



النهضة العربية للديمقراطية والتنمية
Arab Renaissance for Democracy & Development

Empowering Communities, Bridging Regions

*A reflection on a year of solidarity, inclusion,
and collective impact*

ARDD
Annual Report
2024

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A Letter from the Chief Executive Director



Dear colleagues, partners, and friends,

The year 2024 was a transformative period for ARDD, as we navigated profound regional shifts while building on our successes in Jordan and across the Arab region. This year saw significant developments in the Arab world: the evolving situation in Syria with ongoing displacement, the devastating war in Gaza that deepened humanitarian needs, and renewed violence in Sudan that forced thousands more into refuge. These crises, coupled with economic pressures and climate-related challenges, affected millions and underscored the urgency of localized, coordinated, and sustainable responses.

In Jordan, aid cuts affecting refugee programs intensified the hardships faced by vulnerable communities, putting additional pressure on host communities and limiting the capacity of humanitarian actors to provide timely support. Despite these constraints, ARDD worked tirelessly to adapt and continue delivering services where they were most needed. However, the funding shortfalls also led to the difficult decision to close two of our offices in 2024—an outcome that reflects the broader challenges facing civil society organizations operating under increasing pressures.

In the face of these obstacles, ARDD intensified its work alongside communities, policymakers, and international allies, achieving tangible progress in social protection, gender justice, and localization. We remained steadfast in amplifying marginalized voices, fostering inclusive dialogue, and advancing evidence-based policies, supported by the efforts of our in-house think tank, the Renaissance Strategic Center (RSC).

2024 also marked the establishment of the Euro-MENA Initiative for Democracy and Development, our Brussels-based affiliate that aims to strengthen cooperation between Europe and the MENA region, promoting mutual understanding, stability, and sustainable development.

Throughout the year, ARDD prioritized empowering women and youth, expanding their civic and political participation, and addressing the environmental, social, and economic challenges facing their communities. Working through our networks and forums, and in close cooperation with JONAF members, we advocated for the key issues that drive the renaissance and development of our societies. We organized meetings, conferences, and dialogues with local and international stakeholders, prepared studies, and reinforced the critical role of civil society in supporting government efforts to strengthen social and legal protection systems, improve access to justice, and promote the active participation of women in decision-making.

ARDD's impact was made possible through effective partnerships with key government ministries, local municipalities, the Jordan Enterprise Development Corporation, the Jordanian Businessmen Association, the University of Jordan, and more than 40 local NGOs within the Jordan National NGO Forum (JONAF). These collaborations enabled us to deliver essential support and development programs to over 130,000 of the most vulnerable refugees and host community members across the Kingdom.

As we look ahead, let us remain united in our commitment to building fairer, more inclusive societies throughout Jordan and the Arab world.

With gratitude for your continued support,

Samar Muhareb

Chief Executive Director

Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development (ARDD)

Introduction

In 2024, the Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development (ARDD) demonstrated unwavering dedication to advancing social justice, strengthening the resilience of vulnerable communities, and promoting locally led development across Jordan. In a year shaped by regional crises and shifting dynamics, ARDD expanded its programs and partnerships to address deepening humanitarian needs and social inequalities.

The organization focused on bridging gaps in social protection systems, enhancing access to justice, and promoting gender equality through targeted interventions and community-based initiatives. ARDD's commitment to empowering women and youth was reflected in comprehensive efforts to increase their civic and political participation, while programs addressing environmental and economic challenges supported sustainable development in marginalized areas.

Collaborating closely with grassroots organizations, national institutions, and international partners, ARDD scaled up its outreach to refugees and host communities, ensuring timely and effective support for those most in need. The organization's work was complemented by evidence-driven advocacy and policy engagement, amplifying the voices of affected populations and championing inclusive solutions.

ARDD also strengthened its institutional capacity and knowledge base through its Renaissance Strategic Center (RSC), which provided analysis and insight to inform strategies and shape discourse on key issues affecting Jordan and the wider Arab region. These collective efforts underscored ARDD's steadfast mission to foster inclusive development and uphold the rights and dignity of all people.

In response to the need to foresee the prospects of the Arab future over 30 research articles, blogs, and statements were produced by the Renaissance Strategic Center interns, team members, and advisors tackling the various issues from Youth and Women Empowerment, Climate Change, Migration and Refugees to Inclusive Social Protection, in addition to more than 40 articles contributed by thought leaders among the members of ARDD's Board of Trustees, with an array of intellectual contributions within the framework of initiating a new Arab Renaissance project.

