



النهضة العربية للديمقراطية والتنمية  
Arab Renaissance for Democracy & Development



# AL NAHDA AMID COVID-19

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## ARDD's Annual Report

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# 2020







ARDD

النهضة العربية للديمقراطية والتنمية  
Arab Renaissance for Democracy & Development

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## AL NAHDA AMID COVID-19

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ARDD's Annual Report 2020



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# A Letter from the Chief Executive Director

“*The impact we achieved in alleviating the pandemic’s affects wouldn’t have been possible without our teams’ and partners commitment to localization of humanitarian responses, solidarity in times of crises and having civil society, donors and government collaborate in humanitarian action to ensure that aid was delivered to those who most deserve it.*”

As soon as the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the COVID-19 pandemic, Jordan implemented strict measures to contain the virus. Although Jordan registered as success from a public health perspective at the beginning of the outbreak, the pandemic has further revealed that Jordan has a weak health-care system, a struggling economy, and a lacking social protection system.

Although the MENA governments succeeded in containing the outbreak to a certain extent, societal and economic costs of the pandemic have been high. As such, Al Nahda Center at ARDD launched a series of regional dialogues and country briefs tackling the social protection situation in Jordan and the Arab region to find out and document Arab experts’ point of view on the multi-layered impact of the COVID-19 health crisis on inequalities in the region, as well as on its effects on poverty levels, social protection, and welfare of individuals and communities, from a macro perspective. On a local level, the center in cooperation with CSOs’ representatives, practitioners and experts also documented the crisis issues and the response efforts, through reports and studies to be published to enhance awareness about the developments of the crisis on a social, economic and legislatives levels from the perspective of the Jordanian civil society.

As part of the Question of Palestine Program, ARDD continued our advocacy efforts to shed light on refugees’ conditions amid the pandemic, the Question of Palestine Network also issued various position papers addressing annexation, the situation in the Occupied territory and the situation of Palestinian refugees in the region amid covid-19.

Even before the outbreak gained momentum, ARDD, Jordan NGOs Forum’s (JONAF) coordinator, sprang into action establishing dedicated response teams, and engaged in frequent and transparent communication with the forum members to develop an immediate response plan, and cooperate with the government and support its efforts to address this crisis threatening the entire world. While continuing to provide legal aid services, ARDD team tailored part of its projects and programs to respond to the crisis by identifying four areas in which to direct its relief efforts: financial aid, hygiene awareness and sanitary parcel distribution, medical assistance, and distribution of food.

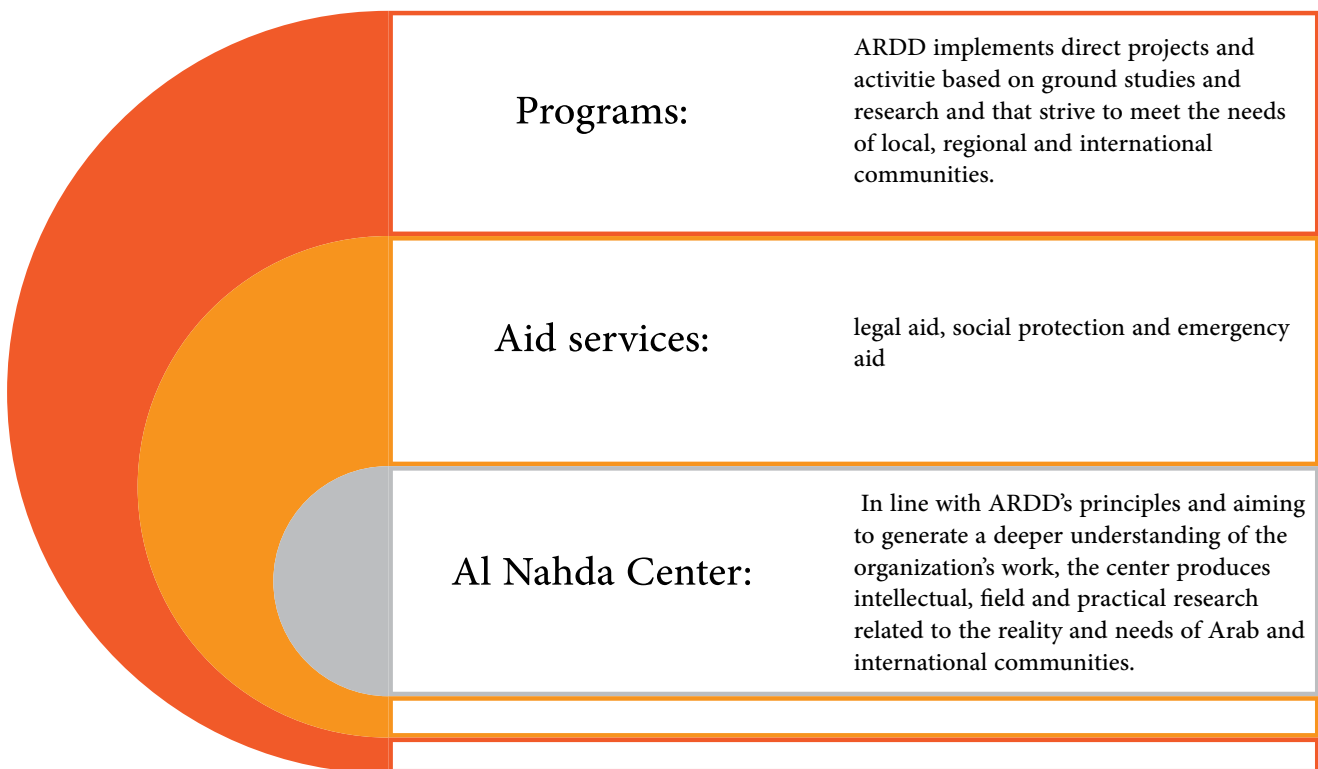
ARDD work has been based on partnerships and collaboration with government officials, decision makers at both national and local levels, and the international community; the aim was to strengthen the prospects of localization in Jordan. Our conviction in localization was reaffirmed through the supportive partnerships that were built during this year and that have helped facilitate and alleviate the magnitude of the crises. As we commend and appreciate the response of our team who represented our core values so strongly, the donors, government agencies and JONAF members, who believed in our mission and came together to ensure the delivery of aid to those who need it, we stress the importance of localization of humanitarian responses, of solidarity in times of crises and of having civil society, donors and government collaborate in humanitarian action to ensure the success of relief efforts.

