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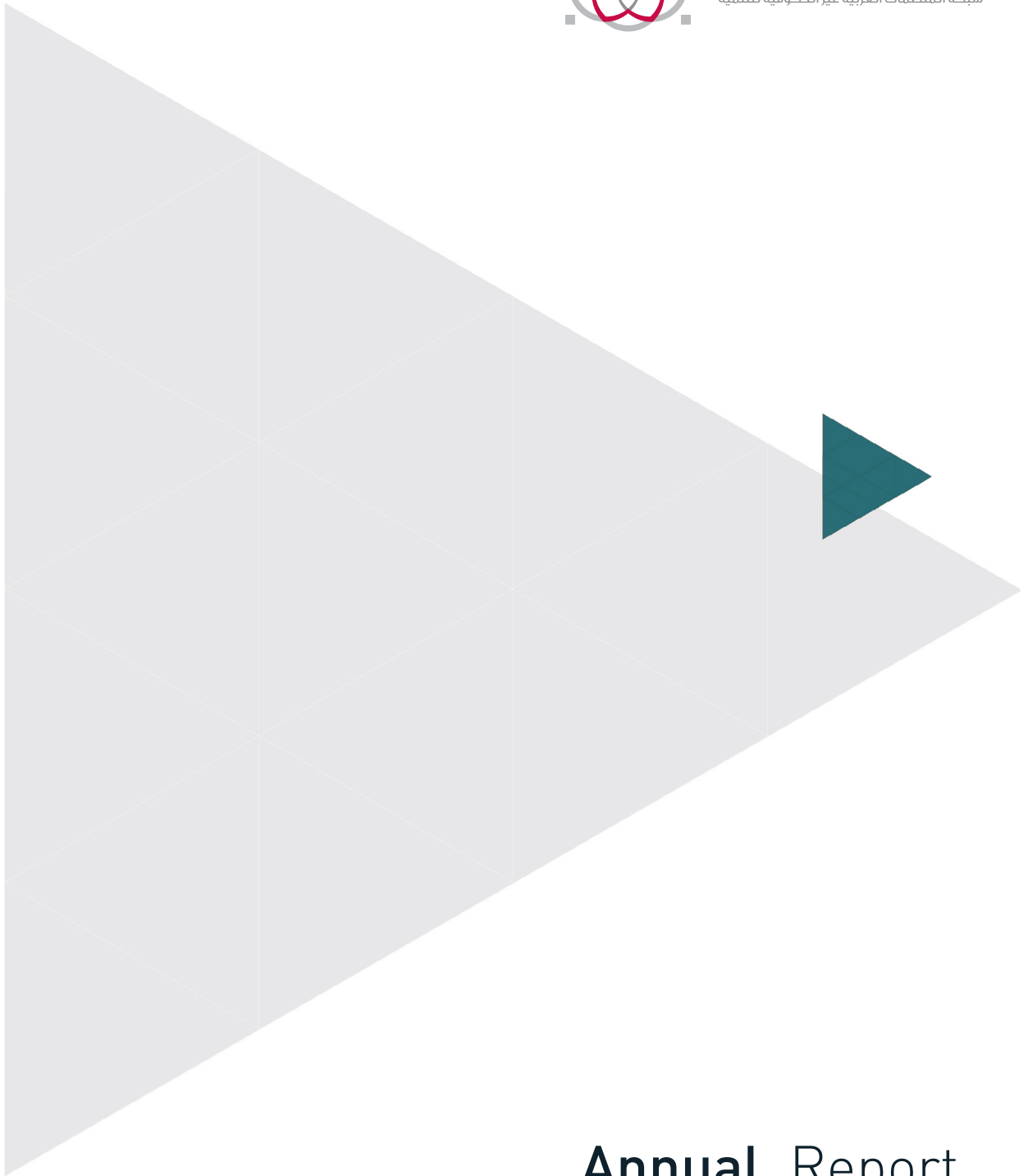
Arab NGO Network for Development
شبكة المنظمات العربية غير الحكومية للتنمية

Annual Report 2022



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Arab NGO Network for Development
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Annual Report
2022



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Foreword

adhered to the principle of shared but varying responsibility for climate deterioration. They considered that industrialized countries bear historical responsibility for the consequences of practices that followed industrial development and colonial policies. As well as doubling the gap between developed and developing countries, those practices were responsible for rising global temperatures, causing desertification, threatening biodiversity, and damaging the environment in general.

On the other side, industrialized countries evaded these obligations. Negotiations failed to reach practical solutions or commit to investing in clean technology and spreading it to all countries. The same went for the shift from fossils to clean energy and using sustainable patterns of production and consumption. The war in Ukraine led to a retreat from the Paris (2015) and Glasgow (2021) climate agreements. The negotiators in Sharm el-Sheikh agreed on the principle of establishing a recovery fund. However, differences over the fund's structure, work mechanisms, financing, and priorities led to its referral to the next round of negotiations in Dubai in late 2023.

In light of these international tensions, the region witnessed several negative developments. Regional divisions fueled armed conflicts threatening security and stability. The arrival of extremist forces to power in the Israeli elections, their declaration of expansionist intentions, and

This report documents ANND's activities in 2022, one of the most challenging periods that faced the region and the world.

The past year saw a succession of perilous events with complex repercussions. It began with Russia's war on Ukraine, causing huge losses in lives and property and millions of refugees to Europe. The war also threatened international security and stability. It prompted some European countries to double their defense budgets to produce weapons and support the fighting forces. However, the war's most imminent threat was to energy security. The EU decided to become independent from Russian fossil fuels, which are used as an economic and political weapon and cost European taxpayers nearly 100 billion euros annually. Moreover, the new situation might also contribute to addressing the climate crisis.

Due to the blockade on Ukraine, several countries adopted export restrictions on foodstuffs. Global food prices rose sharply, as did global food prices, poverty, and exclusion. "The Ukrainian war had repercussions on 1.6 billion people and 94 countries," declared the German special envoy to Syria. These emerging crises are threatening political stability and exacerbating the food crisis in the region.

The climate negotiations that took place at the end of the year in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, revealed a wide schism between developing and developed countries. The former

the adoption of strict judicial measures against the objectors, defenders of their lands, and adherents to the right to self-determination have led to more tension and violations by the occupying forces against the Palestinian people. They also weakened the capacities of the Palestinian Authority in light of global silence about the terrible crimes committed daily against unarmed civilians, children, and the elderly.

These developments had a serious impact on the economic and social situation in the region. Despite the profits achieved by oil-exporting countries due to the rise in oil prices, the rates of poverty, unemployment, and inflation in the remaining countries increased significantly. The number of poor people reached nearly 130 million, a third of the region's population, except the GCC countries and Libya. In 2022, the inflation rate rose to 14% in the region, which recorded the highest unemployment rate globally at 12%. This is in addition to the deepening inequality gap between Arab countries and within each country.

