



Quarterly Progress Report #7

Cooperative Agreement Number 263-A-00-10-00052-00

Submitted by: Matthew Pietz

FHI 360

Date submitted: July 30, 2012

Period of Reporting: April 1, 2012- June 30, 2012

The OMEP Regional Partnership for Culture and Development Program (RPCDP) was awarded as a cooperative agreement to FHI 360 on September 22, 2010.

The purpose of the Program is to “support the dissemination of regional research on development issues, share best practices and lessons learned from international development programs, and provide a forum for knowledge sharing and intellectual innovation.”

This is the seventh quarterly report of the program and covers the period from April 1, 2012 - June 30, 2012.

Submitted to: Dr. Adly Hassanein
Regional Development Research Manager
OMEP/USAID

This report is made possible by the support of the American People through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID.) The contents of this report are the sole responsibility of FHI 360 and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

OVERVIEW.....	3
PROGRAM MANAGEMENT	3
PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.....	4
Component A: Access available regional research.....	4
Partnership Forum	4
Specialist Database.....	4
Publications	5
Component B: Conduct research, evaluations, and analysis.....	7
Research Requests.....	7
Research Grants Program.....	9
Research and Analytical Tools	9
Public Opinion/Polling Research	9
Component C: Document USAID lessons learned and best practices	10
TIPs (Lessons Learned).....	10
Component D: Disseminate information to encourage sharing and use of knowledge	10
Portal.....	10
Regional Conferences	11
National Workshops.....	12
ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER.....	15
ANNEXES.....	17
Annex 1: Egypt Partnership Forum Launch Meeting Report.....	17
Annex 2: RPCD Newsletters.....	23
Annex 3: RPCD/UNDP MOU on Cyprus Conference.....	24
Annex 4: Workshop Agenda - Toward a Standard of Research Ethics – Jordan	29
Annex 5: Workshop Agenda - Qualitative Research Methods – Morocco	30
Annex 5: Workshop Agenda - Qualitative Research Methods – Jordan	32

OVERVIEW

The seventh quarter of the Regional Partnership on Culture and Development (RPCD) was the most productive yet, as the program launched its first National Workshops, recruited another 30 organizations to join the Partnership Forum, received and responded to several new Research Requests from USAID Missions, launched its monthly newsletter, enhanced the Portal, and relocated to a location much closer to USAID.

An increasing number of Rapid Response Research Requests this quarter points to a growing awareness of the services RPCD provides, and satisfaction from previous USAID customers who are returning for more customized studies and reports. The fieldwork for the Egypt Opinion and Awareness Poll was completed and the first draft of the report submitted to USAID. Research was also completed for USAID/Jordan and launched for USAID/Morocco.

The National Workshops carried out in Jordan and Morocco were extremely well-received and reviewed by participants and by USAID. Follow-up events for both Workshops have been planned, and will be conducted as Webinars in the next quarter.

Also this quarter, the Research Team released the second volumes of the three recurring RPCD research publications: the Technical Publication Series, Annotated Bibliography Series, and Research Highlights.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

In May RPCD moved from its office in Zamalek to a new location in Maadi. The new office is more secure, with a front desk that is always staffed, and is also larger, but its greatest asset is that it is significantly closer to the USAID Mission in Cairo. Traveling from the Zamalek Office to USAID often meant an hour lost to traffic in both directions, making it more difficult to meet with the donor. The new office is a 5-10 minute drive. In addition, due to the current real estate situation in Maadi, RPCD was able to negotiate the rent at 60% of the original asking price.

The RPCD field team grew larger during the quarter, with the hiring of the permanent Research Liaison Officer for West Bank, Bader Al Araj. Mr. Al Araj is a professor at Birzeit University and has deep knowledge of the research landscape in the Palestinian territories, as well as being a respected researcher in his own right. The team also gained a valuable staff member in Dayana El Baba, our new Research Liaison Officer for Lebanon. Ms. El Baba is a longtime employee of research centers in Lebanon and is well connected to the world of think tanks and universities in the country.

At the beginning of May, RPCD's Research Analyst Maher Hamoud resigned from the program, as he was offered the prestigious post of Editor in Chief of Daily News Egypt.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Component A: Access available regional research

Partnership Forum

The Partnership Forum expanded significantly in the reported period and saw its first major capacity building events. During the quarter, RPCD brought 30 new member organizations to the Forum, raising the total to 82. Organizations were convinced to join for a number of reasons, including regular outreach efforts by RPCD staff and events which demonstrated to potential members the benefits of being part of the network.