ARDD, in coordination with JONAF members, is now working on further analysis, research and plans to respond to the requirements and needs of the next phase of the crisis towards relief.

# ARDD Pillars towards Al Nahda

As part of its “Change Plan” launched in 2018, ARDD has been seeking to reinitiate a new Arab Nahda (Arab Renaissance) to enable the Arab world to form democratic societies in which all enjoy social, economic and political justice.

## ARDD Frameworks:



# 2020 in Numbers

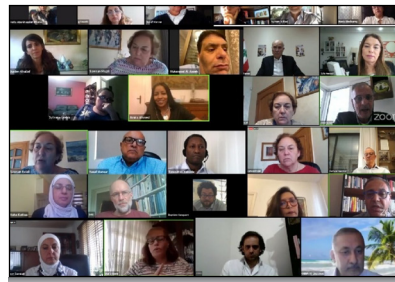
Aid and relief to more than  
**16,000** Families



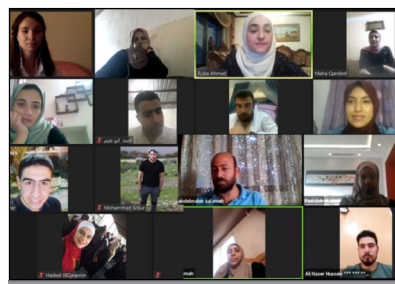
**23** research studies reports  
and paper



More than **18** local, regional  
and international dialogues  
conducted



Over **50** Trading and  
Awareness raising sessions for  
women leaders, youth and parents

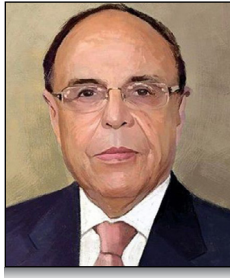


**275000** beneficiaries  
of legal aid services





# Al Nahda Thought Leaders Our Board of Trustees



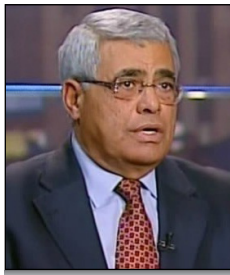
“The pandemic came at a time of globalization, revealing many issues in the new liberal state model that is based on economy and liberal democracy, and the huge gaps not only among countries, but among people in the same country in terms of access to education, health, and others”

Oumlil



“The Arab world is now facing a huge challenge regarding political engineering and state administration on which social and economic reform depends”

Wild Abah



The Arab League failed to invest in the opportunity presented by the pandemic to achieve Arab unity; its response only highlighted its weak position.

Nafaa



“The year 2020 ended, but numerous crises still dominate the Arab world; most prominent: the ethics crisis, a profound identity crisis, and many social, political, and economic crises”

PhD. Zaid Eyadat

# Social Protection amid Covid-19

ARDD Nahda Center with the support of the Ford Foundation, launched a series of regional dialogues and country briefs tackling the social protection situation in Jordan and the Arab region to find out and document Arab experts' point of view on the multi-layered impact of the COVID-19 health crisis on inequalities in the region, as well as on its effects on poverty levels, social protection, and welfare of individuals and communities, from a macro perspective. The dialogue sessions are conducted in cooperation with HE Senator Dr. Sawsan Al-Majali, the social development committee chair in the Jordanian Senate, who hosted and moderated this series. These regional dialogue series aimed to find out and document Arab experts' point of view on the multi-layered impact of the COVID-19 health crisis on inequali-

ties in the region, as well as on its effects on poverty levels, social protection, and welfare of individuals and communities, from a macro perspective.

ARDD through Al Nahda Center also documented the crisis issues and the response efforts, through several reports and studies to be published to enhance awareness about the developments of the crisis from the perspective of the local civil society.

This, in addition to the partnership ARDD started with the Community Media Network in which 40 episodes of "Together to defeat COVID-19" program, which dealt with issues related to the crisis, its consequences and civil society initiatives in this regard, were broadcast throughout the Kingdom.

## Experts speak up on Social Protection in the Arab World amid COVID-19



“There are many challenges facing the social protection file in the Arab region such as: the fragility of protection strategies and their lack of inclusiveness, the complexity of their implementation as a result of the of accumulated crises – in addition to the Pandemic – the presence of discriminatory practices at other times, and the absence of legislation that paves the way for sustainable social protection.”

HE Senator Dr. Sawsan Al-Majali



“The Corona crisis exposed weaknesses in our Arab countries, especially with regard to producing food locally, not importing it.”

Razan Zuayter

*The Arab Group for the Protection of Nature General Coordinator and President of the Arab Network for Food Sovereignty*



“The policies of neo-liberalism and ferocious capitalist systems are the reason for the current situation, as they have prevented the world from effectively preparing for COVID-19, as it has been preceded by other previous pandemics and epidemics. The shareholders had more power than the stakeholders.”

Noha El Mekawi

*Regional Director of the Ford Foundation, Middle East and North Africa*

# Experts speak up on Social Protection in the Arab World amid COVID-19



“The implications of the emerging Coronavirus pandemic on equality in the Arab region as is usually the case in humanitarian situations, it is feared that women will be most affected by the health risks and violence that the Corona pandemic will generate in The Arab region.”

Akram Khalifa,  
*Regional Adviser on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women – ESCWA*



“In the Arab world studies foresee the loss of more than \$42 billion, which are projected to lead to the loss of 1.7 million jobs in the region, with more than 8 million people joining the “poor” in the Arab world. Women in specific as the most affected by the crisis, as 84 million of them work in the informal sector, and many are expected to suffer from the increase in violence against women during the current lockdowns, as well as the increase in unemployment rates by more than three times compared to men.”

Dr. Abla Amaw  
*Secretary General of the Higher Population Council in Jordan and Chairman of the Arab Population and Development Council at the League of Arab States*



“The world is heading towards less globalization, less welfare measures, more interest in social protection, and a need for comprehensive and not partial policies.”

