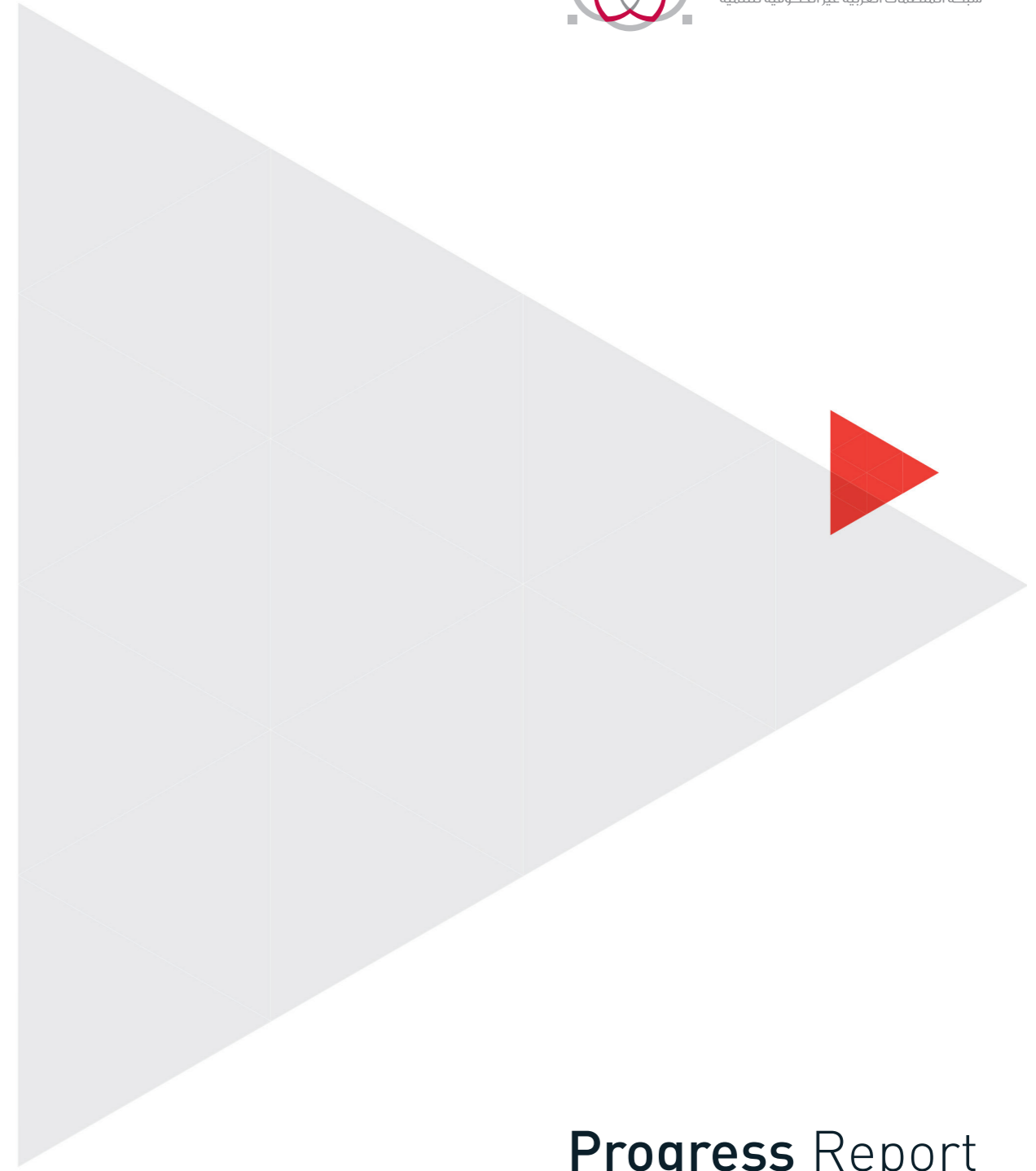


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Arab NGO Network for Development
شبكة المنظمات العربية غير الحكومية للتنمية



Progress Report 2017-2018





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▶ Introduction

The year 2018 was distinguished by the intensity of activities carried out by the Arab NGO Network for Development in various domains, in line with the adopted strategy to strengthen civil society contributions and influence on economic and social policy-making.

ANND provided channels for the involvement of CSOs and their experts in international and regional processes and produced the required knowledge and advocacy tools. ANND delegations were involved in regional and global tracks related to Agenda 2030, particularly the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development in Beirut and the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York. It contributed to the global Reflection Group on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

ANND also participated in the annual IMF/WB meetings, through a delegation of Arab CSOs, presenting research papers on public policies and organizing dialogues during the parallel forums, which were attended by representatives of these institutions. Another key contribution tackled the relationship with the EU, following up on its positions towards the Arab region, providing commentary, and engaging in dialogues through regional programs where ANND is active or through membership in the Policy Forum on Development.

Along with its members, partners, and experts, ANND is engaged in local and regional activities on various public policy issues, including taxation, social protection, informal work, the right to food, international

tracks on partnership for development effectiveness and financing for development, the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), and the Voluntary National Review (VNR). Other activities involve the question of partnership with the private sector, its criteria, and its transformation into a common good that serves development goals, in line with international human rights principles.

The most pertinent initiative put forward by ANND since 2017 could be the dialogue between a group of civil activists concerned with the path to democratic transition, its challenges, and establishing a civil, democratic, and developmental state. The dialogue tackles ways to enhance civil society contribution to confronting regional challenges following the «Arab Spring» and its repercussions on various countries.

Intensified efforts by international and regional powers to arrive to a consensus on ending armed conflicts have failed to consider the need to work on establishing a just, comprehensive, and civil peace, which addresses structural and political imbalances that led to this explosion and its direct or indirect impact on all countries in the region. These repercussions weakened the social fabric and the structure and institutions of the state, causing great destruction, immigration, and displacement. The dialogue looks into the principles of a new social contract, based on justice, and addresses the practical and effective foundations for pursuing and monitoring reconstruction programs, goals, priorities, and implementation mechanisms. In 2018, ANND underwent an external audit by an international organization based in

Geneva. Although its results were positive, it noted that ANND does not adequately communicate the impact of its activities, especially since the audit team recognized ANND's positive impact on public policy and civil society participation.

Accordingly, this follow-up evaluation report summarizes efforts made by ANND and partners in 2018, highlighting major achievements within the overall context of the region.

Ziad Abdel Samad

Arab Watch on **Social
and Economic Rights**

► About the Track:

Every other year, the Arab Watch Report focuses on a specific economic and social right and aims to analyze public policies and their impact on the human rights system and social justice in general. The report adopts a comparative approach to policies in Arab countries to extract best practices and propose recommendations for their development in the direction of protecting human rights. It also looks into international experiences and other regional approaches. Today, the AWR is a key tool used by ANND, its members, and partners to engage in dialogue on public policy, supported by research findings and scientific data. In addition to research, the two-year monitoring process involves multilateral national and regional dialogue to enhance the participation of national and regional organizations on the selected theme. The studies, on the other hand, incorporate qualitative and quantitative analysis of public policies and propose recommendations to be used in advocacy by ANND and its members. The final report also includes studies on specific questions, providing regional analysis of the topics.

Since the launch of the track, ANND has published three reports:

- **AWR 2012 on the Right to Work and the Right to Education**
- **AWR 2014 on Social Protection**
- **AWR 2016 on Informal Employment**
The fourth report will be published in 2019 and will cover the Right to Food.

► Key Achievements:

- The 2016 AWR findings on informal employment were used in various advocacy tracks by ANND and national members and partners. The report's outcomes were used to inform several processes, including the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), reports on Agenda 2030 for sustainable development, and especially to address EU policies concerning the region. Informal employment was also adopted as a priority theme by ANND due to the report's finding and the deep understanding they provided of the link with economic and social policies. In the past two years, most of the national and regional workshops and dialogues, organized or attended by ANND, raised the question of informal employment and its impact on human rights and particularly those of workers.
- As a result of the AWR on Informal Employment and the important research results, ANND was considered a key partner in regional dialogue on developing "regional indicators on informal employment," in cooperation with the ILO, ESCWA, and representatives of statistical authorities in some Arab countries. The partnership is an important step in a multi-stakeholder partnership to address this important technical question, developing national and regional indicators on informal employment, which is largely related to the common definition of this type of work and its human rights dimensions.
- The accumulated knowledge in the past years in the framework of the AWR on Social protection and on Informal Employment and ANND's awareness

of their important link with the adopted development paradigm and economic and social policy allowed ANND to use the results in national training and dialogues and create an opportunity to follow-up and widen the scope of beneficiaries.

- The new AWR on the Right to Food provided a valuable opportunity to establish dialogue between CSOs and expert academics, stressing the need to adopt a human rights approach, based on the concept of "food sovereignty," which had been absent from most reports on the region. Approaching the right to food from the standpoint of food sovereignty allows the scrutiny of public policies that impact its realization.



