



# Al Nahda: The Renewal of our Civilizational Mission

ARDD Annual Report 2018



النهضة العربية للديمقراطية والتنمية  
Arab Renaissance for Democracy & Development



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# Al Nahda: The Renewal of our Civilizational Mission

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ARDD Annual Report 2018



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## Letter from the Chief Executive Director

The Middle East is still plagued with instability and uncertainty; regional developments including the Syria and Iraq crises continue to impact Jordan economically and socially. The influx of refugees has resulted in Jordan hosting nearly 15% of the world's refugee population. Consequently, the need for humanitarian expertise and local actors in Jordan remains crucial to meet the region's pressing challenges. For over 10 years, the Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development (ARDD) continued to address these challenges through its localized grassroots approach, programming inside and outside refugee camps, and legal services for vulnerable refugees and host communities. We are proud to present our 2018 Annual Report, a reflection of the highlights from the past year made possible through the generous support of international and national partners.

*“Grounded in Al Nahda/ Arab renaissance, we seek to address the realities of the Arab world and invest in the available pathways to launch a humanistic Arab renaissance project renewing the civilizational message of the Arab World by proposing strategies and policies, visualizing contexts, and conditions with civilizational approaches to politics, culture, and religion towards an inclusive developmental action. “*

On our 10th anniversary, we had to review our organization's vision of change, and develop a new strategy, as such we celebrated with a two-day conference “Renewing the Civilizational Message” bringing together thought leaders from the Arab World who helped us explore how to present added value in a challenging Arab world, how to restore hope and contribute to building forward-thinking minds through a change plan that proclaims our determination to pave the way for the renewing intellectual and cultural discourse towards achieving active citizenship and social justice, promoting the values of pluralism, tolerance, and respect, reforming education, scientific research, development, and public policies, and expanding the circles of participation in public life and decision-making processes.

As such we announced the inauguration of the Al Nahda Center, a state-of-the-art political and intellectual think tank designed to bring the values of the Arab Renaissance (Nahda/ النهضة) which are centered around freedom, equality, the rule of law, and civil rights, to full fruition in civil society and across the Arab World. The centrality of the Question of Palestine to the Arab renaissance project became more evident through our work. There is no renaissance without providing solutions to the dire refugee issues, and as part of the Center's Question of Palestine Program, under the patronage of HRH Prince Hassan bin Talal, ARDD launched the ‘Global Network of Experts on the Question of Palestine’ whose members consist of leading international academics, lawyers and human rights activists that share their insights and outlooks on predominant legal and political discussions on the Question of Palestine, to strengthen dialogue on relevant issues through strategic, innovative and evidence-based advocacy.

In 2019 we hope to build on our accomplishments from the previous year and expand our operations regionally to engage in leadership and advocacy and encourage regional actors towards coordinated actions, subsequently feeding into, and complementing our localization agenda through building and enhancing our networks such as the Forum for Supporting the Justice Sector and Jordan NGOs Forum (JONAF) and expanding our alliances regionally and internationally. Parallel to this, we will finalize the Nahda Center work plan to produce knowledge, publications, and reports on ARDD programmatic

topics, as well as to conduct separate research on policy and government to serve as an influential medium that advocates for evidence-based policy change from and across the region. On the organizational level, we will focus on strengthening our institutional structure and strategies in addition to building our internal capacity.

I would like to thank our partners for their continuous support for ARDD and our mission to work together towards transformative change in our communities and the region, to encourage civic engagement, and justice, and to set in motion a new Arab renaissance endeavor that advances human dignity and renews the cultural and humane message of the Arab World.