The Arab region ranks first globally in income inequality, with 15% of the population controlling more than 60% of the income, compared to 36% in Europe and 47% in the US. However, these numbers reflected the pre-Corona situation, and it is expected that the pandemic has deepened the gap.

Covid-19 damaged many economies in the region. Some governments took harsh measures to limit the spread of the virus,

slowing down economic growth and increasing unemployment rates. Although a few countries are beginning to achieve some economic recovery, long-term effects will remain. They include accumulated debt, labor market fluctuations, and changes in consumer behavior. It is expected that it will take many countries years to fully recover from the pandemic.

The region's population suffered during the pandemic, highlighting the Arab countries' weak capacities in responding to crises in general. The health system's fragility, in particular, was apparent, especially in terms of limiting the spread, providing treatment, and, at a later stage, securing vaccines fairly. Democracy and political participation did not fare better. Challenges included government restrictions on public gatherings and the freedom of expression. The pandemic demonstrated the need for transparency and accountability in government actions, in addition to inclusive participation and effective communication. Nonetheless, some governments used the pandemic as a pretext to suppress political dissent and silence critical voices.

Social conditions worsened due to the decline in growth rates, slowing economies, high inflation rates, high public indebtedness, and deficits in the budget and balance of payments. Thus, Arab countries turned to international financial institutions, especially the IMF, which requires that countries adhere to





structural reform programs. Such programs will consequently impact institutions, fiscal and monetary policies, economic trends, and public spending, especially on services, without any comprehensive development vision that adopts social policies that contribute to improving people's living conditions and alleviating poverty.

In light of this situation, ANND focused in its adopted strategy on five strategic goals that ultimately lead to strengthening and empowering society to achieve a balance of power that contributes to enhancing participation in public policy-making and ensuring that reform programs take into account the interests of various groups in society, including the most vulnerable groups. ANND's strategy stems from the need to build a critical civic mass that is capable of movement and expression and that possesses the required knowledge and auxiliary technical tools in an enabling environment.

ANND adheres to a development vision that links together its five integrated and comprehensive dimensions: the political, the economic, the social, the environmental, and the cultural. On the other hand, the vision constitutes a firm basis stemming from human rights, justice, sustainability, and partnership as a condition for a successful development effort. It also contributed greatly to achieving some progress in the results, which the report will shed light on. The most prominent of these successes is, perhaps, the expansion of relations with international

partners and regional and local partnerships with various stakeholders from decision-makers, the private sector, civil society, and academia. It included the involvement of hundreds of activists in ANND's work and activities, especially in capacity building and development programs, multilateral national dialogues, meetings with international institutions, and the production of knowledge materials, policy papers, and analytical and training materials, all of which are available on the network's website.

This year, ANND achieved remarkable developments in institutional building, planning and evaluation tools, human resources, and communication and networking policies.

Despite the difficulties they faced and the challenges that the countries and peoples of the region are experiencing, these achievements would not have been possible without the commitment to ANND principles shown by members, partners, friends, and the executive team as a whole.

Beirut, February 27, 2023
Ziad Abdel Samad

Strategic Goal 1

Build a critical mass of development actors and partners in the Arab region to become effective in development policies at national levels—including those related to economic and social rights, trade union and professional demands, and CSO involvement in influencing social and economic policies, women’s empowerment, integrating PwDs and defending minority rights—through influencing alternative policy proposals and raising awareness.

The following achievements reflect the progress towards strategic goal 1 in 2022:

-  More than 250 ANND Member and Partner Organization representatives participated and benefited from the network’s capacity-building and dialogue processes at the national and regional levels.
-  ANND members and partners have used the developed capacities and skills in the regional TOT and disseminated them in national TOTs in Lebanon and Jordan to create a snowball effect.
-  Participants in study weeks and capacity-building events showed interest in writing about the topics they have learned, which would help disseminate the acquired knowledge.
-  Selected members and partners are collaborating and taking part in networking opportunities. For example, ANND members in Jordan established an alliance around the voluntary national report in 2022.

Activities

A. Regional Training of Trainers (ToT) on advocacy and the SDGs

Between 21 and 23 September 2022 and in the framework of the Safir project, ANND organized a regional in-person Training of Trainers (ToT) in Beirut, Lebanon. The ToT reviewed the primary training toolkits ANND developed between 2021 and 2022 on Agenda 2030, SDGs, and advocacy.

23 representatives of 17 CSOs partners in Safir from Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, and Libya attended the ToT. It was a continuation of a series of training activities organized virtually in July and September 2021 that benefited all 20 CSOs partners in the project. Thus, the ToT content responded to the CSO's needs as expressed in the virtual workshops.

Two experts delivered the training, covering Agenda 2030 concepts, indicators, and monitoring tools for the SDGs implementation, as well as partnerships in the framework of development and Agenda 2030. On day 2 of the ToT, ANND took the opportunity to launch and discuss the report on culture and its transformative role in the region. Moreover, the 17 CSOs represented during the ToT benefited from meeting and exchanging with other Safir partners, incubators and universities. Following a series of working groups gathering, all these different partners and participants discussed their roles in the development process and the ways to engage youth in the SDGs. The discussion should pave the way for future collaboration among these partners at the national level.

During the ToT sessions, we noticed a clear interest in understanding the role of CSOs in development and the monitoring framework of progress toward achieving the SDGs. Given their experience at the local and national levels, CSOs started to acknowledge their relevance to Agenda 2030 and how to act as a watchdog/monitor for progress from their perspective.

Moreover, the 20 CSOs part of the Safir project disseminated this knowledge produced by ANND to a broader audience, particularly to around **400 young men and women from nine Arab countries:** Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine, Syria, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, and Algeria. Between October 2022 and February 2023, each CSO organized 40h to 50h training sessions with about 20 youths on advocacy, Agenda 2030, and SDGs. They were primarily based on the training sessions they attended with ANND: virtually in the summer of 2021 and more recently in-person in September 2022.

B. Two National ToTs in Jordan and Lebanon

Following regional ToT sessions organized on Agenda 2030 and sustainable human development, national ToT sessions took place in Jordan and Lebanon. In Jordan, the national-level ToT session was organized between the 1st and the 5th of February 2022 in cooperation with SIGI Jordan.



The training course on the role of young men and women in implementing the SDGs engaged 15 young men and women from the northern, southern, and central provinces.

In Lebanon, Mouvement Social organized two national ToT sessions. The first occurred on the 15th and 16th of June 2022, and the second on the 22nd and 23rd of June 2022. In both sessions, the training curriculum on Agenda 2030 was adopted and used by the national focal points.