RPCD conducted a kick-off meeting for the Partnership Forum in Egypt on May 3, at the Four Seasons hotel in Cairo. The RPCD Director presented the goals of the program and the activities of the Partnership Forum, and the Deputy Director led a lively and lengthy discussion among the 21 attendees, representing 19 organizations. The discussion covered the current status of professional research in Egypt and the capacity building needs of the meeting attendees. Organizations were also curious to know more about the genesis and inputs for design into RPCD, which the AOTR Dr. Adly Hassanein explained. Apart from the positive comments of participants, the success of the meeting is evident in that it led to 12 organizations signing up for the Partnership Forum.

The list of Partnership Forum organizations was added to the RPCD Portal during the quarter, with links to each member's website. To further facilitate networking, the project is creating logins for all Partnership Forum members that will allow them access to each other's contact information and the Specialist Database.

Partnership Forum National Workshops were held in Jordan and Morocco, which will be detailed in the section "National Workshops" under Component 4 below.

Specialist Database

The RPCD database of experts in Democracy and Governance, Youth Engagement and Development, and Natural Resource Management was created during the quarter, and populated with about 50 resumes, to which RPCD is continually adding. The database can be viewed at: <http://www.mena-partnership.info/experts>. The page will ask for a prompt and USAID staff with passwords should enter them to gain access. The page will not be accessible to the public, though it will be made available to Partnership Forum members.

However, RPCD will delay announcing the availability of the database to USAID stakeholders until one technical change is complete. The program prefers to have the database appear automatically when users log into the site, rather than having to click on a separate link leading to a separate log in. RPCD's newly engaged subcontractor for IT services is working on this issue and when it is resolved the program will announce the database to its many USAID users.

Publications

RPCD successfully produced the second volumes of all three of its regularly published research products during the quarter: the Technical Publication Series, Annotated Bibliography Series, and Research Highlights.

The process for selecting articles, drafting and reviewing abstracts, compiling the documents and disseminating them was the same as explained in the previous Quarterly Report for the first volume, with two exceptions: RPCD distributed the Research Highlights and the Annotated Bibliography via its newsletter this quarter; and the program used a more thorough system of peer review in the writing of the abstracts.

The following articles appeared in the three publications:

Annotated Bibliography Series

Title of Study	Country	Sector	Year
Youth Exclusion in Yemen: Tackling the Twin Deficits of Human Development and Natural Resources	Yemen	Youth	2012
Morocco's February 20 Movement: Towards a Second Independence?	Morocco	Youth	2012
Confidence, Capacity, Connections: A Young Woman's Guide to Leadership	Regional	Youth	2012
Survey of Young People in Egypt	Egypt	Youth	2011
Arab Knowledge Report 2010/2011: Preparing Future Generations for the Knowledge Society	Regional	Youth	2012
The Potential of Small-Scale Rainfed Agriculture to Strengthen Food Security in Arab Countries	Regional	NRM	2011
Incorporation of Environmental Dimension in Integrated Water Resources Management	Regional	NRM	2010
Urban Mobility and Development in the Mediterranean: Regional Prospective Diagnoses (Mobilité Urbaine et Développement Durable en Méditerranée : Diagnostic Prospectif Régional)	Regional	NRM	2010
Stealth Environmental Influences on Economic Migration in Egypt	Egypt	NRM	2011
Overview of Wastewater Management Practices in the Mediterranean Region	Regional	NRM	2011
Towards Establishing a Vision for the Independence and Impartiality of the Egyptian Judiciary	Egypt	DG	2012
Yemen: The Way Forward	Yemen	DG	2012
The role of external actors in the Arab transition	Regional	DG	2012

Year of Rebellion: The State of Human Rights in the Middle East and North Africa	Regional	DG	2012
Arab Monarchies: Chance for Reform, Yet Unmet	Regional	DG	2012

Technical Publication Series

Title of Study	Country	Sector	Year
Youth Sexuality and Reproductive Health in the Middle East and North Africa	Regional	Youth	2011
Youth, armed violence and job creation programmes	Regional	Youth	2010
Clear Gold: Water as a Strategic Resource in the Middle East	Regional	NRM	2010
Best Practices in Decentralizing the Management of the Water Sector in the Arab States	Regional	NRM	2011
The 2011 Uprising in the Arab Middle East: Political Change and Geopolitical Implications	Regional	DG	2012
Seismic Shift: Understanding Change in the Middle East	Regional	DG	2011