Samar Muhareb  
Chief Executive Director

## AL Nahda: The Renewal of our Civilizational Mission

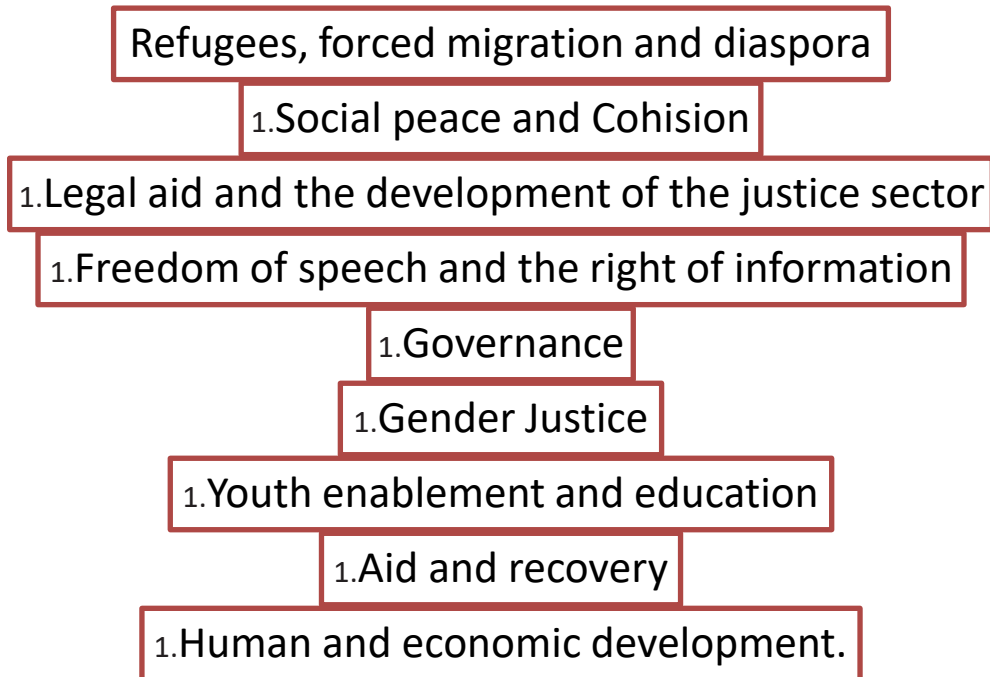
Al Nahda (The Arab Renaissance) constituted a process of reform and modernization toward achieving active citizenship, social justice, and state-building. The rhetoric of Nahda centered around freedom, equality, the rule of law, and civil rights. Proponents of the Nahda firmly believed that Arab societies themselves can achieve development and modernization. To this end, envisaged reforms should encompass all spheres of life, from the social to economic and political domains.

This year, capitalizing on the insights and achievements of the Nahda, ARDD's continued its quest to initiate a debate among Arab societies and all those engaged in change and reform in the Arab world. As a response to current developments in the Arab region, ARDD has aligned its objectives with the achievements of the Nahda. ARDD aims at bringing back 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 political order be achieved.

## ARDD Areas of Work

As part of its “Change Plan” launched in 2018, ARDD has been seeking to reinstate a new Arab Nahda (Arab Renaissance) movement underpinned by the values of human rights, freedom, and justice into practice to enable the Arab world to form democratic societies in which all enjoy social, economic, and political justice.

Over the past 10 years, ARDD identified nine areas of work that will be tackled through programmatic, evidence-based advocacy through in depth research effort:



## 2018 in Numbers



6500 Legal Aid Services  
130 Legal Awareness  
Workshops



An Arab Conference  
featuring:  
7 Dialogue Sessions  
20 Research Papers



20 K Direct and Indirect  
Beneficiaries



Over 60 Training sessions,  
Dialogues and Discussions



10 Publications  
including the launch of  
2 Books



Launch of the Global  
Network on The Question  
of Palestine

## A New Logo for a Growing Mission



As ARDD celebrated its 10th anniversary, it announced the adaptation of its new logo to better reflect our mission and vision to empower the people of the Arab world to create democratic societies in which all have access to justice.

The new logo strives to represent and visualize the essence of our organization's name – The Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development (ARDDO- both in critical thinking and practical implementation. Only together with all our partners within the community and beyond will we be able to further develop our societies and in doing so, together, we reach just a little bit closer to our vision of justice. It is in this way, hand in hand, that every individual has a role in toward a true Arab Renaissance.

