



النهضة العربية للديمقراطية والتنمية
Arab Renaissance for Democracy & Development



Arab Renaissance for Democracy & Development (ARDD)

**Annual
Report 2017**

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I. About ARDD

Who We Are and What We Do

Started in 2008 as a critical source of legal aid for refugees and other marginalized groups, ARDD has a core mission of helping disenfranchised and marginalized people find their voice and respond to the challenges they face. ARDD's fight against inequity began with legal empowerment and awareness-raising to address the inadequate access to legal protection among society's most vulnerable. Reflecting the interconnected structural issues facing the Arab world, our approaches have since grown to democracy and development mandates, initiatives that confront social and economic inequality, capacity-building exercises, and other strategies centered on human rights and civic engagement in the spirit of the historical Arab Renaissance of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.



II. Our Vision

ARDD's work today builds on the insights and vision of that historical movement: that all human beings have the potential to contribute to and take part in the development and betterment of their societies. ARDD's mission is to mobilize the untapped potential of citizens, non-citizens, and communities alike to achieve justice and human rights for all.

Key aspects of our vision for a new Arab renaissance involve achieving access to justice for all, accountability for all leaders and stakeholders, responsible governance, and universal social protection, in addition the long-term visions of attaining regional peace and integrating our Arabic cultural legacy.

Our vision is to empower the people of the Arab world to create a democratic society where all enjoy social, economic, and political justice regardless of status. ARDD operates nine offices throughout Jordan, including two in the Za'atari and Al Zarqa refugee camps, and is in the process of opening an office in Beirut, Lebanon.

Within this framework, and with the support of dedicated partners and stakeholders, ARDD aims to inspire social and political reforms throughout Jordan and the Arab world. We encourage the development of strong, fair, democratic societies, characterized by inclusion, diversity, transparency, equal access to justice, and robust popular engagement.

III. Board of Trustees



Dr. Zaid Eyadat is professor of political science and human rights and an expert on international and comparative politics. He is the founding chairperson of the Political Development Department, and the founding Dean of the Prince Al-Hussein School of International Studies at the University of Jordan. His training and research interests are in the fields of International Politics, Comparative Politics, International Political Theory, Modeling, and Game Theory. He is a leading and distinguished expert on Middle East politics, human rights, and on the nexus between Islam and human rights, with his research having been published in many leading academic journals.



Magda El-Sanousi, is the Chief of Women's Empowerment Section at the United Nations' Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) which she joined in July 2013 as part of the senior management team. Ms. Elsanousi leads on developing strategies to enhance the role of women in the transitional period in Libya focusing mainly of the drafting of the constitution and the National Dialogue. She was Oxfam GB Country Director in Lebanon until June 2013, and has been awarded by Takreem the “Arab Woman of the Year 2012.” Ms. El- Sanousi, manages the Arab Region Gender Equality program that covers Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Yemen. She is a graduate of Ahfad University for Women in Sudan and completed two Master’s degrees from Sussex University (U.K) in Gender and Development and Rural Development. El-Sanousi devoted the last 20 years to developing programmes and mobilizing resources to empower women. She worked with Oxfam in Yemen, Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon. She has worked on promoting gender sensitive budgets and policies in Yemen; on advocating policy change in Iraq to give widows access pensions, and on empowering women in remote villages in Egypt to vote and even stand as candidates in the parliamentary elections.



Dr. Ali Oumlil is a prominent Arab philosopher, thinker, human rights activist, diplomat and political persona. A primary figure in the fields of Islamic historical methodology and Arab political thought, he is considered to be a pioneer in issues related to state formation in the Arab world. Oumlil has extensively studied the relationship between intellectual authority and political power, the sociological pluralism and its ideological interpretations as well as the reformist trends in Arab contemporary thought. Oumlil wrote 11 books, 3 of which were translated from Arabic to French. His writings are taught throughout the major universities of the MENA region and around the world, specifically in curriculums that specialize in Arab philosophy.



Dr. Hassan Nafea currently contributes a weekly article and a daily column to Al-Masry Al-Youm, the daily newspaper with the widest circulation in Egypt. He graduated from the Department of Economics and Political Science, Faculty of Commerce, University of Alexandria, in 1967. In 1977 he received his Ph.D. in political science with honors from the University of Sorbonne. He obtained a diploma in International Relations from the Institute of Political Studies in Paris that same year, after which he returned to Cairo to work as a member of the Faculty of Economics and Political Science at Cairo University. He held several posts before becoming Head of the Department of Political Science, a position he held for eight years. He also worked as a visiting professor at several European and American universities, and in February 2007 was named Secretary-General of the Arab Thought Forum in Amman, headed by Prince Hassan bin Talal, from which he later resigned in August 2009.



Dr. Abdullah El Sayyed Walad Abah is a professor at the University of Nouakchott teaching the history of philosophy, general philosophy, ethics, politics and modern and contemporary philosophy, as well as visiting professor at several other Arab universities. He has published a number of articles and a book on a variety of ethical, political and philosophy topics.

V. A Letter from the CEO



*“Let Us be Agents for
Change, Not Mere
Bystanders.”*

The Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development (ARDD) welcomes 2018 and all its potential, which coincides with the tenth anniversary of the organization’s founding. We are advancing with resolve and determination on the path of our work, a path paved with significant achievements and at the same time accompanied by significant challenges that call for critical self-reflection.

With each step ARDD takes, we carry with us the dream of realizing a true renaissance in the Arab world by reaching beyond the shortfalls of both political theories and development, forging instead towards a just and peaceful society. The question that this dream continues to face is *“How* can this New Arab Renaissance be realized?” The fascinating ambiguity of our mission has made it an exciting journey towards change, reform, and modernity.

We try to correctly balance priorities between responsibilities concerning institutions, governments, and individuals at a time in which all are trying their hardest not to succumb to the tumultuous events impacting us and darkening our prospects each day in a region that is in dire need of democracy, development, and peace.

With this in mind, our passion for sharing experiences, learning, and dialogue with others is reinvigorated by our close partnerships, the hopeful voices of young people, and the remarkable resilience of the refugees in the region. This year we held several conferences, convened multiple committees, and established the *Nahda* Forum where we hosted a range of experts to listen to and learn from their experiences. With the band Naya we joined in unison in with the voices of Arab women, not with those of oppression, violence, or extremism.

“Think Without Boundaries”

In that same session we also dealt with the need for safeguarding, preserving, and renewing the Arabic language as a vital part of regional culture and discourse and one that remains central to our Arab identity. Thus, apart from our many beneficiary-oriented programs, ARDD has produced a series of research reports and publications that contribute to strengthening and multiplying publicly-available content in Arabic regarding the education sector, the humanitarian response to the refugee crisis, gender sensitivity and awareness of gender-related issues, and human rights, all content that can be consumed and utilized throughout our Arab communities, Jordan as a whole, and the wider MENA region.

Our journey is and will continue to be a goal in and of itself, our programs and research constituting the very vehicles of Arab civilizational advancement and renewal.

