



POST-PROJECT EVALUATIONS
FOR THE
UNITED NATIONS DEMOCRACY FUND

UNDEF Fund Project #EC/UDF-1&-1 (RAS
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28 December 2018

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The evaluator wishes to thank the former and current staff of the Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND) especially Zahra a!!i and ihter " oschini# as well as all of the individuals who made themselves available for interviews\$

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The views e%pressed in this report are those of the

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I6 OVERALL ASSESSMENT 1

II6 PROJECT CONTEXT 2

(i) Development context 3+

(ii) , ro-ect Ob-ective and .ntervention /ationale 0

III6 METHODOLOGY 1'

IV6 EVALUATION FINDINGS 8

(i) /elevance 1

(ii) ' ffectiveness 2

(iii) ' fficiency 3+

(iv) .mpact 30

(v) 4ustainability 35

(vi) &ND' (Added 6alue 37

V6 CONCLUSIONS 18

VI6 RECOMMENDATIONS 1(

VII6 LESSONS LEARNED 20

VIII6 ANNEXES 21

ANNEX 19 EVALUATION : QUESTIONS AND DETAILED FINDINGS 21

ANNEX 29 DOCUMENTS REVIEW; ED 2<

ANNEX 29 PERSONS INTERVIEW; ED 2&

ANNEX 29 ACRONYMS 2'

16 Overview and Summary

This report is an evaluation of the project aimed at mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab Civil Society Agenda. The project was implemented by the Arab NGO Network for

participated in the project's activities and engaged in debates around the Agenda 2030 and more than ten organizations were involved in producing the outputs of the project. Actions in Lebanon, Jordan, Tunisia and Morocco were organized to influence policy change according to

, project participants included *40s# political parties# academics and trade unions\$ The project had a comprehensive model of implementation which contained two components\$ The first aimed at providing a space for all project participants to evaluate and discuss socio-economic reform initiatives# especially in the areas of 4DG 3 (poverty eradication)# 4DG = (economic growth)# and 4DG 3; (inequalities)# in their respective countries\$ National reports were discussed through national dialogues or organized in each country# and a regional report combining all these analyses was published\$ The national dialogues were organized over a period of two days and through a collaboration between ANND and one of their local partners\$

The second component aimed at developing a guidebook on the new Agenda +; 0; # containing an explanation of the different goals and targets (4DGs 3# =# 3; and 31)# as well as three different booklets targeting three different types of stakeholders@* 40s# parliamentarians and trade unions\$ (ive capacity development workshops were organized in the different countries following a regional validation workshop\$

Over the span of two years# the project's planned activities were@

- , publication of an analytical report (or study) on socio-economic reform initiatives in the Arab world

- (ive national multi-stakeholder dialogues in five Arab countries

- A webpage dedicated to monitoring 4DG implementation established and actively used

- , production of a training package

- One regional validation and capacity development workshop

- (ive capacity development workshops organized in the five project countries

- Developing regional policy recommendations based on the national dialogues

The expected outcomes of the project were@

- 3\$ Demonstrated engagement at the global# regional and national levels of *40 coalitions in public debate around the new sustainable development agenda

- +\$

institutions such as the League of Arab States (LAS) and of course globally the High Level Political Forum (HLPF)

Furthermore while national contexts may differ the regional umbrella provided by ANND gave members an essential base to launch their own localized approaches, providing this platform at the regional level inclusive of a vision on how to address these expected challenges provided *4Os with opportunities and also allowed them to interact regularly

Finally in terms of themes as the focus of the organization has been social and economic policies and inequality it made sense to align the project's activities on specific SDGs (more on the content and selection of SDGs below) ANND and its members' strategic interventions have been consistently re-discussed after the Arab uprisings as well to ensure that experts and other stakeholders are on board with this approach. In addition the coordination committee made up of regional experts and members of the network met twice during the course of the project to address this issue

in ' 9ypt# where the initial partner was unable to m

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As mentioned earlier, the difficult internal climate in Egypt led to planning activities with AOE/ and linking these efforts with their ongoing engagement with the League of Arab States. While it seems that this delay and the issues related to the implementation of the activities could have been anticipated, the solution found turned out to be an efficient and beneficial approach to ensuring constructive implementation of all project activities and ensure their sustainability. A long report of the guidebook validation workshop was [produced](#) that detailed the contents of the sessions and included a recap of the post-workshop evaluation that seemed to show a high level of appreciation by the participants.

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Activities in Jordan were very successful because Jordanian civil society organizations engaged a

strate9y and e%plain the thinkin9 of various stakeh

Impact on participants

"ore importantly# ANND?s vision on a regional en9a9ement around A9enda +;0; culminated

in or9ani! in9 events about the 4DGs and policy>makin9 within the parliament# rather than with the 9overnment\$

.n other countries such as " orocco or Tunisia# while the 9overnments are interested in en9a9in9 on the 4DGs# they may be doin9 so without a comprehensive and inclusive approach accordin9 to some pro-ect participants# especially 9iven the unendin9 social tensions and unrest in some re9ions\$ One of the participants even mentioned@8when the 9overnment has an international partner# they are under pressure to be inclusive# but when they don't# they don't bother:# indicatin9 that the 6N/ process is more about preparin9 a positive presentation than under9oin9 a critical e%ercise\$

