



annd

Arab NGO Network for Development
شبكة المنظمات العربية غير الحكومية للتنمية

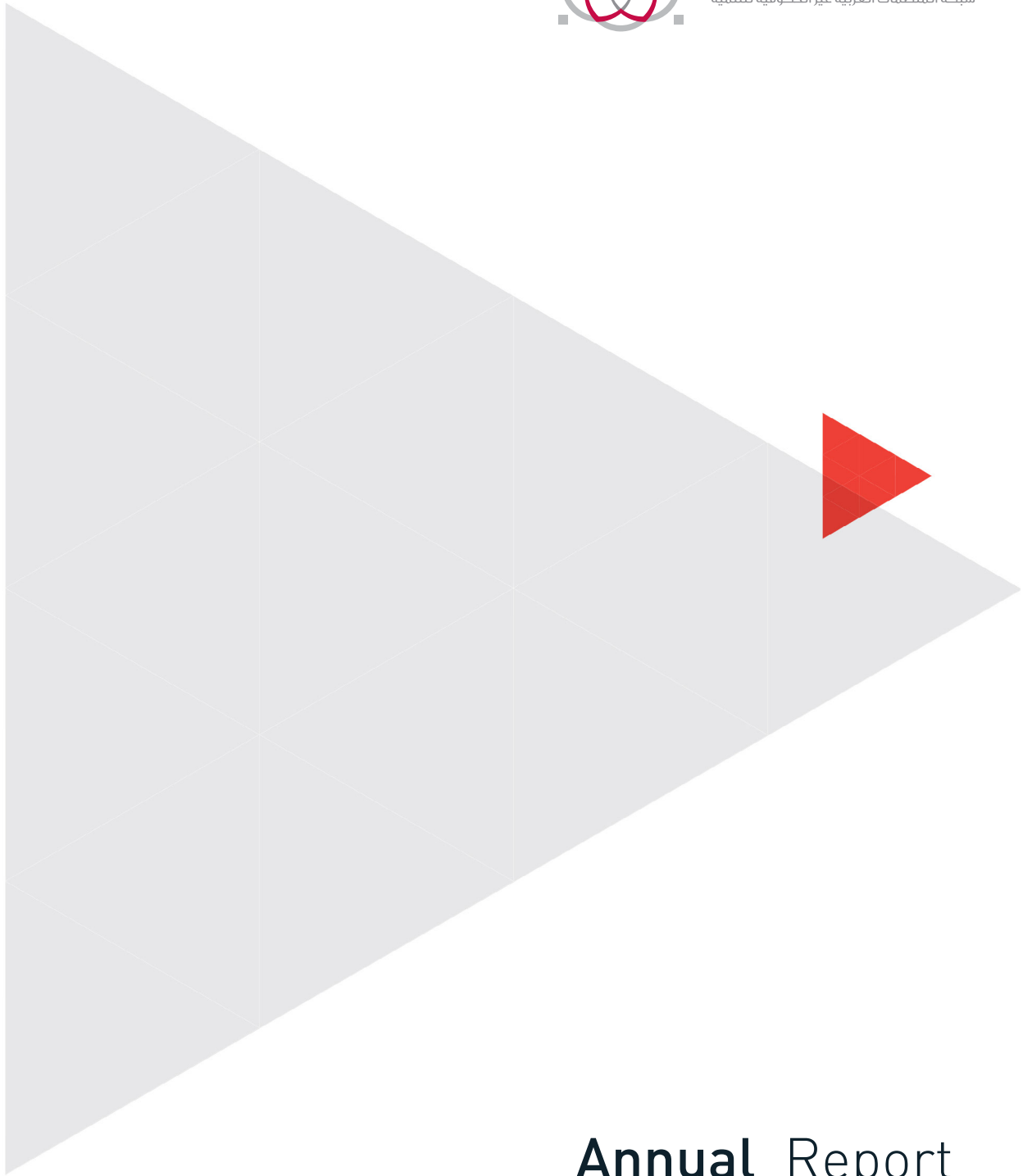


Annual Report 2021



annd

Arab NGO Network for Development
شبكة المنظمات العربية غير الحكومية للتنمية



Annual Report
2021



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 progress towards goal 1 is reflected through:

- **The participation during 2021 of more than 500 representatives of Member and Partner Organization in the capacity building and dialogue processes at the national and regional levels contribute to better engagement in advocacy processes.**
- **The engagement of ANND members and partners in dialogues and advocacy processes related to Agenda 2030 for sustainable development to influence policy making in Iraq, Egypt, Tunisia, Lebanon, Palestine and Algeria.**
- **ANND members and partners have developed 3 national reports that reflect an alternative narrative for development and are starting to reach out to policy makers using the above-mentioned channels.**
- **ANND opened up some opportunities for a dialogue with policy makers around alternative development policies, however those opportunities remain limited and require more coalition building and a change in the power dynamics.**

1 - Organization of a Training of trainers (TOT) and more than 12 national trainings on Sustainable Development

The regional TOT on SDGs and advocacy took place virtually in July and September 2021. The first six sessions were organized from 14 to 16 and 26 to 28 of July, and the last four took place on 2, 14, 15 and 16 September. Around 30 CSOs from the Arab region were represented during these sessions, and the majority were engaged specifically by presenting the content and training material developed by ANND on SDGs and Agenda 2030. They also proposed, moderated and engaged in working group exercises and improved their training capacities and skills based on the concrete feedback and observations of the lead trainers and other participants.

For each of the sessions organized ANND has launched a mentimeter poll asking about the understanding level of the theme/issue elaborated and the effectiveness of the ToT session to prepare for the training and the quality/clarity of the ToT material made available for the trainers.

It's important to note that in preparation for the regional ToT on SDGs and advocacy, ANND had planned five monthly training sessions to serve as introductory sessions between February and June 2021 to harmonize the level of knowledge among participants.

Link to ANND "school on" thinkific: <https://annd-school-a68b.thinkific.com/collections>

Upon completion of the regional ToT sessions, national training sessions were organized by the trainers. These trainings aimed at engaging youth groups and civil society representatives, with the overall aim of contributing to enhancing the sustainable development narrative in the Arab region.

In Tunisia, a 4 days training was organized in 4 different regions on 13 November, 28 November, 5 December and 12 December by AFTD. The training outreach was the highest, as organized in different locations.

In Morocco, a two-days in person on 25-26 October and two-days online training was organized by ESPACE Associative engaging 20 trainees.

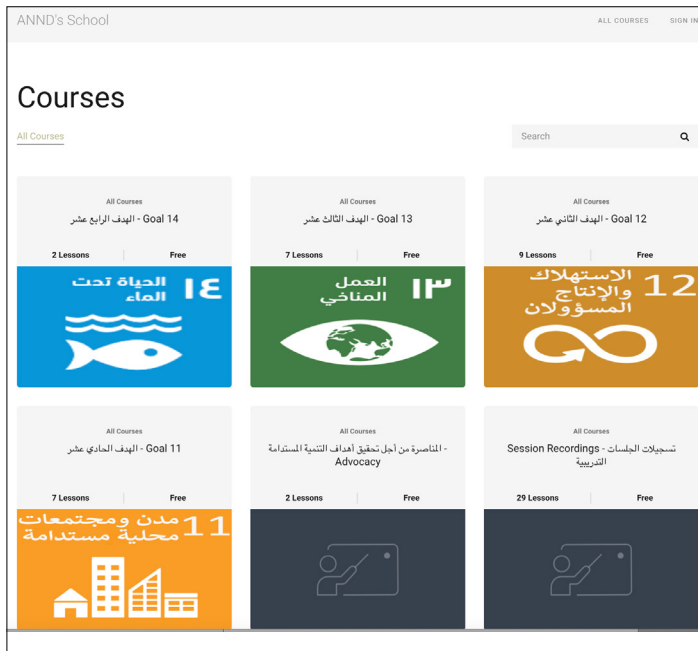
In Egypt, ToT session was organized by the New Women Foundation in person from 20-23 October with the participation of 19 trainees. All of these training sessions benefitted the training material developed by ANND and used for the Regional ToT session. However, each of them adopted the training agenda taking into consideration national context. Tailored to the needs of the participants, each training created an opportunity to raise awareness on the Agenda 2030, 5Ps understanding and monitoring the implementation.