► Main Activities:

- ANND organized national workshops on informal employment in 11 Arab countries, in addition to 5 regional meetings on the subject, involving representatives from the public sector, concerned CSOs, and the media. A dialogue was thus initiated, raising the interest of organizations and allowing them to propose approaches based on human rights in the economic and social fields, which are practical alternatives to those adopted by IFIs and are based purely on the economic dimension.
- Nine regional reports on the situation of informal employment in the region were prepared, with a particular focus on women in this sector, the identification of right-based general concepts and the impact of public policy on informality, and providing examples from civil society attempts to organize informal workers.
- Informal employment was also addressed from various perspectives through 12 regional reports (Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Tunisia, Morocco, Syria, Mauritania, Yemen, Jordan, and Palestine), which have become important resources for advocacy, especially since the reports look at case studies that provide a closer picture of the life of informal workers.
- National workshops on the right to food were held in 6 Arab countries, involving representatives from the public sector, civil society, and the media. The workshops tackled the concepts of food sovereignty and the situation and challenges faced by the host country, providing specific public policy recommendations.
- The right to food was also discussed in 3 regional workshops, involving civil society, academics, international organizations, and UN agencies, which contributed to identifying the situation of the right to food, objective priorities, current initiatives, and ways forward.
- Various questions related to food security and food sovereignty were tackled in 8 regional thematic reports, providing new approaches to public policy and its impact on the right to food, especially from a gender-based perspective, and a comparative analysis of available data and statistics to draw recommendations.
- National reports on 11 countries (Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Sudan, Yemen, and Mauritania) addressed the question of the right to food from various perspectives, providing important knowledge resources for advocacy work.



Arab Watch on the Right of food in the Arab Region: Experts Meeting



Arab Watch on the Right of food in the Arab Region: Experts Meeting

► Success Story: AWR and Political Dialogue on Social Protection and Informal Employment

The AWR is a key resource for ANND and many member and partner organizations. It is widely used in advocacy work and meetings and dialogue with public policy makers, some of whose examples will be discussed below:

- In several Arab countries, ANND is involved in the preparation of UPR reports, through supporting partner organizations and national coalitions in drafting "civil society reports." The reports are based on the outcomes of the AWR, especially on the right to work and social security, whether in terms of concepts and definitions or providing data and statistics. The UPR is a process involving direct dialogue with public policy-makers on the national level and the Human Rights Council. ANND's efforts in this respect have gained credibility and its reports are used and published by international organizations (e.g., UPR-info), which attest to the importance of materials provided by the AWR and similar reports. The AWR's results were also used in reports prepared by ANND with its partners, evaluating efforts related to the Sustainable Development Action Plan.
- ANND is involved in several national campaigns on the right to work, for example the "My work, My rights" campaign in Lebanon, which includes several NGOs, advocates for the right to work, and proposes legal reforms. ANND's role in the campaign includes supporting the development of proposals

to reform laws and public policy, where the three AWR reports will act as essential references.

- ANND's partners in Palestine, particularly the Palestinian NGO Network (PNGO) and the Economic and Social Policy Monitor (al-Marsad), have a significant role in the National Campaign on Social Protection. The first report drafted by the two organizations on social protection in Palestine was part of the 2nd AWR. Their participation in the Arab Watch framework substantiated their work on social protection and informal employment, enabling them to lead the national campaign, engage in the political dialogue on informal employment, and propose social protection reforms.
- In the past three years, the themes and research outcomes of the AWR track helped shape the content of regional dialogues and forums organized by ANND outside its direct framework. For example, meetings on Agenda 2030 for sustainable development, dialogues with the League of Arab States (LAS), national dialogues in various countries, and meetings with the IMF and the EU, included, for the most part, sessions and discussions on the right to work, social protection, and informal employment. They were highly informed by the outcomes of the AWR and involved the participation of its researchers. The meetings were also an opportunity to distribute the reports more widely and



Arab Watch on Economic and Social Rights: Agricultural Development, Right to Food, and Food Security and Sovereignty



Arab Watch on Economic and Social Rights: Agricultural Development, Right to Food, and Food Security and Sovereignty

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Agenda 2030 for
Sustainable Development

► About the Track:

ANND's long and continuous involvement in the development agenda began with the Millennium Declaration and continues through Agenda 2030. ANND has always worked on advocating for rights-based development policies through networking between CSOs and linking their efforts on the regional level; participating in multi-stakeholder dialogues on sustainable development; and engaging in international and regional processes, particularly those involving official bodies, to deliver civil society's messages to governments, in light of the narrowing space available for independent work. Throughout the Arab countries, ANND contributed to creating spaces for multi-stakeholder dialogue, especially with governments, and was engaged in efforts to achieve the SDGs and capacity building on the issue. ANND was also involved in monitoring and documenting progress on Agenda 2030 and allocating the necessary resources.

► Key Achievements:

- ANND worked on strengthening engagement channels with regional institutions involving official bodies, such as ESCWA and LAS, in the context of Agenda 2030 implementation, through establishing a platform of seven regional networks of various specialities (ANND, Arab Women Center for Training and Research/CAWTAR, Arab Trade Union Confederation/ATUC, Arab Forum for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Arab Network for Democratic Elections/ANDE, Habitat International Coalition - Arab Region, Transparency International - Arab Region). The Platform aims to promote coordination between CSOs and combine efforts on the regional level to enhance participation, cover various fields, improve credibility and impact, and lead a structured dialogue on public policy to contribute to the development process in Arab countries.
- ANND promoted engagement in international processes on sustainable development, enabling the effective participation of CSO representatives from the Arab region in the High Level Political Forum (HLPF). Collaboration with global networks is also an important source of knowledge and support of Arab CSO engagement in international processes, particularly the Reflection Group on Sustainable Development, which includes the Economic and Social Rights Center, Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN), World Policy Forum, Public Services International, Social Watch, Society for International Development, and Third World Network, with the support of Friedrich Ebert Foundation. Other examples include cooperation with networks such as Action for Sustainable Development (A4SD).
- CSO access to sustainable development resources and tools was enhanced through hosting a digital platform containing national and regional reports and guides on the role of various stakeholders.
- ANND members and partners became involved in the development and implementation of the Agenda 2030 plan of action and participated in related national dialogues, through ANND's contribution to CSO efforts on the national level in monitoring progress, shadow reporting, and organizing national training programs and dialogues.



► Main Activities:

Electronic Platform to Monitor Progress in the Sustainable Development Action Plan

An electronic platform was established to monitor progress on sustainable development (<http://2030monitor.annd.org>) by providing resources to apply the action plan and achieve progress. It is available in Arabic and English. The platform allows civil society organizations to present their views on programs and plans in accordance with human rights standards and to exercise their independent role in monitoring. The platform contains a regional report on implementation, based on national reports on the progress/decline in sustainable development and currently covering the following countries, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, and Tunisia. The reports were completed by five national researchers who collected data based on SDG indicators, reviewed by a regional expert, and discussed at a workshop with the participation of various other experts. The platform also contains resources, sources, and summaries of sustainable development activities and a guide to the implementation of Agenda 2030 produced by ANND.

Resource Manual for Practitioners

ANND produced a resource manual on SDGs, addressing Agenda 2030 from the context of the Arab region, its challenges, and development questions. It also discusses the Agenda's approach and implementation mechanisms from the perspective of human rights. The manual stresses the importance of interdependence and complementarity of various SDGs, presents a practical review

based on real examples, and provides a critique of prevailing development concepts. Furthermore, the manual looks into the Agenda's review mechanisms, their strengths, and weaknesses. The manual is founded on the importance of civil society participation in implementing sustainable development plans, as stressed by the international declaration on sustainable development and its participatory approach concerning development stakeholders. The manual is accompanied by three booklets aimed at CSOs, Trade Unions, and Parliaments, proposing recommendations on their respective roles in implementing Agenda 2030. It is available on the digital platform at <http://2030monitor.annd.org/manual.php>.

Capacity building workshops for practitioners were organized to discuss the manual's main findings and recommendations and delve into Agenda 2030's implementation on the national level. The following meetings were organized:

- Lebanon, 26-27 December 2017
- Tunisia, 21-22 December 2017
- Jordan, 15-16 January 2018
- Morocco, 26-27 January 2018
- Egypt, 23-24 March 2018 (in cooperation with AOHR)

National Dialogues on Agenda 2030 Implementation

ANND organized national dialogues on SDGs implementation in Egypt, Lebanon, Tunisia, and Jordan to discuss national reports and initiate a thorough and in-depth national evaluation of Agenda 2030's implementation process and socioeconomic reform initiatives,

according to the following timeline:

- Egypt: 28-29 March 2017, in coordination with the Egyptian Association for Community Participation Enhancement (EACPE) and the Egyptian Center for Economic and Social Rights (ECESR).
- Lebanon: 4-5 April 2017, in coordination with Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs at the American University of Beirut, Lebanese Observatory for Workers and Employees Rights, Lebanese Trade Union Training Center (LTUTC), Mouvement Social, and the Lebanese Transparency Association (LTA).
- Jordan: 28-29 March 2017, in coordination with the Phenix Center for Economic and Informatics Studies.
- Tunisia: 20 July 2017, in coordination with the Social Sciences Forum.
- Morocco: 30 June 2017, in coordination with Espace Associatif in Rabat.

Regional CSO Meeting on Sustainable Development in the Arab Region

The Regional CSO Meeting on Sustainable Development in the Arab Region was organized in Beirut on 22-23 April 2018, at the initiative of the Civil Society Platform on Sustainable Development (see key achievements paragraph above), and included 65 participants and experts from 50 organizations. The meeting was organized in partnership with ESCWA, as a key step towards the High Level Arab Forum on Sustainable Development involving various international and regional organizations. It addressed developmental challenges facing the Arab region and came out with recommendations, which were presented and

discussed at the high level forum.

The meeting continues a process began by ANND and other CSOs on the regional level in 2013 to enhance participation in relevant regional and international processes. On 3 and 4 July 2017, ANND organized the first regional Arab Conference on Role of CSOs in Implementing SDGs at the LAS headquarters in Cairo. The conference was prepared as part of the implementation of the Arab Decade for Civil Society Organizations, in coordination with LAS General Secretariat (CSO Directorate) and UN-ESCWA. The previous year, ANND and Oxfam organized a regional Arab CSO workshop on Regional Approaches to Implementing Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development on 23 and 24 June 2016 in Beirut, in coordination with ESCWA and participation from the LAS.