(inally# the constructive links that have been built over the years and stren9thened thanks to this pro-ect?s activities with the &N?s ' 4* DA and the AA4 can contribute to an improved levera9in9 of influence towards 9overnments in ensurin9 that national plans are set>up in an inclusive and participatory manner\$

(vi) 3OD' + Added 2al! e

There was a clear added value to &ND' (fundin9\$ As mentioned by multiple pro-ect stakeholders# several &N a9encies are workin9 on implementation of specific 4DGs separately# leavin9 civil society activists and 9overnment officials to find it difficult to prioritiz!e or identify a ne%us amon9 all these different initiatives\$ ANND was able to avoid these issues because the &ND' (9rant supported a holistic and ri9hts>based approach to the 4DGs\$ promotin9 partnerships and cross>cuttin9 initiatives\$ y takin9 this approach#a stron9 syner9y was created between the &N>' 4* DA and the &ND' (>funded pro-ect# where the /e9ional *ommission contributed to several of the pro-ect?s activities at the national and re9ional levels\$

.n addition# the presence of a &N lo9o on pro-ect materials seems to have enhanced the credibility of the pro-ect\$ 4takeholders mentioned the value of &ND' (as a donor that is based in EeadQuarters# as opposed to the national offices of other &N a9encies\$ The importance of this distinction lays in the fact that the 9rant>makin9 process is different and that the &ND' (office is independent from the re9ional commission and main &N bodies dealin9 with followin9>up on 4DG implementation such as ' 4* DA and &ND, \$

.mplemente

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- (i) & e project was extremely relevant in t e c!rrent context of t e region4 y focusin9 on linkin9 the 9lobal sustainable development a9enda with policy reform debates in the re9ion# ANND was able to anchor the interest of a part of civil society and 9overnment entities in these thematic priorities and link them to the competin9 short-term priorities related to peace#security and refu9ee issues\$ The timeliness of the pro-ect and relevance of the materials produced provide a solid intersectional framework at the re9ional and national levels for stron9er in-depth en9a9ement on 4DG implementation\$ The activities and outputs are consistent with the outcomes laid out in the pro-ect document (demonstrated en9a9ement in public debate around the new sustainable development a9enda and improvement of strate9ic partnerships with trade unions#academia and the private sector)\$ Gender and disability mainstreamin9 were taken seriously and
- (ii) & e project was effective in ac ieving its planned objectives4 *hallenges were easily overcome thanks to the efforts of both ANND?s team and members to find constructive solution in reachin9 the planned ob-ectives of the pro-ect activities\$.n each country#activities were implemented and were able to raise awareness and encoura9e further commitment from civil society and stakeholders in implementin9 the +;0; A9enda\$
- (iii) & e project was efficient4 /esources were appropriately allocated#and 9ood standards for accountin9 and accountability of partners were respected\$ The institutional arran9ements with partners in the countries of implementation were

and promotes a sustainable rights-based approach. ANND's members and participants in their activities continue to be connected through similar initiatives, some of which were directly developed as a result of the success of this project. They are working at the national and regional levels. ANND and its members also diversify their advocacy tools towards governments and inscribe them in a long-term and consistent approach towards an appropriate development and policy reform agenda.

- (vi) **3OD' +1s s! pport ad added, val! e4** Given the known and increasing mistrust in foreign funding in the Arab region, ANND's (?'s support was seen as neutral and credible. It also further strengthened the profile of the project with other national and regional offices of the UN and key consultants of the project, as ANND' (is based at the UN Headquarters and falls within Secretariat rules and regulations.

VI6 Rec"mme !)\$*" +

- (i) **AOOD s o! Id** improve its strategic communication with partners and consultants. While all participants appreciate the level of flexibility and partnership with ANND, one area for improvement can address the extent of ANND's strategic communication with all. Some participants and key consultants were unaware of the project's big picture: in terms of all activities and components. One consultant said that the deliverable could have been improved had they known about the other components and general vision of the project. Another participant said that the net-4.95446 (o) 2.52102(w) 7.9133

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DAC criterion	Evaluation Question	Related sub-questions
Relevance	To what extent was the project, as designed and implemented, suited to context and needs at the beneficiary, local, and national levels?	<p>Were the objectives of the project in line with the needs and priorities for democratic development, given the context?</p> <p>How well did the project relate to U !"#s aims and objectives?</p> <p>To what extent were project stakeholders including beneficiaries involved in the formulation and design of the project?</p> <p>To what extent were decision makers &'e' government and others(involved in the project and involved with formal levels of engagement?</p> <p>To what extent the intervention as designed enhanced public dialogue on policy reform around the) ! *s and +genda , - .-? How did the project lin% national level and regional level engagement? ! id the project reach beyond those that were already tal%ing about development and policy reform issues?</p> <p>) hould another project strategy have been preferred rather than the one implemented to better reflect those needs, priorities, and context? Why?</p> <p>Were ris%s appropriately identified by the project? How appropriate were the strategies developed to deal with identified ris%s?</p>
"ffectiveness	To what extent was the project, as implemented, able to achieve objectives and goals?	<p>What has the project achieved? How do the results contribute to each of the outcome areas of the objectives?</p> <p>To what extent have the project's objectives been reached?</p> <p>Were the project activities ade/uate to ma%e progress towards the project objectives?</p>

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AA4	Aea9ue of Arab 4tates
NGO	Non>Governmental Or9ani!ation
4DGs	4ustainable Development Goals
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