The 21 CSOs part of Safir project have further disseminated this new knowledge produced by ANND to a wider audience, particularly to around 300 young men and women from nine Arab countries: Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine, Syria, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya and Algeria. Between September 2021 and March 2022, each CSO organized between 40h and 50h of training sessions with about 15 youth



on advocacy, Agenda 2030 and SDGs, primarily based on the training sessions they attended with ANND.

2 - Co-organisation of Anabataoui 31 “The right to work: A guarantee of development and human dignity”



ANND joined efforts with the Arab Institute for Human Rights, to organize the annual regional training course in the field of human rights “Anabtawi 31”, entitled “ The right to work: A guarantee of development and human dignity”. The session covered the following topic: The challenges to ensure the right to work for all, a special focus on situations of armed conflict, the implications of social and economic policies on the advance of the right to work and human rights, how networking and building alliances between unions and civil society could protect the right to work. The first phase of the training was organized between August and September 2021 with the participation of 110 participants from 14 Arab countries. The second phase of the training was organized between October and November 2021, with 31 participants that were selected from the participants in the first phase. The participants were from 11 Arab countries: Jordan - Algeria - Sudan - Iraq - Morocco - Yemen - Tunisia - Egypt - Palestine - Lebanon - Mauritania. The results of the evaluation showed that the partnership with ANND constituted an added value to the training course, especially that ANND studies, research and reports are diverse and numerous and include all aspects of the right to work, social protection and decent work.

3 - Organisation of the Annual Study Week on Macroeconomic, trade, investment and development policies

ANND, in collaboration with TWN and the Asfari Institute organized the Annual Study Week on Macroeconomic, trade, investment and development policies. For the first time the Study Week was organized in Beirut, Lebanon and brought together 15 researchers from Egypt, Jordan, Algeria, Bahrain, Mauritania, Yemen, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, Palestine and Iraq. With an intensive program of five days, several subjects including WTO, investment agreements, debt, subsidies, climate change, tax, food sovereignty, austerity policies etc. The program hosted key international and regional experts and included peer-to-peer sessions for the researchers to present their research areas or interests to each other. In addition to capacity-building, the study week provided networking opportunities and engaging new researchers within ongoing ANND programs work and processes ANND follows. For instance, participants from Jordan showed interest for Jordan HLPF preparatory stage and VNR engagement, participants from Algeria and Bahrain showed interest engaging in the Universal Periodic Review process.



4 - Conduction of a Consultation on Development Effectiveness priorities and organization of a TOT and Istanbul Principles

On 23 March 2021, ANND organized a virtual meeting with Reality of Aid about priorities related to aid and cooperation in the Arab region. The consultation included civil society actors from Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Palestine, Sudan and Yemen. It helped identify country-specific development cooperation effectiveness issues to prepare the ground for future cooperation. In November-December, a comprehensive training toolkit material on Istanbul principles has been developed. Based on this tool, 2 full day Training of Trainers (TOT) have been delivered physically in Beirut. 21 participants came from 10 Arab countries to attend the event, which was divided into 6 interactive sessions. ANND ensured that gender equality is addressed and actually respected, where 58% of the attendees were women. Before and after the ToT, the participants filled a pre and post evaluation form which is being taken into consideration for the development of the updated version of the training toolkit material. [Link to event page.](#)





5 - 6 National Multi-stakeholder Dialogues was organized

In the context of the SOLiD2 project, and in coordination with BUSINESSMED and ATUC, ANND conducted the first CSO National Workshop on Social Dialogue in Lebanon on 16-17 September 2021, with the active participation of 14 CSOs. The workshop highlighted the significance of Social Dialogue on the national and regional level building on the experience of Solid 1. Three experts conducted the workshop: Dr. Said Issa, main expert and facilitator, who was present during both days, and Dr. Guita Hourani and Adib Nehmeh who were present the next day. Dr. Guita presented a preliminary analysis on the national report, and Adib Nehmeh presented on the relation between social dialogue and Agenda 2030 while focussing on Goal 8.

The bipartite workshop between the private sector and civil society organizations (5 employers and 14 CSOs) was held as an intensive one-day workshop on Friday November 26th in Beirut. Based on the crisis in Lebanon, the topics of the workshop were the main issues of concern that Lebanon should be dealing with to attempt to gradually recover from the crisis. These primary issues were: Inequality and Poverty, Macroeconomic Policies, Decent Work, and finally, political and institutional reform. Each topic had specialized experts and facilitators including experts from ESCWA and ILO in order to allow a smooth discussion and a healthy environment for each side to present their concerns and demands. The workshop turned out to be a success in which it resulted with concrete demands and solutions relative to each topic presented (kindly see report

attached). These solutions and reforms were reached as a consensus between the civil society organizations and employers.

In Palestine, together with the Palestinian NGO Network (PNGO) the workshop for the CSO took place on Nov. 16 and Nov. 17, it was conducted with 16 participants from various sectors of the Palestinian NGO Network and they are: Agriculture, education, health, social protection and youth and women with some unemployed representatives. The first day of the workshop focused on presenting and discussing the SDGs within the Palestinian context in relation to social dialogue, specifically in relation to national and public policies. The second day of the workshop focused on the concept of social dialogue, and identifying the role of CSOs to promote means of dialogue based on the diversity of different sectors.

In the context of UNDEF project and aiming at engaging civil society in policy dialogue on Agenda 2030, in Egypt, Tunisia and Iraq, ANND members organized national multi-stakeholder dialogue meetings. In Egypt, organized on July 15th 2021 by the New Woman Foundation, the meeting brought together civil society representatives to discuss key development challenges in Egypt, as well as a reading of the VNR Egypt report that was presented at HLPF 2021.

<https://www.facebook.com/100064763080664/posts/175106841324751/?d=n>

In Tunisia, the Tunisian Association of Democratic Women organized the national dialogue and aimed at enhancing the

national movement and calls for reform in the country and the key demands for social and economic development highlighting particularly the feminist movement calls. As a “thinking workshop on the current political and economic situation of Tunisia,” the event provided a unique intersectional and multidisciplinary space of discussion between civil society actors. This event managed to bring together people and viewpoints from different regions of the country engaging 25 participants in total.. And while around 72% of the attendees were from Tunis, they contributed to the national character of the conversation due to the wide reach/agenda of the organisations they were affiliated with.

Finally on November 10th 2021, Tammuz Association for Social Development organized the national dialogue session in Iraq with 24 participants.. Following the elections, the session enabled discussion on key development challenges in the country and assessment on implementation of Agenda 2030. A spotlight report was developed after the meeting elaborating on sustainable human development challenges and SDGs implementation.