In 2018, the organization adopted a new approach that calls on the greater Arab community to think without boundaries or borders and to be agents of the process of change rather than mere bystanders. The organization has therefore taken strategic steps to expand its geographical range of activity to include new locations in the Middle East and North Africa regions through the establishment of the ARDD regional office in Lebanon and the initiation of programming in Tunisia.

The human resources department has worked to attract talented professionals from different sectors in order to reach international best standards of humanitarian practice and to become an Arab international organization that employs a diverse array of experts and practitioners, aiming to contribute to the development of institutional leadership in the Arab world that can respond to the

needs of society while meeting the aspirations of governments and donors, both by improving existing capacities and helping to empower a new cohort of dreamers and doers as part of a New Arab Renaissance.

ARDD will leap into the New Year of 2018 with a new regional framework, working hand-in-hand with an ever-increasing cadre of staff, partners, and beneficiaries to be that agent of change we encourage so many others to be alongside us. Together, we will be part of a long-desired, much-needed transformation for the region as a community of active and diverse participants, contributing to a renaissance of civic engagement and justice in Jordan and the wider Arab world.

Samar Muhareb
CEO of ARDD

V. Outlook 2018

ARDD will continue to:


- Advance democracy and development along economic, social, and legal tracks
- Empower and engage vulnerable groups including refugees, migrants, women and girls, and youth
- Engage and mobilize Jordanian civil society and the public in general to be agents of change
- Expand partnerships and collaboration among local, nation, regional, and international actors
- Be a uniting force for intellectual development, social dialogue, and community integration
- Stand against all forms of violent extremism and pioneer ways to combat and prevent it
- Harness the spirit of, and educate the public about, the Arab Renaissance (al-Nahda)
- Create and promote easily accessible Arabic literature and studies on all of these topics
- Expand ARDD's successful model into the wider MENA region





VI. ARDD in the Middle East

Our commitments to youth rights, social justice, and sustainable development motivate us to continually expand our work in the region and is the driving force behind our opening of a new regional office in Lebanon and the initiation of programming in Tunisia. As both countries face many internal and external pressures, we at ARDD believe that **youth engagement and countering/preventing violent extremism (C/PVE) are essential cornerstones of establishing foundations for a better future**, both in those countries and throughout the region. With these pioneering programs, ARDD's reach and influence will only continue to grow and inspire, and we look forward to programming in **Lebanon** and **Tunisia** as first steps towards a much wider engagement in the region.



**VII. Situational
Analysis: Regional &
National
Socio-Political
Challenges**

“Globally, more than 80% of refugee crises last more than ten years and two out of every five crises last around twenty years.”

As is the case for any nation, the socio-political and economic landscapes in Jordan are, in part, a reflection of greater regional politics. The persisting instability in the region – most clearly represented by its various **conflicts with civil wars in Syria and Yemen, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and various simmering conflicts in Iraq** that have only just begun to subside, as well as by general **political upheaval in North and East Africa** – continues to drive waves of refugees to seek safe haven in Jordan.

As such, Jordan must **focus on creating meaningful and sustainable policies in order to serve both the refugee population and the host community**. The integration of displaced peoples into urban populations has resulted in an exponential increase in the challenges to the country’s social cohesion, with the influx of refugees and migrants placing a considerable **strain on resources, access to services and housing, and the already sluggish economy**.



“Two Global Compacts: Refugees and Safe, Orderly Migration”

Following the 2016 New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and the regional conferences and collaboration between civil society organizations in 2017, in which **ARDD was an active participant**, two global compacts are to be adopted in 2018: one on refugees and the other on safe, orderly migration.

The anticipated global compacts and the continued implementation of the Jordan Compact, which **strives to increase economic opportunities for Syrian refugees in Jordan through job creation and access to work permits**, will inform the country’s response to the crisis as 2018 continues to unfold.

Since Jordan enacted its Comprehensive National Plan for Human Rights, launched in March of 2016, there have been changes to numerous laws and policies in keeping with the plan’s **aim of protecting and promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms for all members of Jordanian society**. In 2017, a special committee formed by His Majesty King Abdullah II worked to **implement reforms for the judiciary and justice systems, develop programs to engage out-of-school children by easing the documentation requirements for enrollment, create a legal aid fund to provide lawyers for defendants otherwise unable to afford counsel, and lawmakers abolished a provision that allowed perpetrators of sexual assault to mitigate their sentences by marrying their victims**.

These reforms align with ARDD's vision for a society where everyone has equal rights and access to justice, regardless of status. The preamble of the Comprehensive National Plan for Human Rights itself refers to Jordan's role as "the heir to the Great Arab Renaissance" and aims to enhance freedom and justice. **At ARDD, we continue to develop and implement comprehensive and innovative programming for the most vulnerable of Jordan's communities** – especially refugees, migrants, women, and youth – to boost economic opportunities, increase access to legal aid and awareness, and promote social cohesion.

Throughout 2017, the Legal Aid Unit at ARDD provided free legal assistance to at-risk communities throughout Jordan. Community leaders were trained in technical skills and legal awareness so that they may in turn educate and empower their communities.

Women's programming thrived in 2017 as projects developed women's skills and knowledge, provided them with the tools to be active participants in decision-making processes, and empowered them to access greater economic opportunities in the face of traditionally restrictive gender norms and societal expectations. **Outreach to youth largely focused on promoting social cohesion between the refugee population and host communities.** Youths received psychosocial support and conflict management skills training in order to increase their engagement with all in their communities.

ARDD continues to produce quantitative and qualitative research, run comprehensive advocacy campaigns, and utilize both traditional and social media platforms in our pursuit of a more just, free, and stable society.

"Jordan: the heir to the Great Arab Renaissance."



By extensively collaborating with the people themselves, civil society, governmental actors, aid organizations, and international bodies, we are fostering change in Jordan and the Arab world that will lead to a more empowered, resilient, and just society for all.



VIII. Empowering Women & Girls

ARDD's aim is to **support women in countering many of the negative cultural, social, and political forms of discrimination** from which they suffer while strengthening the available opportunities for women and girls through building upon their skills and intellectual capital. **ARDD's Gender Unit works to ensure that there is a gender component in all of its programming and initiatives**, engaging both men and women to play a role in addressing community challenges related to access to justice, for it is crucial that men, too, act alongside women to raise awareness of, and fight against, the injustices women face.

“Countering discrimination through the building of skills and intellectual capital”

In the gender unit, our main areas of intervention revolve around protection, raising legal awareness, developing capacities, market-oriented and rights-based economic empowerment, and civic engagement relating to women's meaningful participation in society, humanitarian response, and conflict prevention.