2024 in Numbers

Approximately **90** events, dialogues, webinars, visits, and meetings across all the governorates of Jordan

29 reports, policy papers, and research projects within the work of RSC

Providing legal aid services to over **125,000** beneficiaries, including Jordanians, refugees, immigrants, and host communities across the Kingdom

Providing relief assistance to **5000** families in the kingdom in collaboration with JONAF

Launching the Women Studies Unit and the Arab Women Leadership Academy

30 Blogs and **50** articles by researchers and thought leaders

13 vocational training graduates

68 Ambitious women were chosen out of more than a thousand Applicants to take part in AWLA's first cohort

More than **24** interns took part in the Renaissance Strategic Center's Internship program

About **15** entrepreneurs, small businesses, or project owners participated in Season's Bazaar and training as part of the Future

Forward project, drawing hundreds of customers

Key Publications

Accessing Justice in Arab Countries Beyond Covid-19: A View from Civil Society



Roadmap to Strengthening and Activating the Medical and Health Responsibility Law No. 25 of 2018



The Role of Monitoring and Advocacy in Ending the Retention of Personal Identification Documents by Jordanian Hospitals - Legal Analysis Series Volume 3



Localization and Civic Space

Intermediary Organizations under the Spotlight: Why? The Collaborative Efforts towards Collective Impact Series -Paper (1)



MULTI-STAKEHOLDER STEERING- AND GOVERNANCE GROUPS: RENDER FUNDEMENTAL EXPECTATIONS OF BEHAVIOUR EXPLICCIT – PAPER (3)



Donors & Intermediaries: Critical Self-Awareness and a Conversation Guide Collaborative Efforts towards Collective Impact Series – Paper (2)



MULTI-STAKEHOLDER STEERING- AND GOVERNANCE GROUPS: RENDER FUNDEMENTAL EXPECTATIONS OF BEHAVIOUR EXPLICCIT – PAPER (3)



ANATOMY OF POWER:INTERNATIONAL AID AGENCIES & NATIONAL CRISIS RESPONDERS – PAPER (4)



ARDD-JONAF Report on the New Legal Requirements for Regulating the Work of
Local and Foreign Associations in Jordan

 <p>النهضة العربية للديمقراطية والتنمية Arab Renaissance for Democracy & Development</p>	 <p>جونا فJonaf</p>
<p>Report on the New Legal Requirements for Regulating the Work of Local and Foreign Associations in Jordan</p>	<p>تقرير عن المتطلبات القانونية الحديثة لتنظيم عمل الجمعيات المحلية والأجنبية في الأردن</p>

The Question of Palestine

ICJ Ruling on Advisory Opinion Legal Consequences Arising from the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Including East Jerusalem

 <p>مركز النهضة الاستراتيجي Renaissance Strategic Center</p>	 <p>النهضة العربية للديمقراطية والتنمية Arab Renaissance for Democracy & Development</p>
<p>ICJ Ruling on Advisory Opinion</p> <p>Legal Consequences Arising from the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Including East Jerusalem</p>	<p>حكم محكمة العدل الدولية بشأن "الرأي الاستشاري" العواقب القانونية الناشئة عن سياسات دولة الاحتلال الإسرائيلي وممارساتها في الأراضي الفلسطينية المحتلة، بما فيها القدس الشرقية</p>

Education

Strengthening Self-Reliance: TVET and Skills Education for Youth in Jordan



Strengthening Self-Reliance: TVET and Skills Education for Youth in Jordan



Legal Aid and Social Protection

Your Hotline Call Echoes in Our Hearts

Exploring the Impact, Opportunities, and Challenges of Emergency Hotlines in Jordan



The General Pardon Law No.5 of 2024 and Its Impact on Refugees: Insights from ARDD



Women and Youth

Al Nahda Women's Studies Unit Publications

Advancing Equality: Assessing Women's Machineries in the Arab Region



Raising Tomorrow's Leaders



Building Resilience: Strengthening CBOs for Social Cohesion in Southern Jordan



Localizing UNSCR 1325: The Role of Jordanian Women-Led CSOs



What Role Do Refugee Women Play in Jordan 13 Years after the Syrian Crisis?