Dr. Kamel Muhann  
*President of the Amel Association International and General Coordinator of the Lebanese and Arab Voluntary Civil Organizations*



“The pandemic has increased the number of the marginalized people due to the fragility of the labour law and its application, with a high unemployment rate in the Westbank and Gaza that reaches 48%.”

Ms. Dua'a Qurie  
*Executive Director of the Palestinian NGOs Network*

# Experts speak up on Social Protection in the Arab World amid COVID-19



“The pandemic has shown how critical the refugees’ issue is, as the average duration of asylum reaches 20 years. There is lack of long-term comprehensive solutions to the refugees and host countries’ problems, and the fact that refugees are denied working and social protection rights.”

Shaden Khalaf  
*Senior policy advisor to the UNHCR regional office-Jordan*



“The National Strategy for Social Protection has contributed to mitigating the impact of the Coronavirus crisis.”

Bassma Isheiqat  
*Minister of Social Development in Jordan*



“The percentage of people with disabilities in Jordan exceeds 10% of the population aged 5 and above this group should be given even more care in the event of accidents and disasters, as is the case of the Coronavirus pandemic but unfortunately, this is not a top priority on the national agenda.”

Dr. Mohannad Al-Azza  
*Secretary General of the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Jordan*



“The crisis has come at a difficult time for the Jordanian economy, as the country suffers from a major economic recession in which citizen’s income has been declining for over a period of ten years. While Jordan has taken early public health measures that may be considered the best in the world, from an economic point of view, the economy is not suited to handle these restrictions. “Dr. Yusuf Mansur, Economic Expert and ARDD’s Al Nahda Centre Head  
“The lockdown requires civil society to support the state, and that the role of associations is to provide the authorized entities of the state with the names of the affected and needy families.”

Reem Abu Hassan  
*former Minister of Social Development in Jordan*

# The Question of Palestine in 2020

## The Deal of The Century

On January 28, 2020 in Washington and in the absence of Palestinian representatives, US President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced the so-called “Deal of the Century” or the “Peace to Prosperity” plan, and a document with the same name was released including a “Vision to improve the lives of the Palestinian and Israeli people”.

The White House issued on its official website the document, which reveals the two parties’ vision of the new Israeli-Palestinian reality, whereas the Arabic version had a different format and did not include details on the political or economic vision.

**ARDD releases the complete Arabic Translation of “the Peace to Prosperity –Vision to improve the lives the Palestinian and Israeli people”**

So "The Deal of the Century" doesn't turn into another Belfour declaration, and because it is your right to know. ARDD translated the full document and published it.



لأجل أن لا تصبح صفقة القرن "وعد بلفور آخر"، ولأن من حقه أن تعلم. قامت منظمة النهضة العربية للديمقراطية والتنمية (أرض) بترجمة هذه الوثيقة بالكامل ونشرها

Complete Arabic Translation of  
**Peace to Prosperity**  
A Vision to Improve the Lives of the Palestinian and Israeli People  
February 2020

الترجمة الكاملة لوثيقة  
**"السلام من أجل الازدهار"**  
"رؤية لتحسين حياة الشعبين الفلسطيني والإسرائيلي"  
شباط، فبراير 2020

The important of the translation stems from the fact that it reveals to the Palestinians and Arabs who have been excluded from this process, the true nature of the “Deal” in terms of content and unilateral narrative. It is vital to understand what this “Deal” entails, to make an informed decision on how to respond to it and its consequences.

As thus, we presented this translation as basis of a dialogue on the whole document and to explore together best ways to deal with the so called “Deal of the Century”. [This translation](#) was followed by Dr. Yusuf Mansur’s economic analysis of the economics proposed in the Deal of the century

**A Reading into the Economics of the “Deal of the Century” (West Bank and Gaza Strip)**

<https://ardd-jo.org/Publications/ardd-launches-a-first-reading-of-the-deal-of-the>

**A Reading into the Projects Stipulated for Jordan in the “Deal of the Century”**

<https://ardd-jo.org/Publications/reading-into-projects-stipulated-for-jordan-in-the-deal-of>

# The Question of Palestine in the Times of COVID-19 position papers series

The Global Network on the Question of Palestine (GNQP) launched a series of position papers documenting the impact of COVID-19 on the Question of Palestine, by studying the effect of the pandemic on Palestinian refugees in the region.



## Position Paper on the Situation in the Occupied Territory -The Question of Palestine in the Times of COVID-19

On the 72nd Anniversary of Al Nakba Day ARDD's Global Network of Experts on the Question Launches a Paper Denouncing the Continuing Israeli Violations against Palestinians amid COVID-19 Crisis

[For more](#)



## Position Paper on the situation for Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Occupied Palestine and Syria

On the 53rd Anniversary of the Naksa Day: The Plight of Palestinian Refugees is exacerbated amid COVID-19

[For more](#)



## Position Paper on the Annexation Plans for the West Bank The Question of Palestine in the Times of Covid-19

ARDD's Global Network on the Question of Palestine Launches New Position Paper Demanding the International Community to Take Decisive and Deterrent Measures to Stop Israeli Annexation

[for more](#)

## Palestinian Refugee Youth



### Voices of Palestinian Refugee Youth across the Near East: Socio-Political Participation and Aspirations

The study sheds new light on the Palestinian refugees, by focusing on a usually politically marginalized segment of their communities: refugee youth, whose perceptions, and aspirations about their status within their communities and within their host societies, as well as about their future, are important albeit often muted.

[More](#)

ARDD also launched a study, [“Voices of Palestinian Refugee Youth across the Near East: Socio-Political Participation and Aspirations”](#)

ARDD  
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Arab Renaissance for Democracy & Development

أصوات اللاجئين الفلسطينيين الشباب في أنحاء الشرق الأدنى  
المشاركة والتطلعات الاجتماعية والسياسية

اللاجئون الشباب وحق العودة

يبقى سؤال اللاجئين عن موعد العودة حاضرًا في خطابهم كلما سئلوا عن مستقبلهم؛ إذ يرتبط به ارتباطًا وثيقًا كعنصر أساسي في الوعي الأخلاقي والسياسي للاجئين الفلسطينيين:

“نكبر وحق العودة يعيش في داخلنا مع ذلك النداء إلى “العودة” حتى عندما لا نملك شيئًا... يعلم [اللاجئون] أطفالهم منذ نعومة أظافرهم الأماكن التي جاؤوا منها قبل أي شيء آخر، وأنهم سيعودون إليها يومًا ما، ويعتبر ذلك بمثابة أداء شعيرة دينية”

[مستجيب من مخيم برج البراجنة، لبنان].