Areas of Intervention:

- Protection
- Legal Awareness & Capacity
- Market-Oriented & Rights-Based Economic Empowerment
- Civic engagement



Know Her Rights اعرق حقوقها

"[Know Her Rights](#)" is a two-year project, funded by the United Nations Trust Fund (UNTF) to End Violence Against Women. It seeks to **make institutional and social actors in Jordan aware of and sensitive to the multiple forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG)**, taking steps to combat it to create a social environment that will enable women and girls to live a life free of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

To achieve this goal, ARDD engaged directly with the institutional and social actors to produce a user-friendly toolkit, "[Tools of Knowledge: Eliminating Violence Against Women and Girls \(VAWG\) in Jordan](#)," aiming to **shift attitudes and increase knowledge** in ways that can eventually lead to legislative changes and VAWG's elimination.

The toolkit informs readers about the current gaps, challenges, and realities of VAWG in Jordan and is a catalyst for social dialogue that can foster positive changes in attitudes toward women and girls. Over time this can advance the necessary legislative and policy adjustments. **The toolkit targets key actors including educators, legislators, media, and health practitioners** on multiple levels and issues to create a long-term and sustainable impact toward combating VAWG.

Our Impact

- **78.5%** of women reported trust and confidence in 911 and Family Protection Department services and reported social norms were the main obstacle to eliminating VAWG
- **75%** of institutional actors reported that the toolkit was a beneficial tool and that project events and meetings disseminated important information
- **80%** of education professionals reached in the project reported sharing messages from the toolkit in their communities

Outreach

- Through social media, the project reached **13,362 people** (of which 4,443 were through the toolkit's own social media campaign)
- The traditional media campaign included **5 radio sessions and 1 TV interview**



Total Beneficiaries Reached

- Irbid: 1,332 – Amman, 1,336 – Mafrq, 1,332 = **4,000** in total
- **Over 770** of the participants reported an increase in knowledge related to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) core principles
- **Over 700** participants reported an increase in knowledge on the referral pathways for SGBV support in Jordan
- **36.8%** of participants reported an increase in confidence in exercising their rights within the Jordanian legal system

Accessing My Rights

وصولي إلى حقوقي

Funded by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the objective of the project is to **improve the environment for women and girls in both the Syrian refugee and host community population**, where they have faced and are at risk of experiencing sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). The end-goal is for these **women and girls to enjoy an environment free of SGBV**, a possibility which can eventually be achieved by **enhancing mechanisms for social and legal protection**.

Community Leader Dialogue Sessions

- The project engaged **344** community leaders from the three locations in dialogues, where they were provided with the space to discuss gender and gender justice
- The leaders have also discussed their role in their communities in terms of women's empowerment and preventing SGBV



Community Support Networks

- **89%** of the leaders strongly agreed that their understanding about women's and gender justice has increased
- **80.5%** said they have a better understanding about the importance of sexual and gender-based violence prevention in Jordan

You Have a Chance: '*Laki Forsa*' لك فرصة

'You Have a Chance' is a two-year project that has been funded by the Embassy of the Netherlands. This project lays the foundation for a **comprehensive approach to women's empowerment in the governorates of Amman, Aqaba, and Balqa**. The project's overall goal seeks to **enable Jordanian women and girls to live fulfilling lives, free from violence and with full access to their rights**.

To achieve this goal, the project takes a comprehensive approach by **fostering change within individual women to enable them to communicate with their community and the institutions tasked with transformation** by providing vulnerable women opportunities through four distinct services: legal empowerment, psychosocial services, economic empowerment, and increasing the gender sensitivity of lawyers.

Project Impact:

Legal Awareness & Psychosocial Sessions:

- Women Reached: **1,540**
- Some participants demonstrated a significant increase in confidence
- **42.5%** increase in participants' legal knowledge



Provision of Legal Services:

- **1,286** consultations to women and their families in Baqa'a and **893** in Aqaba
- **Capacity-Building Sessions for Female and Male Law Graduates:**
→ 86% increase in knowledge for 56 trained law students

Laki Forsa: Rethinking Women's Empowerment Report

لك فرصة

Through the 'You Have a Chance' project, an evidence-based report, "[Rethinking Women's Economic Empowerment in Jordan](#)," has been produced that **analyzed economic opportunity for Jordanian women living in conditions nearing poverty**. The report provides a snapshot of the living situation of ten women residing in the Aqaba and Balqa governorates with whom ARDD has been working with over the last two years. The report describes the challenges they face and the way they perceive economic empowerment in light of these challenges. Through the lens of their experiences, **the paper sheds light on some of the larger structural challenges that hinder their ability to fulfill their economic aspirations.**



Women's Access to Justice - Phase II

وصول المرأة إلى العدالة – المرحلة الثانية



Women's Access to Justice (WAJ) – Phase II is a three-year project funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland with Oxfam as its partner. The project aims to **reduce the vulnerability of disadvantaged host and refugee women by building on their human capital, facilitating their access to the legal system, and securing just outcomes**. Implemented in Zarqa, the project promotes change at four distinct levels: individual, community, institutional, and regional. WAJ – Phase II combines legal, social, and financial empowerment, in addition to capacity-building and community engagement, to create a holistic approach for accessing justice.

Project Achievements

- 24,746 legal consultations provided and 176 cases litigated
- 83% of women rated the legal services they received from the project as excellent
- 5,469 women reached through project activities
- 93.9% of women who attended awareness sessions on personal status law reported they were satisfied with the sessions
- 82% of the women reported confidence in being able to share the information they learned from the sessions about women's rights and Jordan's Personal Status Law cases with others
- 93% of law students involved in the project will transfer the knowledge they gained to others
- 83% of individuals reached by trained community facilitators were satisfied with the sessions on women's rights

Empowering Each Other III Project

ARDD believes it is crucial to involve men and boys in SGBV responses and prevention as SGBV is a family and community challenge that cannot be successfully tackled without involving men and boys and pushing some of their mentalities to evolve. Men – as the brothers, fathers, sons, spouses, and co-workers of women – must be involved in achieving justice for women, both by working alongside women and in pushing other men to stand up to gender-based discrimination and violence.

The project was implemented in the Za'atari refugee camp in partnership with UN Women over the course of six months. During this project, men and boys were trained in SGBV and 25 women who were trained in civic engagement implemented community initiatives that focused on raising awareness about gender equality and SGBV prevention.



- **28 women participated in and completed trainings** for the second cohort of the UN Women's Committee - the Women's Youth Committee
- **60 men completed HeForShe sessions**, part of a comprehensive psychosocial support program enabling men to be more effectively supportive of empowering women in their communities

UN Women Youth Committee



ARDD, in partnership with UN Women, launched the UN Women's Youth Committee. This committee was created in addition to the first UN Women's Committee to **ensure that young women in Za'atari have the skills and confidence to partake in decision-making processes** within the camp.

Over a three-month period, **28 women between the ages 15 and 30 years-old completed trainings** on effective communication, problem-solving, facilitation, decision-making, the personal status law, and other laws that impact women. Women spoke about how they plan to pursue engagement within their communities.

Zad-Alkhair, who is 18 years old, spoke about her engagement with UN Women over the past four years. She stated that the legal component is what initially encouraged her to participate in the training. She also stated that the psychosocial training sessions have increased her capacities in terms of communication and leadership skills.