Strategic Goal 2

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

The progress towards goal 2 is reflected through:

- **ANND Members and partners actively participated in the creation of the action plan to put pressure on international and regional institutions through coordination committee and general assembly meetings as well as through the different online consultations done for that purpose.**
- **Around 500 representatives of ANND Member and partner organisations engaged in 2021 in dialogues with the IMF around its policy recommendations and interventions in the region through the processes led by these institutions or during events organized by ANND.**
- **Members and partners are making reference to research and policy papers developed by ANND on issues like private sector accountability, tax and fiscal policies, social protection and social justice in their interaction with the international financial institutions.**
- **The World Bank, IMF, EU, EIB, and EBRD representatives in the region included ANND members and partners in their different consultations processes which makes it more likely for IFI to take into consideration the opinion of ANND members in their recommendations to the governments in the region. While we see some change in policy orientation at the IFIs and more inclination towards addressing inequalities in their narrative, there are structural changes that are needed but remain far from being accepted.**

1-ANND General Assembly and CC meetings

ANND held its General Assembly between the 5th and 7th of March 2021, which discussed developments in the regional context, and reflected about potential implications for the work of civil society organizations in general and ANND in particular. The decision to organize the General Assembly this year came despite the fact that this assembly convened in February 2020 and approved ANND Strategy 2020-2023, as developments in the region at the health, economic and social levels, especially those related to the repercussions of the Corona pandemic, require a deep rethinking of priorities. Accordingly, the network organized 10 national preparatory meetings in the presence of representatives of member organizations, partner organizations and experts cooperating with the network in each of the following countries (Bahrain, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Egypt, Morocco, Mauritania, Iraq, Tunisia and Sudan). These meetings concluded that the strategic objectives deal with the methodology of work and therefore there is no need to reconsider them, but there are a set of thematic priorities that the network must prioritize at the current stage, especially those related to the repercussions of the pandemic on the developmental, social and economic levels and at the level of public freedoms in the region in general.

Then came the general meeting of the General Assembly, which was based on the results of the national meetings and on the political and development debate in which experts from the region participated, in order to set

general directions for implementing the network's strategy in the coming years. The GA confirmed that the general framework of the strategy approved in February 2020 is still valid and relevant but there is a need to incorporate some priorities within the strategic objectives. It decided to Form a Task Force from members and partners of the network to prepare an emergency plan to respond to the repercussions of the health crisis and restrictions on public freedoms. The GA emphasized the importance of the communication strategy ensuring that it includes an axis for internal communication the importance of developing members 'capabilities in the areas of communication. At the level of institutional evaluation: Emphasizing the importance of conducting the institutional evaluation OMT and the need for the methodology to be participatory and to include an evaluation of the member organizations regarding their relevance to the network's work.

2-Engagement in processes related to Agenda 2030 for sustainable development

On 25-26 March 2021, the Arab NGO Network for Development together with the regional networks of the CSO platform on Sustainable development organized a two-day virtual event on Sustainable Development in the Arab region. This regional meeting was organized within the implementation of the UNDEF supported project, namely "Engaging Civil



Society in Policy Dialogue on Agenda 2030 in Egypt, Morocco, Jordan, Lebanon, Tunisia and Iraq". Ahead of the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development that took place from 29 to 31 March, the five panels of the meeting dealt with the five main themes of the Agenda 2030: people, prosperity, partnership, planet and peace. Around 110-120 civil society participants from the region actively participated in the two-day event and elaborated on key challenges in achieving sustainable development, shared country context and contributed to developing a set of recommendations. Discussions during the event shed light on the need for a systemic change and transformative recovery as well as the need for rethinking the role of the state and development actors in development, ensuring better governance, human security and dignity, transparency, enhancing peaceful, enabling and inclusive societies. ANND has developed audio-visual documents to be used during the meeting, shedding light on thematic issues and country context. An outcome document has been adopted out of the meeting summarizing all recommendations made and submitted to the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development.

The High Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2021: ANND organized a side event on July 7th, entitled Agenda 2030 and the Arab Region: Shifting policies for addressing multidimensional inequalities and for sustainable and resilient recovery. UN ESCWA, ANND researchers who have worked on key sustainable development issues were present at the side event. The event tried to answer the following questions: what changes are needed to reclaim public policy spaces to ensure human rights protection?;

which policy revisions are needed to ensure leaving none behind? How can we enhance inclusive and participatory processes to address the root causes of inequalities? 150 participants registered to attend the event. For HLPF 2021, ANND also took part in coordination of the Task Force established by UNDESA and Major Groups. For this work, ANND contacted those interested civil society representatives for Oral statement development and developed drafts with inputs for Egypt, Tunisia and Iraq. Being in the task force and coordinating with Major Groups and UNDESA enables ANND to access information, engage members easier. However the interest from members is still low in this process. This results in the selection of civil society representatives who are more interested to take lead and present the oral statement. This creates challenges of representation. On the other hand from other ANND partners, the lack of inclusivity from Task Force- UNDESA is raised as well. ANND should continue coordination to ensure engagement.

3- SOLiD2 Kick-Off in Tunis September 29-30

On September 29-30, ANND took part in the official launch of the Southern Mediterranean Social Dialogue at Laico Hotel, Tunis. The event was organized mainly by the International Trade Union Confederation, Arab Trade Union Confederation in collaboration with Businessmed and ANND. Regional trade unions, employers and civil society organizations attended the kick-off with participants from six countries, Tunis, Morocco and Jordan (pilot countries of SOLiD1) and Lebanon, Palestine and Algeria (target countries of SOLiD2). The launching focussed on shedding the light on the significance of this project, its objectives, targets and goals. It also was an opportunity to raise different regional concerns across multiple stakeholders. Logistical assistance was also presented on the second day, in which the SOLiD2 community of practice was presented and explained to the participants

4- Advocacy and dialogue with IMF/WB

In collaboration with the Third World network and the Global Policy Forum, ANND organized a side event as part of the 2021 IMF/WBG Spring Meetings Civil Society Policy forum entitled “Private Sector Accountability in times of Crisis”, and it took place on March 29th, 2021. The panel was moderated by Ziad Abdel Samad, and included 4 panelists: Barbara Adams, Global Policy Forum, Kinda Mohamadieh from the Third Policy Network, Wael Gamal, an Egyptian Journalist, and Sufyan M. Issa, Head of MENA Operations at the IFC. Other partners, like the ESCR, helped in publicizing the event, and preparing a public statement directed towards the IMF, explaining how austerity measures taken as conditionalities by the IMF harm the country, much more than helping it. The session assessed the role of the private sector in times of crisis, while looking at the kind of incentives and contributed to a more in-depth thinking on private sector accountability framework, and interventions at multiple levels including by IFIs, of policy and regulatory processes. The event was promoted on social media, and all members of the Arab Watch were also invited to attend as participants and were invited to engage as well. When the session was live, 155 participants watched in English, and another 33 in Arabic, apart from the recording that was also available on the IMF CSPF website. The session highlighted two reports: examples from the “Spotlight report”, and the Arab Watch Report 2021 “ Development, the State





and the Role of Business: Considerations in the way towards Effective Accountability.”