Spotlight Reports

As part of monitoring the sustainable development agenda and based on the need to present civil society's perspective as a partner in development and independent watchdog from a rights-based perspective, ANND developed national reports on Agenda 2030 implementation in 2016, 2017, and 2018. The project was financially supported by UNDEF, through its program on mainstreaming the SDGs in the Arab civil society agenda. The reports were issued in cooperation with the Reflection Group on Sustainable Development (see Key Achievements section above). The reports can be accessed on the following links:

- 2018 Report: <http://www.socialwatch.org/report2018>
- 2017 Report: <http://www.socialwatch.org/>

report2017

- 2016 Report: <http://www.socialwatch.org/report2016>

ANND's Participation in the HLPF

To prepare for participation in the HLPF in New York, ANND organized preparatory regional CSO meetings and participation in the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development. It raised civil society recommendations as a contribution by the Arab region to the HLPF and participated in drafting national reports, which could be considered as shadow VNR reports.

► Success Story: Establishing an Arab Regional CSO Platform

ANND's participation in various international and regional tracks related to Agenda 2030 is always preceded by attempts to consolidate CSO efforts and positions on the regional level through parallel CSO meetings. This process highlights the need to organize the dialogue, enhance coordination among CSOs, and establish forums and platforms to ensure sustainability and continuity. Thus, the efforts resulted in establishing a regional platform encompassing networks from various sectors, aiming to propose a clear vision, mission, and goals on issues of regional priority, followed by a strategy for consistent action identifying working mechanisms, plans, and approaches. The platform is based on the urgent need to tackle the shrinking of the civic space allowed for participation and impact on developmental

processes and economic and social public policies. The situation makes it imperative for CSOs to enhance cooperation between them and strengthen and institutionalize joint efforts, in the aim of consolidating resources and tasks and form an important block in the various multi-stakeholder processes. The platform is also multi-disciplinary and works in various fields, based on a new development approach based on human rights and stressing the interlinking and complementarity of development goals and issues, which is an approach promoted and advocated by Agenda 2030 for sustainable development.

The platform was proposed at the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development held in Rabat, Morocco, in Spring 2017 and developed through the preparatory process of the Regional CSO Meeting in April 2018 and participation in the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development in Beirut in 2018. It succeeded in delivering messages expressing the standpoint of civil society, later raised to the HLPF in New York. Today, the Platform aims to engage in regional efforts on the level of LAS, specifically participation in the upcoming Arab Economic Summit (Beirut, January 2019), being an accumulation of coordination efforts between CSOs over the years.



Workshop on Strengthening Public Policies for Implementing Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development – 30 – November – 2017



Workshop on the Status and Challenges of Achieving Sustainable Development in the Arab Region – 30 – June – 2018

Development Effectiveness

▶ About the Track:

CSOs contribute to the development process and achieve social change through democratic, peaceful, and pluralistic means. As well as being an instrument to promote social solidarity, to provide services, and to motivate communities to engage in the development process, CSOs also enable these communities to claim their rights to improve living conditions and build a democratic, developmental, and just state.

Civil society is a key player and an active and influential partner in the development effectiveness process, along with national and local governments, the private sector, and parliaments. CSOs try to meet the necessary conditions to improve their participation and increase their impact on the development and political process, taking into account the importance of the role they play and the resulting challenges and responsibilities. This can be achieved by stressing the principles of personal accountability and "seeking to enhance the effectiveness of civil society in development."

▶ Key Achievements:

- ANND's engagement in the Civil Society Partnership for Development Effectiveness was enhanced and the scope of involved CSOs was expanded, in addition to supporting local efforts on the Enabling Environment and the Istanbul Principles.
- The outputs and outcomes of the development effectiveness process were linked to other tracks covered by ANND, especially Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, efforts to strengthen the civil society enabling environment, and policy dialogue with the EU.
- Work on new themes and topics identified as priorities in the current phase was expanded to include private sector accountability and criteria for monitoring its interventions, particularly when benefiting from various forms of development cooperation, such as aid, blended aid, soft loans, investment incentives, or leniency in legal standards, in light of the shift towards focusing on Domestic Resource Mobilization to finance development according to the Addis Ababa Plan of Action issued by the FfD Summit in 2015. This is in addition to working on financing development in the Arab Region and South-South Development Cooperation (SSDC).

▶ Main Activities:

Papers on Development Cooperation

Three papers were developed on specific issues related to development cooperation:

- **Challenges Facing the Effectiveness of Development Financing: What role for CSOs in the Arab countries?** The research paper was developed by independent expert Zeina Abla and tackled the question of the shift in financing development from focus on development aid effectiveness to stressing the effectiveness of development cooperation. It presented the most prominent trends and current challenges to financing development, particularly in the Arab region. The book illustrated and critiqued various cases of development financing means in the region, such as public debt and taxes, official aid, private financial flows from remittances, private investment, and mixed financing. It also provided case studies from the region and proposed recommendations for civil society and its positions on the various means development financing.
- **South-South Development Cooperation in the Arab Region**, Dr. Mohamed Said al-Saadi, economic and public policy researcher and expert, produced a paper on the main characteristics and forms of SSDC, especially in the Arab region. The paper focuses on the importance and geographic and sectoral distribution of Arab development cooperation, providing a critical look at its content and dimensions, particularly in light of the transformations witnessed in the region shocked by 2010-

2011 uprisings. In its final part, the paper addresses Arab regional integration as an essential mechanism for South-South cooperation, by assessing the experiences of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), their limitations and magnitude of challenges they face. The study shows that South-South cooperation in the Arab region is far behind other regions and is based on geopolitical considerations rather than economic interests.

- **Private Sector's Role and Accountability in Development Processes**, The paper was prepared by researcher Kinda Mohamadieh and looks into the accountability of the private sector, especially in light of the role it plays in development, as Agenda 2030 and other development financing processes and international institutions shift towards giving the private sector a greater space to participate in development under the moniker of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs). However, an analysis of the private sector's role required discussion of several issues from various perspectives, such as the nature of this private sector, state intervention, and the role of binding and non-binding laws, since experience has shown that mobilizing successful and developmental investment requires regulatory intervention. The paper then expounds on private sector accountability means and mechanisms and examines specific processes, such as reforming international investment treaties, clarifying investor obligations, and binding

multinational corporation and other enterprises to human rights. The paper concludes by suggesting a CSO position on the role and accountability of the private sector in development, from a rights-based approach.

1. Workshop on Development Effectiveness in the Arab Region,

A workshop on development cooperation effectiveness in the Arab region was held in Beirut on 21 April 2018. Participants from CSOs from various Arab countries discussed the above-mentioned papers on SSDC, private sector accountability, and financing development in the Arab region. The meeting incorporated a workshop on civic space monitoring criteria and indicators and another on the trends, standards, and impact assessment indicators regarding financing development in the Arab region, especially related to private sector projects. Workshop participants agreed on indicators to be used to monitor civic space through a digital platform.

2. CPDE All-Secretariat Meeting in Beirut,

ANND hosted the CPDE All-Secretariat Meeting in June 2018, which aimed to translate the Partnership's general strategy on "Accountability, Building, and Commitment to Effective People-Centered Development" into national, regional, sectoral, and thematic strategies and actions, especially on adopting an effective development cooperation framework in relation to Agenda 2030, rights-based private sector accountability, horizontal South-South development cooperation, development effectiveness in CSOs, reforming the CSO enabling environment,

and focusing on fragile and conflict-prone countries. The discussions touched on various organizational issues related to CPDE, its future programs, in addition to exchanging experiences and progress between secretariats and organizing a workshop on advocacy.