Souad and Ghufuran, who also attended civic engagement training sessions, were the organizers of the bike rally and awareness-raising sessions. They spoke about their experiences working on the project and the women's committee trainings. They both have worked and volunteered with a number of organizations in the camp and are now regarded as leaders within their communities. Souad earned a scholarship and is now completing her undergraduate degree at a Jordanian university. She is also supporting the empowerment of other women and girls in Za'atari.

IX. Legal Empowerment

“ARDD encourages a sense of responsibility for, and seeks to stimulate public interest in, addressing economic and developmental policies so as to strengthen the values of support, coordination, and cooperation among all individuals in the community.”



ARDD aims to foster and promote cultural and value transformation across different segments of society to **guarantee access to social justice and to prevent poverty and social inequality**. To achieve this, ARDD encourages a sense of responsibility for, and seeks to stimulate public interest in, **addressing economic and developmental policies so as to strengthen the values of support, coordination, and cooperation** among all individuals in the community.

In partnership with UNHCR, the Legal Aid Unit provides **free legal assistance to at-risk communities and individuals throughout Jordan**. ARDD provides **prevention and response legal services for refugees of different nationalities and to those in the most vulnerable segments of the local population**. The nature of the services focuses on legal consultation, mediation, litigation, and rights awareness workshops on various subjects related to Jordanian law. The unit also provides **legal analysis to both the government and relevant stakeholders** to guide legislative reforms.



Legal Services Through Legal Consultations:

More than **200,000** beneficiaries and people from different nationalities were reached in different governorates, both in and outside the refugee camps and especially in urban areas

Studies, Research and Reports:

The Legal Aid Unit has produced many studies and reports utilizing important research material. The most prominent topics were:

- Fraud under the pretext of resettlement and illegal immigration
 - An analytical study of the annual reports of the Department of the Chief Justice
-

Legal Awareness Workshops:

- More than 270 legal awareness workshops were conducted



**X. Political & Civic
Participation**



ARDD aims to foster **a culture of democracy, equality, freedom, and both civic and political participation by promoting tolerance in society and acceptance of “the other”**. The objective of the Political and Civic Participation (PCP) unit is to encourage all people – particularly those who are socially and economically marginalized – to more **actively engage in both the public and private spheres**.

The unit's projects seek to empower individuals to first address the issues they face in their communities through developing the set of knowledge and skills well as the confidence – necessary to

become change-makers who can address concerns at the community, national, and even regional levels. A particular focus is on working with youth on social cohesion, engagement, conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and preventing violent extremism.

It was civic engagement that was one of the hallmarks of the historical Arab Renaissance, and it is with such civic engagement that ARDD plans to be in the vanguard of a new twenty-first century renaissance for the Arab world, one that will feature youth, women, and other marginalized groups prominently.



My Community

Building on the success of social and legal work with Syrian refugees and host communities, ARDD's 'My Community' project unites a diverse group of community members from the Zarqa and Sahab districts in Amman on the basis of promoting a culture of peace through experiential learning.

“My Community” ...Unites a diverse...community...on the basis of promoting a culture of peace through experiential learning.”

The project consists of the implementation of four community programs, for a total of 10 weeks per program, targeting youths and their mothers. Each weekly meeting consisted of arts sessions and joint sessions on active civic engagement led by ARDD's team of "Change Makers".

Project Achievements:

- Total of **80** women engaged, **50%** Jordanians and **50%** Syrians
- **130** children and adolescents, of which **55%** were females and **45%** were males, were engaged

Bridges to Understanding

ARDD began the implementation of the Bridges to Understanding in Zarqa, engaging young people in promoting social cohesion in the governorate of Zarqa. This project targeted young Syrians and host community members between the ages of 18 and 25.

“Main objective: fostering social cohesion between young Syrians and their host communities”

The main objective of the project was to support the Fondation de France’s objective of fostering social cohesion between young Syrians and their host communities.

To meet this objective, the project engaged young people through:

- 1. Psychosocial support session**
 - 2. Conflict management skills training**
 - 3. Community engagement**
-
- 61.3% of participants reported having “a more positive view of the other”**
 - 77.4% of participants reported an increase in their levels of self confidence by the end of the project**

Maan LeNabne: Empowering Communities through Political Engagement

ARDD partnered with ACEID, EU Regional Trust Fund “MADAD,” and Partners Jordan to implement a two-year multi-partner project entitled “Strengthening Capacities of Jordanian Municipalities to improve Financial Sustainability for the Provision of Better Services to Hosting Communities and Syrian Refugees”. ARDD’s role is to **empower the communities by promoting their collective political engagement potential, aiming to support the community-based organizations’ (CBOs) voices and the needs of their communities** in Mafrqa, Sarhan, and Ramtha to ensure the provision of better services. By doing so, ARDD works to **empower community members to participate in decision-making processes at the municipal level in order to serve their community’s needs.**



- In 2017 ARDD identified and partnered with **six CBOs** that have committed to working with the project
- Through a participatory approach with the CBOs, **ARDD has built a capacity-building program tailored to the needs of the CBOs and their communities**, to be implemented in 2018

ARDD Launches Observatory to Prevent Extremist Violence in Jordan (OPEV) Jordan

Preventing extremism and the violence it generates is a core part of reintroducing renaissance in the Middle East and North Africa. The Observatory to Prevent Extremist Violence in Jordan (OPEV Jordan) is a cooperative effort of ARDD and affiliate/partner organizations that work to prevent all forms of violent extremism and empower our youth to engage in productive and dignified livelihoods. **Engaging youth and providing them with opportunities is necessary for achieving a New Arab Renaissance at all levels**, and since its founding in April 2017, OPEV Jordan's 15 member organizations have been moving towards these crucial goals.

OPEV Jordan calls for state and non-state actors to abide by their commitments to the Barcelona Declaration and to plan and source relevant responses geared towards understanding the full context and cycle of radicalization towards violent behavior, identifying and engaging all drivers and root causes of violent extremism while relying less on counterproductive over-securitization and militarization of policies.

ARDD has taken stands in the past to denounce extremist violence in the Middle East and abroad, including the attacks in Las Ramblas and Cambrils in Spain in 2017. We aim to weaken drivers of extremist violence, be it marginalization, discrimination, corruption, political terror, lack of socioeconomic opportunities, unresolved conflicts, oppression, or inhumane treatment of those in state custody.



