerships with different sides on the national level and reinforcing related dialogues.

# FINANCIAL REPORT

**Project: all Projects**

**Currency: US Dollar**

**Date: December 31, 2014**

Description	Received USD
<b>a- Brought forward 1.1.2014</b>	<b>26,980</b>
<b>b- From Contract with Funders:</b>	
Ford foundation	119,990
OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS (OSF)	149,979
Bank Watch	82,653
Handicap International	56,751
Diakonia	81,306
Civicus	20,663
CNCD 11.11.11	18,300
National Council for Voluntary Organizations (NCVO)	27,884
Christian Aid	73,352
The Institute for the Mediterranean (IMED)	12,749
ETO Consortium	5,428
IBON	27,217
Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation	49,975
International Labour Organization (ILO)	4,000
OXFAM - NOVIB	21,932
Réseau Euromed France (REF)	8,048
Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES)	10,368
<b>c- Membership fees</b>	<b>800</b>
<b>D- Others</b>	<b>39,745</b>
<b>Total incomes for the year 2014</b>	<b>838,121</b>

## B- Expenses

Description	Paid USD
Administrative cost	125,288
Networking	59,909
Information & Communication	47,566
ANND projects and activities for 2013	569,379
Solidarity	3,027
<b>Total expenses for the year 2014</b>	<b>805,169</b>

<b>Balance at 31/12/2014</b>	<b>32,952</b>
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