## “Arab Renaissance: Renewal of the Civilizational Message” Conference



Over the past 10 years, ARDD has worked with determination to revive hope and mobilize society towards social, economic, and political justice. ARDD has aspired to contribute to an all-inclusive and comprehensive change in the spirit of achieving *al-Nahda*: The Arab Renaissance.

The conference had two objectives: 1.) building a consensus on the actions necessary for the new *Nahda* project, and 2.) the establishment of the Center for Renaissance as a regional think tank. The goal of the center is to encourage debate among interested audiences as it seeks to provide research and guidance for innovative ideas and actions

**The first day** started with setting the stage for the overall conference and presenting the main paradigms and achievements of *Nahda*. In the following sessions, participants discussed and explored main themes of current development such as Strategies and Policies, Al Nahda Conceptual Framework: Contexts and Outcomes, The Arab World of Today: Realities and Trajectories, Al Nahda Project’s Features, Substances and Conditions, Civilization Approach to Religion, Developmental Perspective and Propositions and Reflections then agreed on new avenues to change based on the principles and ethos of *al-Nahda*.

**The second day** was dedicated to consolidating and officiating agreed-upon actions and, finally, the introduction of the ARDD think tank, Al Nahda Thought Center.

## Key Participants

### Key Participants:



**Abdul Jabbar Al Refea**  
Iraqi Intellectual, Director of the Center for  
Philosophy & Religious Studies, Baghdad



**Abdullah Al Sayyed Walad Abah**  
Professor, University of Nouakchott



**Abu Y'arub Al Marzouqi**  
Tunisian Scholar and Philosopher



**Basel Tarawneh**  
Jordan Government Human Rights  
Coordinator



**Ahmed Madi**  
Professor, University of Jordan



**Al-Mahboub Abdul Salam**  
Sudanese Scholar, Chairman of the Board  
Trustees of Arab Association for  
Enlightened Muslim Educators



**Fatmeh Charafeddine**  
Head of Research Department at AUB



**Fahima Charafeddine**  
Professor, Institute for Social Science at  
Lebanese University.



**Ali Mahafzaa**  
Jordanian Intellectual and Diplomat



**Ali Oumlil**  
Arab Philosopher, Former Ambassador to  
Morocco in Lebanon



**Hassan AlOmari**  
Jordanian Researcher, Member of Emirates  
Policy Center



**Hassan Nafaa**  
Egyptian Intellectual & Professor University  
of Cairo



**Amer Al Hafi**  
Jordanian Intellectual and Faculty member at Al  
Bayt University



**Azmi Mahafza**  
President of the University of Jordan



**Hassan Hanafi**  
Egyptian Academic & Intellectual, University of  
Cairo



**Ibtisam Al-Ketbi**  
Founder and President of the Emirate Policy  
Center



**Ibrahim Awad**  
Egyptian Scholar, Professor, American  
University of Cairo



**Ibrahim Ghralbeh**  
Scholar and Researcher, University of  
Jordan



**Mohammad Shahrour**  
Syrian Academic, Intellectual and Writer



**Mohammad Masalha**  
Jordanian Intellectual and Academic



**Jerolus Samawi**  
Intellectual and Former Minister of Culture of  
Jordan



**Louay Safi**  
Syrian and intellectual writer, member o  
the board of trustees Islam and Democra  
Study Center



**Radwan AlSayed**  
Professor Islamic Studies at Lebanese  
University, Director of the Higher Institute of  
Islamic Studies in Lebanon



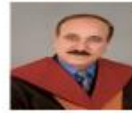
**Nart Qakhan**  
Jordanian Intellectual & Professor,  
University of Jordan



**Magda El-Sanousi**  
Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Women's  
Empowerment Section at the United National  
Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL)