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# Refugees amid Covid-19

ARDD dedicated “Voices and Future of Refugee Youth from and in the Arab World” days, marking [World Refugee Day](#) and shedding light on their conditions. As part of ARDD’s research programs aiming at amplifying refugees’ voices, it conducted a dialogue session with young Arab refugees in Jordan.

It also launched the [Blog Series: “I am a refugee in the Age of Coronavirus”](#) in which ARDD made heard voices of refugees of

different origins in the Arab world and shares their perspectives and challenges they face due to the measures taken to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. The pandemic affects all segments of society worldwide, but ARDD wishes to shed light on the life of refugees during the pandemic.

## Refugees’ Voices



“ We observed how the virus, in a way, eliminated categorizing refugees or natives or citizens. Under these circumstances, discrimination is of no use. We are all people together trying to stay safe from the virus.”

Randa and Hishma  
*Sudanese Refugees -Amman*



“ These days of quarantine, I know people are drowning in despair and depression, but I am not. I am staying with my family working on my graduation project, reading, improving my Spanish and English skills, helping my brothers, catching up with friends and doing language exchanges. Being productive and seeing the silver lining is a choice and I decided I am going to make the best of it and do everything that I have been putting off owing to being busy. So far, I have finished a book I have been translating with a friend and a big chunk of my graduation project. My family is trying to do productive things as well and being calm about the situation without freaking out. This time is the whole world’s opportunity to think everything through and reflect on the experience of refugees and besieged people because for them the quarantine is a daily routine, and they cannot travel at any time.”

Bushra Al Zoubi (26)  
*Syrian refugee – Amman*



“ After the Skype training sessions, we shared the PowerPoint presentation with information on the virus and how to prevent it with focal points inside camps, for them to share it again with as many Syrian refugees as possible through their networks on WhatsApp and Facebook.”

Nadia Rdeini (26)  
*A Palestinian refugee - Zahlé in Lebanon*

## Regional Advocacy through Marfaa



As a member of The Migration and Refugee Forum for the Arab World (MARFA), which emerged in response to the dire need to collectively work on advocating rights and raising awareness on issues in the region related to migrants, refugees, statelessness and the Arab diaspora through policy-level intervention, ARDD participated in launching a statement [on the killing of 30 migrants and wounding 11 others in Libya](#), shedding light on the suffering of refugees at the hands of human traffickers, calling for justice to be served and for more protection to be accorded to them.

MARFA's statement on the occasion of [World Labour Day 2020](#) called for including migrants under the social protection umbrella and making them beneficiaries of the national response efforts, enabling them to enjoy their rights and protecting them against exploitation. In its first statements at the beginning of the crisis, "[Calling for the inclusion of refugees and migrants in the Covid-19 protection mechanisms of Arab countries](#)", MARFA demanded that refugees not be exploited for political gains. The first statement in this regard was issued following the [developments related to the Turkish-Greek border](#)

# Featured Publications



## Strengthening Localization in Jordan

### Localization: Reinforce and support do not replace or undermine

This research aims to create clarity, momentum, focus and meaningful action around “localization” in Jordan. The broad question underlying this research is whether and how the large presence of international aid agencies in Jordan over the past two decades has significantly reinforced the country’s collective capacities to deal with refugees and with (socio-) economic shocks.

[More](#)



## The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Women's Access to Justice in Jordan

Building upon ARDD’s continued work relating to women’s access to justice, this brief seeks to document the observations and points of analysis within the current Coronavirus crisis. In line with ARDD’s vision, we recognize that this must consider six core principles, namely: justiciability, accessibility, availability, good quality, meaningful remedies, and accountability of the justice system (UN Women, Council of Europe, 2015). This analysis is conducted through ARDD’s framework of inquiry for women’s access to justice, and refers to a full range of socio-cultural, political, or economic conditions in a society that enable or hinder access to justice. Here, ARDD considers the way that the response to COVID-19 has impacted women, with reference to issues such as employment, social welfare, marriage, economic participation, health, education, citizenship, and others.

[More](#)



## Legal Paper on children's rights draft bill for 2020 in Jordan

In this paper, ARDD aims to present its legal opinion on the draft bill for children’s rights 2020, and to shed light on the main legal text as it pertains to the importance of this bill at the local level. This paper also considers the role of this legislation in creating a solid and clear legal text and expanding the legislative framework concerning children’s rights and protection. The bill is also important internationally as it strengthens the main principles and commitments of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by implementing the international conventions on human rights. Finally, the bill is a positive addition to strengthening human rights in general, and children’s right in Jordan, in particular.

[More](#)

# Featured Publications



## “Documentation for Syrian Refugees in Jordan: Good Practices and Challenges” Working Paper

This Working Paper concentrates on a key aspect of civil documentation, namely affixing marriage, and kinship in the Kingdom. It provides analysis of key obstacles preventing the concerned individuals from seeking successfully completing their regularization in the country. The Paper also provides some preliminary analysis the impact of COVID 19 on the legal system as well as some reflections on its impact on the possible future obstacles to document marriages and civil status. Finally, the paper provides several recommendations for decision-makers, official institutions, legal aid providers, donors, and refugees to ensure the best protection for refugees and reliable information, stressing the importance of documentation and taking into account all developments such as Covid-19 and others.

[More](#)



## How Women-led Civil Society Organizations Empowered Vulnerable Women During Covid-19 Pandemic: the Indebtedness of Women in Jordan

The brief aims to evidence the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on women and to include the women's specific needs. Women-led civil society organizations (CSOs) provided aid to women who have the opportunity to borrow money for small businesses and have specific regulations for loan types, grace periods, and loan repayment.

Moreover, some CSOs provide legal counseling and aid, free of charge, to “Gharimat” through their organizations. However, women still face challenges related to loan repayment, which the policy brief addresses with a set of recommendations.