Research Highlights

Title of Study	Country	Sector	Year
Global Employment Trends (GET), International Labour Organization	Global	Youth	2012
World Youth Report 2012: Youth Perspectives on the Pursuit of Decent Work in Changing Times, UNWOMEN	Global	Youth	2012
The Arab World World's Education Report Card: School Climate and Citizenship Skills, Carnegie	Regional	Youth	2012
Civic Engagement of Youth in the Middle East and North Africa: An Analysis of Key Drivers and Outcomes, Mercy Corps	Regional	Youth	2012
Adaptation to a Changing Climate in the Arab Countries	Regional	NRM	2012
Mediterranean Wetlands Report, Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory	Regional	NRM	2012
State of the Water Report in the Arab Region - Towards Improved Water Governance	Regional	NRM	2012
World Water Development Report (WWDR) - Managing Water under Uncertainty and Risk, UNESCO	Global	NRM	2012
Towards Creating Areas of Excellence and New Sustainable Cities in Egypt: Critical View of New Cities Planning,	Egypt	NRM	2012

Information and Decision Support Center			
Morocco: Outfoxing the Opposition	Morocco	DG	2012
Globalized Palestine: The National Sell-Out of a Homeland, Khalil Nakhleh	Palestine	DG	2012
The Arab Spring in 2012, Center for Applied Policy Research	Regional	DG	2012
Religion and Politics and the Arab Transitions, Fride	Regional	DG	2012
The Political Economy of Arab Uprisings, European Institute of the Mediterranean	Regional	DG	2012

Newsletter

In May 2012 RPCD launched a new publication, the monthly newsletter. This was conceived as a regular way to give updates to RPCD's stakeholders, who include Partnership Forum members both current and prospective, USAID staff in the region and in the Middle East Bureau in Washington, attendees of former events, and other development funders and actors with whom the project has come into contact.

RPCD sees the newsletter as a method of sharing our upcoming events, research publications, and profiles of our Partnership Forum members at an even pace of once a month, rather than releasing the Publications quarterly and all at the same time, which would overwhelm readers and then leave them with nothing for three months.

The May newsletter featured three Research Highlights, a profile of Partnership Forum member in Morocco Hind Arroub, announcements of the RPCD Workshop in Jordan and Partnership Forum kickoff meeting in Egypt, and news about the World Bank's decision to make a large share of its knowledge library free to the public.

The June newsletter listed three abstracts from the Annotated Bibliography Series, profiled Partnership Forum partner Nermeen Murad in Jordan, and announced the Morocco Workshop and the conferences in Cyprus and in Dubai. May and June newsletters are attached in Annex 2.

Component B: Conduct research, evaluations, and analysis

Research Requests

The RPCD team continued to receive and respond to USAID Research Requests, which increased in volume and in scope during the reporting period. The positive effects of the Road Show visits in raising awareness of what RPCD can offer continue to be seen and to lead to increased assignments for the program.

The Rapid Response Research Requests begun and completed during the quarter included the following:

- **Water and Gender Assessment, Jordan:** This was originally requested by USAID/Jordan as a two-week study of the differential effects of and access to the water supply on men and women in both rural and urban areas. RPCD engaged Jordanian consultant Ruby Assad to lead the study on the ground, with the strong recommendation of the Mission, and also sent RPCD Research Analyst for Natural Resource Management Dalia Abolfotuh to Jordan to assist with the writing and fieldwork. The first draft of the report was submitted on May 28, and the first draft of the urban report was submitted May 31. Comments were received in mid-June, and the team plans to send the second version in early July. This short timeframe of the report provides a lesson learned for the program. While the Mission did request a surface assessment of the water-gender nexus in Jordan, their comments on the drafts revealed a desire for more in-depth information. The initial estimate of two weeks was not sufficient. Still, USAID/Jordan's Wayne Frank wrote in response to the first draft of the urban report, "We thank you and your team for such an excellent job done with such a short timeframe to work in."
- **SANAD Evaluation, Morocco:** On May 9, USAID/Morocco's Tamika Cameron sent RPCD the scope of work for a comprehensive final evaluation of the SANAD civil society support program, implemented by MSI in Morocco. RPCD put together a team of six researchers, approved by USAID, and sent them for a six-week stint to the three cities where SANAD took place. The first draft of the evaluation report is due to USAID in mid-July, but initial comments from the Mission during the fieldwork were positive.
- **List of Public Financial Management Documents, Jordan:** The Jordan Mission had in January requested a list of PFM documents with brief annotations and an attachment of the documents themselves, but there was a long hiatus during which the Mission attempted to obtain some key documents from the Government of Jordan. In April the Mission obtained those documents and sent them to RPCD, allowing the program to submit the final version of the list on April 12. The requested at the Mission replied being satisfied with the report and said he would regularly recommend the use of RPCD to co-workers.
- **Brief on Donor Support to Labor, OMEP:** In mid-May OMEP's Amira Taha submitted a research request on May 9, 2012 for a brief overview of donor programs supporting labor unions and workers' rights in the MENA region. RPCD had a short turnaround time (5 working days) for this desk study and submitted it on May 15, 2012. Information was gathered online and through conversations with sources in the region. Sub-topics included in the survey were labor rights, union-to-union collaboration for sharing, best practices, capacity building of independent unions, enforcement of freedom of association and women equality within this context. As requested, the scope of this inventory focused on Egypt, Yemen, Iraq, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Morocco and Jordan.
- **Brief on Wastewater Treatment, Jordan:** In the previous quarter, USAID/Jordan and OMEP requested from RPCD a brief survey of best practices for wastewater treatment in the region. This was completed by the RPCD Research Analyst for Natural Resource Management and submitted to the clients on April 1. OMEP's Mark Peters called the report an "excellent summation."