3. Workshop on Development Effectiveness - Private Sector Accountability,

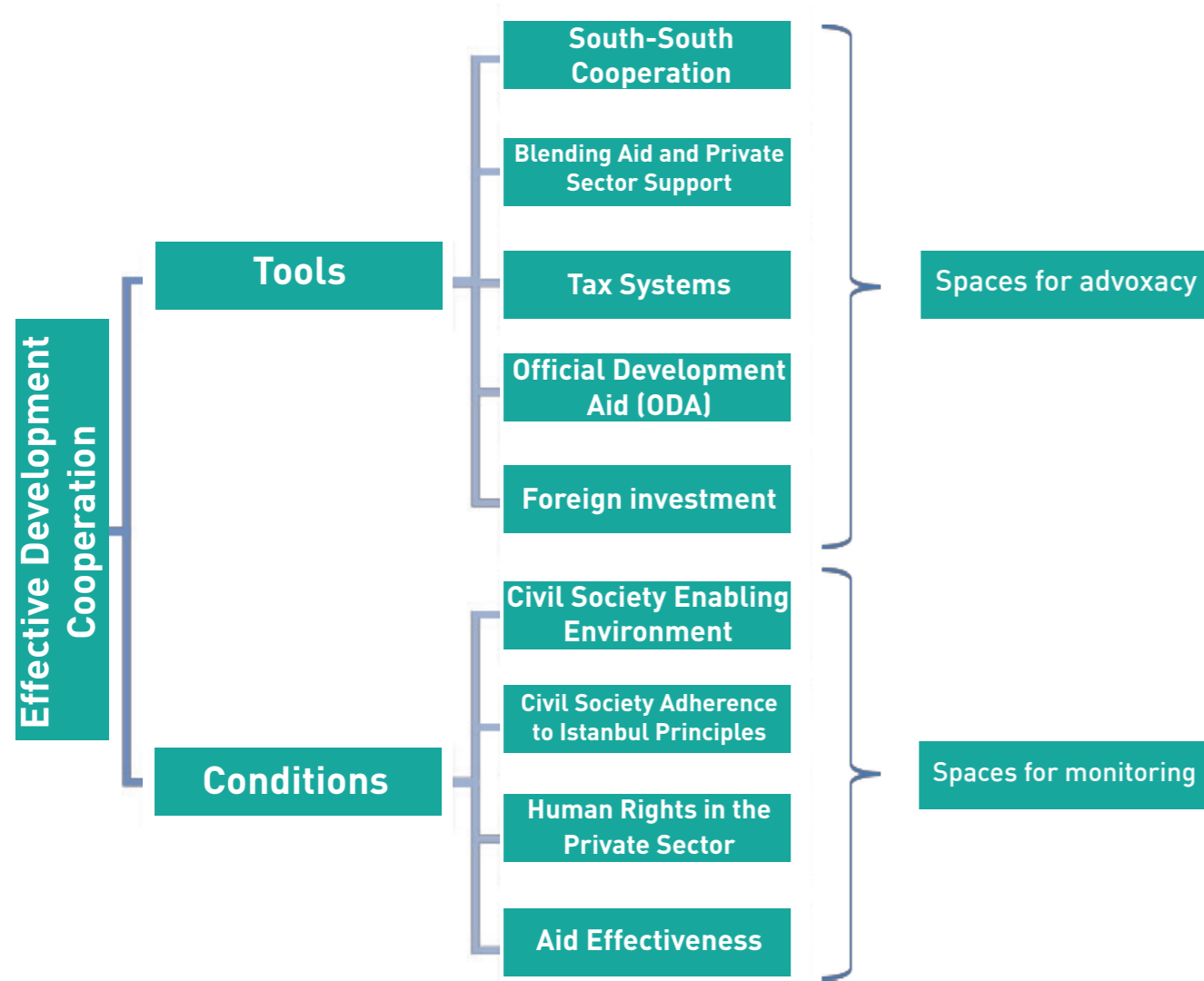
A workshop on Development Effectiveness in the Arab Region was organized in Amman on 28 October 2018, focusing primarily on the private sector's role and accountability. It included discussions on current methods of private sector financing in the context of development cooperation, areas and mechanisms of accountability, and civil society's position. The workshop aimed to come up with various indicators or criteria that could be adopted in monitoring the private sector's transparency, its contribution to development, and its commitment to human rights standards. This workshop is a first step in monitoring the effectiveness of the private sector and human rights in the business sector, especially as it benefits from development cooperation, whether in the form of partnerships, co-financing, soft loans, or encouraging policies that create a stimulating environment for business.



**CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness All Secretariat Meeting in Beirut
7 - June - 2018**



► Success Story: Consolidating and Mainstreaming Development Effectiveness Principle in Various Processes



Financing development remains an integral question in the Agenda 2030 process and achieving the SDGs. Ever since the Busan Forum in 2011, aid stopped being the primary means to finance development, following the launch of a new process for effective development cooperation, which became one of the most important frameworks where financing development and ways to achieve the SDGs are discussed, especially in light of the emphasis of SDG 17 on partnerships between the various stakeholders. ANND has been involved in the development effectiveness process since the beginning, as

one of the founding members of CPDE. In the past two years, ANND's work expanded to include and intersect with the various aspects of development cooperation, from monitoring the enabling environment for civil society and its adherence to the Istanbul Principles, to private sector commitment to human rights standards, to advocacy for alternatives, especially on the role of the private sector and investment in development cooperation, South-South cooperation, and tax systems.



Workshop on Development Effectiveness in the Arab Region – 21 – April – 2018

Dialogue with EU Institutions
on the **impact of their policies**
in the region

▶ About the Track:

ANND has been following up the implications of EU policies in the region since the launch of the Barcelona Process in 1995 and through the establishment of the European Neighborhood Policy (ENP) in 2004. It is working at the national, regional, and European institutional levels to ensure policy coherence at the various levels of cooperation between the EU and the Arab region, including trade agreements, aid mechanisms, development policies, and policies that serve peace, democracy, and social and economic stability. The need for wider civil society participation in the EU policy dialogue, particularly related to the ENP, emerged in the wake of the 2011 uprisings, the region's changing priorities, and the need to review policies and approaches adopted by the EU.

To this effect, ANND has been organizing yearly advocacy visits to the EU since 2010. It is active in the EU's "Structured Dialogue with Civil Society," especially through its involvement in the EU Policy Forum on Development and an international framework for community organizations led by the EU's development department aiming to organize a dialogue with representatives concerned with EU policies and partnership from around the world. ANND is represented in the working group and works through the consortium MAJALAT that has been organizing this dialogue at the level of the Mediterranean region since 2018, funded by the EU. ANND also monitors the implementation of national partnership agreements between the EU and Arab countries and the extent to which civil society is involved in the various tracks (development, migration and refugees, democracy, governance, and security and human rights).

▶ Key Achievements:

- **ANND increased its involvement in the structured dialogue with the EU, leading to its engagement in the consortium organizing this dialogue since 2018.** Since 2014, ANND has been an active and effective participant in the structured dialogue between civil society and the EU, organizing regional Arab CSO dialogues on the partnership and participating in various forums and conferences on structured dialogue, where it highlighted the region's social, economic, cultural, and political priorities. One of the main recommendations of the last CSO dialogue held in 2017 underscored the need for a regional reference for a structured and independent civil society dialogue, while ensuring close and continuous coordination with EU institutions. In this context, the MAJALAT initiative was launched with EU support, through a platform composed of five other networks representing CSOs working in the "Southern Neighborhood."
- **ANND participated in identifying the substantive priorities of the dialogue in the context of MAJALAT.** Through its active participation in the structured dialogue process, it effectively contributed to identifying priorities related to discussions with EU institutions, which were subsequently adopted as key themes in MAJALAT, especially in relation to economic policies, social dialogue, active participation of civil society, the human rights approach to migration and mobility issues, and security and good governance issues.
- **A digital platform was developed, containing the majority of resources on partnership and dialogue with the EU to facilitate CSO access to available information.** It is available in Arabic, French, and English at www.majalat.org and contains available documents and information on the structured dialogue with the EU and MAJALAT's activities, in addition to an online dialogue platform for members to discuss priorities, training material on the EU, and various themes related to the region and the partnership.
- **ANND was involved in consultative processes with the EU on a number of policy issues (trade, external instruments, and development assistance), in addition to various advocacy activities.** Civil society organizations from Jordan, Palestine, and Egypt presented their viewpoint and analysis concerning the ENP and partnership with the EU (In addition, ANND provided input on EU's External Financing Instruments (<http://www.annd.org/data/item/pdf/500.pdf>) and follow-up on the commitments of the European Investment Bank (EIB) in Jordan (<http://www.annd.org/english/itemId.php?itemId=493>).

► Main Activities:

MAJALAT Neighborhood South Policy Seminar, 20-21 September 2018, Amman, Jordan and the Civil Political Forum, 20-21 November 2018, Brussels, Belgium

ANND organized the first MAJALAT Regional Conference on Neighbourhood South Policies on 20 and 21 September 2018 in Amman, Jordan, in the presence of 100 representatives of civil society organizations from the South, including representatives of workers unions, social movements, youth and women's organizations, and human rights and development organizations engaged in political dialogue with the EU.

The conference was the occasion to launch the MAJALAT program, an initiative aimed at creating a space for constructive meetings and dialogues between CSOs, workers syndicates, social movements, and academics from both sides of the Mediterranean and the EU in a way that contributes in influencing the latter's visions and policies towards the region. MAJALAT allowed the initiation of dialogues on key themes identified by previous dialogues: good governance, economic development, social dialogue, migration and security, countering violence, social and climate justice, and their impact on youth and women. These dialogues identified priorities to be raised in direct meetings with EU representatives, as well as strategies to be adopted in relation to each theme. Specific sessions were devoted to discuss the structured dialogue process and the space it opens in the new framework and future phases. In addition, the MAJALAT digital platform was introduced, showcasing its functions allowing civil society in the region

to communicate and access information on structured dialogue and EU foreign policy.

Through the consortium and in the framework of MAJALAT, ANND contributed to organizing the Civil Political Forum in Brussels on 20 and 21 November 2018, aiming to build a space for direct exchange with EU institutions. It followed the Neighborhood South Policy Seminar held in Amman to prepare civil society's position on the key proposed themes and the structured dialogue process. The Brussels Civil Forum involved the participation of 150 organizations from the Euromed region and EU representatives from various levels. The participants were divided into several working groups according to priorities and sectors and the forum spanned several sessions, each focusing on dialogue with representatives of European institutions.

Key Recommendations from the Amman and Brussels Forums:

- Economic and social rights: Review EU policies and programs on social protection and form a Task Force with the participation of civil society (especially trade unions) to formulate specific proposals for moving from a targeting approach to an overall approach that considers social protection to be a human right. Expand the dialogue between the European Commission, specifically DG Trade, and CSOs on how to evaluate the policies and free trade agreements that have been implemented in the past and their implications on development in order to propose specific alternatives that take into account equality, social justice, and development priorities in the South.
- Migration: Develop a common mechanism

between the EU and CSOs to monitor migration policies and their impact on the rights of migrants, and to make recommendations on immediate and medium-term interventions to protect refugees in the South and provide them with adequate living conditions, in light of the acute deficiency of current policies and measures.