**Mohammed Abu Hammour**  
Secretary General for the Arab Thought  
Forum, Former Finance Minister of Jorda



**Salah Jarrar**  
Professor University of Jordan, Former Minister  
of Culture in Jordan



**Siker Doudin**  
Jordanian Senator



**Mohammad Hashas**  
Moroccan Researcher, Author "The Idea of  
European Islam: Voices of Perpetual  
Modernity"



**Mohammad Noureddine Jabbab**  
Professor, University of Algeria



**Samar Muhareb**  
Chief Executive Officer (CEO) & Founder, Arab  
Renaissance for Democracy and Development  
(ARDD)



**Suad Joseph**  
Professor, University of California-Davis



**Tariq Mitri**  
Director of the Issam Fares Institute for Public  
Policy and International Affairs of the American  
University Beirut



**Dr. Wacini Al Araj**  
Academic, Algerian Novelist and short story  
Writer



**Dr. Wajih Kawtharani**  
Professor & Publication  
Director of the Arab Center  
for Research and Policy  
Studies



**Younis Qandil**  
Secretary General of the  
Foundation of Scholars  
Without Borders for Study  
and Research



**Zaid Eyadat**  
Professor, University of  
Jordan and Chairman of the  
Board of Trustees at ARDD

## The Path to Al Nahda

Quotes by Al Nahda Thought Leaders - Our Board of Trustees



“To advance a Renaissance vision in Arab societies will prove outright impossible without the upliftment and involvement of the region’s women, both from the perspective of economic development, as well as conflict resolution.” Dr. Magda Senoussi

“Current attempts to revive the Nahda must be *procedural*, engaging modernity in the Arab world through a robust economy that is both globally competitive as well as just in redistribution; a fundamental rehauling of the education system predicated on the promotion of citizenship, and coexistence; and a promotion of pluralism, which would, in turn, transcend the region’s current skirmishes with sectarianism and tribalism, which will be undergirded by a robust conception of citizenship” Professor Dr. Ali Oumlil

“Arab societies must remedy their social contract with their citizens, but decidedly not through mimicking straitjacketed Western models; through an organic cultural and intellectual idiom and framework, Arab societies must properly cultivate a vibrant civil society, an independent judiciary, and a firm separation of powers” Prof. Dr. Hassan Nafaa

“The path to Renaissance will require a systematic overhauling of Arab society at an infrastructural level. But equally critical, it will require that Arab thinkers, activists, and civil society leaders reevaluate their approach to better service a revival of Renaissance thinking and allow that thinking to permeate into the institutions they build and the projects they service.” Prof. Dr. Zaid Eyadat

## Al Nahda Featured Events

Al Nahda (Renaissance) cannot be locked away in a lecture hall or the archives of a library; the full and active engagement of civil society, government, and the private sector is necessary for bringing change to the region.

- Economic policies in Jordan.
- Women's Rights in the Era of Fidel Castro.
- Building the intellectual capacities of young people.
- Arab Refractions: Citizens, States, and Social Contracts.
- The Question of Palestine: today, what next?
- Legends of the ancestors and the age of new prophets.
- Linguistic security for an Arab renaissance.
- The Arab Human Renaissance: The Last Arab's Lifeline.
- The Arab Renaissance and Philosophy.
- The Road to Renaissance: The Possible and the Imaginary.
- Arabic Ontology and Computing Lexicography.

## Featured Publications

### Books



#### Islam, State, and Modernity

Mohammed Abed al-Jabri and the Future of the Arab World

Edited by Zaid Eyadat, Francesca M. Corrao, and Mohammed Hashas

Published in cooperation with ARDD, the book offers the first comprehensive introduction to Moroccan philosopher and social theorist Mohammed al-Jabri and his relevance to the "Arab Spring", creatively engages with top critical minds in Arab-Islamic scholarship on the future of the State in the Arab-Islamic World and discusses today's political challenges in the region and new intellectual trajectories.



#### Extremism

by Ibrahim Gharaibeh

Launched in cooperation with ARDD; the book deals with axiomatic questions and assessments that are formed when thinking about extremism and armed groups and organizations, that simply revolve around the ability of these groups and organizations to attract volunteers, supporters, and financial resources for recruitment, arming and fighting. No matter what is known about these groups, two clear facts are sufficient to analyze and study them, namely, the ideological support of these groups, and the sufficient financial resources that fund their work. Assessing the future of extremist groups and their ability to work is linked to their ability to attract funding and supporters.