- **MEYMI Evaluation, OMEP:** At the end of the quarter RPCD received from OMEP's Wafaa El Adawy a draft scope of work to carry out an evaluation of the television program "The University," produced by a grantee in 2011. RPCD gave comments to the scope of work and will meet with USAID in July to create an action plan for carrying out the evaluation using the most appropriate tools.
- **ICBA Evaluation, OMEP:** Also at the end of the quarter OMEP submitted a draft scope of work to evaluate an award to the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture in Dubai, another grantee of OMEP's. RPCD and OMEP plan to meet to discuss this evaluation as well in July.
- **Local Governance Program Mid-Term Assessment, Morocco:** The Morocco Mission shared with RPCD a draft SOW to carry out a mid-term evaluation of the LGP program. It was agreed that the evaluation should start after Ramadan, (July 20-August 20) but the SOW cannot be considered final until it's been approved by USAID/Washington.
- **Justice Sector Assessment, West Bank/Gaza:** RPCD received a request from USAID/West Bank/Gaza to carry out an assessment of rule of law and the justice sector in the country. During a phone call with Ma'ali Shawish and Jack Daugherty at USAID, RPCD received instructions to delay the start of the assessment until September 2012. In the meantime RPCD is recruiting for experts in rule of law and evaluation to form a three-person team for the assessment.
- **Public Opinion and Awareness Survey, Egypt:** This activity is addressed under "Public Opinion/Polling Research" below.

Research Grants Program

During the quarter RPCD drafted a Request for Applications for the grants program. It is currently being reviewed internally, and is expected to be sent to Partnership Forum members in July 2012. There is time remaining in the program to have the research grants reach a maximum of one year in duration, as previously planned between the AOTR and the RPCD Director.

Research and Analytical Tools

This activity takes place in response to USAID requests, and during the quarter no tools of this nature were requested, although as seen above RPCD did receive many research requests.

Public Opinion/Polling Research

In April RPCD received permission from CAPMAS to carry out the Public Opinion and Awareness survey in Egypt.

RPCD worked closely with subcontract Nielsen, monitoring the training of survey enumerators in April, attending the pilot testing of the questionnaire and giving input into its revision, visiting the fieldwork on

several days and ensuring that the random selection and data check methodologies were sound (as well as gathering anecdotal data about the ease of conducting the survey and the receptivity of the public, which varied), overseeing the data entry and revising the draft report.

Fieldwork paused during May 22 and 23 for elections, and resumed afterward. An analysis of the data showed no statistically significant effect of the elections on responses.

The first draft of the report was sent to USAID on June 19. USAID's feedback is expected in July, and after the report is finalized RPCD will visit the Mission to give a presentation on the key findings.

Component C: Document USAID lessons learned and best practices

TIPs (Lessons Learned)

This activity takes place in response to USAID requests, and during the quarter no tools of this nature were requested, although as seen under Component B, RPCD did receive many research requests.

Component D: Disseminate information to encourage sharing and use of knowledge

Portal

RPCD continues to make enhancements to its website: www.mena-partnership.info. During the quarter the program signed a contract with IPL Media, a Cairo-based company that provides both aesthetic and functional design services. By using IPL Media for its website improvement needs, RPCD can reduce dependence on IT support from the FHI 360 home office which means greater efficiency as the program can communicate without a concern for time zone/holiday differences, as well as receive in-person service.