- Good Governance: Work with civil society in the Southern Neighborhood to adopt domestic legislation that guarantees the independence of the judiciary from the political authority and their mutual cooperation. The legislative system alone is not sufficient, as long as the judiciary authority is subject to interference or pressure by political authorities, as is currently the case. Develop a common regional framework between the EU and CSOs to monitor governance and detect and deal with corruption at the national and international levels, including ensuring access to information, protecting whistleblowers, and preventing illicit financial flows.
- Security and Counter Extremism and Terrorism: Civil society believes the security approach is not suitable for dealing with the region's challenges and thus does not adopt it. It believes its natural role is to address the structural aspects and root causes of the problem. Working and research groups could be established to analyze the structural and emergent political, social, and cultural reasons leading to violence and acceptance of terrorism. They could also develop programs with member countries in the EU to address such phenomena.

Brussels Forum Outcome Document:

- Arabic: <http://www.annd.org/data/file/files/ArOutcomeDocument-NSPAMMAN2018.pdf>
- English: <http://www.annd.org/data/file/files/ENOutcome%20Document-NSPAMMAN2018.pdf>
- French: <http://www.annd.org/data/file/files/FROutcomeDocument-NSPAMMAN2018.pdf>

Social Rights Monitor in the Arab Region

A monitor on social rights in the Arab region was launched in partnership with SOLIDAR, as a tool to follow the implementation of the ENP and the impact of the New ENP (following 2015) on decent work, freedom of association, and social protection in 7 countries in the Neighborhood South (Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, and Tunisia). The monitor covers national dialogues with CSOs involved in the proposed themes, case studies, national reports, news items, and training materials. Link in English: <http://www.solidar.org/en/activities/decent-work-social-protection-and-freedom-of-association-in-the-middle-east-and-north-africa>

► Success Story

ANND continues its direct advocacy campaigns with EU institutions as a strategic choice, especially following the popular uprisings in Arab countries and due to the direct impact of the development of EU policies on neighboring countries in the region. Since 2011, ANND has organized advocacy visits to EU in Brussels, where representatives from Lebanon, Jordan, Tunisia, Palestine, Morocco, Egypt, and Syria have met with European officials to discuss issues of importance to countries and the region. Because EU staff and administrators do not regularly visit the region, the advocacy visits allow faster information transfer and assessment from the region to EU institutions.

Furthermore, these visits allow direct communication with high level European representatives, from various bodies, such as the European Security and External Action Service, DG-NEAR, DG-DEVCO, the European Parliament, and the European Social and Economic Committee. These meetings have two main impacts: the first involves building the capacities of civil society representatives on the work and methods of the various EU bodies (legal, financial, political, and diplomatic); the second focuses on presenting national and regional analysis on key and specific topics according to the expertise and competence of each body. For example, issues related to the implementation of Agenda 2030 in the region and the role of EU development policy in this regard were highlighted in a direct meeting with the EC Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO).

The visits also provided an opportunity to communicate with several officials such as the

Commissioner for European Neighborhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn, the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini, and various concerned directorates (Directorate General of Trade, Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development, Directorate General for European Neighborhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Civil Society Division). Five to ten annual meetings are organized, demonstrating an interest in meeting and creating a space for civil society representatives proposed by ANND.

On the other hand, ANND promotes networking with civil society organizations in Europe, such as CNCD 11.11.11, SOLIDAR, the Euro-Mediterranean Network, the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network, Concord, as well as many European organizations active in Europe and cooperating with the Southern Neighborhood. Long-term partnerships were built to contribute to monitoring EU processes, conduct joint project, provide financial support, and support participation in meetings held in Brussels.



Brussels Civil Forum – 2 – 21 – November – 2018



Majalat Regional Conference on European Southern Neighborhood Policy
Amman – 20 – 21 – September – 2018

Monitoring and Dialogue with
IFIs on **the Impact of their
Policies in the Region**

► About the Track:

IFIs play an active and influential role in financial, economic, regional, and national choices and decisions, notably the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group. Fragile Arab economies in transition are victims of random financial and monetary reforms, brought, in part, by reports and recommendations of IFIs that ignore the social impact and often cause simultaneous political turmoil. ANND monitored the impact of IFI recommendations in the region from the perspective of human rights and based on social justice and presented its research findings through participation in the IMF/WBG spring and annual meetings.

Goals According to the Strategic Plan:

- **Enhance CSOs' participation in advocacy on economic and social rights by providing resources and opportunities for dialogue on the subject,**
- **Promote the use of the Monitor in policy advocacy at the national, regional, and international levels.**

► Key Achievements:

- Improving the quality of advocacy at the level of IFIs, through producing a set of national and regional papers on consultations regarding Article IV of IMF's Articles of Agreement and providing a regional perspective based on national studies,
- Enhancing CSOs' participation in following up with the IMF policies and their impact on national policies by expanding the circle of researchers who write and monitor these policies, through their involvement and participation in direct dialogues with the IMF.
- Strengthening channels of communication with the IMF by joining the group coordinating dialogue between with CSOs and the wide participation of ANND in regional consultations organized by the IMF.

► Main Activities:

- **Preparing 5 regional and national papers on the effects of IFI social economic policies and recommendations:**
 1. IMF and Lebanon: Making the vulnerable pay the price
 2. Evaluation of IMF Economic and Social Policies Post-Arab Spring
 3. Demonstrating the flaws in Egypt's energy subsidy plan promoted by the IMF
 4. IMF interventions and tax justice in Jordan
 5. How IMF monetary policy conflicts with the objectives of fiscal policy in Egypt
- **Organizing a session at the civil society forum of the IMF/WBG spring meeting held in Bali, Indonesia on 9 and 10 October 2018, entitled "Economies in Transition: Inequality and IFI policies in the Arab Region" in coordination with the Tax Justice Coalition in the Arab Region.** ANND organized a session on "Economies in Transition: Inequality and IFI policies in the Arab Region" to discuss the impact of IFI policies on the region based on the situation in five Arab countries. IMF's focus on overall financial stability in Lebanon, while ignoring the real social impact of such policy, was explained based on the facts, analyses, and recommendations of the recently-published Article IV consultations. The IFI supported energy subsidy plan for Egypt was also highlighted, especially its impact on SMEs and the level of transparency and accountability applied to such investments. The Jordanian representative (member of the Tax Justice Coalition in the Arab Region) explained the effects of IFI conditionalities on financial

and tax policies in Jordan leading to popular mobilization since early 2018.

- **Participating in IFI regional and national dialogues:** ANND representatives, partners, and the Tax Justice Coalition in the Arab Region participated in the regional IFI meeting "Opportunity for All: Promoting Growth and Inclusiveness in the Middle East and North Africa", held in Marrakesh, Morocco on 29 and 30 January 2018. The meeting included a session to discuss tax questions in the region, where ANND's research findings in the context of this project were used to discuss tax reforms on the regional level.

Improving Quality of Advocacy at the IMF

- **2011-2013:** Limited participation in parallel activities organized through ANND's international partners, and where ANND gave general contributions on the development paradigm and impact of IMF recommendations.
- **2013-2015:** ANND organized parallel activities and organized the participation of several CSO representatives, basing its work on economic and social policy papers, where some IMF staff participated.
- **2016-2018:** Continuous monitoring of IMF Article IV Reports on the national level and the Regional Outlook, preparing policy papers with researchers, and participating in direct dialogue with regional IMF directors on the content of the reports.



IMF Regional Meeting with Civil Society Organizations
Marocco – 30 – Jan – 2018

CSO Enabling **Environment**

▶ About the Track:

Civic space is generally defined as the space available for individuals and organizations to exercise their rights and to influence their political and social conditions. Civic space is affected or determined by the political and legal environment governing the work of civil society organizations. In practice, this means the totality of conditions that may impede or enable the work of CSOs, such as laws that protect the right to assembly, demonstration, expression, access to finance, information, and so on, and civil society participation, in addition to political stability, the nature of regulations that define this space, and the relationship of the state with civil society and other social actors.

Although the global trend leans towards increased recognition of the role of civil society and the importance of its engagement as a partner in development and enhancing human rights and despite the adoption of a developmental approach based on partnership between the public and private sectors and civil society, the world is witnessing a decline in the enabling environment for civil society in practice. In the Arab region in particular, the space is facing an unprecedented setback. Some countries returned to dictatorship following the popular uprising, while others are still witnessing violent conflicts or are affected by those nearby. This is added to the deterioration in living conditions and the economic and social situation and the state's failure to fulfil duties towards citizens, resorting to the security approach to stifle opposition under the pretext of fighting terrorism. The Arab region's situation impacted civic space and civil society faces a restrictive or repressive

environment that does not allow it to effectively play its role. This is reflected in laws explicitly or practically restricting civil society work, through practices that sometimes include the closure of associations and the prosecution, forced disappearance, or physical abuse of activists.

▶ Key Achievements:

- Establishing a digital platform to monitor civic space in six Arab countries: Lebanon, Iraq, Egypt, Oman, Morocco, and Sudan at civicspace.annd.org, highlighting violations against civil society and the shrinking civil space,
- Issuing support messages and statements regarding organizations and defenders facing restrictions,
- Cooperating with international networks such as Civicus and Social Watch, which allows the expansion of solidarity with CSOs and civic activists subjected to violations or attacks on their safety and public and individual freedoms.