Discussing with a representative from the IMF, gave ANND and its partners the opportunity to present the consequences of enforcing such austerity measures on fragile countries during the current crisis, emphasizing the human rights perspective, and different alternative economic models that can be adopted instead of the strict austerity measures. Responding to this discussion was Sufyan, the representative from the IMF and the IFC in particular. He discussed how the Middle East is a region of fragility and conflict, so a huge amount of investment is constantly needed, especially within the terms of the current pandemic, to allow the region to prosper again. The public sector has very limited capabilities, and limited fiscal space, and the region is in need of growth in terms of employment, infrastructure, health and education. And this is what the IMF wants to help with property advisory and cautionary measures.

On a related note, when the Board of Governors of the IMF approved a general allocation of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) equivalent to US\$650 billion (about SDR 456 billion) on August 2, 2021, to boost global liquidity, ANND, Lebanon Support, Oxfam, LCPS and Kuluna Irada joined efforts to raise awareness around this topic and advocate for the use of this money in the interest of the population:

- A paper was developed by ANND and published on this subject.
- A statement was developed by ANND and Lebanon support.

- A webinar was organized by LCPS with an intervention from ANND Director.

Those efforts contributed to more interest and engagement from Civil Society groups, hence an informal group was established including all the above-mentioned organizations to advocate for a fair usage of SDR in Lebanon.

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 progress towards goal 3 is reflected through:

- **ANND members and partners have jointly produced 17 regional and 17 national research and policy papers as well as 4 training materials that propose alternative development policies such as: private sector accountability, culture and democracy, financial and fiscal policies (debt, subsidies, development aid), inclusion and social protection.**
- **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 and communication channels, during 2021 ANND's website was visited 90,000 times, in addition the engagement on our social media platforms rose from around 170,000 reach in 2020 to 1,300,000 reach in 2021. We fully utilized our newsletter channel, subscribers increased by 50% with active engagement. Printed copies of the publications were distributed during events throughout 2021**
- **ANND members and partners, as well as extended development actors including CSOs, academia, media and trade unions in the Arab region are referring to the knowledge produced by ANND in their research, advocacy efforts and policy dialogues.**
- **Authorities and policy makers at national and international levels (IMF/WB) are being informed of the policy recommendations developed by ANND in different dialogues but the level of change remains limited.**

1- The Production of 11 National Reports and 4 Regional Reports on Private Sector Accountability in the framework of the Arab Watch Report 2021

The thematic focus for 2020-2021 is on private sector accountability given the increased role of the private sector in development and the need to ensure that this role is respecting human rights and contributing to development. The role of the business sector and foreign direct investment are critical for economic growth and developmental processes. This statement might be close to being uncontested. It is part of the mainstream narrative associated with Agenda 2030 for sustainable development. Yet, a positive correlation between an enhanced role for the business sector and increased quantity of investments on one hand, and an added value on the sustainable development front on the other, is not a laissez-faire endeavor. It requires deliberate intervention by the State at multiple levels of the policy and legal framework in order to dynamically stimulate these linkages. Part of this intervention entails building an accountability framework for business that clarifies the minimum responsibilities of business as well as their respective liabilities in case of violation.

This is the foundation of the new Arab Watch report for 2021, that includes 11 national reports and 4 regional reports around the role of the private sector in development and how to make it accountable based on human right principles. This discussion is set in the context of an increasing role of businesses in the public

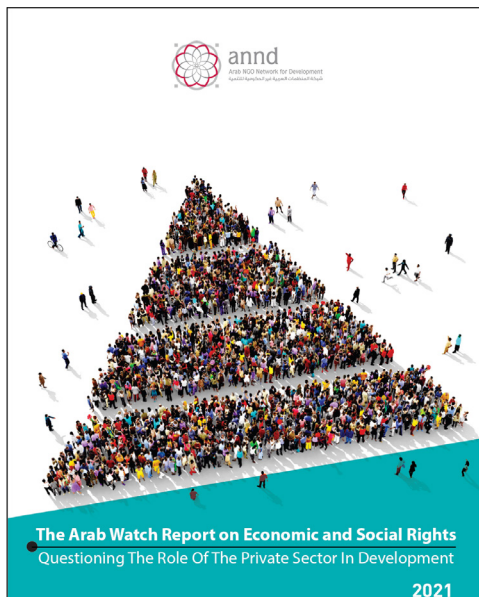
sphere and developmental processes. This trend resulted from the wave of privatizing what has been traditionally a public function, such as education, health service, and pension schemes. A most recent manifestation of this trend are public-private partnerships that have been promoted and utilized to expand the role of the private sector, including multinational companies, in the fulfillment of projects related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including large infrastructure and public services projects[1]. This is enabled by a narrative that assumes public money is not enough and that the only way that the SDGs could be achieved is through enhancing the leverage of private money.

- The report is available online by sections (AR/EN).
- The launching event was documented and published online (Playlist)
- An advocacy video was launched to promote the main ideas that the report presented on social media (Facebook, Twitter, Youtube) so far this video has reached more than 80,000 views in the region, the main language is Arabic with English subtitles.
- In addition, an introductory video was produced to present the Arab Watch Report's history and objectives, discussing previous issues of the report and 2021 issue, the main language is Arabic with English subtitles.
- A side interview was produced (Link to video), researchers from Sudan, Egypt and Iraq were interviewed to discuss the



national reports and the context and situation in these countries.

- At a later stage 3 shorter videos were produced that are extracted from this long video to be used in promoting the national reports in these countries. a series of 60 infographics will be produced (30 in Arabic and 30 in English) shedding light on important information in the regional reports (8 infographics) and national reports (22 infographics / 2 per country). These infographics will be posted on social media as part of the campaign.



2-Study on culture

The study is based on 5 separate research papers:

- The first background paper was prepared by Dr. Hassan Abbas and tackled Culture and Democratization in Southern Mediterranean Countries.
- The Second Background Paper on Youth, culture, and values on social media: with examples from Palestine, Algeria, Tunisia was prepared by Ms. Atidel Majebrri.
- The Third Background Paper: Culture, development, and societal transformation towards democracy was prepared by Ms. Gihan Abi Zeid.
- The Fourth Background Paper: Cultural Momentum, Heritage, and Shrinking Societal Transformation in Morocco: The “Old City” of Casablanca and the Ahlaf Group as a Model was prepared by Ms. Mina Houjib.
- The Fifth Background Paper: The Issue of Identity and Extremism in North Lebanon: Tripoli and Minieh as a Model, developed by Ms. Jana Al-Dhaibi.

By June 2021, a full and combined draft was completed in Arabic. Then a shortened version of this study (about 32,000 words) was completed and both versions were made available and published in English, French and Arabic.

The final study includes 6 main sections: 1) an executive summary,
2) a conceptual/theoretical framework,

- 3) an overview of the regional context,
- 4) analysis of main problems,
- 5) case studies' analysis, and
- 6) final recommendations.

The paper covers nine countries (Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Palestine, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Libya, and Algeria) of intervention of the Safir project and involves about 76 individuals ranging from researchers, experts and youth interrogated.



3- Paper on Conflict and Inequalities

This paper is the product of a joint cooperation between Oxfam and ANND to lay the foundation for changing the terms of discussion on the issue of inequality and conflict in the Middle East and North Africa. This report is based on a research effort, in addition to a series of five seminars on related topics, in which more than 50 experts, representatives of civil society organizations, and activists in the region participated.