In April the tri-lingual version of the Portal went live, bringing site content to visitors in English, French and Arabic.

The list of Partnership Forum members was added to the website, with the name of each member organization linked to its website. Soon the program will allow password access to all Partnership Forum members, with which they can see each other's contact information and access the Specialist Database.

The program completed the design of the Specialist Database, which is browsable and searchable and currently populated with over 50 resumes, to which RPCD will continually add. Access to the database will be granted to program stakeholders next quarter once a technical issue is resolved.

Finally, the program added a page called "Our Research Products", on which are posted the Technical Publication Series (for USAID with password access only, due to copyright issues), Annotated Bibliography Series and Research Highlights, as well as copies of our newsletter. We will also feature any reports that result from Rapid Response Research Requests, if and only if USAID gives us permission to make them public.

Webinars

In May and June RPCD recruited leaders for four webinars and co-drafted scopes of work to guide the events:

- The first webinar will take place on July 12, led by Dr. Hind Arroub, Founder and Director of Institut Hypatia d'Alexandrie pour la Reflexion et les Etudes to discuss "Youth Unemployment in the Arab World: The Gap between Education and Employment" .
- The second webinar is planned for July 24, 11am-12pm Cairo Time. The facilitator will be. Nermeen Murad, Executive Director of the Information and Research Center (IRC), King Hussein Foundation, and Dr. Wafa Awni Al-Khadra a professor in the American University of Madaba (AUM), to discuss "Moving Gender Research from Theory to Action".
- The third webinar is planned on July 26, 2012 to follow up on the Qualitative Research Methods National Workshop that took place in May 2102 in Jordan. The webinar will be led by the workshop trainer Dr. Amer Jabarin and will focus on the design of "Focus Group for Effective Results". This webinar will target the workshop participants from Jordan.
- The fourth webinar will discuss the outcomes of Rio +20 and its implications for the Arab region, and is planned for July 30 11am-12pm Cairo time. The discussion will be led by Eng. Lama El Hatow, Environmental and Social Consultant, International Finance Cooperation (IFC).

Regional Conferences

RPCD has four regional conferences planned for the life of the program. One has already taken place: the Role of Arab Youth in Development, in Casablanca, Morocco in November 2011. Three conferences are scheduled for the remainder of RPCD:

- "The Power of One: Citizen-led Innovation and Social Change Practices During Periods of Transition", to take place October 9-11 in Nicosia, Cyprus
- Climate Change Adaptation and Water Management, slated for December in Dubai
- The first Partnership Forum regional gathering, scheduled for spring 2013.

While the third event is only in the beginning design stages, some progress was made during the quarter on the organization of the first two events.

The Power of One

Co-implemented with UNDP-Act and USAID/Cyprus, this conferences will bring together media, civil society and research leaders from Eastern Europe and the MENA region to exchange ideas and lessons learned on making a successful political transition from a non-democratic to a democratic society. The emphasis will be on the role of the citizen in this process.

On May 23 RPCD signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UNDP outlining the respective responsibilities of the implementing partners (see Annex 3). In short, RPCD is responsible for identifying

participants and speakers from the MENA region, and covering the cost and logistics of attendance for its participants. UNDP is responsible for bringing participants from Eastern Europe, and organizing all logistics on the ground for the conference.

At the same time, RPCD developed an application form for Partnership Forum members to apply. This form was reviewed and approved by USAID. The call for applications went out in May, and the deadline for submission was June 20th. However, the response rate was lower than expected so the team began working to raise the number of applications and the deadline was moved back to early July.

Climate Change and Water Management

In the reporting quarter, RPCD with the International Center of Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA) are considering the idea of jointly implementing a conference and practical workshop on using climate change data in future water planning in the MENA region. Because both sides saw a clear benefit from mutual cooperation, it was agreed to hold the event in Dubai in mid-December and last for around five days.

The event will present current climate change data specific to the region and will provide concrete instruction on how to interpret and use it. It will also bring researchers, policymakers and water management experts from around the region to discuss how climate change affects water management in the future and what practical steps can be taken to account for climate change in water management policies and plans.

As a starting point, RPCD and ICBA will have overall responsibility for the implementation of the conference, including logistics in Dubai and technical management, and will bring around 40-50 participants from the MENA region.

During the coming quarter, RPCD will begin the soliciting a company to implement the logistics and training component of the conference, and will closely work with the ICBA team and other possible donors to develop ideas surrounding the technical content of the conference themes.