[More](#)

# Localization Enabling COVID -19 Response

Since the beginning of the crisis, ARDD as the coordinator of Jordan NGOs Forum JONAF – which comprises of more than forty local and national civil society organizations representing all of Jordan – has led the efforts to implement an immediate three-month response plan covering various areas. These include direct humanitarian response, health and food aid, provision of medical, social, legal, labor and protection services, childcare, competent social and

mental health services, and community organization and public awareness services through social media sites. This is also includes building the capabilities of JONAF members to prepare them to deal with crises, and to enable them to initiate monitoring, research, and analysis for the purpose of evidence-based advocacy.

ARDD, in addition to continuing to provide legal aid services in

					
<b>ARDD</b>	<b>Tamkeen Centre for Legal Aid</b>	<b>Jordan Paramedic Society</b>	<b>Durrat Al Manal for Development &amp; Training</b>	<b>East West Centre</b>	<b>Radio Al Balad</b>
<b>Protection &amp; Social Protection</b>	<b>Labour Rights Services</b>	<b>Medical Services</b>	<b>Child Protection &amp; Psychosocial Protection</b>	<b>Community Organizing</b>	<b>Media Services and campaigns</b>

partnership with UNHCR, tailored part of its projects and programs to respond to the crisis by identifying four areas to direct its relief efforts: financial aid, hygiene and sanitary parcel distribution, medical assistance and distribution of food; it also launched the “Harat Al Ouneh” initiatives with Al Nahda Youth Network.

These efforts, implemented throughout Jordan by ARDD in cooperation with JONAF members, were supported by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), UN Women, the Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development, and the Islamic Relief -France. Since the outbreak of the crisis, ARDD has worked to activate cooperation between civil society organizations and the government by coordinating activities with the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, which responded swiftly to developments and worked to facilitate procedures for obtaining and speeding up project approvals, needed to cope with the crisis, thus enabling a timely implementation of the much-needed projects. ARDD also coordinated with the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Social Development to obtain approvals and provide the necessary support to the activities implemented, to provide lists of vulnerable families and ensure that there is no duplication, and to distribute aid to beneficiaries as fairly as possible.

Coordination was also effected with UNHCR to ensure that, in the distribution of aid, there is no duplication from international and local organizations, by distributing lists of refugee families to organizations. All this was done in addition to working to activate the role of the local humanitarian work through coordination with JHCO, which was instrumental to enabling members of JONAF

CSOs and CBOs to distribute humanitarian aid according to the needs of local communities. JONAF members contributed to these efforts either directly or by providing lists of the most affected families, as part of the following projects and initiatives:

“Humanitarian Response to Coronavirus Crisis: covering the essential needs of the most affected Jordanians and non-Jordanians in Jordan”, funded by OCHA and implemented by ARDD in Irbid, Amman, Zarqa, Mafraq and Karak governorates. ARDD coordinated with the Ministry of Interior who distributed food parcels to 4,000 vulnerable Jordanian and Syrian families in coordination with Irbid Governorate administrators, especially in the areas that were isolated during the month of March due to the outbreak of Coronavirus there. ARDD also cooperated with the Khatwat Amal Association in Irbid to follow up with official authorities on the distribution of food. As for financial support, ARDD cooperated with the Ministry of Social Development who provided a list of 350 Jordanian families most affected in Irbid, Karak, Zarqa, Amman and Mafraq. ARDD offered cash assistance amounting to JD75 per family. It also provided financial support to the families on the lists provided by ARDD and JONAF members. A total of 1,000 families benefited from financial aid (JD75/ family) in the five governorates mentioned above; they are part of both vulnerable Jordanian host communities and of Syrian refugees. ARDD also distributed health and sanitary parcels and helped 700 of the most affected families, in addition to conducting medical check-ups, by the Jordanian Paramedic Society field teams that visited these families, and wrote prescriptions, when needed, dispensed for free by pharmacies affiliated with hospitals that have contracts with JPS.



“Children Comprehensive Access to Justice”, funded by OCHA, and implemented by ARDD. ARDD transformed part of the project activities, in agreement with the donor, in order to provide emergency relief assistance to over 1,460 Jordanian and Syrian refugee families affected by the Coronavirus crisis in the Amman, Zarqa and Mafraq governorates, in coordination with JHCO and JONAF member Child Care Association in Mafraq, distributing food and health assistance to the most affected families in Mafraq, within the Northern Badia region. The “Harat Al Ouneh” (supportive neighborhoods) initiative which entails having food, and sanitary and hygiene products distributed by JONAF members Al-Amal Association for Social Development in Al-Baq’a Palestinian Refugee Camp, Sama Gaza Society in Gaza Camp in Jerash for Palestinian Refugees, and Al-Harah Society in East Amman. Through this initiative, ARDD seeks to reach out to all governorates in cooperation with local associations, stimulate youth initiatives to enhance the spirit of solidarity, spread awareness about the crisis and give guidance on how to deal with its economic, social and security implications. Moreover, through this project, a donation was made to Northern Badia Hospital and the Anti Human Trafficking Unit, providing them with medical and sterilizers at the beginning of the crisis, thus strengthening the spirit of cooperation and partnership between government agencies and civil society organizations.

Towards the end of the month of Ramadan and in preparation for Eid, ARDD dedicated part of the “Enhancing Protection” project, funded by the Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development, to providing emergency relief assistance to 860 Syrian refugees and Jordanian families seriously affected by the virus crisis in Amman, Zarqa, Karak, Mafraq and Irbid. The aid was delivered in the form of JD50 worth of coupons for each family to shop from an approved provider (the Military Consumer Corporation) in cooperation with JONAF members, namely the Madaba Cultural Forum for Childhood in

Madaba, the Jordanian Village Society in Amman and Balqa, the Abu Alanda Society for Social Development in Amman, the Karak Castle Association for Consultation and Training, the Median Women Charitable Society in Karak, Al-Rafid Women Agricultural Society and Khatwat Amal Society in Irbid, the Ramtha Women Association for Social Development in Irbid and Ramtha, the Shamaa Charitable Society for the Care of Poor Families in the Northern Jordan Valley, and the Khawlah Bint Al-Azwar Association in Zarqa. ARDD, in cooperation with JHCO and JONAF, the Child Care Association and Al Karam Association for Families in Mafraq, implemented the “Ramadan Food Parcels” project, funded by the Islamic Relief Organization-France, which entailed giving out food parcels to 1,350 Jordanian and Syrian refugee families affected by the pandemic.