The relationship between inequality and conflict is a complex and controversial one, it lies at the heart of issues affecting human rights. It must be approached from a comprehensive perspective that is at the forefront of the issue of peace building and the elimination of all forms of discrimination and structural violence, especially discrimination against women and marginalized groups and regions. Any response to inequality remains incomplete unless it takes into account the role that climate change plays in deepening inequalities, whether at the local or international level.

The paper ends with key Suggestions to the Civil society, International financing and the national governments in the region.

A final webinar took place on September 6th, 2021 and ended up with the establishment of a working group interested in Conflict and Inequality which will follow on the results of the paper in joint advocacy efforts.



4- Development of 6 Regional Research papers and 3 National Spotlight Reports on structural issues hampering sustainable development

Another Debt Crisis in the Making?: Debt crises have become more frequent across the world, especially in developing countries. The COVID pandemic amplified economic and financial fragility, more so in developing countries that accumulated elevated debt levels. Arab middle-income countries are precisely facing a dire situation. This report aims to inform a general nontechnical audience about current debt vulnerabilities of developing countries and Arab middle-income countries particularly, using secondary data from international organizations databases and documents. The paper is designed and published online. An audiovisual regarding the content of the paper is also made available.

A Regional View of the Global Pandemic: The pandemic affected all aspects of life, destroying the livelihoods of the poor and slowing down humanitarian support. With the continued imposition of firm restrictions on work and mobility as part of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, workers in many countries are subject to violations of their most basic rights. The pandemic also put all sectors under the microscope, more specifically health sectors. The research paper reviews the situation in the Arab region in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, shedding light on policies adopted by Arab countries in their response to the pandemic, and potential discrimination and exclusion of

certain social segments resulting therefrom. The report also tackles the socio-economic repercussions of the pandemic, and examines the health and economic structures of the region which impeded more supportive and equitable measures. The paper is designed and published online. An audiovisual regarding the content of the paper is also made available.

Subsidies on Basic Goods in the Arab Region: The research paper aims to explore current subsidies offered by Arab States to their citizens and basic goods subsidized. It attempts to identify recent shifts in subsidies, the factors influencing the adoption of said reforms, and the role of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in the adoption of subsidy reduction reforms. The paper looks into the impact of subsidy reduction, specifically its impact on beneficiaries, as well as the economic, political and social outcomes and repercussions of subsidy reforms. It finally offers recommendations to decision makers in target countries with the aim of improving general and social performance and subsidy management mechanisms. This includes suggestions to help avoid previous mistakes and proposed mechanisms to enhance subsidy efficiency in spite of reduction and limited benefits. The paper is designed and published online.

Regional paper on inclusion: This paper follows the discussion on the Regional CSO Meeting on Sustainable Development, within the Civil Society Platform on Sustainable Development which indicated that the

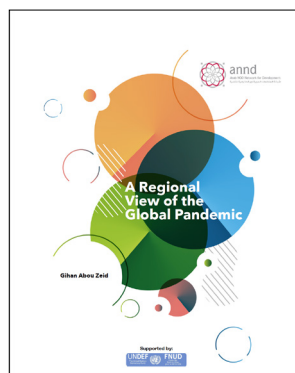
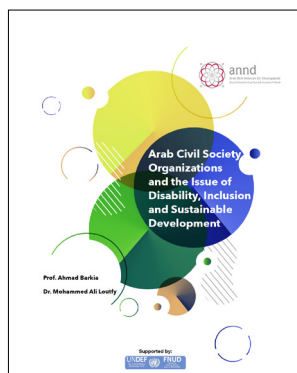
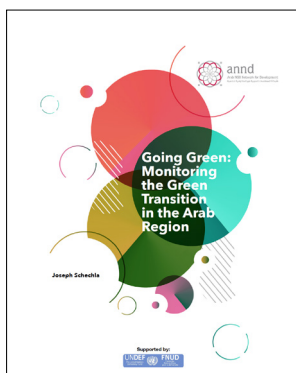
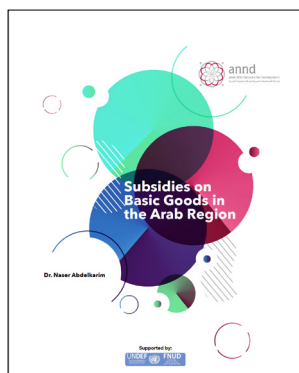
inclusion approach should be within a strategic process, to yield most effective results and transformative changes. The research paper presents the general framework on the concept of economic and social inclusion, and identifies the most prominent aspects addressed in the sustainable development agenda in terms of taking disability issues into consideration in a manner that correlates with the rules stipulated in the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In its final section, this research presents a set of suggestions and recommendations towards achieving economic and social integration within the implementation of the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by Arab governments and ensuring inclusion of all stakeholders.

Going Green: Monitoring the Green Transition in the Arab Region: This research paper unpacks the green transition and green economy concept. Although the green-transition measures and performance are very uneven across the region, most states are involved in some degree of green transition. This study maps the actions of the Arab states and the major funders of green transition. It presents a quantitative, rather than a qualitative assessment and set of recommendations addressing the possibilities

of further civil society engagement and monitoring. Those prospects are followed with recommendations for specific actors, including states and their benefactors in the green transition processes.

Paper on ODA and donors' role in conflict situations: A regional paper on ODA and donors' role with 3 case studies has been drafted and is awaiting design and publishing. The main researcher is Nassim Abi Ghanem while the researchers include Waleed Ali for Yemen, Wael Monther for Iraq, and a case study on Lebanon by ANND staff. The paper mainly provides evidence and detailed analysis of official development assistance (ODA) to countries experiencing conflict or political stalemates. The timing of the report also coincides with the necessity for developmental support after the COVID-19 pandemic came as an additional burden to these countries that were already experiencing political, social and economic crises.

Three national spotlight reports on the implementation of Agenda 2030: Based on the multi stakeholder dialogue sessions, three spotlight reports were developed, one for Tunisia, one for Iraq and the last one on

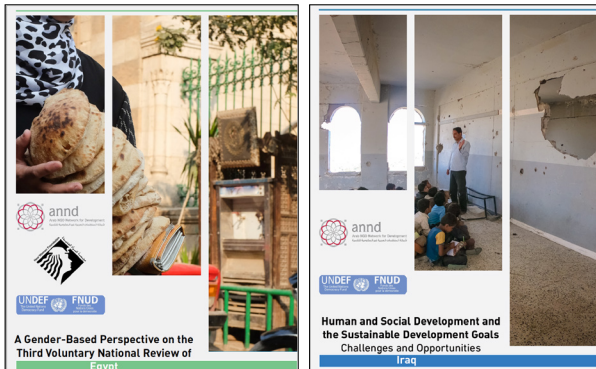




Egypt by national focal points of the UNDEF project. The Tunisian spotlight report presents the main discussions that took place during the Feminist Dynamique process launched by ATFD, and memorandum supported by the dynamique mobilization. The Egyptian VNR spotlight presented an assessment of the Egypt VNR report from a feminist perspective and was prepared by New Woman Foundation. The Iraqi VNR report, prepared by Tammuz Association, looks at the human development in the country and the SDGs achievement.