National Workshops

As planned during the previous quarter, the National Workshops are used to focus on the capacity-building of the Partnership Forum members, and the sustainability of the network. In this quarter, three National Workshops have been conducted in Morocco, and Jordan.

- 1) Qualitative Research Methods Workshop: Principles and Applications - Jordan
- 2) Toward a Standard of Research Ethics – Jordan
- 3) Qualitative Research Methods Workshop: Principles and Applications - Morocco

RPCD was also able to begin the design of Egypt National Workshops. The main theme identified in Egypt was "Turning Research Results into Actions". The event is expected to take place in September 2012.

Qualitative Research Methods Workshop: Principles and Applications - Jordan

The first workshop on "Qualitative Research Methods" took place in Amman during the period May 26-28, 2012. The workshop was designed and implemented upon the request of Partnership's members in Jordan to meet the capacity building needs in the area of research methods, especially the qualitative path. Both the Program Director and USAID AOTR Dr. Adly Hassanein have traveled to Jordan to attend and oversee the quality of the workshop. The main objectives of the workshop were to improve the understanding qualitative research methods among PF members, to be demonstrated by the actual application of knowledge gained, and to foster the exchange of experiences in conducting qualitative research. The workshop was also utilized to strengthening professional connections between Partnership Forum member organizations attending, enhance the sense of belonging in the network and encourage research collaboration and information sharing.

Two consultants were recruited to carry out the 3-day workshop: Dr. Amer Jabarin as a Main Trainer, and Mr. Omar Al Hmoud as a co-trainer. A total of 22 participants from 13 research institutions in Jordan participated. The diverse group represented the public, civic and international research institutions in Jordan. The participating institutions could be categorized into three types based on their status, background and implemented activities:

- 1) Academic research institutions: The Hashemite university and University of Jordan ,Center for Strategic Studies and Water and Energy Environment;
- 2) Local NGOs and Think Tanks: Jordan Center for Social Research, King Hussein Foundation-Information Research Center, AL QUDS Center for Political Studies, Al Badeel Center for Studies and Research, Foundation for the Future, and Royal Scientific Society;
- 3) Governmental research institutions: National Center for Agricultural Research and Extension; and
- 4) International research organizations: International Republican Institute, Columbia University Middle East Research Center, and the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

A follow up webinar forum is planned to take place in July 26 to discuss and review participants' practice of skills acquired during the three-day workshop. The overall feedback from the participants was very positive and indicates the course was a major success.

Toward a Standard of Research Ethics – Jordan

In June 17, 2012, RPCD in partnership with the Columbia University-Middle East Research Center (one of the Partnership Forum members in Jordan) organized a 1-day event aiming at improving the understanding of the concept of ethical research, its importance, and challenges in Jordan and the Arab region, and to take preliminary steps toward the forging of a new statement of principles that can be agreed on by all professional researchers.

To maximize cultural relevance of the event for attendees, a Jordanian speaker was identified to serve as the keynote speaker: Dr. Musa Shteivi, Director of the Center of Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan. Dr. Safwan Al Masri, the Director of the Columbia University Middle East Research Center (CUMERC), was responsible for moderating the discussions. The event gathered 17 participants from

Partnership Forum members in Jordan. Nazek Saleh RPCD Research Liaison Officer took the minutes of the meeting, and supported the overall implementation with Columbia University staff.

The event focused on the current status of research in Jordan and addressed the following questions (see Annex 4: Workshop Agenda):

Status of Research Ethics in Jordan

- How do organizations in Jordan conduct ethical research?
- What are the challenges facing ethical research in Jordan?
- What are the lessons learned that can be derived from the KHCC model and the Clinical Research Law in Jordan?

Moving Forward: IRB for the Social Sciences in Jordan

- What is the role of the different sectoral organizations in promoting Research Ethics in Jordan?
- How can these organizations contribute to the development of a comprehensive Internal Review Board in Jordan?

Qualitative Research Methods Workshop: Principles and Applications - Morocco

Based on the requests of the PF members in Morocco, RPCD also conducted a workshop on "Qualitative Research Methods". The Workshop was held in Rabat, from June 27 to June 29, 2012. The Deputy Program Director and USAID AOTR Dr. Adly Hassanein have traveled to Jordan to attend and oversee the quality of the workshop. The objectives of this workshop followed the same objectives and structure of the Jordan workshop. The workshop was a solid opportunity to bring the PF members together, and to build the sustainability of the PF network. (As a result of this workshop, there are more tangible collaborations taking place among the PF members in Morocco. After building a face-to-face relationship with the RPCD team, the PF members became more responsive to the RPCD activities. The members exchanged more emails with each other to share more information about their research and development work. The Social Sciences Research Centre in Morocco sent the PF members and invitation to attend a meeting to discuss "Public policies in the field of communication and research". Also the Hypatia Center sent RPCD a proposal for some topics to be discussed in future workshops. After this event, at least 6 institutions have submitted their applications to join the Cyprus conference, although they have received the call for applications weeks before the workshop.