▶ Main Activities:

- **Digital Platform to Monitor Civic Space.** Based on the need to document the civic space situation in the Arab region, to highlight violations against civil society and the shrinking of the available civic space, the digital platform is a first step towards joint regional action to address deterioration of the enabling environment. The digital platform includes a regional report on the reality of civic space in the Arab region, based on national reports from Lebanon, Iraq, Egypt, Sudan, Morocco, and Oman. The reports cover four main themes: multi-stakeholder dialogue on national development policies; CSO development effectiveness: accountability and transparency; support for development cooperation providers for an enabling environment for CSOs; and the legal and regulatory environment. The platform also contains a news and updates page on the status of civic space in the covered countries and several other studies. It is available at civicspace.annd.org.
- **Workshop on Civic Space in the Arab Region,** A workshop on civil space in the Arab region was organized on 17 December 2018 to launch the Civil Space Watch in the Arab region digital platform. The meeting aimed to create dialogue between CSOs on criteria and indicators for evaluating civic space, to evaluate the first phase of the project, and plan for the coming phase. Participants presented recommendations related to amending indicators to reflect

the challenges of the Arab region more clearly, in addition to defending civic space in general and steps to be taken.

- **Partnership with CIVICUS,** ANND coordinated with the global civil society coalition CIVICUS through a new online tool, the CIVICUS Monitor tracking and comparing civic freedoms globally. The monitor evaluates countries based on their respect of three freedoms: freedom of association, freedom of peaceful assembly, and freedom of expression, providing updates on violations against civil society. Cooperation continues until today and ANND is in charge of updates related to the following countries: Lebanon, Jordan, Tunisia, Morocco, Palestine, Sudan, and Egypt.
- **Papers on the Freedom of Assembly,** In 2016, national and regional research was conducted on the Enabling Environment for Civil Society, especially the political and legal environments. The research (6 national and 1 regional report) covered the following countries: Iraq, Palestine, Egypt, Tunisia, Syria, and Lebanon, shedding light on a number of legal challenges, most notably the lack of the principle of separation of powers as in democratic states. Thus, laws and regulations are often politicized. The book proposes recommendations to enhance CSO engagement in the region to consolidate the values of justice, equality, and sustainable development and improve society. It tackles the current conflicts in the Arab region, which pose a different type of challenge, namely the lack of appropriate laws for civil society, in addition to international funds being diverted somewhere else.

▶ **Success Story: Covering Sudan and the Role of Special Rapporteurs**

The Civil Space Watch was established in the midst of continuing uprisings and social movements opposed to current economic and social policies, calling for better living conditions, and reshaping the political scene in the Arab region. The latest uprising and series of demonstrations erupted in Sudan on 19 December 2018, following a threefold hike in the price of bread by the government. The demonstrations are continuing to grow, demanding that Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir steps down. Authorities have reacted through arbitrary arrests and excessive use of violence, including the use of live ammunition against peaceful protesters and leading to a number of martyrs and wounded, which continues to rise each day.

The Civic Space Watch followed the developments in Sudan since the start of the demonstrations and documented several civil society voices calling for an end of the violence against peaceful protesters. On 26 December 2018, ANND launched a petition condemning police violence and calling for an end to violations against demonstrators, holding accountable those responsible for their murder, releasing all detainees, and putting an end to censorship and blocking of social media. The petition was signed by more than 40 organizations and 900 persons. ANND sent a letter to the Special Rapporteur on the right to peaceful assembly and association requesting an urgent appeal to the Government of Sudan regarding excessive use of force, arbitrary arrests, and detention. The letter also called on the Special Rapporteur to

undertake a local fact-finding visit and listen to local civil society groups. Indeed, the High Commissioner for Human Rights issued a report setting out the principles of protecting human rights during demonstrations two days after receiving ANND's message. The Civic Space Watch was complemented by ANND's various other efforts regarding solidarity with the people of Sudan and delivering its message to the international community.



Tax justice in **Arab Countries**

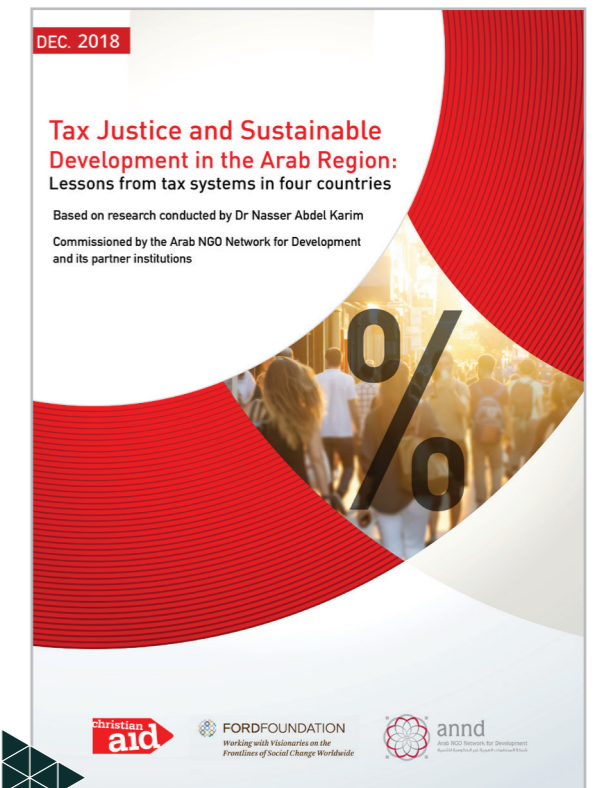
About the Track:

Tax systems are important tools for economic policy-making, support for productive sectors, and investment. They are important tools for wealth redistribution and achieving social equality through public service financing. They can also contribute to enhancing community participation by empowering society to hold officials responsible. However, regulations adopted in the Arab region suffer from structural deficiencies that hinder the achievement of their desired functions. Tax systems in the region contributed to the expansion of the rentier economy at the expense of the productive economy, through exemptions and tax incentives given to the financial and real estate sectors and higher taxes on the industrial sectors, in addition to opening the markets to imported products within the framework of trade agreements. Tax systems in the Arab region have failed in their redistribution tax, as they are not adequately progressive and rely heavily on VAT that does not distinguish between consumers. Tax burdens are not distributed appropriately on all economic activity and social segments - including between men and women- due to the lack of necessary tools during the policy-making process, such as gender-sensitive budgeting. In this context, ANND is engaging in the process of monitoring the impact of such tax policies on the development process and social justice in the region, through participating in monitoring, research, and advocacy tracks on the local, regional, and international levels and working to create a coherent movement of CSOs and stakeholders in the Arab region.

Key Achievements:

- **The Tax Justice Coalition in the Arab Region** was established following the Regional Meeting on Tax Justice in the Arab Region, held in Amman in March 2017. A coordinating committee was formed, consisting of ANND, ECESR, al-Marsad, Phenix Center, and the Tunisian Forum for Economic and Social Rights, which had discussed tax policies in the region for the past 4 years, supporting CSOs to engage in these efforts, building their capacity (and that of other stakeholders) on the subject, and preparing research and advocacy campaigns on the regional and international levels, as well as supporting local civil society efforts.
- **To enhance communication channels with international networks concerned with tax justice**, ANND the Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation (ICRICT) Steering Committee and with the international Tax Justice Network.
- **ANND** supported national organizations in following up on tax policies and their gender implications through national and regional reports on tax systems in the region and their impact on development and social and economic rights, which have become an important advocacy resource for CSOs.
- **Research findings on tax systems were used by ANND** in different advocacy processes, as a regional framework, and by members and national partners. The most prominent tracks benefiting from

the findings were the UPR reports, Agenda 2030, and work on EU policies. The theme of tax policy has become a priority for ANND and the subject was addressed in most regional workshops and dialogues it organized or attended in the past two years.



► Main Activities:

- **Workshop on Taxation in Lebanon from a Gender Perspective on 9 November 2017 in Beirut,** ANND organized a workshop on Taxation in Lebanon from a Gender Perspective in Beirut in the framework of its work on economic and social rights in Lebanon and the Arab region and on international human rights mechanisms, including the Universal Periodic Review and efforts to push forward the sustainable development agenda, especially the fifth goal on gender equality. The first workshop dealt with the main challenges related to the economic and social rights of women in Lebanon, with a general introduction on tax policies and tax justice, in addition to the discussion and approach of taxation from a gender perspective, with a focus on the Lebanese model.
- **Regional Conference on Tax Justice in the Arab Region and Launching a Series of Studies on Tax Justice on 22-23 May 2018 in Amman, Jordan,** ANND organized a regional conference on tax justice in cooperation with the Phenix Center for Economic and Informatics Studies and the Jordanian Women's Union (JWU) to launch the national and regional reports aiming to shed light on challenges facing tax systems in the achievement of appropriate development and fair distribution of wealth. The regional approach highlighted cross-cutting issues related to equality in tax systems in Arab countries, in addition to gender discrimination in tax systems in the countries of the study, noting the clear and explicit gender bias in the tax systems in the Arab region.
- **Expert Meeting on Tax Justice in the Arab Region - 24-25 August 2018, Amman, Jordan,** ANND organized an expert meeting on tax justice in the Arab region held in Amman in collaboration with JWU and Phenix Center to discuss national reports on tax justice in Palestine, Egypt, Lebanon, and Jordan, in addition to the regional report on tax justice in the Arab world and its impact on gender justice.
- **Training Manual on Tax Justice Targeting CSOs,** The manual aims to introduce CSOs to taxes and their role and provide an understanding of the structure of taxation in the region in order to help them work on the issue of tax reform as a basic component of social justice and offer alternatives to reduce inequality and provide adequate resources for development. In this context, the systems of Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Palestine, Jordan, and Lebanon were presented as case studies in the guide. The guide will serve as the basis for training CSOs in the Arab world.