Localizing UNSCR 1325: The Role of Jordanian Women-Led CSOs



Youth Civic and Political Participation Policy Briefs

Youth Political Participation in Jordan between Political Knowledge Production and Practice



Investing in Human Capital & Youth Civic and Political Participation in Jordan



Human Rights and Freedom of Expression and Youth Political Participation



The Role of Social Justice Concepts in Empowering Youth & Enhancing their Political Participation



Key Events

ARDD and JONAF honor AECID-Jordan with the Al Nahda Localization Award 2024



National Conference the Jordanian Register of Associations: A renewed determination towards digitization and development



Hosting UN Special Rapporteur oPt Calling on the World's Conscious, Albanese Documents Genocide in Gaza



Jordan Launches the Shamil Project supported by the UK to Strengthen Social Protection in the Country



One Step Closer to the Labor Market: ARDD and Al-Khwarizmi Celebrate the Graduation of Professional Diploma Students from Jordan and the Refugee Community



The Minister of Investment sponsors the “Ethics in Business” Award 2024



Upon calls by the National Alliance for Combatting Narcotics... a fatwa declares money gained from drug dealing unlawful



“Hope is a Picture that’s Worth a Thousand Words” Project Concludes and the results of the “Jabal Amman” competition are announced



She leads: Trainings to build the capacity of participants in advocacy and lobbying locally and regionally.



Commemorating Nakba Day, A delegation of Prominent Jordanians Visits the UNRWA Field Office in Amman in an Expression of Support for the Embattled Agency and the Palestinian Refugees it serves



ARDD and Terre des Hommes announce the results of the “She Leads” Regional Advocacy Challenge



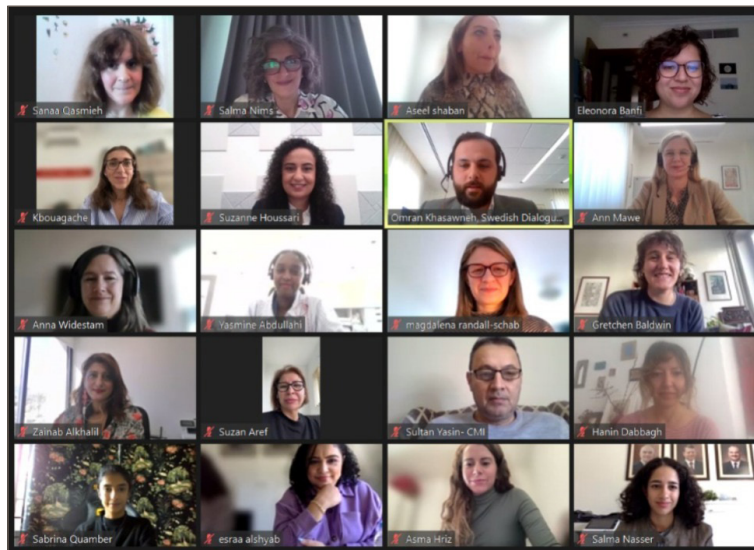
ARDD holds legal awareness workshops for the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign



Tawazon- Promoting the Voice and Leadership of Women Activity Launches
the Arab Women Leadership Academy



Ahead of the 25th Anniversary of UNSCR 1325: What's Next for the WPS
Agenda in the Arab States?



ARDD and local associations of JONAF: Together to strengthen community
advocacy efforts



Partnerships and Collaborations

The Renaissance Strategic Center (RSC), and the Global Mentoring Initiative (GMI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to foster dialogue and improve governance structures within the international aid sector, hosting several webinars and publishing several papers in both Arabic and English.

ARDD expanded its partnerships by signing an MoU with the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and collaborating on a capacity-building program, furthering the understanding nexus between climate change, social vulnerabilities, and displacement and strengthening advocacy efforts in this regard.

ARDD also established new strategic relationships, including partnering with the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), toward co-hosting events focused on refugee-led organizations.

Question of Palestine

Throughout 2024, ARDD has successfully mobilized regional actors to engage in critical dialogues on the evolving geopolitical situation, particularly in Palestine. ARDD's Senior Advisor on the Question of Palestine has participated in dozens of TV, radio, and social media interviews, providing background on the unprecedented attacks on UNRWA and urging donors to resume funding. In April 2024, ARDD hosted a major event in Amman featuring Francesca Albanese, the UN Special Rapporteur for the Occupied Palestinian Territories, to present her report "Anatomy of a Genocide," attracting a large audience. ARDD also co-organized a visit to the UNRWA Field Office in Amman to express support for the agency and the Palestinian refugees it serves.