### Research Studies and Reports

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  <p>ARDD</p> <p>FORD FOUNDATION</p> <p>Gender Justice</p> <p><b>Silent Women:</b><br/>An ARDD report on harassment in the workplace<br/>November - 2018</p> <p>العدالة الجنسانية</p> <p><b>نساء صامتات:</b><br/>واقع إشكالية التحرش في مكان العمل<br/>تشرين الثاني - 2018</p> | <p><b>Silent Women Report</b> provides an in-depth analysis of harmful and discriminatory workplace practices in Jordan that are potentially hindering women from safely accessing the labor market and works towards answering the overall project question: 'How can refugee and host community women in Jordan be empowered to safely access the labor market and be able to confidently utilize the Jordanian legal system when rights are violated?'</p> |
|--|---|



## You have a Chance: Rethinking Women's Economic Empowerment in Jordan

In the context of Jordan, this report makes us think about how this construction of the “economically empowered” woman does not cohere with the realities of impoverished women in Jordan. In fact, for many of the women documented in this report, such a construction of empowerment is irrelevant, impractical, and in the worst cases, contributes to further disempowerment by worsening women’s feelings of self-worth.

Thus, the current measurement of women’s economic empowerment, and the strategies we use to achieve it, although well-intentioned, remain insufficient.



## Know her Rights Tools of Knowledge: Elimination violence against women and girls in Jordan

While this toolkit contains the input of various stakeholders, from the government to media, education, and civil society experts, its innovative approach to dispersing the knowledge is based on the simple, non-technical composition of the toolkit. “Tools of Knowledge: Eliminating Violence Against Women and Girls in Jordan” includes descriptions of the challenges facing women in each of the four sectors, as well as surveys for members of the sector to appraise their understanding of VAWG and gender sensitivity.

## Al Nahda and the Central Question of Palestine



*"Identity cannot be allowed to paper over injustice, identity cannot be allowed to paper over the cracks in social equity and social justice."* His Royal Highness Prince Hassan bin Talal

In October 2018, ARDD inaugurated a major programmatic initiative on "The Question of Palestine 70 Years On Priorities for Action" aiming to inject new innovative thinking into the discourse around the unresolved Question of Palestine including the Palestinian refugees' issue.

Under the Patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Hassan Bin Talal of Jordan, ARDD organized a Conference on Sunday 14 October 2018 in Amman to launch the Global Network of Experts on the Question of Palestine as well as to present the outcome of a two-day workshop devoted to the theme "Palestinian Refugees under Threat: Towards a Strategic Response".

The Conference witnessed the launch of the Global Network of Experts on the Question of Palestine. The network will provide up-to-date analyses for policies and present political recommendations from different points of view, to act as a reference for policymakers, the public, and the media.

HRH Hassan Bin Talal of Jordan made a very inspiring address to the audience, stressing the paramount importance for host countries of preserving the dignity, rights, and identity of the Palestinian refugees in the countries and communities hosting them.

"This ruthless game of chess that is taking place between one national flag and another, the whole Sykes-Picot inheritance... is reducing our ability to think and to act" HRH Prince Hassan bin Talal added.

## Youth Journey towards Al Nahda



ARDD held “the Renaissance Journey for Youth” camp for youth

Out of its belief that youth are the pillars of the Arab renaissance and the soul of the nation, ARDD launched the Renaissance Journey for Youth, a summer program taking place from August 7<sup>th</sup> to September 22<sup>nd</sup> and seeking to unleash the potential of youth and strengthen the effectiveness of youth-led initiatives in humanitarian action at the local level.

The initiative aimed to aid youth in overcoming various obstacles and provide a space for youth’s ideas to form and flourish, and gradually encourage them to not only share their insights but more importantly take action in their own communities. In addition, Renaissance Journey for Youth aims to provide networking opportunities for young humanitarian activists, ages fifteen to twenty-five, to aid them in becoming community mobilizers, leading activities, supporting some of the most vulnerable groups and strengthening the community as a whole.