These national ToT sessions were linked with advocacy and networking efforts. For instance, those participating in the Jordan ToT reported forming the Jordan Civil Alliance for Sustainable Development to prepare and engage in Jordan's Voluntary National Review (VNR) session during the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2022. ANND also engaged with UN DESA and Major Groups.

Many training participants noted they will continue monitoring the Agenda 2030 implementation. "I wrote articles on defense laws and their impact on the SDGs during the closures. I had stopped publishing my writings. Today, however, after the training and the boost of positive energy, I will publish my books and highlight these laws and their impact on sustainable development," said Inas Fahmi.

C. Study Week 2022 on macroeconomic, trade, investment, and development policies

ANND organized its annual study week on macroeconomic, trade, investment, and development policies in collaboration with the Asfari

Center and Third World Network between the 12th and the 16th of December 2022. The study week 2022 edition engaged 9 participants from Lebanon, Jordan, Tunisia, Morocco, Sudan, and Egypt. Several international and regional experts intervened during the week, including Roberto Bissio, Barbara Adams; Yoke Linn, Mohamad Saadi, Adib Nehmeh, Isabel Ortiz, Wael Gamal, Joseph Schechla, Habib Maalouf, Naser Abdelkarim, Zeina Abla and Kinda Mohammadih.

ANND programs and communication staff also benefited from the Study Week program. Study Week participants indicated their interest in learning and researching the topics at hand, including SDGs, climate change, multidimensional poverty, and social protection. In the follow-up survey, some participants indicated their willingness to research further and write on financing social protection systems, the link between entrepreneurship, the gig economy, and hyper-exploitation of labor, debt, and austerity. The researchers contributed to ANND's monthly newsletter with their enhanced capacity.

D. The BADNA civic activism program

ANND collaborated with the Asfari Institute to organize the BADNA civic activism program. Between the 26th of November and the 2nd of December, 2022, around 20 young activists from the region participated in the event. ANND coordinated sessions with Ziad Abdel Samad, Wael Gamal, and Marie Noelle Abiyaghi. In addition, ANND's contribution helped expand sessions on political economy in the Arab region, civil society's role, and networking.

E. Regional summer school on social protection

In collaboration with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, ANND organized a Summer School for young researchers and professionals on the State of Social Protection in the MENA Region. The Summer School took place in Tunis, Tunisia, from the 5th to the 9th of September 2022. ANND contributed to developing the call for applications, selecting the participants, and nominating speakers and trainers for the different sessions. Moreover, ANND expert Adib Nehmeh presented two lectures on “Poverty in the MENA Region” and “Inequality in the MENA Region.” In addition, he led a detailed case study on social protection in Lebanon (government, WB, IMF, ILO, civil society).

Nineteen researchers from countries across the MENA region attended the summer school. They included post-doctoral, Ph.D., and Masters students in political science, sociology, and economics. The participants—from Lebanon, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, and Jordan—received certificates at the end of the training. Most participants rated the Summer School as very good or excellent. Thirteen out of 16 reported that the summer school helped them improve their skills, and 14 out of 16 said their objectives for having attended the summer school were met.

F. Anabtaoui Training

The Arab Institute for Human Rights organized the annual training *Anabtaoui 32* on “the protection of civic space and human rights defenders in the Arab region” in partnership and cooperation with ANND, the Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions, Abaad Association - Resource Center for Gender Equality, Basma International Humanitarian Aid Group, and the Tunisian Association for Reproductive Health.

The first training phase took place virtually between the 30th of July and the 28th of August, 2022, bringing together 146 participants (66 male- 88 female) from 19 Arab countries. The second was attended in person and organized in Tunisia between the 4th and the 13th of November, 2022. It included 29 participants (19 females and ten males) from 16 Arab countries.

The evaluation was in two parts, daily and at the end of the training. Below are the main results:

- The participants highly appreciated the intervention of the Special Rapporteur on the right to peaceful assembly and association during the opening session.
- The geographical diversity of the participants from 19 Arab countries enriched the training.
- The diversity of trainers, including 18 different countries, allowed the possibility to refer to concrete examples.
- The partnership with five organizations added value to *Anabtaoui 32*. In addition, ANND’s studies and reports on civic space in the Arab region enriched the discussion.





G. Plan and organize capacity-building workshops and training to engage civil society in policy-making processes in Yemen

ANND organized initial planning with Yemeni members and partners on the 28th of March, 2022. The meeting aimed to identify Yemeni CSOs' capacity-building needs and priorities and assess the national context for organizing in-person/hybrid meetings. Based on the meeting outcome, ANND developed a concept note identifying three critical themes for research and collected a list of potential researchers. As a result, ANND will implement the research and capacity-building sessions in the first half of 2023.

H. Online Session on IFIs' role in Iraq

Civil society is crucial in monitoring international financial institutions, engaging in relevant advocacy spaces, and presenting policy alternatives from a human rights and social justice perspective. This role is significant but equally challenging when there is a lack of awareness and knowledge. Previously, ANND had engaged in monitoring, research, and advocacy work on IMF policy recommendations in several countries of the Arab region (Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia, and Lebanon). However, work in Iraq remains lacking. Thus, in late 2022, ANND initiated research assessing economic policy reforms in Iraq and the IMF's role in their support (looking at promoted structural reforms and their impacts). The first session on the report was organized on the 21st of December, 2022, with 17 participants, including the researcher, ANND, and ANND's national focal point in Iraq. The final research work will inform capacity building through an in-person session in Iraq by the end of January 2023.



Safir Youth Forum



Regional Meeting for CSOs on Sustainable Development



Study Week 2022 on macroeconomic, trade, investment and development policies



Regional summer school on social protection

Strategic Goal 2

Community organizations are successfully influencing alternative national, regional and international development policies by working together and collaborating to put pressure on international, regional, and national institutions.

The following achievements reflect the progress towards strategic goal 2 in 2022:

-  More than 500 participations of ANND members and partners took place in constructive dialogues with national, regional, and international institutions around alternative development policies.
-  ANND members and partners interacted with policymakers at the national level through four national multi-stakeholder dialogues organized in 2022, using the developed capacities and the different research efforts.
-  ANND members and partners interacted with international institutions (UN agencies and the World Bank) through consultations organized by these institutions, using the developed capacities and the different research efforts.
-  International institutions show interest in ANND policy proposals through the continuous engagement of ANND members and partners in consultation processes.

Activities

A. The Regional Meeting for CSOs on Sustainable Development

ANND and the members of the Regional Platform on Sustainable Development organized the Regional Meeting for CSOs on Sustainable Development on the 13th and 14th of March 2022, in Beirut. The meeting aimed to promote the dialogue between CSOs in preparation for the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in collaboration with the League of Arab States between the 15th and 17th of the month.