XI. Accountability

ARDD aims to reinforce the rule of law and good governance as a general framework to govern the state, community, and individuals along with reforming the relationships between government institutions, the private sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the public. The Accountability Unit is dedicated to helping empower individuals in Jordan to persistently advance and protect their interests. **With a focus on Jordanian actors as the drivers of change, the unit aims to provide spaces for individuals to identify problems within their communities, and – in a manner that is inclusive of marginalized groups, particularly women and youth – devise long-term, sustainable solutions for achieving comprehensive justice for all.**

Justice for All: Enhancing Public Support for Justice Sector Reform in Jordan

The 'Justice for All' project has been funded by the EU Delegation to Jordan and aims to raise public awareness while promoting a sense of public ownership and engagement regarding key justice sector reforms. Ultimately, the project seeks to **promote accountability and build confidence in the rule of law**, a key ingredient in being able to advance a New Arab Renaissance. The project has thus far accomplished the following major achievements:

- 1) Establishment of a social dialogue platform through the creation of a steering committee; this committee was led by women and was made up of 16 members, 8 of whom are female
- 2) Gaining community perspective through quantitative and qualitative research
- 3) Researching the education sector
- 4) Visibility of the project and a communications plan
- 5) Syrian Refugee Empowerment Project (SREP)



Syrian Refugee Empowerment Project (SREP)



ARDD implemented the Syrian Refugees Empowerment Project (SREP) in partnership with Tamkeen Fields for Aid and with support from the Open Society Foundation. The project uses a **community facilitator model to raise awareness of rights to education and work among Syrian refugees and Jordanian host communities** alike. Community facilitators (CFs) were trained in technical skills, mobilization and facilitation, and legal frameworks of education in Jordan.

Group information sessions facilitated by CFs:

1. Raised awareness
2. Promoted trust and participation in the formal justice system
3. Provided timely and effective communication channels between those in need and relevant humanitarian and legal services

Impact of Group Information Sessions:

- 8 CFs conducted **65** sessions in Amman and Zarqa
- The sessions targeted **814** beneficiaries

Fostering a Community-Based Approach to Legal Empowerment of Communities to Access their Right to Education:

- 8 CFs conducted **65** group information sessions in Amman and Zarqa
- **1,400** beneficiaries were reached





XII. Psychosocial Support

Psychosocial support is a non-therapeutic intervention that enables people to alleviate psychological concerns and rebuild social structures after traumatic events; special focus is placed upon teaching the skills of stress management and relief, communication and dialogue, and decision-making processes. **ARDD understands that psychosocial support is imperative to supporting our target population.** To this end, a psychosocial, resilience, and recovery-based approach is included in all programming. This includes both one-on-one sessions and group sessions.

Program Accomplishments:

Accessing My Rights وصولي إلى حقوقي

- 1,966 women received psycho-legal awareness sessions
- 90 women received one-on-one psychosocial consultations

'You Have a Chance' (Laki Forsa) لك فرصة

- 1,540 women in Balqa and Aqaba received psychosocial support and legal awareness sessions

Bridges to Understanding- Empowering Youth through Social Cohesion Project

- Total of 53 youths were engaged

Women's Access to Justice - Phase II وصول المرأة إلى العدالة - المرحلة الثانية

- 374 individual psychosocial support sessions provided

Empowering Each Other III Project

- 60 men completed a comprehensive psychosocial support program

My Community

- 130 children and adolescents – of which 55% were females and 45% were males – worked to enhance their social skills and strengthened their psychosocial well-being



At the end of 2017, all projects combined reached:

- 3,749 beneficiaries through group sessions (including 60 men and 183 youths)
- 464 women benefited from individual sessions

XIII. Applied Social Research

Since its inception, ARDD has prioritized evidence-based interventions. As a testimony to the relevance of our work and analysis, ARDD is regularly asked to provide feedback and analysis to national, regional, and international researchers as well as key stakeholders. As a result, the Applied Social Research Unit (ASRU) was established in 2017. **The unit develops tools and data to provide relevant and timely analysis for programing while also conducting research and analysis on the social and legal landscapes in Jordan in order to offer new directions and points for discussion for public and policy debates** throughout Jordan and the region. The ASRU has become a critical component of the organization by helping ARDD to achieve its overall social justice mission.

“Since its inception, ARDD has prioritized evidence-based interventions.”

In the past months, ASRU has engaged in research on four main areas, namely: Women’s Rights, Refugees and Migration, Preventing Violent Extremism, and Justice Sector Reform.

Areas of Focus:

- Women’s Rights
- Refugees and Migration
- Preventing Violent Extremism
- Jordanian Justice Sector & Rule of Law



Women's Rights

ASRU engaged in enhancing women's rights through addressing three main themes key to ARDD's work. In "[You Have a Chance: Rethinking Women's Economic Empowerment in Jordan](#)", the team looked to answer what constitutes economic opportunity for women living in conditions nearing poverty in Jordan. Drawing upon our work with and experiences of women in Aqaba and Balqa governorates through an empowerment project funded by the Kingdom of the Netherlands, in addition to drawing upon principles of feminist economics, the report seeks to shed light on women's underappreciated yet highly valuable contributions through unpaid care work.

"What constitutes economic opportunity for women living in conditions nearing poverty in Jordan?"

Furthermore, appreciating women as equally entitled utilizers of the justice sector and building on ARDD's six-year work on Women's Access to Justice (WAJ) in collaboration with OXFAM GB, the unit developed "[Women's Access to Justice: A Framework for Inquiry](#)". The framework incorporates international experiences and categories of analyses regarding women's access to justice in order to articulate lessons learned from WAJ in Jordan into a structured analytical framework conducive to further programming and research. With this framework, not only ARDD but other organizations have an important tool in advancing justice for women.

Finally, the ASRU collaborated with a number of national actors in the media, government, education, and health sectors to draft [Know Her Rights: Combatting VAWG in Jordan](#), a toolkit that aims to sensitize all individuals in Jordan to the multiple forms and impacts of violence against women and girls, and also aims to promote increased gender sensitivity in the provision of information and services for women and girls.

By ensuring that high-quality in-house research has backed up our programming for women in Jordan, ARDD hopes to not only continue to lead the region in this area but to also allow others to build on the demonstrable success ARDD has achieved over the years working for women.

Refugees & Migration

As the Gender Focal Point for Migration and Asylum Working Group of the Euro-Med Human Rights Network, **ARDD**, through the **ASRU**, remained a **critical voice in the international discussion on the protection and fair treatment of refugees, particularly women refugees.** The ASRU also attended the Global Forum on Migration (GFMD) Civil Society Days 2017 event: *Towards a Global Social Contract on Migration and Development.*



“ARDD remained a critical voice in the international discussion on the protection and fair treatment of refugees, particularly women refugees.”

Especially as the MENA refugee crises continue to present pressing problems to governments and host communities alike, ARDD’s research aims to **facilitate all efforts designed to help vulnerable refugees and migrants.**

Preventing Violent Extremism

As a founding member of Jordan's Observatory to Prevent Extremist Violence (OPEV), **ARDD has worked closely with other civil society organizations, NGOs, and IOs, particularly NOVAC, in designing research and projects that aim to address the numerous triggers and drivers of violence and violent extremism.** A synthesis of these efforts was reported in [*Preventing Violent Extremism: Challenging Dominant Discourse, Developing Alternatives*](#) (2017), which offers a means through which civil society in particular can synthesize its efforts to prevent violent extremism.

Furthermore, the ASRU has conducted preliminary research into the relationship between mass media, local religious leaders, and religiosity of women and youth to better understand where and how religious leaders and institutions can engage in PVE (final report forthcoming, 2018).



“ARDD’s research and projects aim to address the numerous triggers and drivers of violence.”