► Success Story

During the popular mobilizations against the new Jordanian tax law, which began in April 2018 and led to the resignation of the government and the appointment of current PM Dr. Omar al-Razaz, ANND's partners and members utilized the reports on Jordan, developed in the context of the Tax Justice project to propose an alternative tax system, issue a policy analysis paper on the proposed alternative, establish a tax justice alliance of Jordanian NGOs (led by the Jordanian Women's Union, ANND's founding member), and support the campaign's communication tools.



Regional Conference on Tax Justice in the Arab Region – Amman – 22 –23 –2018

Universal Periodic **Review**

▶ About the Track:

ANND has been involved in the UPR process since 2009 as a means for monitoring and advocacy, adopting a comprehensive This approach to the review. It includes the systematic monitoring of human rights violations in Arab states and building coalitions and consensus between civil society groups to follow-up on monitoring and advocacy, which take place on the national level and at the UN (Human Rights Council in Geneva and during the Working Group sessions), considering all proposals on the political, economic, social, legal, and cultural levels tackling the root causes of human rights violations.

▶ Goals Based on the Strategic Plan

ANND had been involved in the UPR process since 2009, as a means for monitoring and advocacy, adopting a comprehensive approach to the review. It includes the systematic monitoring of human rights violations in Arab states and building coalitions and consensus between civil society groups to follow-up on monitoring and advocacy, which takes place on the national level and at the UN (Human Rights Council in Geneva and during the Working Group sessions), considering all proposals on the political, economic, social, legal, and cultural levels tackling the root causes of human rights violations.

▶ Key Achievements:

- **Enhanced Participation in Monitoring the Implementation of UPR Recommendations**
ANND encouraged several CSOs in Lebanon to closely monitor the UPR process, through the preparation of mid-term reports and drafting recommendations to contribute to enhancing the human rights situation. Key recommendations related to economic and social rights from a gender based perspective were monitored in collaboration with the OHCHR.
- **Enhanced Engagement with Decision-Makers Aspiring to Promote the Human Rights Situation through the UPR Process**
A workshop was held at the Lebanese Parliament to raise civil society concerns regarding numerous rights issues and to discuss with MPs, Ministers, and politicians the role of Parliament in implementing UPR recommendations.
- **Increased Cooperation with International Partners to Monitor the Civil Space Situation**
Between 2016 and 2018 ANND collaborated with CIVICUS to monitor civic space violations (freedom of association, peaceful assembly, and expression) in all countries involved in the UPR process (such as Jordan and Palestine). Cooperation and coordination with CIVICUS has increased financial support to continue advocacy work in international forums.
- **Documenting Human Rights Conditions by Members and Partners in Jordan and Palestine**
ANND presented reports on the human rights situation in Jordan and Palestine, focusing on the enabling environment, workers rights, and economic and social rights. Policy recommendations were based on previous ANND research and will be used for related advocacy work.
- **Linking ANND's Work to the UPR Process**
Outcomes from the AWR process and tax studies were incorporated in UPR reports.

▶ Main Activities:

- Two comprehensive joint reports on economic and social rights and the enabling environment were submitted prior to the January 2005 Universal Periodic Review of "Israel". ANND worked in partnership with two Palestinian national coalitions and the international coalition, CIVICUS, to draft the reports and issued statements denouncing widespread civic space violations in Palestine.
- A workshop on the UPR (mid-term review) was organized with the OHCHR office in Lebanon and the Lebanese Ministry of State for Human Rights and involved the participation of representatives from the Government of Lebanon and several NGOs.
- The mid-term review of the second UPR round was presented. It was a culmination of efforts by a wide range of CSOs in Lebanon (over 40 organizations), including national and regional networks to draft the report covering various issues related to human, economic, social, and political rights affecting women, children, persons with disabilities, and refugees, as well as social, economic, civil, and political rights in general.
- A workshop was organized in the Lebanese Parliament on its role in implementing UPR recommendations, with the participation of coalitions and networks of CSOs that presented and discussed key human rights violations and mid-term review documents and reports.

- Financial, technical, and logistical support was provided to Insan coalition in Jordan, which includes more than seven human rights organizations, and five human rights defenders and journalists to conduct advocacy activities in Geneva, enhance dialogue with the government, and adopt the UPR recommendations presented by civil society.
- The UPR process in Egypt was closely monitored by a coalition of more than 80 CSOs, which included contribution to preparing the report and recommendations.

▶ **Success Story: Use the UPR midterm report on Lebanon in National and International Forums to Address all Forms of Discrimination against Women**

The UPR is a key human rights accountability mechanism, which includes a mid-term report to follow-up and monitor state compliance with the received recommendations. Despite the absence of binding mechanisms, the report is necessary to know in which direction Lebanon is heading. A group of more than 40 CSOs in Lebanon, including national and regional networks, formed a coalition to prepare a multisectoral report dealing with civil, political, economic, and social rights, with special emphasis on Lebanon's commitments to promote women's economic and social rights, and their human rights in general, and the rights of children, Palestinian refugees, refugees and migrants, and persons with disabilities. Lebanon's third review, scheduled for 2020, will be based on the information contained in the midterm review.

The UPR's continuous process allows civil society participation and recognizes its important role as a representative of varied and marginalized social segments, especially grassroots organizations, which leads to enhancing democracy and spreading knowledge on human rights processes that enable CSOs to achieve progress on human rights.

ANND utilized the process to raise awareness

on the most prominent types of discrimination against women in daily life related to economic and social rights, especially through workshops addressing gender discrimination in taxes and informal employment (attended by more than 30 organizations) and the national dialogue between a similar number of organizations.

In October 2018, ANND was able to organize a workshop at the Lebanese Parliament, attended by all members of the coalition and several other CSOs, in addition to MPs, Ministers, and politicians to discuss the role of Parliament in implementing UPR recommendations, based on the report and documented violations. The workshop was a success and stressed the legislators' commitment to the human rights process and implementing civil society recommendations. A number of MPs representing different blocs pledged to

follow-up with the government's work to ensure its adherence to the recommendations of the Human Rights Council and related legislation by Parliament.

In national and international meetings and activities, ANND and its members discussed the information available in the report on the human rights situation in Lebanon. For example, during the HLPF, ANND's intervention under SDG 5 was based on the report on women's economic and social rights, which details violations and discrimination against women in Lebanon. At the level of relations with the EU, ANND succeeded in integrating multi-sectoral reports during the dialogues, especially on the pressing human rights issues that have been of interest to States, such as the Syrian refugee issue and equality between women and men.



Workshop in the Lebanese Parliament on the Parliament's Role in Implementing UPR Recommendations – 25 – October – 2018

► Financial Report for the year 2018

Covering the period January 1st, 2018 till
December 31st, 2018

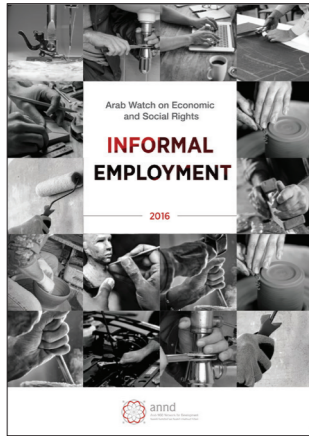
Project: All Projects
Currency: USD

► Incomes

Description	Received US\$
Accumulated Revenues from previous years	\$223,847.00
Grant Revenues	
Christian Aid	80,000.00
CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE)	97,798.00
Solidar	68,005.00
Individuell Människohjälp -Swedish Development Partner	78,755.00
Bread for the world	46,937.00
Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)	131,866.00
International Trade Union Confederation	17,000.00
EuroMed Rights	253,305.00
Diakonia	115,667.00
National Endowment for Democracy (NED)	48,498.00
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)	25,438.00
Fund for Global Human rights	10,990.00
GVC Italia	46,225.00
Development and Peace	77,234.00
CIVICUS	65,904.00
Action 4 SD	10,572.00
OXFAM - GB	32,718.00
Economic Development Solution (EDS)	10,120.00
Crisis Action	38,586.00
CNCD 11.11.11	13,633.00
Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Lebanon	8,667.00
Others	30,107.00
Local Partner	36,722.00
DOE and interest incomes	693.00
Membership	200.00
Total Grant Revenues	1,345,640.00
Total incomes for the year 2018	1,569,487.00

► Expenses

Description	Spent US\$
Administrative cost	126,305.00
Administrative Personnel and Coordinators	344,380.00
Networking	81,745.00
ANND projects and activities	909,072.00
Solidarity	84,279.00
Total Expenses for the year 2018	1,545,781.00
Balance at 31 December 2018	23,706.00



Arab Watch Report on Informal Employment

26/04/2017

Informal labor is considered as one of the main causes of instability faced not only by countries of the region, but also by the whole world. According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), Informal Labor constitutes between half and three quarters of the non-agricultural workforce in developing countries. "Perhaps the widening share of informal labor in Arab countries in non-agricultural sectors is mainly the result of policies of 'Openness', neo-liberal globalization, youth boom, rural migration in great numbers as a result of neglecting rural areas in general and the agriculture sector in particular, in addition to large waves of incoming migration." Based on all of the aforementioned, ANND worked in 2015-2016 on writing a report on informal labor as part of the Arab Watch on Economic and Social Rights. It approaches



Implementation of Istanbul Principles in 6 Arab Countries

10/07/2017

In 2010, more than 200 organizations from 82 countries, representing various communities and sectors, adopted the Istanbul Principles for CSO Development Effectiveness as a culmination of a three-year process, which involved 3,500 organizations from around the globe. But despite the discourse that adopts multi-stakeholder partnerships and stresses the growing recognition of the role of civil society, available spaces and participation opportunities are shrinking on the international, regional, and national levels. CSOs meeting in Cambodia in 2011 adopted mechanisms to follow-up on the commitment to the Istanbul Principles and evaluate the progress in their implementation. This report serves as a part of the evaluation efforts, in the context of the international process for Development Effectiveness, covering six countries.