5- Chapter on market inclusion and labor activation for the social protection strategy for Lebanon

In coordination with the ILO and Beyond Group, ANND prepared a chapter on labor market activation for the social protection strategy for Lebanon. The chapter included a strategy plan made up on 3 phases: short term, medium term, and long term: that include measures that target existing challenges in Lebanon, that have been exacerbated with the current twin crisis (pandemic and financial), and outputs that we hope to achieve as proper reforms are implemented. These measures and outputs were prepared through a matrix, provided by Beyond, and later developed in a chapter, also following an outline provided by Beyond. After the draft has been submitted, frequent meetings took place with the ILO, and edits have been suggested accordingly. A final draft was agreed after coordination with the Ministry of Labor.



6- Development of 3 Research papers on EU policies and their implications

Regional research paper on Trade and Investment policies in the context of the European Neighborhood Partnership (May-June 2021)

Under MAJALAT project, ANND has conducted a regional research on trade and investment policies in the region, focusing mainly the evaluation of the framework, unpacking green, digital and resilience economic approach, socio-economic needs of the Southern partner countries in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and the EU policy responses and initiatives of the partnership and as well lesson learnt from the evaluation of FTAs and negotiations of DCFTAs. The research indicates that the trade and investment framework of the “New Agenda” is not fundamentally different from the current practice which emphasizes trade liberalization as a development policy. Actually, it is a continuation and deepening of the failed neoliberal project based on liberalization-privatization-macroeconomic stabilization through the proposed Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA). The former seems to prioritize more political and security in the Southern Neighbourhood than economic development and neglects the structural roots of underdevelopment and international and domestic power imbalances. While comprising some promising commitments such as the support of renewable energies and energy efficiency in Southern Mediterranean Countries,

the latter still conveys the idea that economic growth maximization is achievable, provided that technological fixes are adopted. The paper is designed and published online. An audiovisual regarding the content of the paper is also made available.

Research paper on Lebanon’s Priorities in Light of the EU-Lebanon Partnership (May-June 2021)

ANND has developed a research paper on Lebanon and EU relations aiming at presenting Lebanon’s priorities and needs within the framework of its partnership with the European Union. Given the priority areas of cooperation, the focus was on economic opportunities and investment needs, social protection particularly. The recent Agenda for the Mediterranean and the flagship initiatives as well as the 3RF, and CEDRE commitments are the main reference of the paper.

Position paper: ANND Reaction on the New Agenda- EU communication (Feb-March 2021)

Following the adoption of the new joint communication entitled “New Agenda for the Mediterranean: Joint Communication on the renewed partnership with the Southern Neighbourhood”, ANND developed a position paper entitled (The Arab NGO Network for Development position on the new Agenda for the Mediterranean) and noted that although socio-economic challenges of the Southern partners are well recognized by the

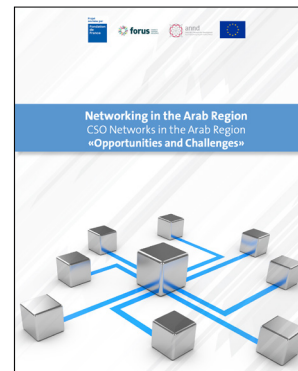


European Union, a long-term recovery through “Economic and Investment Plan for the Southern Neighbours” is envisaged, addressing structural and systemic challenges, enhancing productive capacities and supporting initiatives in Southern partner countries to move away from rentier economies to diversified, productive national economies is crucial.



7- Paper on networking in the Arab region

Dr. Fouzi Boukhriss developed this paper titled “Civil Society Networking in the Arab Region: Challenges and Remedies”, which provides research and extensive knowledge on the networking challenges at the level of civil society in the Arab region, as well as advantages and possible remedies. The analysis will allow civil society actors and external parties to understand the real challenges this sector has been facing in the past years, the impact of crises on their active work, and any solutions to mitigate future risks. The findings of the paper were discussed during a regional webinar for more than 40 civil society representatives on 21 September 2021, this allowed an informed discussion about networking challenges and opportunities in the region.



8- Development of Training Material

Development of Training Material on Sustainable Development

This training toolkit on Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is designed to provide detailed content on the sustainable human development narrative and approach. It serves as a key and critical reference material to train and support civil society actors to enroll in constructive dialogues and decision-making processes on sustainable development. This training toolkit can be used by trainers working on the issues of sustainable development, human rights, advocacy and key themes covered by Agenda 2030 including but not limited to gender, climate change, development aid, etc. Civil society actors and groups can use it as a key reference material for enhancing their capacity and critical understanding of development issues.

The content of the toolkit varies from very basic to advanced level of training and practice. For those involved for the first time or who lack an advanced knowledge of Agenda 2030, the toolkit encompasses a presentation of basic information on Agenda 2030, its goals and objectives that can be used in introductory workshops and training sessions. The toolkit covers additional elements allowing for a critical assessment of Agenda 2030, exploring its strengths and weaknesses and the extent of its consistency with the development and human centered based approach. It also includes analytical and methodological elements that help link Agenda 2030 with the developmental path and societal

challenges in our countries, and allow the adaptation and reproduction of Agenda 2030 concepts with each country's characteristics, linking them with national development plans or work strategies and developmental goals of civil society organizations (CSOs).

In addition to the full training material available at ANND, individuals and organizations can have access to the set of guides through ANND's Courses on the online platform Thinkific. The courses and dynamic content ANND has put on Thinkific provide an online self-learning tool, free of charge and with no time-constraint. More precisely, each of the 17 SDGs is uniquely represented through visuals, PowerPoints presentations, infographs, etc. and include the main sections covered in the written modules, which are also available as they are.

These courses are open for access to trainees at any time and at their own pace. All the trainers and trainees are invited to subscribe and benefit from this interactive material.



Development of Guide on Public and Private Partnerships

A manual about public and private partnerships was developed and published in Arabic and English. The guide tackles different aspects of the nature of these partnerships in the Arab region and is expected to be used thoroughly by civil society organizations to monitor them at the local level and engage in the development processes.



Development of A Manual on Istanbul Principles

A Manual on Istanbul Principles was developed and used as a main tool in December training. This Manual aims to support NGOs and trainers in effectively applying the Istanbul principles, highlighting transparency and accountability in their internal operations. Produced in Arabic, this material is invaluable for a two-day workshop, contextualizing these topics in the Arab Region. It is designed to serve as an essential tool, not only for running training workshops but explaining the methodology used for building the capacity of NGOs to be fully accountable for their development practices. A variety of personnel can benefit from the use of this Manual, support and reinforce their institutional strategy regardless of the size of their organization. This tool is divided into Five Chapters. The first one can assist in evaluating the level of engagement of the participants, as well as the organizations applying the rules revealed by Istanbul Principles. Chapter Two covers the historical context of these principles. Chapter Three focuses on the content of the principles through a well-designed and fully described group work activity, while Chapter Four is focusing on the challenges facing the implementation of the principles, and finally, Chapter Five is dedicated to the conclusions.



Conducting national case studies on development partnerships, including PPPs.

Experts and partners from member organizations (MADA, Transparency International, CAWTAR, and Lebanese Physical Handicapped Union) have been contacted in order to work on the mapping/assessment and are working on the first draft. The developed documents will serve as material for the 4 respective trainings to be held in the first quarter of 2022. The studies are divided by approach (Gender, Transparency, Youth and Inclusivity) and will be used as training material for the upcoming workshops to develop CSOs capacity to monitor development partnerships from a human-rights based perspective.