More than 60 representatives of Arab CSOs, experts, and academics attended the meeting physically and via Zoom. The meeting was composed of five sessions focusing on COVID-19 and de-development, macroeconomic inequalities, nation-building, regional political reform needs, green transition, digital transformation, and means of implementation and financing for development. At the end of the five sessions, five working groups developed sets of recommendations presented to UN ESCWA as input from civil society. In addition, they highlighted the main concerns regarding the economic and social development of the region. The outcome report guided the side event organized at HLPF 2022 and will inform further advocacy efforts.

ANND organized the meeting in parallel to the Regional Youth Forum, allowing the engagement of youth participants with ANND members and partners. The interactive discussion that took place and the working group sessions allowed direct experience

sharing. The youth actively presented their main problems and formulated recommendations to address them.

B. Youth Forum

ANND organized the first Youth Forum Under the Safir project between the 12th and 14th of March 2022. The in-person Forum in Beirut discussed major development challenges and priorities in the region from the viewpoint of youth. It gathered 55 participants, including beneficiaries from the training activities on advocacy and SDGs between September 2021 and February 2022 and representatives of 20 CSOs as part of the Safir project. The youth proactively engaged in the sessions designed for the YF and the Regional Meeting for CSOs on Sustainable Development. They listed the main challenges and impediments to development in local and regional contexts. They successfully proposed concrete steps, actions, and recommendations to promote youth engagement in the development process across the region. These recommendations are incorporated in the outcome document presented to ESCWA.

C. HLPF side event

ANND organized an online side event at High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2022 on the 15th of July, 2022, bringing together international and regional experts. Around 50 participants attended the event to discuss interlinked crises from an Arab perspective. The meeting initially aimed to unpack the crises, the root causes, and implications and analyze the impacts on the region. It focused on alternative financing measures, climate change





impacts, and the need to transition to a fairer economic model that accounts for the environment and the more vulnerable. The speakers proposed a set of recommendations that tackled the need to move from neoliberal to progressive development models, push for more investments in greener technologies, and integrate regional economies in a mutually supportive manner.

D. Regional Seminar on Economic & Social Issues

In the second phase of the “SOLiD project: Promoting Social Dialogue in the Southern Mediterranean countries,” ANND organized a Tripartite Regional Seminar on Economic & Social Issues with a Focus on Youth and Women on the 29th and 30th of March 2022. The seminar brought together representatives of women’s rights and youth organizations and representatives of the European Union, international organizations, employers, trade unions, civil society organizations, and local authorities to discuss ways to establish and strengthen regional social dialogue. In addition, the seminar tackled employment challenges, accountability, and post covid recovery. In this context, ANND intervened about the accountability of development partners based on the last AWR 2021, tackling the role of youth in attaining accountability to ensure gender justice.

E. Consultations and Engagement in the World Bank project to green Lebanon’s economic and social recovery agenda in April 2022

ANND worked closely with the World Bank, which is leading a project with other partners (LCPS and IFI), to develop a proposal to advocate for the inclusion of green policies in the Lebanese Government’s recovery plan.

ANND took charge of developing the paper on green fiscal and financial policies and instruments, highlighting the role and challenges of the private sector in promoting green investments in Lebanon. This activity took place through weekly online meetings from June until October 2022.

A policy paper was developed, introducing concepts of green finance to the discourse in Lebanon and specifically in the Government’s recovery plan. Several online meetings and discussions took place over three months to reach the final version of the policy paper on green finance. Partners and experts exchanged topics related to green financing tools, how to introduce them in different productive sectors of the Lebanese economy, and how to raise awareness of green financing concepts amid a deteriorating economic situation and lack of access to financing.

Although the policy paper was finalized, the panel bringing together the Minister of Environment could not take place in light of a caretaker government, given the political situation in the country. However, knowledge has been built, and ANND can engage in this area whenever the opportunity arises.

F. Dialogues on country-specific development cooperation effectiveness issues (Tunisia, Morocco, Sudan)

With support from CPDE and SIDA, three national dialogues were held in Tunisia, Sudan, and Morocco, respectively. Each national dialogue brought together people from different sectors to discuss country-specific development effectiveness issues. In Tunisia, the discussion was organized in October 2022 with the support of ANND partner Salaheddin Al Jourchi and the Tunisian School of Politics, which helped with the logistics. It focused on the constitutional changes in Tunisia in July 2022 and their impact on civil society and the democratic transition in the country. In Morocco, the dialogue was organized by partners Espace Associatif in September 2022. It focused on the private sector's role in development and the state of civic space and civil society in the country. In Sudan, the dialogue was held in May 2022 and organized by the NIDAA association, a partner organization of ANND. It focused on the role of civil society and civic space in Sudan, especially in the context of last year's coup and its implications for the democratic transition.

Each of the dialogues resulted in outcome documents surrounding their respective themes. In Tunisia, for example, it was through direct knowledge sharing between participants from different CSOs and political parties engaged in the transition. The meeting also helped raise awareness among groups about the possible risks that can affect civil society work in Tunis. In the instance of Sudan, the outcome document also included gaps, future steps for civil society, priorities for action concerning laws and

policies, advocacy, and civil society participation in development.

G. A multi-stakeholder national dialogue in Lebanon around development cooperation effectiveness issues

With support from CPDE, a national dialogue session was held in Lebanon on the 16th of November, 2022, in Beirut. The dialogue gathered participants from different sectors, including Members of Parliament (MPs), journalists, industrialists, farmers, business owners, civil society actors, representatives from INGOs such as UNICEF and the ILO, and other relevant stakeholders. During the session, gaps in three aspects of the suggested financial recovery plan were identified and presented: political/institutional, social policy, and financial/economic. The dialogue was held in the ECOSOC building in Beirut and attended by some committee members. It was a very fruitful discussion and exchange between the participants. In addition, an outcome report including all main recommendations, findings, and inputs was elaborated on following the dialogue.





H. UNSDCF consultations with civil society actors (CSOs) in Lebanon

ANND was invited to participate in consultations with local civil society representatives on the identified national priorities in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) framework held on the 30th of March 2022. UN Women led the consultations with CSOs on behalf of all UN entities in Lebanon. They covered issues related to Peace and Governance, People, Planet, and Prosperity. As a result, the 25 CSOs participating in the consultation meeting proposed concrete actions and recommendations under the 4 Ps of Agenda 2030 (People, Peace, Prosperity, and Planet). In particular, ANND worked on the Prosperity pillar and offered feedback on the proposed UNSDCF priorities. UN Women was keen to incorporate the recommendations proposed by ANND, particularly on social protection and social justice.