Ms. Khadija Ramram was recruited to carry out the 3-day workshop, and a total of 12 participants from research institutions in Morocco have participated.

The overall feedback from the participants was also very positive and their engagements were very deep, and showed high interest on the approach and topics discussed during the workshop sessions.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER

In the seventh quarter of RPCD, July-September 2012, a number of activities will be launched whose groundwork was laid this quarter. Expected activities include:

- Publication of third volume of the Technical Paper Series
- Publication of third volume of the Annotated Bibliography
- Publication of second volume of the Research Highlights
- Conduct Focus Groups to test communications campaign messages to develop greater awareness of USAID assistance in Egypt
- Road Show visit to Lebanon
- Expand the recruitment of the Partnership Forum institutional members
- Conduct a National Workshop in Egypt
- Make the individual “Specialist Database” accessible by Partnership Forum Members and USAID staff under the RPCD Portal
- Implementation of at least 6 Webinars
- Launch more advanced features to enhance the Portal usability
- Responding to at least three more research requests submitted by USAID Missions

ANNEXES

Annex I: Egypt Partnership Forum Launch Meeting Report

Regional Partnership on Culture and Development

Partnership Forum Introductory Meeting Cairo, Egypt – May 3, 2012

Date

May 3rd 2012 from 10:00 am till 12:00 pm

Venue

The meeting was held at the Four Seasons First Residence, Giza.

Background

The RPCD strives to promote a culture of information sharing among producers and consumers of development research in the MENA region. A key element of its programming is the creation and support of the Partnership Forum, a rapidly expanding network of to date almost one hundred research institutions, think tanks, and knowledge centers in the seven countries where USAID's Office of Middle East Programs (OMEP) and RPCD operate—Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Morocco, Yemen, Iraq, and West Bank/Gaza.

The Partnership Forum is envisioned as a way to link researchers in the region for improved collaboration, mutual support in pursuit of common knowledge goals, and the exposure of research being conducted at the local level to a wide audience.

Partnership Forum members benefit from participating in the network in several ways: their research can be submitted to RPCD for possible inclusion in the program's online digital library, regular publications, and even translation from Arabic or French to English, all of which help locally-produced work reach a broader swath of readers; their technical experts can be entered into the RPCD database where USAID and other Partnership Forum members can search for specialists to engage when a need arises; they can lead and participate in online trainings and presentations, known as 'webinars', fully facilitated by RPCD; they may be eligible for research grants not available to non-members; and they are invited to participate in in-person events such as Regional Conferences and National Workshops.

This event served to bring together potential Partnership Forum members in Cairo together for the first time to discuss the program and the current state of research needs in Egypt.

Meeting Agenda

10:00 – 10:15	Introduce RPCD team: Matthew Pietz, Regional Program Director of RPCD Introduce OMEP: Dr. Adly Hassanein, Regional Research Manager USAID/OMEP and Jim Harmon, Director USAID/OMEP Introduce participants and organizations
---------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

10:15 – 10:45	Introduction of objectives of RPCD and Partnership Forum
10:45 – 12:00	Discussion on the State of Research in Egypt and Needs of Practitioners
12:00	Questions, Comments, Closing

Main Points of Discussion

The discussion began with questions on the idea of the program, and the pre-study on the institutions that govern research sharing in Egypt. The idea behind RPCD was based on information from UNESCO on the state of information sharing in the Arab world. The study concluded in December 2011 reveals gaps in information sharing and research in the Arab world. It demonstrates that the age structure of researchers is older and the operation of information sharing between different generations is lacking. This led to the concept of investing in research as an important way to better the situation. A small percentage of research is shared in the Arab world and the question was whether the program can improve the situation with changing the budget of countries. To improve the situation of research region, the change must affect the culture of information sharing by mixing old and new researchers and linking their efforts. Popular movements can pressure governments to share information since a large number of research efforts are conducted without give importance to quality and dissemination of research. Many of the young researchers have their ideas stolen by consultants and professors to use for different purposes; there is a lack of professional integrity as many researchers in the regional plagiarize their work from the Internet, without citations. On the questions of sustainability of the Program, the group discussed the importance of moving from relying on projects to create the institutional sustainability of networks.