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 progress towards goal 4 is reflected through:

- **14 research papers and more than 20 monthly updates were provided by CSOs in the Arab region in 2021 on the civic space situation in their countries through ANND's main website, the civic space microsite, newsletter, and meetings. These correspondences help better understand the overall civic space issues and advocate for an enabling environment.**
- **The production of structured and comparative knowledge and analysis by CSOs in the Arab region on the civic space situation in their countries: one analytical regional report and a theoretical paper about the framework around civil society's role in the Arab region were developed in 2021.**
- **Gathering and translating efforts of CSOs in the Arab region into common advocacy actions and initiatives on the regional and global level in order to defend civic space. All notes and comments gathered from the civic space regional meeting, as well as concluding remarks from the national reports were taken into account when drafting the advocacy plan for 2022.**
- **Strengthened networking among CSOs on the national, regional and international levels represented in joint and coordinated actions that are taken into consideration by mandate holders. ANND took part in different initiatives at many levels around civic space including the OHCHR training for Syrian civil society organizations on UPR, Hamzet Wassel training for Syrian NGOs, the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development (AFSD), the pre-AFSD event organized by ANND (attended by 120 participants). ANND is also part of different networks such as the CSO partnerships for development effectiveness (CPDE), which extensively works on issues of shrinking civic space, as well as the Reality of Aid network steering committee of which ANND is part of, mainly working on advocacy on issues related development effectiveness.**

1- Updating the civic space monitor with news from focal points

More than 20 updates were uploaded during in 2021 and are available on the website. The national focal points sent regular updates about the civic space situation throughout the year and depending on urgency. The updates mainly represent short summaries of main protests held in the country, unlawful use of violence, changes in the legal framework around CSOs work or individual freedoms, and other events. The researchers working with ANND are based in the countries they are reporting on and have direct contact with local CSOs and other bodies, which makes them capable of providing accurate and organic information regarding developments around civil society. The updates are directly posted on the ANND civic space microsite and divided by country and chronology. The updates allow us to get a general and detailed idea of the ongoing trends and developments related to civic space and get informed about any urgent matter that might need the attention and efforts of the regional and international community. ANND also works on civic space through its partnership with CIVICUS monitor. Regular updates about the civic space situation in the Arab region are uploaded on the website in English.



2- Producing and finalizing 12 national reports

Twelve national reports were drafted by our national focal points and reviewed by ANND staff with extensive experience in civic space concepts. The countries covered include Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia, Sudan and Yemen. The reports were edited internally, designed and published on the ANND website and civic space microsite and disseminated on the ANND social media channels and newsletter. The main focus of the 2020-2021 reports is COVID-19 implications and direct as well as indirect effects on civic space and emerging movements in Arab countries. However, reports from countries such as Yemen for example, were more focused on instability and conflict and the effects of war on civic space. The focus was chosen in a participatory manner through an online meeting involving different focal points and members to get an accurate picture of their national needs and identified priorities. ANND developed an outline template for the report and later asked the focal points to personalize the outline according to national contexts. This method was used in order to get a more or less systemized structure for reports while preserving ownership and accuracy.



3- Producing a regional report including summaries and regional analysis

The regional report was developed by researcher May Makki, who has extensive experience in research around civic space in the Arab region and more specifically in the Civic Space Watch programme. It was then peer-reviewed by expert Adib Nehme in order to assure quality and coherence. We were able to share the national reports with the researcher, who based her analysis on the findings, recommendations and conclusions of the reports. The regional report critically examines the transversal links and analogies between countries in order to accurately understand the national and regional dynamics. The report looks into general trends towards legal restrictions on civic space, the impact of COVID-19 on Civic Space in the Arab World, counterattacks by authorities including military domination and the use of sectarian groups to protect the regime. The paper then studies weak and isolated authorities as well as the role of the international community in the struggle for an enabling environment for civil society.

4- Holding an online regional meeting with the national focal points and relevant actors

An online regional meeting was held over Zoom on the 23rd and 24th of September 2021. The meeting was attended by approximately 50 participants and included the national researchers as well as representatives from several CSOs in the Arab region, ANND members and partners, and a representative from CIVICUS, an international non-profit organization that works in strengthening citizen action and civil society around the world. On the first day, the agenda included an intervention from expert and consultant Adib Nehme, who presented the conceptual and theoretical framework around civic space in the Arab region. The second intervention was from Civic Space Cluster Lead, Marianna Belalba Barreto from CIVICUS, who presented methods and tools to strengthen civil society in the region and globally. The third intervention was conducted by May Makki, author of the regional paper based on national reports' findings. May Makki presented the regional paper, focusing on the different ways in which civic space is repressed in the Arab region. Following these three interventions, the national focal points presented specific information based on the reports and national contexts, the presentations were divided by theme, starting with "COVID-19 impacts on civic space and liberties," "the suppression of protests, revolutions and social movements",

“the impact of conflict and instability on civic space,” and “the institutionalized repression of human rights activists and journalists.” The last part of the meeting was dedicated to developing an advocacy framework in relation to civic space in the Arab region.

5- Drawing out the main priorities in relation to advocacy around civic space

During the last part of the regional meeting on the 24th of September, a session was dedicated to presenting and developing an advocacy plan in relation to civic space in the region. The moderator first presented an advocacy framework related to the subject at hand, and then proceeded to highlight demands and main priorities from the participants and focal points. The session included a general discussion and roundtable between the participants in order to gather the required data to develop a pertinent and participatory advocacy plan that will be incorporated into the Civic Space Monitor programme in the upcoming year.

Strategic Goal 5

ANND develops its institutional capacity in coordination, communication, and sustainability.

The progress towards goal 5 is reflected through:

- **The new policies and tools ANND developed at the institutional level to promote knowledge and information sharing, including the implementation of the communications strategy, development of the inclusion policy and update of the gender policy.**
- **The effective use of the members, partners and staff of the newly developed policies and tools, particularly the communications strategy.**
- **The systematic exchange of information, knowledge and experience between ANND's members, partners and staff, promoted through the monthly newsletter.**
- **The promotion of close coordination and communication between civil society organizations at the national, regional, as well as international levels, through joint and coordinated actions.**

1- Development and update of internal policies

- ANND developed an inclusion policy, which was discussed and anonymously adopted by the members.
- ANND reassessed its gender policy and made requisite updates.

2- Communications strategy

The communications strategy developed between 2020 and early 2021 followed a participatory process including close involvement of members, staff and stakeholders. This draft strategy was thoroughly discussed during the General Assembly meeting held in March 2021, where members made valuable propositions to improve the internal communications among members and between them and external parties, as well as to directly link the communications strategy to ANND's overall strategy. And therefore, ANND has started to shed light on popular movements at the national and regional levels, and to involve more partners from Libya, Algeria and other countries. Moreover, ANND will be planning technical capacity building for members at the national level to ensure effective communication with the network and its members.

3- Newsletter

Throughout 2021, ANND had published regular monthly newsletters with an average of four articles per issue. Members, partners and experts have continued to contribute to diversify regionally and enrich the newsletter content.

4- Organizational Mapping Tool (OMT) assessment

To better understand the institutional challenges and trigger interesting findings and opportunities to evolve the network, ANND conducted an OMT assessment with the help of an external consultant. The methodology used for this assignment was based on the OMT developed by Ford Foundation. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the facilitator conducted the exercise virtually. In total, 6 out of 14 staff and all 12 Coordination Committee (CC) members participated in this OMT. Out of the 6-participant staff, 3 were senior managers. The opportunity to receive feedback from the CC came through an in-person meeting in Beirut in July 2021.