ARDD, the UNHCR legal partner in Jordan, has continued, at the same time, to provide legal services to its beneficiaries, from the onset of the Coronavirus crisis in Jordan, in March, in line with its mission to provide legal and social protection to those in need. ARDD allocated eight phone numbers for protection and legal advice services to cover the Kingdom governorates and provide consultations and mediation services to more than 7,000 beneficiaries, which include Jordanians, refugees and residents of Jordanian, Palestinian, Iraqi, Egyptian, Syrian, Yemeni, Sudanese, Somali, Ugandan and Sri Lankan, until May 20, 2020. The services covered inquiries and clarifications about the lockdown, all types of movement permits, refugee issues, documentation and consultations on family problems, including divorce and labor rights in light of instructions issued, in addition to providing legal mediation services to individuals. ARDD legal team provided these services to the beneficiaries by phone during the COVID-19 lockdown; it started carrying out its work at its offices on 10 May 2020, while adhering to the required protection measures.

# 2020 Highlights

## Women Issues



# Women Issues

- Ever since the beginning of COVID-19 crisis, civil society sprang into action. Response was swift and women leaders active in different fields stepped up to the plate, showing leadership and activism, particularly those from organizations that had been working, before the start of the crisis, to activate Jordan's national action plan regarding UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security (JONAP), which aims at protecting women in times of crises, and activate their important role in addressing the needs of their communities and ensuring they are included in the decision-making process at all times. Women have been working to ensure that their communities' needs and capabilities are properly represented, building on previously acquired knowledge and mechanisms to coordinate the efforts of all parties concerned, in order to provide direct relief ser-

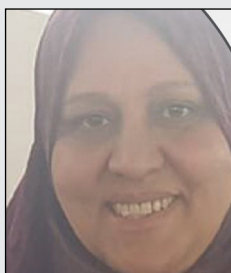
vices to the communities most affected by the consequences of the lockdown, spread awareness about the crisis and mitigate its consequences, ensure that the gender parity is observed, work to combat violence against women, participate in dialogues with a view to monitoring government efforts and seeking to contribute to policies and decisions taken to protect them and their communities. [For more](#)

- ARDD also issued a report discussing **The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Women's Access to Justice in Jordan**
- ARDD also launched the first brief of the Women's Advocacy Issues Briefs discussing "How Women-led Civil Society Organizations Empowered Vulnerable Women During Covid-19 Pandemic: The Indebtedness of Women in Jordan"



**JONAF's Founding Member, ARDD commemorates Women Leaders from the Armed and Security Forces and Civil Society Organizations on International Women's Day**

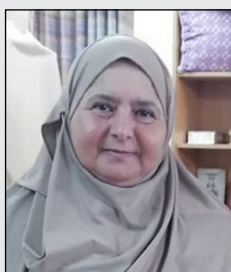
## She is the First to Respond and the Last to Leave the Field- JONAF women leaders speak up



**Abeer Abu-Slayyeh**

*President of Khawla Bint Al Azwar Association*

The first step in any crisis is to respond to it with appropriate tools, and in times of crisis there is no time to create these tools. We must build our capabilities in advance to prepare for any crisis at any time. Unfortunately, women do not usually have these tools as they usually depend on men. My organization help develop the capacities of women and girls to participate in building community, peace and responding to crises.



**Amal Abu Hattab**

*Director of Khatwat Amal Society  
for Social Development, Baqaa Camp*

I believe that each step, no matter how small, and any action taken by a group of committed individuals can change the world. As a matter of fact, a single woman can do a lot; united around one goal, we as a group are undoubtedly capable of effecting greater change for the better.



**Dr. Hiba Haddadin**

*President of Madaba Cultural Forum for Children*

UNSCR 1325 inspired us to set another goal on the agenda for women's participation in peace and security, which is seeking to formulate a role for women in combating violence and extremism, as she has the capability to sense danger facing her family and community, but this will not be achieved if the woman herself is a victim of violence. Therefore, we have to explain to everyone the missed opportunity due to women not participating in these efforts, and at the same time, we have to persuade women not to fall a victim to violence and to protect herself against the bitter reality that she and then her society would suffer from.



**Qutnah Huweitat**

*President of Al-Disi Villages Women Society*

We want to have an Arab world in which security, peace and stability prevail. Which we love it and sacrifice for. We have to be aware of our role as women leaders in supporting the participation of women in preserving the security of her society, starting from her home, keeping violence, extremism, oppression and injustice away from it, to participating in major conflict resolution decisions and impose a nonviolent agenda on the Arab and international political arena.