Justice Sector

Aiming to fulfill the Unit's mission to provide evidence-based analysis to enhance ARDD's work on access to justice in Jordan, the ASRU has successfully conducted nationwide quantitative and qualitative research on justice needs, perceptions, and satisfaction among broad sectors of the population in Jordan. **ARDD collaborated with Hiil, The Hague Institute for Innovation of Law, on the qualitative aspects of their Justice Needs and Satisfaction in Jordan (2017) report and has finalized a perception and satisfaction study on Justice Sector reform conducted in five governorates in the context of an EU-funded project, "Enhancing Public Support for Justice Sector Reform."**

"The ARSU has successfully conducted nationwide quantitative and qualitative research on justice needs, perceptions, and satisfaction among broad sectors of the population in Jordan."

The ASRU looks forward to using the knowledge gained through this research to advocate for justice sector reform as well as to enhance the rights of women, children, persons with disabilities (PWDs), refugees, and migrants.

XIV. Advocacy and Outreach

ARDD aims to promote and protect the values of modernity, human rights, equal access to justice, and pluralism. By advocating for positive and peaceful change in the Arab world, we are aiming to **work towards political, economic, judicial, social, and cultural reform, which together can foster the concepts of active citizenship and civic engagement** as the foundations for building a society and state worthy of all its people as well as a New Arab Renaissance. ARDD tries to expand and maximize its reach through both traditional and social media platforms, as well as advocacy campaigns and partnerships, to raise awareness and induce change towards a more just, free, and stable society.



“ARDD aims to foster the concepts of active citizenship and civic engagement as the foundations for building a society and state worthy of all its people as well as a New Arab Renaissance.”

Protect the values of:

- Modernity
- Human Rights
- Equal Access to Justice
- Pluralism



XV. International Collaboration

Justice Needs and Satisfaction in Jordan - The Hague Institute for Innovation of Law (HiiL)

ARDD's strategic partnership with The Hague Institute for Innovation of Law (HiiL) has culminated in the production of a **first-of-its-kind investigation into Jordanian residents' perception of the legal system in Jordan**. Under the leadership of HiiL and with the generous support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, ARDD conducted over 30 in-depth qualitative interviews with a diverse selection of Jordanian residents from a variety of backgrounds, contexts, and situations.

“ARDD conducted 30 in-depth qualitative interviews with a diverse selection of Jordanian residents.”

ARDD strongly believes that is vital to take into account how all groups of people living in Jordan perceive the legal system, finding ways to make sure all communities, from the people of Aqaba to the refugees in camps on the border with Syria, feel the justice system is treating them fairly and that the barriers to access and engage justice are minimal. The interviews provide valuable insight for potential reform and engagement projects, and will certainly inform ARDD's efforts to improve legal justice for all in Jordan, a core component of setting up a New Arab Renaissance for Jordan and the MENA region.



North-South Centre Organizes a Workshop on “Strengthening Capacities of Women Organizations”

The North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, in partnership with ARDD, organized a workshop on “Strengthening Capacities of Women Organisations” in Amman. The workshop aimed to **engage in an exchange of knowledge and practices** between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, European, and Southern Mediterranean countries on the subject of the empowerment of women and the promotion of women’s rights by strengthening the capacity of women’s organizations. The workshop also emphasized the **contribution of women’s civil society organizations and issued practical recommendations to achieve gender equality** in the European and Southern Mediterranean regions.

By directly empowering women’s organizations, ARDD and others can create more opportunities for women for self-reliance and leadership when it come to engaging stakeholders and empowering other women in Jordan and the MENA region.



“The workshop engaged in the empowerment of women and the promotion of women’s rights through strengthening capacities of women’s organizations.”

The World Refugee Council & Regional Civil Society Actors

“Leaders, innovators and influencers engaged in discussions aimed at devising a new, coherent, and collaborative refugee system.”

During its second meeting held in Amman from 18-20 September, The World Refugee Council (WRC), together with a group of leaders, innovators, and influencers, engaged in discussions aimed at devising a new, coherent, and collaborative refugee system. In partnership with ARDD, council members participated in substantive deliberations to **propose bold ideas for improving responsibility-sharing regarding refugees with an emphasis on innovative ways to both strengthen accountability on behalf of refugees and mobilize funds to support their needs.** These needs, be they financial, political, psychosocial, or administrative, can be addressed by attracting international initiatives through the combined efforts of governmental and civil society institutions. Such combined efforts will have a truly substantial impact, both immediately and over time.





XVI. Enabling Renaissance Participation

Includes the following areas of work:

1. Achieving Gender Equality and Participation
2. Youth Participation
3. Peace-building and Reconciliation / Preventing Violent Extremism

A group of people, including women in headscarves and a man in a red shirt, are gathered around a table, looking at documents. The background shows a wood-paneled room with a blue flag on the left.

Achieving Gender Justice and Participation

Female populations of the Arab world have a disproportionately low level of social, economic and political influence in decision making in civil society and government. The end of gender injustice in the Arab region will not be brought about by waiting for progressive men in high positions to give women greater representation, it will occur when women and girls confront inequality through greater social, economic and civil participation and alongside men support relevant policies and programs for greater female inclusion and equality. The Arab Renaissance will not occur for women, but with the participation of women

ARDDs Achieving Gender Justice and Participation initiatives do and must all strive to empower women and girls to bring about a fairer and more prosperous Arab region for all. See below for our current and previous initiatives and projects for tackling gender injustice.

Youth Participation

Age demographics across the 22 Arab nations reveal that those under 25 years of age make up 60% of the Arab world. Where there are barriers to formal youth participation in politics dissolution towards democratic political processes and contempt for formal power occurs. This can lead to low voter turnout, but also to youth participation in alternative, non-democratic forms of political participation. Youth participation in the democratic process is therefore not simply about equality and fair representation, but about securing and developing a peaceful and prosperous future for the Arab world.

For that reason youth participation in civil society must equate to more than providing volunteer and intern opportunities. Meaningful youth participation means promoting safe spaces for constructive dialogue in decision-making about politics in society, distribution of information on electoral participation in an accessible manner such as through social media and helping voice youth-initiated viewpoints and decisions on politics by facilitating opportunities for shared dialogue with decision makers.

Preventing violent extremism through Participatory Peace-building

At this societal level a desire for dramatic change in the Arab world has led to small pockets of support for violent extremism, including support for terrorists groups. This needs to be addressed.

In line with our Nahda approach for creating peace and prosperity through public engagement ARDD firmly believes that peaceful democratic change will be brought about by offering members of the population alternative, participatory measures to build peace and reconciliation as part of its approach to preventing violent extremism (PVE). Contrary to de-politicalizing (disengaging) members of the public ARDD regards PVE as a form of political participation and civic duty which empowers the public to contest extremism, for we see public engagement in PVE essential to its success.