Based on the methodology, a scoring system was developed to help identify some priorities, which resulted in the following order: 1) advocacy, 2) external communications, 3) network leadership, 4) fundraising and donor relations, 5) field engagement, 6) governance, 7) organizational culture and 8) programming. And below the main recommendations:



- Endorse knowledge production so that it becomes more available to the public.
- Use innovative tools to deliver content to broader segments.
- Make communication activities more relevant to contextual changes and engage the audience more through what is known as a call to action, i.e. a request to respond.
- Active involvement of network members in communication activities.
- Activate communication between network members.

5- Coordination Committee (CC) meetings

On 30 July, the CC met physically in Beirut and provided updates on the national contexts and implications on ANND's work as well as recommendations on the communication strategy and ideas for the fundraising strategy. During this meeting, the OMT exercise was evoked (see above), which benefited the assessment.

On 22 December, the CC reconvened in Beirut and discussed the challenging contexts on the political, economic and social levels, reviewed the programmatic priorities and set upcoming work priorities feeding into ANND's strategy.

Financial Report

USD

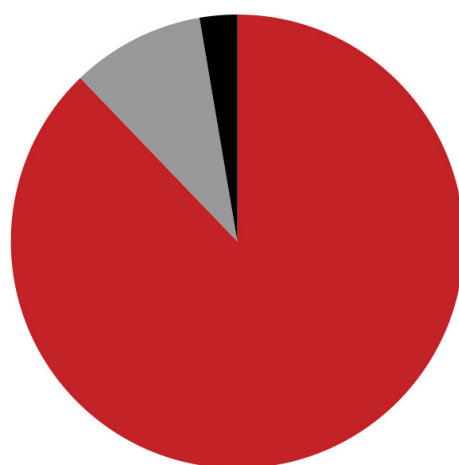
Income

Cumulatif results from previous years	68,907
Christian Aid	20,691
United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF)	95,608
National Endowment for Democracy (NED)	110,000
Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)	51,637
Institut Francais	20,228
International Trade Union Confederation	141,188
Diakonia	98,055
CIVICUS	15,667
Ford Foundation	284,980
Bread for the world	78,121
Euro Med Rights	67,365
Development and Peace	92,761
Action 4 SD	4,000
International Forum of National NGO Platforms	1,228
Total Grant Revenues	1,081,529
Activity incomes	13,843
Local Donors	20,185
Memberships	0
Total Unrestricted revenues	34,028
Financial revenues	85,499
Total Revenues	1,201,056

USD

Expenditures

ANND Activities Expenses	1,130,155
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	186,460
Strategic goal No. 2. Community organizations are successfully influencing alternative regional and international development policies by working together and collaborating	121,590
Strategic goal No. 3. ANND produces knowledge that proposes policy alternatives and serve tasks related to advocacy, awareness-raising, and communication	479,490
Strategic Goal No. 4. ANND supports efforts to improve the civil society enabling environment in Arab countries through networking and providing channels	145,160
Strategic Goal No. 5. Develop ANND's institutional capacity in coordination, communication, and sustainability	197,455
ANND Administrative Expenses	122,502
Financial Expenses	34,459
Total Expenditures	1,287,116
Balance at 31 December 2021	-17,153



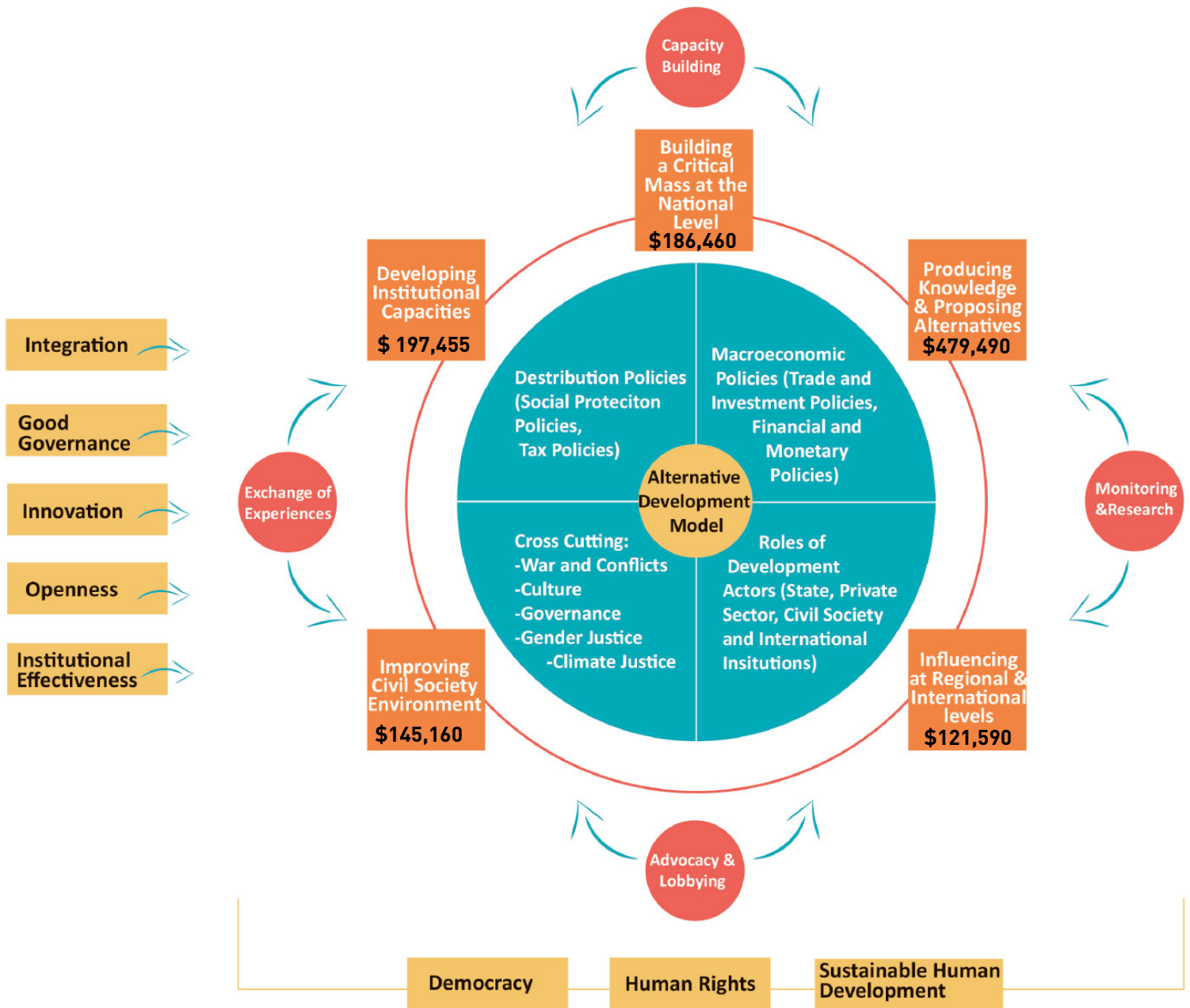
87.8% ■ ANND Activities Expenses

9.5% ■ ANND Administrative Expenses

2.7% ■ Financial Expenses



ANND Activities Expenses by strategic goal



www.annd.org
2030monitor.annd.org
civicspace.annd.org



Arab NGO Network for Development



@ArabNGONetwork



Arab-NGO-Network-for-Development



anndmedia