## Child Protection First

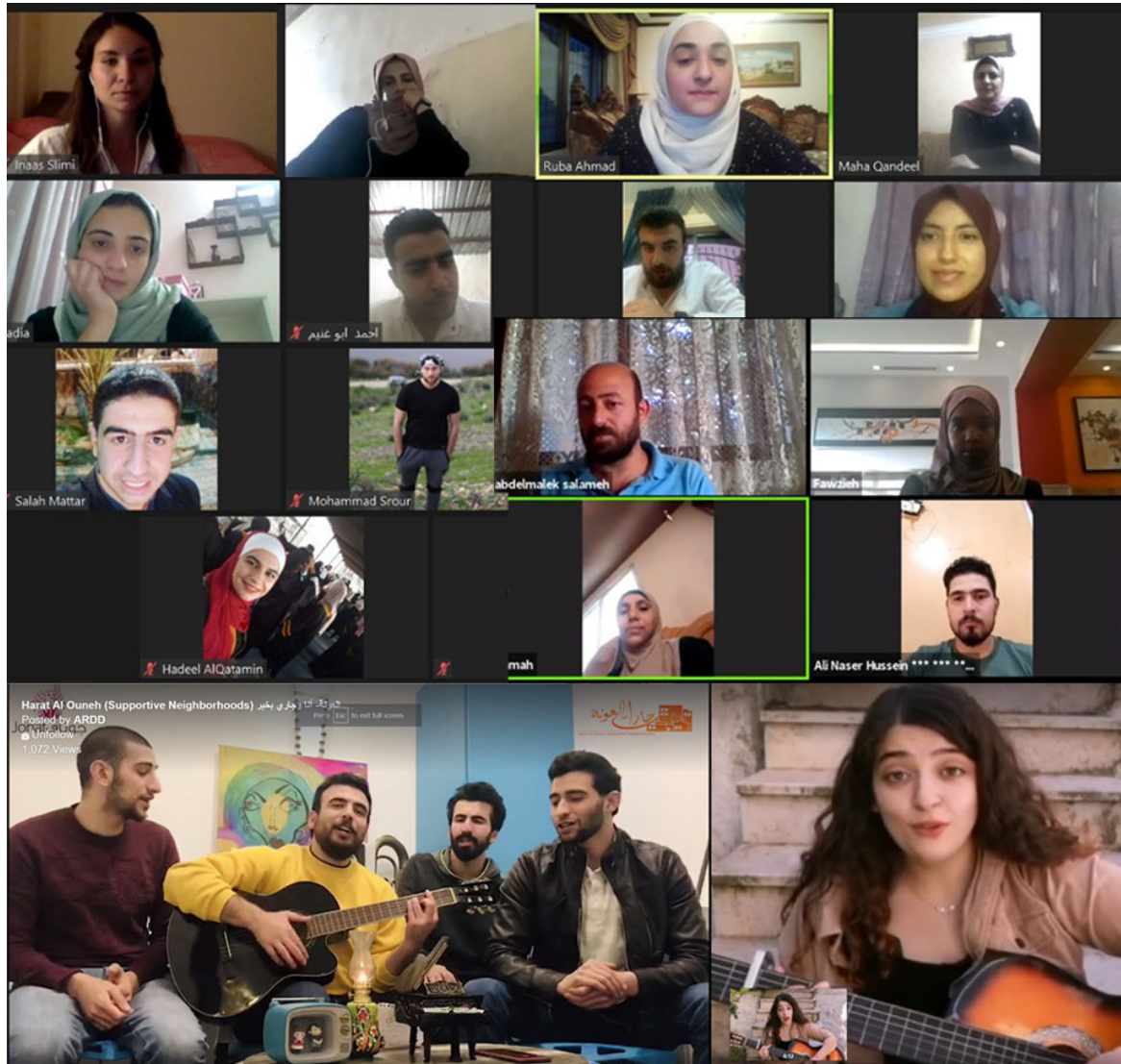
Since the start of the pandemic, ARDD has made child protection one of its top priorities, working with OCHA support to strengthen the protection of children and their families in refugee and host communities. ARDD brought to the fore their problems, in cooperation with the Community Media Network, by developing the “Together to defeat Coronavirus” radio program, with episodes dedicating to issues concerning child protection, such as: [birth registration and marriage contracts during the pandemic](#), [protecting refugee and migrant workers’ children](#), [protecting orphans](#), [protecting children against abuse](#), [child labour due to the crisis](#), [how people with disabilities, especially children, meet their needs and obtain appropriate care in times](#) of crisis, being vigilant to cases of harassment and domestic [violence against children and women](#), and [childhood and family counselling](#).

ARDD also carried out awareness campaigns on child protection and on how to adapt to the pandemic

- [Mental health care](#)
- [Showing empathy with children](#)
- [Family bonding](#)

# Youth act amid Covid-19

## Al Nahda Youth Network



As part of its various programs, ARDD aims to make the voice of youth heard, to support their participation and enable them to effect the desired change in their societies through different initiatives and activities.

ARDD celebrated the World Press Freedom Day by announcing the winners of the #AlNahdaYouth social journalism contest. [For more](#)

As part #AlNahdaYouth sessions, ARDD held the first meeting for Youth for Palestine group, in which young people expressed their ambitions and their desire to harness their efforts to serve the Palestinian cause. [For more](#)

A special dialogue session was also held within a special session of the #AlNahdaYouth dialogue sessions on International Refugees

Day, titled Voices of [Young Refugees: Challenges and Ambitions amid Covid-19](#)

Harat Al Ouneh creative initiatives featured #AlNahdaYouth who created two songs, one to spread hope among people and encourage them to lend a [helping hand](#) to their neighbours, the other [merchants](#) not to take advantage of the situation.

They also sang ([Urdu Ard Al Azm](#)) - Jordan land of determination and shared a [song of hope](#).

Al Nahda Youth Network' Cultural Committee also celebrated the International Day for the Arabic Language by launching a [song](#) shedding light on the significance of the language and identity of our homelands

## Youth Activities' Highlights

### Amplifying the voices of youth and women in PVE

ARDD launched a media campaign as part of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence and in support of the efforts of the Observatory for the Prevention of Violent Extremism; it was carried out in collaboration with the International Institute for Nonviolent Action (NOVACT). The campaign aimed at raising awareness on the role of women, youth, media and legislation in combating violent extremism and promoting social peace; it had two main elements. One entailed launching several episodes of ARDD's new program "Alarm Siren" that casts a light on the issues Arab communities are dealing with. The video "The Role of Legislations in Preventing Violent Extremism" [first](#) and [second](#) parts were shown during the campaign and explored the legal and legislative contribution to the prevention of violent extremism and the importance of empowering children, youth and women to reach justice, while the video "Women's Role in Preventing Violent Extremism" [first](#) and [second](#) parts shed light on the role of women in protecting themselves, their families and their communities from violence, the problems women face and the main causes of extremism that women themselves could contribute to.

A third video, titled "The Role of Youth, Media, and Government in Preventing Violent Extremism" tackled in its [first](#) and [second](#) parts the role of these actors in the prevention of extremism, youth's perceived obstacles to preventing extremism, and the mechanisms for building trust among all actors to ensure the integrability of the prevention efforts.

These videos got tens of thousands of views and over 40 young people interested in social journalism participated in discussions around the films and in specialized media training that aimed at developing participants' journalistic capacities, to enable them to convey the voices of their societies, pinpoint their role in finding solutions to social issues, and promote social peace and solidarity.

The second element of the campaign focused on presenting women's role in the prevention of violent extremism through digital publishing of quotes by women leaders members in JONAF about their roles within the national agenda of Resolution 1325 on women, peace, and security, and building a safe and stable society.