ARDD projects emphasize the Nahda, a movement for peace and prosperity steeped in Arab culture and led by Arabs. We engage women and men to contest extremism as a form of civic engagement whereby participants aid each other to overcome barriers of prejudice and counter radicalization. Rather than discourage political engagement we capacity build opportunities for dialogue between Civil Society, the government and academia to enhance PVE research through provision of grassroots information such as public perceptions of violent extremism to policy makers and counter-terrorism organizations, as well as direct publications in both Arabic and English through ARDD's Nahda Forum.

XVII. Events



Education for the Future: Communities of Learning Among Syrians and Jordanians in Host Communities with ARDD and Fafo

On 11 January 2017, ARDD presented the findings of its project “Education for the Future” at a learning event entitled "Fostering a Culture of Accountability for Improving the Learning Environment for Children in Jordan". The purpose of the event was to **discuss the findings of the project and promote a dialogue between education-sector stakeholders on how to improve the learning environment for all children in Jordan through the existing legal framework.**

As education sector reform is urgently needed to help address the needs of youth and to help instill in them a true spirit of civic engagement, ARDD will look to more such interactions between education-sector stakeholders in the future.

A reformed education system that better educates on the importance of both civic engagement and the rule of law will better empower a new generation to be that much better equipped to engage as full citizens with full appreciations of the merits and possibilities of such engagement.



Women's Economic Empowerment

ARDD presented the findings of the fieldwork on Women's Economic Empowerment at a learning event on 22 October 2017 in collaboration with the Embassy of the Netherlands. The event's presentations focused on **understanding the importance and value of the unpaid care work provided by Jordanian women** and on **the role of psychosocial support in helping to facilitate women's access to justice**.

Helping women and others to be proud of the economic value of what is all-too-often dismissed as “mere” housework will further **empower women by helping them attain higher levels of confidence that will, in turn, be useful as they continue to increasingly assert their economic rights**, with such economic rights being key in women's path to achieving overall justice as full, equal members of society.



Economic empowerment is vital, because only with economic resources can women be in a position to engage wider society on social and legal reforms, as **economic dependence and privation undercut abilities to advance socially and legally**.

Women's Economic Empowerment Fairs

ARDD held Women's Economic Empowerment Fairs on the [8th of March](#) and the [26th and 27th of September, 2017](#).

The first Fair, held in commemoration of the International Women's Day, was attended by more than 140 women entrepreneurs and aimed to **promote women's economic empowerment as a vital strategy for supporting women who suffer from poverty and vulnerability**. This helps them to **gain ownership of their ideas and projects and become agents of change in their communities**. More specifically, the event facilitated women's referrals to available economic empowerment programs and provided women with a forum where they could discuss and be informed about potential economic options.

“The first Fair was attended by more than 140 women entrepreneurs and the second was attended by over 130 people, including representatives from various national and international organizations.”



In September, ARDD hosted an event titled “The Economic Empowerment of Women” in Amman, Irbid, and Mafraq. The event offered a platform for **65 women entrepreneurs to sell products such as traditional food, homemade sweets, and handmade jewelry while simultaneously expanding their personal businesses and contacts**. Over 130 people attended the event, including representatives from various national and international organizations, offering economic opportunities to the women present.



ARDD Concludes Phase II of the “Women’s Access to Justice” Project

ARDD held a closing event for Phase II of the Women’s Access to Justice project on 20 November 2017. Panel discussions addressed **the status of women’s access to justice from the perspectives of civil society and the judicial sector** alike, and the event presented the various closing recommendations arising from the project as well as other outcomes. The event provided a **platform for dialogue between key actors in the judicial sector to discuss improving the level of women’s access to justice** in Jordan regardless of status or origin.

“Tools of Knowledge: Eliminating Violence Against Women and Girls in Jordan”

On 11 December 2017, ARDD held a launch event for the [“Tools of Knowledge: Eliminating Violence Against Women and Girls \(VAWG\) in Jordan”](#) toolkit, part of the Know Her Rights project. The event focused on introducing the toolkit as a mechanism for eliminating VAWG through a comprehensive approach by making it a **manual for activists and stakeholders** alike. The toolkit was designed to **empower relevant actors across legal, government, media, education, and health sectors by educating them on the relevant subject matters and on implementation techniques**. Through **traditional and social media campaigns**, messages from the toolkit were also **extended to a broader public audience** in Jordan as part of an overall campaign to raise awareness on the issues and train people to act on them.



“Confronting Radicalism and Promoting Peace: A Cultural Approach”

Held on 29 November 2017, this event aimed to **further the conversation on the confrontation between radicalism and peace in the context of our regional culture**. Building on ARDD’s vision of the historical Arab Renaissance and our desire to ignite a New Arab Renaissance, a specialized presentation was given and a panel held to discuss **the importance of multiculturalism, youths, and the arts in facing down extremism in the region**. Through such events, ARDD hopes to **showcase the value of engagement over both radicalism and apathy** to young people in Jordan and throughout the region.



Nahda Forum

In 2017, ARDD launched a discussion series entitled the *Nahda* Forum, or the Renaissance Forum, which is a **platform for the free exchange of thought regarding the most important issues facing the Arab world today**. Creating an open space for engagement allows attendees to **hear controversial opinions, to learn from other perspectives, to challenge conventional thinking, and to expand on the many components that are the legacy of the Arab Renaissance**.

Each month, the *Nahda* Forum focuses on one topic, and experts are invited to sit on a panel. The past forums have covered topics such as the Palestinian Question, the Conditions and Tools of the Arab Renaissance, and Language Security in the Middle East and North Africa Region. Going forward, **it is intended for the *Nahda* Forum to be a pioneering bastion of Arab intellectualism, engagement, activism, and reform**.



“The Nahda Forum: a platform for free exchange of thought regarding the most important issues facing the Arab world today.”



XVIII. Media Campaigns



Men Speak Out: #stopSGBV Campaign

Aiming to raise public awareness for sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), ARDD implemented the Men Speak Out campaign from August-September 2017, meant to increase participation of men and boys in the dialogue on women's rights, protection, and the prevention of SGBV by encouraging them to upload public pictures of themselves on Twitter and Facebook with the words "STOP" and "SGBV" written on their palms, with the campaign's media and advocacy activities **reaching roughly 30,000 people**. Such effort is crucial because **men must become responsible actors**, and are required as invested partners, to **facilitate a society free from both discrimination and violence against women**.



16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

25 November-10 December was marked by organizations and individuals around the world as the “16 Days of Activism” to **raise international awareness about Gender Based Violence (GBV) as a human rights violation and to find solutions and approaches for eliminating GBV**. ARDD as a civil society organization working to empower marginalized groups to acquire and enjoy their universal rights and freedoms (including, and especially, women) took part in this important campaign as a part of our ongoing broader work to **secure access to justice for all and to prevent and counter violent extremism**.

Too often, GBV is not recognized for what it is: a form of violent extremism. **While other forms of violent extremism are covered prolifically in the media and the programs to combat them are funded with huge portions of national budgets, this form gets far too little attention and funding**, hence the awareness campaign. Core segments of ARDD’s programming involve women’s empowerment and countering and preventing violent extremism, so the 16 Days campaign was an important component of raising awareness about a problem that needs far more attention and resourcing, one of which ARDD was proud to be a part.