I. Participation in 2022 Structured dialogue on the implementation of the EU's Gender Action Plan III (GAP III)

The Policy Forum on Development (PFD) invited ANND to participate in the second annual session of the structured dialogue on the implementation of the EU's Gender Action Plan III (GAP III) on the 1st of December, 2022. The structured dialogue discussed the global context of gender equality, the way forward with the implementation of the EU (GAP III), and the challenges and opportunities of gender equality in digital transformation. ANND was among the very few organizations representing the Arab region. Thus, its input and participation were welcomed and appreciated, especially during the group discussions addressing the intersectionality of gender equality in the work of CSOs.

Strategic Goal 3

ANND produces knowledge that proposes policy alternatives and serves tasks related to advocacy, awareness-raising, and communication with parties concerned with economic, social, and cultural policies in the Arab region.

The following achievements reflect the progress towards strategic goal 3 in 2022:

-  ANND members and partners have produced more than ten papers on economic and social policies responding to timely challenges published in 2022.
-  ANND members and partners have produced more than ten draft papers of the Arab watch report that will be published in 2023, proposing alternative health policies for the region.
-  ANND members and partners, as well as extended development actors, including CSOs, academia, media, and trade unions in the Arab region, have access to the knowledge produced by ANND through the website, social media, and physical distribution at regional events.
-  ANND members, partners, and extended development actors, including CSOs, academia, media, and trade unions in the Arab region, refer to the knowledge produced in research, statements, and policy dialogues.

Activities

A. The Arab Watch Report 2023 on the Right to Health

ANND is producing the sixth Arab Watch Report 2023 on the Right to Health, proposing alternative public health policies. The lead author developed the Background Paper in May 2022, detailing the aims of the report and the methodology of national and thematic reports. In May-July 2022, national authors were selected from 11 Arab countries. They were contracted and attended bilateral introductory meetings with the lead author. They also participated in an Advisory Board meeting held on the 5th of June, 2022. In parallel, contracts were signed with ANND members in each represented country to organize national consultations. In addition, experts were identified and contracted to develop the four thematic papers on neoliberal policies, the right to health through a social protection lens, COVID-19, and the right to health of non-citizens. In November 2022, the ANND team and the lead author identified the need for a fifth thematic paper on health governance. In addition, they commissioned a case study from Kuwait to ensure representation from the Gulf region.

The national authors are currently developing their national reports. To this end, national consultation meetings were held in Egypt, Jordan, Yemen, and Palestine. The remaining researchers held bilateral meetings with the national partners to identify thematic priorities in each country. Where possible, researchers also conducted key informant interviews with Ministry of Health and Ministry of Social Affairs

representatives in their respective countries and the private sector, CSOs, national and international NGOs, and public health experts. On the 1st of November, 2022, an online meeting was held for all national researchers. The lead author and project coordinator provided general guidelines and recommendations to improve the first drafts.

As of the 27th of December 2022, nine complete first drafts of the national reports and case studies have been submitted and revised. Three second drafts have been submitted and are currently under revision. In addition, national dialogues were held in seven countries: Egypt, Iraq, Mauritania, Palestine, Sudan, Yemen, and Tunisia. On the 15th of December, 2022, the AWR lead author Dr. Sawsan Abdulrahim gave a session on the right to health to attendees at ANND's study week. It was preceded by an introduction to the Arab Watch Report 2023 on the Right to Health by the project's coordinator. Previously, on the 7th of December 2022, Ziad Abdel Samad presented the AWR 2023. In particular, he discussed social protection and the right to health during a workshop organized by the Arab Reform Initiative on Building Universal Social Protection Systems in the Arab Region.

During the national dialogues, the national researchers presented the main findings of their report on the right to health. In addition, they elicited feedback from the attendees regarding their recommendations for achieving the right to health in their respective countries. On several occasions, attendees were divided into working groups to identify the main barriers and priorities in achieving the right to health in the respective





country. In some countries, participants devised a joint action plan or advocacy plan (Egypt, Mauritania, Tunisia). The activity ensured the actionability of recommendations coming out of the national dialogues to be included in the national report. The national discussions were attended by various relevant actors, including representatives from the government (Ministries of Health, Labor, Social Affairs, Culture), civil society actors, academics and experts, students, and local and international NGOs. In addition, they were featured on social media pages and news channels.

The outcomes and findings of the Arab Watch Reports provided background and knowledge to ANND members, researchers, staff, and partners. In addition, they were used in various processes for capacity building and advocacy purposes. Some examples are detailed below:

- **Capacity building at the Study Week:** ANND has been organizing the Annual Study Week on Macroeconomic, Trade, Investment, and Development Policies for researchers in the Arab region since 2012. In December 2021, the Study Week brought together international and regional participants and experts. The 2020 Study Week program had a dedicated session during day five on questioning the role of the private sector in development. This session was elaborated by the AWR expert Kinda Mohammadih who referred to the 2021 report towards a broader engagement of youth in the Arab Countries.
- **Arab Forum for Sustainable Development AFSD-2022:** AWR findings are used during the preparatory civil society meeting on sustainable development before Arab Forum on Sustainable Development. The findings were presented,

discussed, and integrated into the outcome report. Furthermore, the 2022 pre-AFSD meeting referred to the AWR 2021 findings on the role of the private sector.

- **Social and Economic Inequality in the MENA Region:** Based on the second AWR report produced in 2014, ANND intervened in a conference on social contestation, social policies, and the impact of IMF loans in the MENA. During its intervention in the event entitled “No Progress on the Social Front: Struggles over Social Justice in MENA,” ANND addressed “Inequality through Tax Justice and Universal Social Protection.” The event took place on the 17th and 18th of March 2022 in Tunis. It was organized by the German political foundation Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt, and other partners.
- **Regional Seminar on Economic & Social Issues:** In the second phase of the SOLiD project, ANND organized a Tripartite Regional Seminar on Economic & Social Issues. The seminar brought together representatives of the EU, international organizations, employers, trade unions, CSOs, and local authorities to discuss ways to establish and strengthen social dialogue in the region. In this context, ANND’s intervention focused on the accountability of development partners based on the last AWR 2021, tackling the role of youth in attaining accountability to ensure gender justice.

B. Conduct a study on ODA and donors' role in conflict situations in the region



ANND developed a study on ODA and donors' role in fragile situations in the Arab region. The research consisted of one main paper by Nassim Abi Ghanem addressing general information and recent trends around ODA disbursement sectors in the region. The rest of the paper consists of three national case studies around ODA, with a focus on Lebanon (Marie Jose Saade), Yemen (Waleed Ali), and Iraq (Hasan Al-Zubaidi). They considered the relevance of development funds in these contexts. The study was published on ANND's website and shared through our social media channels. In addition, the main findings were presented during ANND's Regional Meeting for CSOs on sustainable development held in Beirut, Lebanon, on the 13th and 14th of March 2022.