ARDD continued to lead efforts to influence government policies and highlight the importance of civic space for CSOs in Jordan. Through direct engagement with government officials, ARDD has consistently advocated for including civil society in decision-making processes. ARDD led the efforts towards institutionalization of Jordan NGOs Forum JONAF, expanding its membership to 49 members and extending its impact, with various initiatives under the Future Forward Project such as "JONAF: Towards a Strategic Approach to Enhance Collaborative Work" initiative setting a roadmap towards fostering collaboration between CSOs and government bodies.

Considering the geopolitical challenges in the Middle East, the forum has focused on evaluating the economic impact of the Gaza war on Jordan and the Arab Region, particularly on sectors such as tourism. The continued dialogue has raised awareness and generated strategic discussions among stakeholders.

Enhancing Localization Efforts and Strengthening Civic Space

Leading JONAF efforts, ARDD has strengthened coordination with national and international stakeholders to enhance the relevance and sustainability of humanitarian and development responses at the community level. Key collaborations include: The **Localization Task Force**: Incorporating local knowledge into humanitarian efforts, the **Jordan Strategic Humanitarian Committee (JOSH)**: Aligning strategies among humanitarian actors, **3RP (Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan)**: Coordinating the response to the Syrian crisis. **Jordan International Cooperation Forum (JICOF)**: Promoting international collaboration, **NGO Leadership Platform**: Empowering NGOs in decision-making processes, and **One Refugee Approach Working Group (ORAWG)**: Addressing refugee access barriers with a vulnerability-focused approach.

Empowering Women and Youth

Regarding youth civic and political participation, ARDD has continued its efforts within the project "Generation G – A New Generation" the Youth Civic and Political Participation Policy Labs in Jordan, continued its second phase in partnership with the University of Jordan and its Center for Strategic Studies, with the participation of political science students, where four policy briefs were launched. More labs were held tackling issues of social capital, civic and political participation challenges, and opportunities.

In the same vein, 25 youth hobby photographers out of 70 applicants, participated in Jabal Amman: Past, Present and Future initiative envisioning a participatory approach to urban planning through the lens of youth and engagement of key stakeholders for the formal, private, and civil society sectors as part of the Hope is a Picture Worth a Thousand Words project funded by the Swiss Embassy.

She Leads

On a regional level, the She Leads Program, implemented in partnership with Terre des Hommes, sought to enhance the leadership and advocacy skills of young women activists in Jordan, Lebanon, and Egypt in partnership with civil society organizations in these countries. In September 2024, ARDD held a Hybrid Roundtable and Action Research Launch to promote young women leaders in Jordan, Lebanon, and Egypt, emphasizing family and societal roles and providing policy insights on regional trends affecting leadership opportunities.

The Arab Women Leadership Academy

As part of the USAID-funded Tawazon – Promoting the Voice and Leadership of Women activity, ARDD launched the Arab Women Leadership Academy (AWLA), a flagship capacity-building program designed to empower women across Jordan with practical leadership tools rooted in local contexts and informed by international best practices. AWLA officially kicked off in October 2024, with its first cohort of 68 women selected from over 1,500 applicants representing diverse sectors, backgrounds, and regions.

Over three years (2024–2026), AWLA aims to support 500 women, enhancing their competencies in civic engagement, political participation, and governance. The program is guided by a leadership framework benchmarked against top national and international models and tailored to the realities of women in Jordan, helping participants build networks, influence change, and amplify their voices in both public and private spheres.

Al Nahda Women's Studies

Launched in December 2023, the Al Nahda Women's Studies Unit continued advancing women's justice and equality in the Arab region. By focusing on research, advocacy, and strategic collaborations, the unit empowers women, drives policy change, and supports the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda. Its key activities include hosting webinars on gender-based violence, organizing events on the intersection of WPS, Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS), and climate change, and participating in international forums to ensure Arab perspectives are integrated into global gender equality discussions.

Al Nahda Women's Network

In 2024, Al-Nahda Women's Network advanced its institutionalization by forming a steering committee to guide strategic planning, define its vision, mission, and objectives, and propose future activities. To elevate women's voices, the network partnered with Amman FM to launch *She is the Story*, a radio program highlighting women's community impact, with more than ten episodes aired during the year.