## #AlNahdaYouth Social Journalism Competition to enhance the voices of youth

marking the World Press Freedom Day, The Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development (ARDD) announced #Al Nahda Youth Social Journalism Competition winners. The Competition which was launched as part of “HADAF: Promoting Social Peace and Resilience” project, is implemented by ARDD in partnership with the International Institute for Nonviolent Action ,within the framework of the Peace and Social Cohesion, youth enablement and Freedom of Expression and Right to Information programs, aimed at engaging the youth, unleashing their voices and their participation in preparation for launching ARDD’s new media platform dedicated to shed light on youth’s voices and identify their issues and their proposed solutions. This competition also

aims to uncover young talents and develop them in the field of social journalism, thus contributing to enhancing the space for freedom of opinion and expression.

ARDD launched this competition calling on passionate young women and men aspiring to bring about change and renaissance in their societies, to submit essays addressing the importance of one of the following topics (solidarity and social peace, education, youth enablement, gender justice, governance, the right to information and freedom of expression, human and economic development, forced migration and refugees) in their daily lives and to highlight them, to reflect the importance of the ideals of justice, equality and social cohesion.



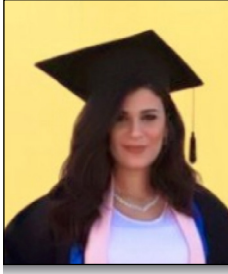
## ARDD celebrated the accomplishment of 30 graduates of the vocational and technical education grants

ARDD celebrated the graduation of 30 accomplished young men and women who graduated with distinctions from their respective programs as part of “Furthering Learning to Improve Life Chances for Students in Jordan” project that provided grants for vocational and technical education programs, in collaboration with Yayasan Hasanah Foundation and in partnership with Balqa’ Applied University, Khawarzmi College, and Theodor Schneller Schools in Jordan.

The graduate emphasized the importance in changing the mindset of society that causes reluctance among youth to seek technical and vocational education.

They also stressed the importance of vocational and technical education, and its role in qualifying and preparing youth for the labor market needs and the important part it plays in providing with the skills needed for economic and human resources development.

## Education in the Eyes of Youth



“ After arriving to Jordan, I was feeling lost and did not know where to start, and what skills would the job market and integration into Jordanian society need. To answer these questions, I sought a scholarship by ARDD in Business Administration at Al-Khwarizmi College. The practical aspect of the study as communication and presentation skills in addition to the academic aspect helped to restore my confidence in my skills. After graduation, I was able to get a job as a consultant with German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ). ”

Salam Al Homsy

*One of the recipients of ARDD's Education Scholarships  
Business Administration at Al Khawarizmi Collage*



“ I did not give up on myself for not being able to obtain a Tawjihi certificate, in the contrary I began working in the restaurant sector, to move next to graphic design, which helped me to generate some income. Afterwards, I seized the opportunity to join a special journalism and media training which was offered by ARDD and used the training materials to improve my skills in design. My journey with ARDD continued, as I am now among the students benefiting from a diploma in the field of 3D design at Al-Balqa Applied University. Graduating with a Diploma will be a stepping stone to improve career path and income. ”

Emad Seddah

*one of ARDD Education Scholarship  
recipients*

*The Technical Diploma Program in Interior Design and Interior Design / Al-Balqa Applied University*



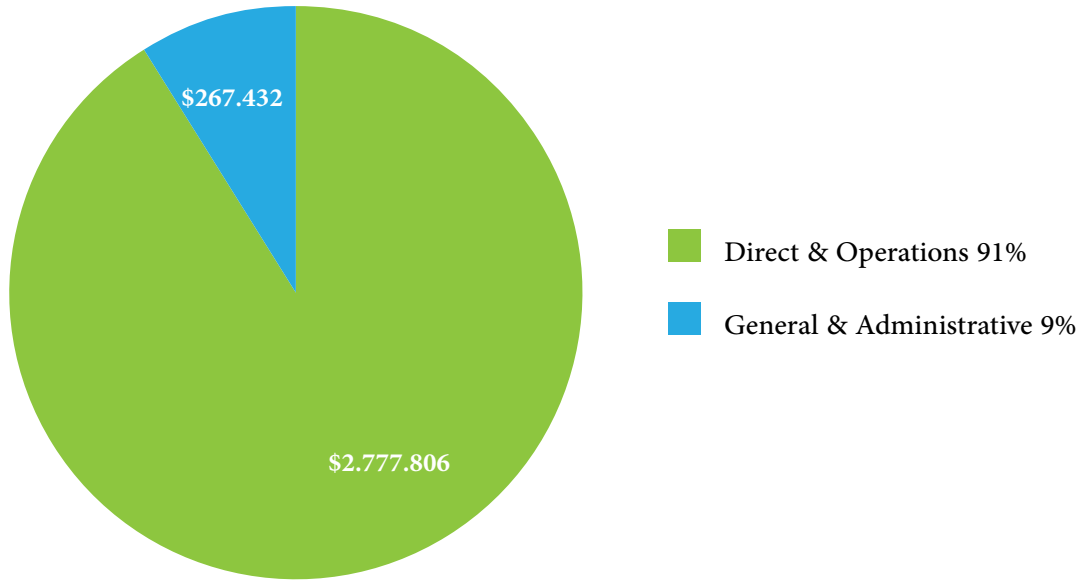
“ I passed the Jordanian Tawjihi successfully, to start my journey in an attempt to obtain scholarships covering the costs of my studies, till I finally succeeded in receiving a scholarship from ARDD. I participated in educational competitions at Al Balqa University and ranked first for the best scientific research besides my continuous participation in medical seminars and conferences. I also joined AlNahda Youth Network for volunteering and civic engagement. ”

Ahmad Bashar Saadieh

*One of ARDD's Education Scholarship Recipients  
Pharmacy Diploma/ Al Balqaa Applied University*

# Financial overview

## ARDD Annual Budget 2020



# All the Appreciation and Gratitude to our Partners



النهضة العربية للديمقراطية والتنمية  
Arab Renaissance for Democracy & Development

## كل العرفان والتقدير لشركائنا

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ARDD

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