Enabling Environment for Civil Society in the Arab Region

09/12/17

In cooperation with NPA and SIDA, ANND launches a book on the enabling environment of civil society in the Arab region. The book aims to present an overview of the current situation of civil society organizations in Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon, Iraq, Syria, and Palestine. It uses several country-specific indicators regarding the establishment of civil society organizations and their success. The current conflicts raging in the Arab region constitutes a serious challenge, especially in lack of attention to laws regarding the work of civil associations, in addition to the shifts faced in funding.



Spotlight on private financing for infrastructure

07/11/2017

Global Spotlight Report says that the proposed "cascade" of private financing for infrastructure will result on more corruption, high fees for essential services, and massive resource transfers to the rich from the poor



MedBarometer Survey on the Audio-Visual market in six Arab countries

01/05/2018

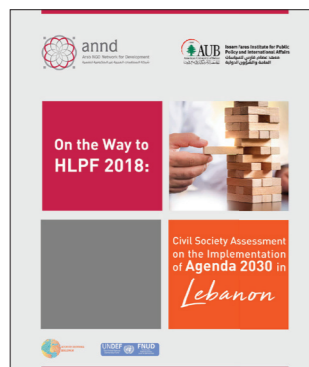
A MedBarometer Survey has been conducted to assess the characteristics and dimension of the audio-visual market in six countries in the region (Tunisia, Morocco, Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan and Palestine). The study will be used by sub-granted MedFilm projects to design suitable strategies to better mainstream gender equality through educational and raising awareness activities around audio-visual productions.



Challenges Facing the Effectiveness of Development Financing: What role for CSOs in the Arab countries?

06/06/2018

This report considers Arab countries development financing conditions by providing an overview of the development financing mechanisms in Arab countries and highlights the constraints to their effectiveness, starting with the inherent shortcomings of the prevailing international development cooperation system that shapes development financing.



Launching of the Spotlight Report 2018

09/07/2018

This report is an addendum to the first report published in 2017 by ANND and the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs monitoring obstacles and challenges to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Lebanon. While the 2017 report defines all structural challenges in relation to sustainable development goals 1 (End Poverty), 2 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and 10 (Reducing inequalities), this report provides further information on the initiatives taken at national level in 2017 and early 2018 with regard to the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs.



Implementation of The 2030 Agenda: opportunities and Challenges in Jordan

03/08/2018

OBSTACLES AND CHALLENGES TO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA IN JORDAN: A FOCUS ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 1, 8 AND 10



Opportunities and challenges (Agenda 2030) - Regional Report

03/08/2018

The report highlights in particular the structural obstacles at regional and subregional levels for the implementation and success of the 2030 Agenda. It also sets out the regional efforts and initiatives taken in order to properly implement the Agenda. Furthermore, it proposes some specific policy changes deemed necessary to make progress towards the achievement of the SDGs at regional level



Implementation of The 2030 Agenda: opportunities and Challenges in Tunisia

03/08/2018

OBSTACLES AND CHALLENGES TO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA IN TUNISIA: A FOCUS ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 1, 8 AND 10



Implementation of The 2030 Agenda: opportunities and Challenges in Lebanon

03/08/2018

OBSTACLES AND CHALLENGES TO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA IN LEBANON: A FOCUS ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 1, 8 AND 10



Implementation of The 2030 Agenda: opportunities and Challenges in Egypt

03/08/2018

OBSTACLES AND CHALLENGES TO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA IN EGYPT: A FOCUS ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 1, 8 AND 10



On The Way To HLPF 2030

09/07/2018

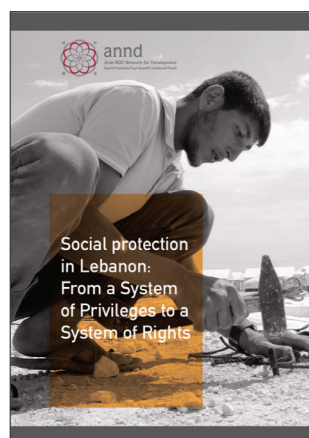
Whereas in 2016, the first year following the adoption of the Agenda 2030 and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015, there was no significant progress with regard to implementation of the Agenda in Lebanon, 2017 started off more promising with a number of initiatives towards achieving the SDGs.



Taxes and Social Justice Policy Brief in Four Countries (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine)

22/05/2018

In the context of its work with several international and local partners on establishing fair and just tax systems in the Arab Region, ANND launches a series of studies on tax justice in a number of countries in the region, in addition to a detailed manual on taxes and tax justice, and studies on the gender dimension of taxes.



Social protection in Lebanon: From a System of Privileges to a System of Rights

03/01/2019

The paper examines the social protection landscape in Lebanon from the lens of political economy, while taking into account debates on social protection on the international scene. In the conclusion, it provides a way forward to achieve universal social protection in the national context. In addition to the shifts faced in funding.



Report On Civic Space (Arabic Only)

19/12/2018

Globally, and in the Arab region, Civil Society Organizations are facing a trend towards a shrinking civic space, which limits their activity and ability to participate in the development process. This attack on civic space manifests in various violations to human rights, and restrictions on civil society organizations, on the legal and practical level. This regional report covers the status of civic space in six Arab countries: Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Egypt, Iraq and Sudan, and is part of an e-platform on civic space: civicspace.annd.org



Debunking the Myth of a Changing IMF: Unpacking Conditionality in the Arab Region Post-Uprisings

30/01/2018

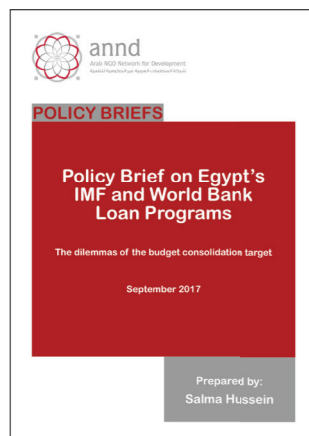
This paper seeks to address renewed concerns about the role of the IMF in the context of its engagement with Arab countries since the 2011 uprisings. The following key question stands out for this purpose: Has the IMF, through its programs in the Arab region, lived up to its narrative of advancing social objectives and greater flexibility in policy design, ergo providing a wider margin of policy space to Arab countries to adopt counter-cyclical measures – expansionary fiscal, accommodative monetary or exchange rate policies – to address challenges to their long-term sustainable development? This paper strives to identify the answer to the above question by reflecting upon the most recent engagement of the IMF in four Arab countries. These countries are Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia and Lebanon.



Lebanon's prospects: Economic impasse or opportunity for reform?

2017/03/26

The paper examines analysis and recommendations presented in the 2016 IMF report on the Article IV consultation which showed that the Lebanese economic model has reached an impasse, especially with the decrease of deposit inflows, shrinking government revenues, and meager growth. First it will tackle issues related to monetary policy arguing that a reform in this regard is essential to stimulate investment. Second, it will critically address the report's view on fiscal policy, while emphasizing the need for fiscal instruments that go beyond debt servicing. Finally, it will present policy suggestions in view of putting Lebanon on the path of sustainable and inclusive growth.



Egypt: Policy Brief on Egypt's IMF and World Bank Loan Programs

04/10/2017

The policy brief is intended to discuss how this overall situation affected the outcomes of the IMF and World Bank programs. The paper explains how the lack of transparency and participation has resulted in socially biased procedures against the most vulnerable. It discusses the following points:

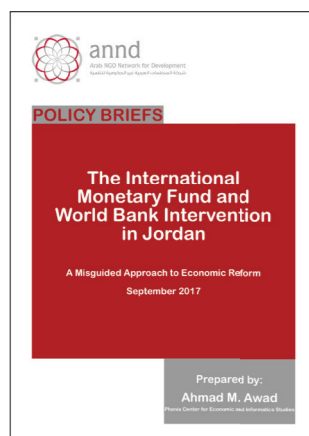
- 1) What the IMF the World Bank have proposed to achieve fiscal consolidation (wages and fuel subsidies cuts)
- 2) How did the IMF call for a parallel policy that undermines this objective (monetary policy)
- 3) Alternatives that could have achieved the same objective without incurring such high social cost.



Tunisia: Tunisia and IMF: transitional injustice

04/10/2017

Despite a significant change in the narrative of the IMF's reports following the Tunisian Revolution in 2011, the policy-related conditions imposed in return for the disbursement of the loan tranches are in line with those set out in IMF structural adjustment plan of 1986. History has been repeating itself since 2012 and the IMF and the World Bank are coordinating and working together to continue the deregulation and liberalization of the Tunisian economy, under way since 1986. Liberalization without improving the country's production capacity entail the risk of increasing unemployment, further deteriorating the balance of payments and the trade balance, already largely in deficit, thus increasing indebtedness.



Jordan: The International Monetary Fund and World Bank Intervention in Jordan

04/10/2017





This paper examines IMF and World Bank interventions in Jordan, and their policy impact on the country's society and economy, and how they have contributed Jordan's ever increasing dependence on foreign assistance, and the growing influence of international actors on the country's internal affairs. It provides a background of the socioeconomic conditions Jordan faced in the years leading up to the signing of its first stand-by agreement with the IMF in 1989. It also provides an overview of the first IMF and World Bank interventions in Jordan, which took place between 1989 and 2004, and their impact. Then, it examines the IMF's approach to financial assistance in Jordan since 2012, and where the country stands today, against the backdrop of its recent past.

The Arab NGO Network for Development works 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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