With the support from CPDE and SIDA in November and December 2022, ANND developed infographics in Arabic and English around the main recommendations and findings of the research paper 'Analysis of ODA in Countries Experiencing Conflicts' published in June 2022. The infographics will be published tri-weekly through the ANND website and channels starting January 2023 to have a consistent online campaign for a month and a half.

C. Conduct a national paper on Financing Issues in Lebanon



The paper "Which financing for what development?" was developed by Viviane Akiki and published in Arabic in April 2022 and divided into two parts. The first deals with the political economy of Lebanon at various stages. It focuses on the retreat of the state and the liberalization of the movement of capital and trade since independence. The paper analyzes the frameworks of this political economy's formation, consequences, and repercussions of the economic collapse. The second part deals with available financing models and resources to achieve goals and visions that rebuild an economy in the service of society instead of continuing to serve a "happy few." This task is neither theoretical nor technical. It is at the heart of the political struggle to reverse the balance of power and impose political choices that do not leave the action to the doer or the matter to its course. Rather, they redefine the shape of the state we want and its economy and work to build them. This paper was used during the tripartite workshop of the Solid two project organized by Businessmed to help





set the economic and financial context in Lebanon before engaging in the tripartite dialogue between civil society, trade unions, and private sector representatives. The paper's content is expected to influence the development of the Charter that will be raised to the Lebanese government in the context of the Solid project.

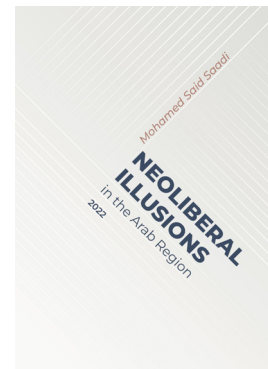
D. Conduct a national paper on IMF in Egypt (Social Justice Platform)



A paper around IMF plans in Egypt, “Debt for Development in the Case of Egypt: Dogmas and Mirages,” was developed by colleagues Omar Ghannam and Kareem Megahed. It examined the relationship between the Egyptian government and the IMF, measures taken at the financial and economic levels, and their impacts at the socioeconomic level. It also evaluated the effectiveness of big-scale projects. The paper also focused on the New Administrative Capital, assessing its added value and significance to the working class in Egypt. It was published on the ANND website and shared through the newsletter and social media channels.

Researcher Omar Ghannam presented the findings and main issues stated in the paper during the Regional Meeting for CSOs on Sustainable Development held in Beirut, Lebanon, on the 13th and 14th of March, 2022. The meeting was attended by most ANND members, partners, and CSO representatives from the region and beyond. In addition, it was streamed on social media platforms. Furthermore, an informative [video](#) comparing the IMF experiences of Lebanon and Egypt was filmed with researchers of both papers. It was also shared on social media, gathering 4.4K views until today on YouTube only.

E. Publication of the book “Neoliberal Illusions in the Arab Region”



A book entitled “Neoliberal Illusions in the Arab Region” by Mohammad Saadi was published in English and Arabic. It tackles the impact of neoliberal policies adopted by Arab countries on development and citizens’ economic and social rights. Through a collection of previously published papers, it attempts to refute claims of neoliberalism’s positive impact, highlighting the

repercussions of such policies on Arab economies in areas such as trade and economic relations, food security, growing vulnerability, and the growth of informal work, and obstacles to accessing essential services under Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs).

F. Develop the French and English versions of the study on culture and its summary



Under the Safir project, ANND finalized the consolidated version and the summary of the study on culture in English and French.

ANND organized the first launching event (hybrid form) in Tripoli, Lebanon, on the 15th of January, 2021, in collaboration with the Municipality of Tripoli and l'Institut Français de Tripoli. On the 4th of March, ANND and the Press Syndicate, Espace Associatif, and Pionniers du Changement organized a similar event in person in Rabat. The final national-level event was organized on the 7th of March in Tunisia, following an online format and in collaboration with CAWTAR and ANJAD.

Moreover, ANND prepared a video featuring all the

researchers who contributed to the report on culture. It included key results and messages. The video shall be disseminated around April 2022, before and after the regional launching event of the study, which will take place in May 2022.

On day 2 of the regional ToT (the 22nd of September 2022), ANND took the opportunity to launch and discuss the report developed on culture and its transformative role in the region.

G. Paper about the Financing for Development (FfD) process in MENA

In partnership with the Society for International Development (SID), ANND developed a paper on the Financing for Development (FfD) process in the MENA region. This paper is part of SID and its partners' broader efforts to promote the FfD process in the Global South. It proposes alternative solutions to advocate at the international level without accumulating unsustainable debt levels, for example. In addition, the paper will serve as an advocacy tool to promote fair, just, and equitable solutions for financing in the MENA considering the previously conducted international conferences. The latest was the Beirut Consensus at ESCWA in 2018 and the need for a new international conference.





H. Economic integration and development in the Arab countries Study

In June 2022, ANND developed this study to present functional alternatives for post-recovery after covid, with an overall objective to assess economic integration among Arab countries and its impact on development. The first draft has been completed and submitted to a group of experts who reviewed it and provided their comments. ANND's team incorporated the comments accordingly. In addition, ANND disseminated the first draft to its regional partners and experts and is preparing to organize a regional roundtable in July 2022 to discuss and finalize the last draft.

I. Conduct national case studies on development partnerships, including PPPs

In preparation for a series of workshops to be held in the first quarter of 2023, two different mappings/assessments were prepared by colleagues from CAWTAR in Tunisia and colleagues from the Lebanese Transparency Association (LTA) in Lebanon. The first paper tackles SDG 17, around partnerships for the goals, and addresses partnerships for development from a human-rights and gender-focused perspective. It includes case studies from more than four countries in the region. The second paper also tackles the subject of partnerships from a human-rights perspective. However, it focuses on transparency and access to information.

J. Develop the methodology for the People's Recovery Project, and begin research on Lebanon and Jordan

ANND and the Phenix Center collected the data respective to each country. Then, they developed a paper introduced to Christian Aid's Global Report entitled "Recovery at a Crossroads: How countries spent Covid-19 Funds." In September, Christian Aid launched a media campaign to share the main findings of the global report. The report was edited by ANND. It used its main results for Lebanon to highlight the absence of social protection, the role of the international community, and the need to elaborate robust social protection plans and strong state institutions, given an unsustainable mere dependence on international aid and loans.

K. Analyze National VNR reports from the Arab region for Progressing SDGs National Implementation Report

ANND is part of the coalition of CSOs from around the world developing an independent analysis of reporting by UN Member States to the (HLPF). The coalition assessed the VNR reports submitted to HLPF 2022 from the Arab region, including Jordan, Sudan, and UAE. The final report, to be published in 2023, will be used to advocate during HLPF 2023 preparations. ANND has been coordinating and contributing to this analysis since 2018.