Decentralization Campaign: Female and Youth Participation Crucial to Make Decentralization a Success

On 16 July 2017, ARDD launched this campaign to empower youth to take an active role in advocacy. As decentralization and municipality elections were about to be held on 15 August 2017, the campaign aimed to **engage youth both in general and to use the following hashtags to show their support and enthusiasm for broad and diverse participation in the elections:** #youthforchange, for #inclusiveelections, #August15, #forsocialjustice, and #womenforchange. Women's participation is particularly important since they have been marginalized in the past.



As one of the major hallmarks of the historical Arab Renaissance, **civic participation is both one of the core inspirations and core program areas for ARDD.** This means giving communities and people control over their own local affairs and decentralizing government to allow for robust influence and participation of locals in their own communities' governance. This is essential not only from a philosophical standpoint but a practical one as well. **As the rising generation is the future, it is most important to energize youth and facilitate their participation in their communities and governance,** hence ARDD's focus on youth engagement.

Abolishment 308 Campaign

On 31 July 2017, ARDD started this campaign encouraging the abolishment of article 308 of the Jordanian Penal Code that **enabled rapists to avoid punishment if they marry their victims for three to five years**. The campaign aimed to encourage all people to upload public pictures of themselves on Facebook and Twitter with the words “STOP” and “308” written on each of their palms. The next day and the day after, the relevant part of **the code was abolished by the House and then the Senate, respectively, and was later fully repealed** when His Majesty King Abdullah II signed the changes into law.



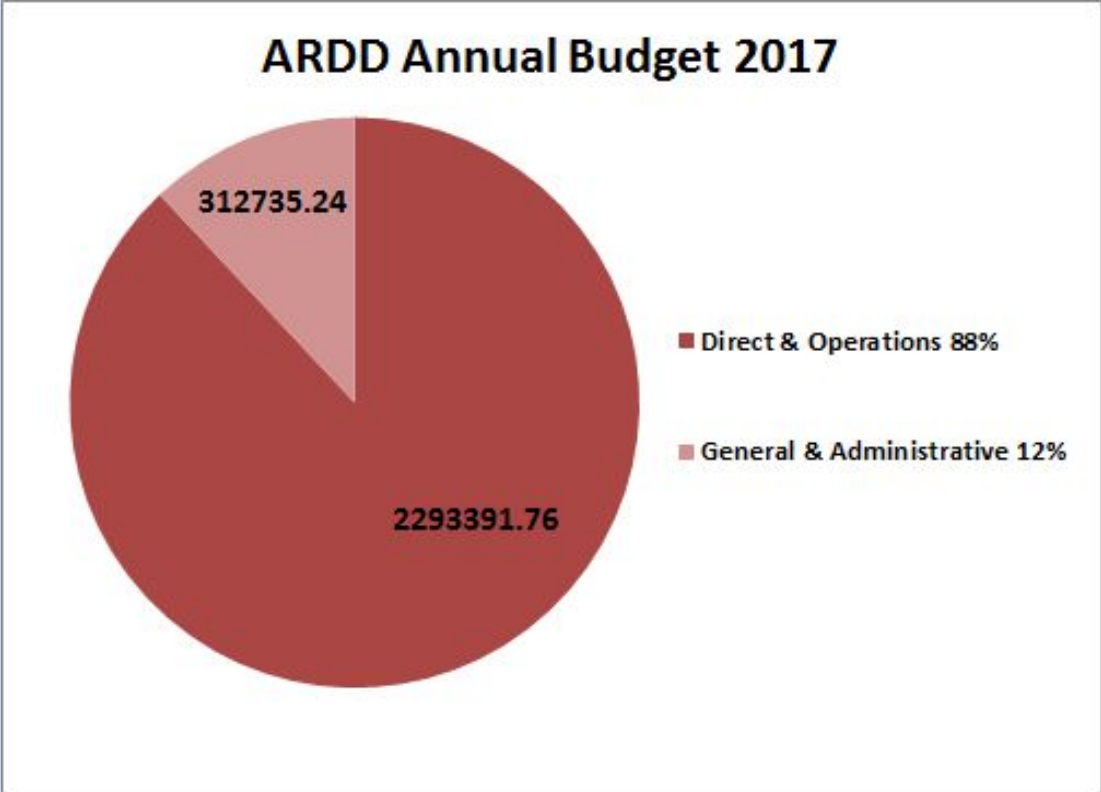
XIX. New Partnerships and Donors

New donors in 2017 included the following:

- The United States Department of State
- Ford Foundation
- Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund
- The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
- Khazanah Nasional Berhad



XX. 2017 Expenditures



XXI. Future Outlook

As 2018 progresses, ARDD will continue working toward its tactical short-term and long-term strategic goals. These include: deepening and expanding our relationships with people who are marginalized or in vulnerable situations; strengthening relationships with our partners; and increasing the organization's institutional capacity to ensure programs are based on research and evidence. In so doing, ARDD hopes to promote a culture of accountability, justice, and the rule of law, becoming the region's leading home-grown resource for justice, human rights for all, and democracy.

“ARDD continues to promote and protect the values of modernity, human rights, justice, and pluralism. Championing these values, we aim to advocate for positive and peaceful change in the Arab world, working towards political, economic, judicial, social, and cultural reform as part of a New Arab Renaissance.”

As a response to current developments in the Arab world, ARDD has aligned its own objectives with the achievements of the historical “*al-Nahda*” (Arab Renaissance). Many years ago, as today, *nadha* is a process of reform and modernization geared towards achieving social justice, democratization, and state-building, all while being centered around freedom, equality, the rule of law, civil rights, and civic engagement. ARDD continues to promote and protect the values of modernity, human rights, justice, and pluralism. Championing these values, we aim to advocate for positive and peaceful change in the Arab world, working towards political, economic, judicial, social, and cultural reform as part of a New Arab Renaissance. ARDD hopes to foster the concept of active citizenship as the foundation for building a society and a state, bringing those who have been disenfranchised to the center of development and reform efforts. Only through their inclusion can a balanced and just social, economic, and legal-political order be achieved. *Only then can the region advance with a true rebirth (renaissance) of freedom, justice, development, community, and engagement, one for all people in Jordan and the MENA region.*

XXII. Acknowledgements

Thank you from all of us at ARDD

We appreciate your strong commitment, leadership, and willingness to work together in addressing the many important issues we face. Only together can we overcome the many challenges of the region and usher in a New Arab Renaissance in the spirit of the old one.

We simply could not do this without your passion, ideas, and support. Your partnerships, voices, and views shall guide us both today and for many years to come.

Please know this work, in the end, touches the lives of so many incredible individuals who have faced staggering challenges but who will carry the impact of the activities described herein with them for the rest of their lives, in turn touching many others as they embark on their journeys more empowered than they were before, more empowered precisely because of our collective efforts.

They will not forget this, and we will not forget your role in making that happen and helping so many people.