The network strengthened its presence through advocacy and community engagement, becoming a trusted reference for local and regional media. It issued impactful public statements on key issues, including the need for educational reform in Jordan and reflections on the challenges and hopes of the feminist movement in Jordan and the Arab region.

Strengthening Social Protection, Social Security, Public Health, and Justice Sector

Through the Inclusive Social Security Forum in the MENA region, the Justice Sector Development Forum, and the National Alliance to Strengthen to Combat Narcotics in Jordan, ARDD has played an important role in launching dialogues on relevant policies, as well as following up on developments at the national and regional levels, discussing them, and developing recommendations and submitting them to the relevant decision-makers.

In support of the fight against drugs and per its strategic plan and in line with the preventive strategy to combat drug abuse launched by the Public Security Directorate, the Justice Forum's Alliance, a key partner in implementing this strategy, contributed to the creation of a radio program called "*Siraj*" on Amman FM. The program focuses on raising awareness about drug abuse and highlighting the community's role in prevention by featuring experts, specialists, and coalition members. A total of 50 episodes were produced and aired, with the coalition actively contributing by recommending guest speakers from its members to explore various aspects of drug control, including previously underrepresented topics. The Justice Forum's National Alliance to Strengthen Combating Narcotics in Jordan held several meetings with the relevant authorities, as well as going on field visits to review and publicize the efforts made to combat this scourge, in which members of the alliance visited rehabilitation centers, addiction treatment centers, and border patrol forces, and participated in several events to support and highlight all the efforts that were made in that respect.

Concerning **public health policies**, ARDD's **Improved Accountability Program** enhanced accountability in Jordan's health sector through policy labs and collaborative dialogue. Key achievements included engaging 15 multidisciplinary experts from civil society, patient advocacy groups, and health unions to address challenges like medical errors. This collaboration resulted in an integrated framework and a roadmap signed to improve healthcare accountability.

ARDD also advanced the right to health through research conducted by the Renaissance Strategic Centre. Using an evidence-based approach, the team analyzed literature, laws, and expert insights to strengthen Jordan's medical liability framework. A major output was the **research paper**, *Roadmap to Strengthening and Activating the Medical and Health Responsibility Law No. 25 of 2018*, published in July 2024.

Regarding Social Protection, ARDD launched in partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO), "Social Dialogue for Social Protection in Jordan," engaging over 40 stakeholders from government, civil society, the private sector, and international organizations. The initiative addressed key areas: protecting platform economy workers, promoting inclusivity for persons with disabilities, expanding social security, and aligning social assistance with insurance schemes, resulting in consensus-building and policy recommendations for Jordan's social protection framework.

Additionally, ARDD contributed to a workshop on "Multi-Sectoral Social Protection Mechanisms," emphasizing the integration of climate change into humanitarian responses to support refugees and host communities.

Human and Economic Development

Education

With regards to the importance of education and its role in protecting communities, and within the framework of ARDD'S Education Strategy, ARDD, in partnership with Vision Hope International and funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, implemented the "Investing in the Future" project from November 2022 to May 2024. The project aimed to improve education, legal, and psychosocial services for Sudanese, Somali, and Yemeni refugees and the Jordanian host population. As part of this, the Renaissance Strategic Center con-

ducted the study "Strengthening Self-Reliance: TVET and Skills Education for Youth in Jordan," which identified challenges in the TVET sector. The key outcome was the creation of the **TVET for All platform**, an online tool that enhances transparency by mapping TVET and skills projects and providers in Jordan.

In addition to the tens of children and their families benefiting from the psychosocial, legal support, and English courses throughout the project duration, the project celebrated in 2024, the graduation of 13 TVET students from Khawarizmi University Technical College (KUTC).

Sustainable Livelihoods

Human Economic Development Forum

ARDD's partnership with the Jordanian Businessmen Association, as part of ARDD's Human Economic Development Forum, resulted in the second edition of the "Ethics in Business Award," recognizing businesses that contribute to sustainable economic development. This award is a key part of ARDD's strategy to strengthen Jordan's economy and empower local entrepreneurs. Under the patronage of the Minister of Investment, Kholoud Al-Saqqaf, ARDD, and JBA awarded 8 Jordanian Enterprises for their contribution to promoting sustainable economic development.

Considering the geopolitical challenges in the Middle East, the forum has focused on evaluating the economic impact of the Gaza war on Jordan and the Arab Region, particularly on sectors such as tourism. The continued dialogue has raised awareness and generated strategic discussions among stakeholders.