Strategic Goal 4

ANND supports efforts to improve the civil society enabling environment in Arab countries through networking and providing channels for dialogue at the national, regional, and international levels.

The following achievements reflect the progress towards strategic goal 4 in 2022:

-  CSOs in the Arab region developed six national reports. They provided more than 120 updates on the civic space situation in their countries in 2022 that will help better understand overarching civic space issues and advocate for an enabling environment.
-  CSOs in the Arab countries are gathering and translating their efforts into joint advocacy actions/initiatives on the regional and global level to defend civic space.
-  Networking among CSOs is strengthened on the national and regional levels and linked to the global level. It is present in joint and coordinated actions by mandate holders.

Activities

A. Maintain the civic space microsite established in 2018

There is a constant need to update and optimize the Civic Space microsite to render it more accessible and easy to use for our widening audience. In addition, efforts are always ongoing when configuring information and data so our website can attract and inform civil society and other actors.

The civic space monitor has become increasingly known among ANND members, partners, researchers, and regional organizations. Members regularly inform us of any critical change or solidarity action needed to post about it on the civic space website. Input about civil society and civic space to be posted on the website is shared by the focal points, member organizations, and colleagues who work on the same subjects. In addition, our colleague and focal point for the civic space monitor for Jordan participated in the HLPF in June 2022. He spoke about adopting more comprehensive and fair policies towards Jordan and the Arab region and having a more participatory approach concerning development policies. The Sudanese delegation, coordinated by colleague Abbas Medani and the NIDAA team, recommended emphasizing the situation of SDGs and Agenda 2030 implementation from a civil society perspective.

B. Provide monthly national updates

Researchers for the Civic Space monitor continuously share updates about the civic space situation in the 12 Arab countries covered each month. These updates are then posted on our e-monitor to track developments related to the shrinking of civic space in the region. They allow a systematic analysis of the civic space situation in the region and the development of a database around it. The updates also contribute to national and regional reports and help organizations and individuals access reliable information about civic space. More than 11 updates are received and posted monthly on the civic space microsite. In total, more than 120 updates were posted on the microsite in 2022.

The articles/updates are more homogenous than before, despite the difference in country-specific priorities at stances. The update panel was changed to be more attractive and exciting, with the article's central theme now mentioned in the update's title. We have also edited and homogenized the updates (titles, writing format, paragraph) to present more structured data and allow users to find what they are looking for quickly. As planned, we also started translating the website to provide an English version to global users.





C. Develop six national reports on civic space

As part of the civic space monitor program, five national reports around civic space and the situation of civil society were developed from August 2022 until November 2022. The reports focus on: Bahrain, Iraq, Egypt, Sudan, Palestine, and Tunisia and will be ready for design and published in January 2023.

D. UPR Tunisia Report

ANND and CIVICUS presented a joint submission on civic space in Tunisia for the UPR. ANND members and partners ATFD and Kadem also presented two separate reports shedding light on the civic space situation in the country. As a result, an advocacy plan was built with the Tunisian members based on monitoring and reporting. In addition, a joint submission on enabling environment was developed with CIVICUS.

During 2021 civil society groups in Tunisia mobilized on various occasions and formed groups to monitor and advocate for policy changes in the country. They included ANND member Feminist Dynamique. Given the national ownership of the movement when the report was prepared, ANND members encouraged the group to initiate and submit as national efforts. For advocacy at the international level, they are looking for ANND support to engage in pre-sessions in Geneva and advocacy to UN missions before the Tunisia UPR session.

E. Three videos about civic space in Lebanon

In May 2022, ANND developed three videos on the shrinking civic space in Lebanon. They tackled subjects such as official and non-state actors' attacks on freedoms, online campaigns and hate speech against activists and journalists, and the effect of the socioeconomic crisis on civic space. The videos were then shared over the summer on ANND social media channels and disseminated through an online campaign supported by NED as part of the communications activities under the project. The Twitter Analytics are attached to the report and show the videos' reach. They also included prominent journalists, activists, and human rights defenders who shared the videos on their personal social media pages.

F. Provide the CIVICUS monitor monthly updates on the civic space situation in the Arab Region

ANND is a longtime research partner of CIVICUS Monitor. It covers the civic space situation in Lebanon, Jordan, Morocco, Egypt, Tunisia, Palestine, Sudan, Libya, and Algeria, presenting updates on freedom of association, expression, and peaceful assembly. The countries are given ratings ranging from open to narrowed, obstructed, repressed, or closed. Most of the updates posted on the CIVICUS monitor about the Arab region are initially gathered through the work of our focal points in the civic space monitor program.




G. Host a one-day regional online meeting including focal points to identify thematic priorities and advocacy priorities

A two-hour meeting and consultation with the focal points was held on the 8th of June 2022 on Zoom. The first part of the meeting included a presentation from expert Adib Nehme about the meaning of civic space and its role in the democratic transition in the region, as well as a presentation from the project officer about the project itself and its objectives for the rest of the year in relation to advocacy and knowledge production. In the second part of the meeting, we discussed national priorities concerning civic space and freedoms. Each focal point had to mention three priorities according to the type of restriction or freedom. Finally, the last part of the meeting clarified the following practical steps and what to expect from the researchers. The meeting allowed us to develop indicators for civic space priorities, which were then used to focus the national reports and planned communications activities.

Strategic Goal 5

Develop ANND's institutional capacity in coordination, communication, and sustainability.

The following achievements reflect the progress towards strategic goal 4 in 2022

-  Tools to assess ANND's institutional capacities were developed in 2022 and used to plan and implement capacity-building activities for ANND members and partners.
-  Members and partners are using and developing their own policies and tools based on ANND's.
-  ANND's communication strategy was successfully implemented. It systematically supported a better exchange of information, knowledge, and experience to outreach other stakeholders.

Activities

A. Develop a needs assessment in 2022

ANND developed its first needs assessment of the year 2022 in May 2022 with the aim to 1) understand the needs of the members and partners, 2) identify the challenges faced at the national and regional levels, and 3) engage the members and partners in setting the upcoming work priorities of the network.

The survey was precisely based on the indicators set for the five results and strategic goals of ANND. In addition to the background information, the survey contained five main sections, with about ten questions for each. The survey was taken by 28 respondents representing 28 CSOs, including members and partners from 11 Arab countries, namely Tunisia, Bahrain, Mauritania, Morocco, Jordan, Iraq, Palestine, Lebanon, Sudan, Syria, and Egypt. Based on respondents' ranking of the five strategic goals of ANND in line with the organization's overall needs, the priorities can be summed up as follows: 1) capacity development and knowledge production, 2) communication and institutional capacity building, 3) advocacy, and 4) civic space.