The program offered young people the opportunity to take part in the Nahda Forum; a platform that allows youth to gain knowledge, question the well-known and established truths, and enhance their critical thinking as well as problem-solving skills, in order to be part of shaping their own future and that of their communities in the Arab world. As part of the program, several activities also took place such as “The Environment Challenge” in Jerash where activities were focused on impacting positive change to the environment and raising awareness about the different approaches to saving the environment.

## Youth Political Participation



### Ministry of Political and Parliamentary Affairs Visit

The visit came as part of the “Ma’an Lenabne” project and aimed to enhance the youth’s political participation. The meeting stressed the importance of the civil society role to facilitate the mission to enlighten the upcoming generation toward effective participation in decision-making.

## Youth and Education

### Developing Vocational Education in Jordan



Through its efforts to support and develop vocational education in Jordan, ARDD seeks to provide technical and financial support to a group of young women and young people in Jordan, to help them invest their talents in education and vocational work, complete middle school, and access to the labor market.

## Featured Projects and Activities

Supporting the Justice Sector

Public Discussion on the "Public Perceptions and Satisfaction Regarding the Justice Sector in Jordan" report



As part of "Enhancing Public Support for Justice Sector Reform in Jordan", funded by the EU Delegation to Jordan, ARDD in cooperation with Durrat Al Manal for Development and Training (DMDT) to support the steps the Kingdom has taken to develop the justice sector and strengthen the rule of law, as aligned

with international human rights standards, formed a steering committee to actively contribute to improving general awareness and knowledge of recent reform initiatives and to also become a trusted reference source for guaranteeing access to justice and contribute to the process of improving the justice sector and promoting the values of inclusion and principles of accountability in the justice sector.

## Women and Al Nahda

### ARDD launches "Women, Peace and Security" Project

"Renaissance is justice and security, and through the voice of a woman, peace can be accomplished." – Participant at the project's opening session, 4 April 2018.

Anchored in the message of the former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon "In failing to include women and girls in peacemaking and peace-building processes, we are not only failing women and girls, we are failing the world", the Gender Unit at the Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development (ARDD) launched the "Women Peace and Security" project in Jordan. Funded by the Women, Peace and Humanitarian Fund, the project focuses primarily on the process of peace transformation from a gender perspective and uniquely engages women as agents for social change, encouraging their inclusion in the peace and security agenda. Traditionally, women lacked the necessary information to ensure their protection, but they lack neither the capacity nor the motivation to be active participants in improving the conditions under which they and their families live. To foster gender equality, dialogue, and active participation, the project has the potential to benefit communities and individuals beyond the borders of Jordan, extending ARDD's vision of Women, Peace, and Security in the Arab region.

Women leaders plan and implement awareness initiatives as part of the Masertna Project



"1

only wish to leave this life having left a mark behind”, says one participant in the civic engagement training sessions organized by ARDD in Mafraq Governorate. She is part of a pioneering group of refugee and host community women who seek to effect change in their communities.

Within the framework of the “Masertna” project, which is being implemented with the support of Women for Women International, As reflected in its name, the "Masertna" project aims to facilitate the path to a better life for women by empowering and engaging them in combating GBV) in their communities, to overcome the challenges and barriers that would otherwise darken their paths towards a life of peace and justice. The project is funded by Women for Women International and implemented by the Arab ARDD.

Within the framework of the project and as part of the **16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign**, leading women in Mafraq have designed and implemented unique civic initiatives in their communities: " I want to live my childhood " about early marriage, " Awja3tani, you hurt me " about physical violence against women and " I will not give up my right " about depriving women of inheritance.