Future Forward: Unlocking Sustainable Local Opportunities

As part of its ongoing efforts to address challenges faced by entrepreneurs from the local community and refugee populations, the Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development (ARDD), in collaboration with the National NGOs Forum (JONAF), launched "Season's Market" bazaar series as part of JONAF and ARDD's advocacy initiatives under the "Future Forward" project, supported by the European Regional Development and Protection Program for Jordan and Lebanon. With the first installment held in Winter, the Season's Markt bazaar series aims to provide a platform for local entrepreneurs to showcase their innovative products and connect with representatives from civil society, the private sector, and international organizations.

Legal Aid and Protection

ARDD, the legal partner of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), has continued to provide its free legal protection services, in the form of legal awareness sessions, legal consultations & mediation, and representation before the courts, to more than **125,000 beneficiaries** from all nationalities in various governorates of the Kingdom inside and outside the camps since the beginning of this year, and within its multiple projects that are implemented in cooperation with UNHCR, UN-RWA, FORD and other donors. ARDD also implemented around 100 legal awareness workshops in various governorates in the kingdom in collaboration with several CBOs and international organizations, covering key important legal topics such as anti-narcotics, cybercrime, and GBV among others.

ARDD in collaboration with MoSD, signed an MoU to provide specialized legal awareness sessions and training for the rehabilitation juvenile centers and their staff. Relief aid services reached more than **5000 families** from host communities and refugees as ARDD distributed food vouchers during Ramadan in collaboration with Seque Islamic France (SIF) organization and local CBOs partners of JONAF, and with MoSD to distribute school bags and supplies to students, and distributed cash assistance to cover basic and educational needs, and food vouchers as winter support.

Conclusion

As ARDD appreciates the efforts of its team and celebrates these achievements with them, thanks are due to the various local and Arab media outlets for their coverage of the organization's activities and efforts. As we begin to prepare with all the stakeholders to continue this journey for the current year, while hoping to keep up the concerted efforts among all the partners to develop visions, prospects, and concrete steps that will have a greater impact on our societies, to lift the suffering and deprivation that cast a shadow over the situation so that we can move together towards the renaissance to which we aspire.

About The Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development (ARDD)

The Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development (ARDD) was founded in 2008 as ARDD – Legal Aid in Amman, Jordan. In 2012, the new organizational structure was institutionalized, aiming to spearhead an Arab Renaissance initiative that catalyzes the ongoing transformations within the Arab world. ARDD draws inspiration from the pivotal accomplishments and concepts of the Arab Renaissance initiatives and the collective endeavors of individuals striving for democratic governance, progressive development, and social equity.

ARDD implements an array of research and developmental initiatives. These initiatives are strategically designed to engage actively with the Arab reform agenda, promote modernization, and contribute to regional developmental efforts.

While ARDD is primarily based in Jordan, its reach extends well beyond national borders. In alignment with its vision and mission, ARDD's programs, projects, and research span the MENA region and into Europe. An expanding network of donors, international agencies, and NGOs supports this growing impact.

To further advance its mission, ARDD operates through a broader institutional framework that includes key affiliates such as the Renaissance Strategic Center in Amman and the Euro-Mena Initiative for Democracy and Development in Brussels—strengthening its ability to promote inclusive, rights-based, and sustainable development across regions.



<https://renaissancestrategiccenter.com/>



<https://euromena-initiative.org/>

Vision:

An Arab World in which all people enjoy fair, inclusive, and sustainable rights and opportunities.

Mission:

Contributing to forming a new renaissance project in the Arab world, grounded in the fundamental issues concerning Arab affairs, within their local, regional, and international contexts, with independence, authenticity, and decolonization, aiming to realize the aspirations and endeavors of all people living in it, towards democracy, development, and social justice, participating in the Arab reform, modernization, and development agendas, and influencing public policies that shape transformations in the Arab world and its surroundings through a set of development programs, scientific research projects, and applied solutions.

ARDD Programs

In alignment with ARDD's mission to advance democracy, development, and social justice—and guided by our vision of a fair, inclusive, and sustainable Arab world—our programs are built in collaboration with communities, partners, and institutions. Together, we work to address shared challenges and create meaningful, lasting impact across the region.



Renaissance Strategic Center Thematic Areas



Donors, Partners, and Networks

Donors and Partners



Academic and Other Partners:



Our Networks

Local Networks



Regional and International Networks



Communities of Practice