The needs assessment was critical in reshaping ANND's strategy while completing the mid-term review around the same period. Thus, respondents' requests were considered and addressed during the strategy's mid-term review.

B. Finalize the communication strategy and keep it updated

The communication strategy plan was implemented to achieve ANND's strategic goals. It was employed in all programs and projects. The implementation of the strategy improved ANND's media presence and amplified stakeholders' engagement. Throughout the past two years, we successfully created an identity for the network. We grew the audience by consistently and coherently implementing communications activities.

ANND communication activities are executed in line with the communication strategy developed in 2020 and the GA and CC members' recommendations and suggestions. Several suggestions were followed, especially those related to strengthening members' technical capacity at the national level to ensure effective communication with the network and its members and providing resources. Following the needs assessment, the communication team will design capacity-building materials to answer the needs.

ANND succeeded in increasing the engagement of stakeholders and exploring new areas and audiences. It invited new contributors to its events and publications, pumping fresh blood into the knowledge produced.





C. ANND Newsletter

ANND publishes regular monthly newsletters with an average of four articles per issue. Members', partners', and experts' contributions provide regional diversity and enrich the content. Newsletters were published regularly in August, September, October, and November 2020 and throughout 2021 and 2022. Articles in the newsletter are designed to keep readers and ANND close circle audience engaged in events and incidents happening in the region from a socioeconomic rights perspective. In 2022, we covered issues from Lebanon, Iraq, Palestine, Egypt, Sudan, Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, and others. We had notable contributions from the 2021 Study Week participants, Safir Youth Forum 2022, and Study Week 2022. Some of our newsletters were thematic. For example, in April 2022, the newsletter focused on women's political participation. In 2022, published newsletters contained new topics and writers, and some issues were thematic. It led to highly localized engagement in some countries based on the writers' influence.

D. Renew the accounting software for improved online access, and enhance the backup system to preserve information

A new advanced accounting software was installed. The new comprehensive software includes a project management tool to enhance planning and M&E. The staff attended training sessions and started operating the new pilot software, which will be fully used as of 2023.

E. Relocation of ANND office

ANND relocated in January 2022.

F. Holding a training on network management

On the 20th of September 2022, ANND held an online training session on Zoom around networking, network management, and partnerships in cooperation with CPDE. The training consisted of different components, including understanding networks and partnerships, principles of networking and partnerships, advocacy networks, and the structures and strategies adopted to organize them. The training was attended by around 15 participants from Mauritania, Palestine, Egypt, Iraq, Algeria, Lebanon, and Sudan from member organizations or previous projects involving youth, such as Safir and ANND's study weeks.

G. Holding a training on project management

On the 17th of November 2022, the ANND team held an online training session on project management on Zoom. The training included different topics and sessions. The first focused on project management and development effectiveness (relevance of effective project management, role of CSOs in ensuring effective management of development projects, and the effectiveness agenda through the MENA lens). Furthermore, the next theme involved project

cycle management, including standard principles of PCM and project components such as scope, time, cost, and quality. These sessions were then followed by buzz group discussions between the participants. The next session focused on results-based and participatory M&E, logical framework analysis, problem analysis, organizational capacity analysis, and theory of change. The training was attended by approximately 40 participants and was very interactive despite being held online. Suggestions and an evaluation also permitted us to gather information for the next possible training theme.

H. ANND fellowship program

The fellowship program started by ANND in 2021 was relaunched in 2022 with partners in Sudan and Morocco, namely NIDAA and Espace Associatif.

The program allowed us to strengthen cooperation between ANND and partners by placing these progressions with ANND national member organizations. The fellows contributed to promoting knowledge exchange and learning. They reinforced coordination and collaboration between the host organizations and ANND while also developing the capacity of both the host organization and their members. More precisely, the fellows in each partner organization supported the delivery and implementation of the organization's strategic and institutional priorities. They were also responsible for coordinating the work related to the civic space monitor project in Sudan and the one related to implementing Agenda 2030 for sustainable development. At the same time, the placed fellows participated in processes related to human rights monitoring mechanisms (UPR and VNR), coordinated

the work related to the Arab Watch report at the national level, and acted as focal points for ANND in areas of M&E, financial reporting, and communication.

I. Inclusion Training

A training session on inclusion was organized virtually on the 27th of July, 2022. The Research expert and a member of the Arab Forum on Peoples with Disabilities joined the session as trainers and 18 trainees. During the first part of the meeting, the main issues from the research were presented. Then, the following three sessions were organized as working groups allowing interactive discussion among the participants. In addition, it also permitted trainers to unpack challenges, opportunities, and strategies for inclusion. Finally, the groups noted the gaps and the need to develop and introduce programs and policies to promote the issue of inclusion.

The ANND inclusion strategy was shared with all participants, and a follow-up survey was completed. 90% of the respondents indicated they would consider developing an inclusion policy. In addition, 100% indicated they would suggest the training to their colleagues. They also requested these training sessions continue. ANND will seek further collaboration and follow-up on the issue within its network and continue promoting the work on inclusion.

Financial Report

USD

Income	Cumulatif results from previous years	-17,153.00
	Christian Aid	29,736.00
	CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE)	89,126.00
	United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF)	73,279.00
	National Endowment for Democracy (NED)	115,000.00
	Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)	52,412.00
	Institut Francais	164,946.00
	International Trade Union Confederation	28,226.00
	Diakonia	85,546.00
	CIVICUS	16,998.00
	OXFAM GB	106,516.00
	Ford Foundation	484,465.00
	Bread for the world	68,947.00
	Action 4 SD	10,600.00
	Beyond Reform and Development	4,000.00
	Social watch	13,950.00
	Total Grant Revenues	1,343,747.00
	Activity incomes	19,994.00
	Local Donors	24,629.00
	Membership	0.00
	Total Unrestricted revenues	44,623.00
	Financial revenues	90,957.00
	Total Revenues	1,479,327.00

USD

ANND Activities Expenses	1,116,236.00
Strategic goal No. 1. Build a critical mass of development actors and partners in the Arab region to become effective in development policies at national levels	263,586.00
Strategic goal No. 2. Community organizations are successfully influencing alternative regional and international development policies by working together and collaborating	287,080.00
Strategic goal No. 3. ANND produces knowledge that proposes policy alternatives and serve tasks related to advocacy, awareness-raising, and communication	182,970.00
Strategic Goal No. 4. ANND supports efforts to improve the civil society enabling environment in Arab countries through networking and providing channels	134,800.00
Strategic Goal No. 5. Develop ANND's institutional capacity in coordination, communication, and sustainability	247,800.00
ANND Administrative Expenses	121,420.00
Financial Expenses	49,495.00
Total Expenditures	1,287,151.00
Balance at 31 December 2022	175,023.00



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