With Refugees

Syrian Refugee Empowerment Project (SREP)

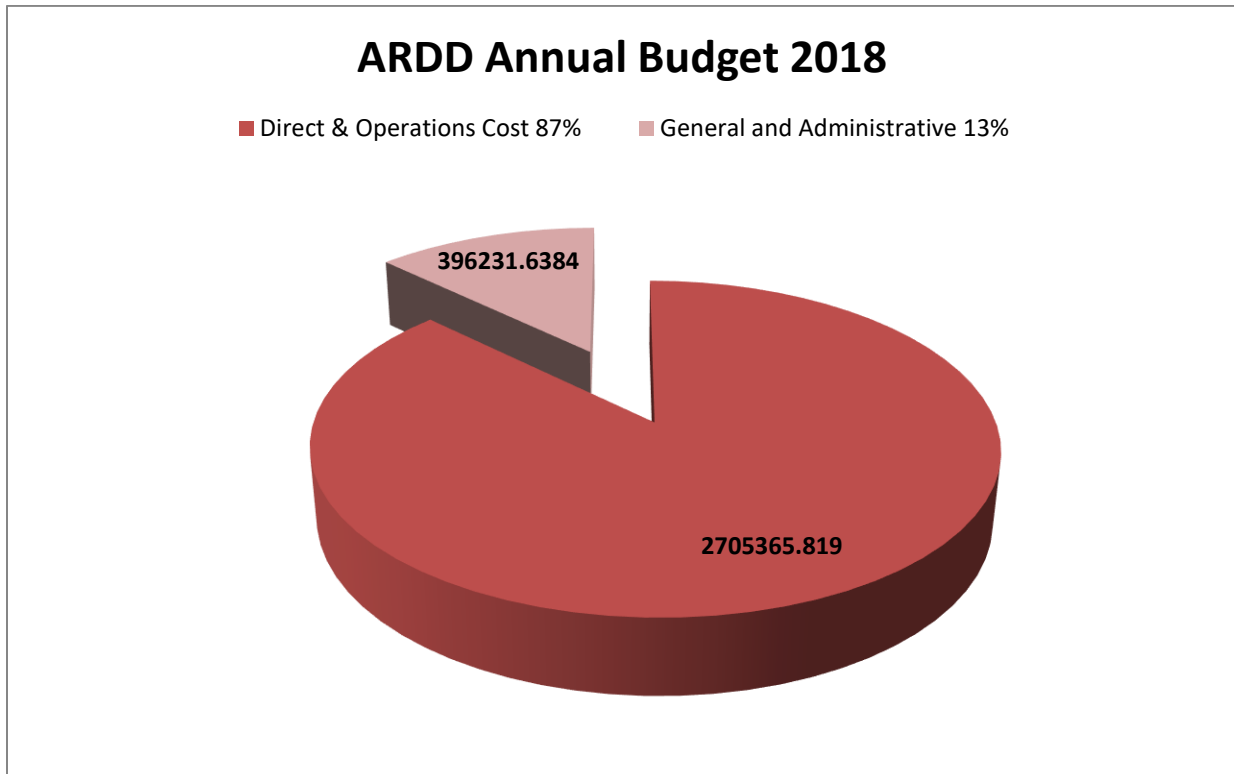
Facilitating Change in the Community



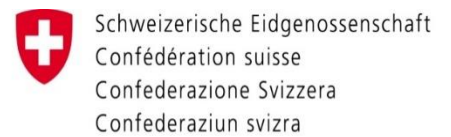
The Syrian crisis has placed considerable pressure on public services and the labor market, making it difficult for many Syrians and members of host communities to access quality education and jobs. In partnership with Tamkeen Fields for Aid, ARDD launched the Syrian Refugees Empowerment Project (SREP) to empower both citizens and noncitizens by educating individuals, building their capacities to demand their rights, and promoting ownership of positive change. In turn, this project advances ARDD's work as it relates to creating a culture of accountability, respect for fundamental human rights and universal access to justice.

The project is unique in that it engages Syrian refugees and Jordanians in host communities as Community Facilitators, building their capacities to respond to their challenges directly rather than remaining passive observers. Training sessions develop technical skills in community mobilization, and group facilitation, and teach about relevant legal frameworks, procedural requirements, and sources of specialist support.

## ARDD 2018 Annual Budget



All the Appreciation and Gratitude to our Partners



**Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC**