In order to improve the Partnership Forum, we need to reach a deeper picture of the problems of research quality and research practitioners in Egypt. One of the most important points of the Forum is to create a network between researchers and development projects and to focus on the best methods to foster these relationships. In many Egyptian universities, the quality of research is low and only higher education institutions provide research. Therefore, the Partnership Forum aims at building the capacity of research institutes in Egypt. Since research institutes in Egypt have qualified researchers and professors, the program is looking for a trickle-down effect. It is the responsibility of Partnership Forum members to transfer this information to others in the field so information sharing becomes a practice.

Ms. Samia El Gendy from the Ministry of Water Resources stated that the Ministry conducts academic research as they have 12 centers that serve the government on many specializations related to water, as well as a magazine. She said the problem is how to translate the research into operation on the ground. There is a lack of coordination and dialogue between decision makers and research. A plan of action needs to be established based on research that applied to water and agriculture ministries. The needs of ministries are not translated into research and there is no system to coordinate between researchers and decision makers. She suggested having workshops to coordinate and establish a systemized dialogue between researchers and decision makers at the ministerial levels, allowing greater cooperation between ministries and universities.

Mr. Yasser Sherif from Environics, an environmental consultancy firm, said that the focus is always on how to present research rather than meeting the needs of research. As individual entities, researchers take decisions without referring to the decision makers and thus not meeting the research needs. More so, decision makers need to have the ability to take fast decisions without referring to research. How is it possible to bridge the gap between decision makers' ability to take effective and fast decisions and researchers meeting the needs of research gaps in good quality? Another problem facing the state of research in Egypt is accountability and transparency. Decision makers need to have grounds to base

their decision on, such as research. If there is no accountability for these decisions, then there is no need for research. He concluded that the problem is much larger than lack of research coordination between researchers and ministries. He also acknowledged that the culture of information sharing is slowly changing. Environics has conducted a study on this issue, available for public, on the lack of channels and tools to disseminate research, as well as lack of trust and acknowledgement of young researchers' capacities. He said that trusting Egyptian researchers is important as it leads to having research conducted by foreigners rather than Egyptian to ensure quality and lack of plagiarism. More so, much of the research is not put into action, especially if it is not inter-disciplinary, therefore there is a need for many sectors to collaborate on research.

The discussion continued on the awareness of decision makers of research. There is an awareness of research, though it does not reach a high level within ministries. A number of questions arise while doing research due to the lack of agreement between researchers on the structure of research. Therefore, concluding that there are good ideas for research but lack of a structure. The objective of the Partnership Forum is to assist in conducting better structured research and dissemination the results of the research to assist decision makers.

Mr. Mohamed El Faham from Bibliotheca Alexandrina talked about an initiative by the Bibliotheca and the University of Alexandria to assist researchers in receiving funds for their projects. He emphasized the need to trust and support young researchers and enhance their ideas at a larger scale. He also stated that research does not reach high levels at the ministries because of a lack of connection. Researchers need to be well known in order to make their research accessible to ministries. He suggests that the Forum concentrates on providing research for ministries and related agencies. There is available research that is hidden in drawers and piled on desks; the forum must make people aware of this research from different sectors. He posed another problem regarding trust in the quality of research. Egyptian researchers tend to mistrust in their capacity and ability to conduct research, therefore suggesting meeting the needs and building trust and a relationship with researchers.

The RPCD Digital Library will help disseminate research as a portal for people to access the e-library and find available research to meet their needs. Since there is a lack of research sharing culture, the Digital Library will serve as a venue to do so. It is asked from Partnership Forum members to share their research for uploads and dissemination through the library.

Ms. Shatha Soliman from UNESCO brought up the issue that most research is not self-driven for the sake of research. It is done rather as a mechanism to upgrade positions and reach higher jobs. She talked about the UNESCO Young Researchers Fellowship Program, a three years initiative to help young women researchers develop their scientific research. Through this program, UNESCO has witnessed that the biggest problems facing research are funding, support and lack of coordination from organizations.

Ms. Hanan Nazeir from Cairo University questioned the problem of access to data and the lack of quality of data in research. The collection of data is a personal effort from research, and therefore is not available for others to view. There is a lack of available raw data sharing. Dr. Adly Hassanein from USAID/OMEP talked about USAID project conducted in Sinai where raw data was collected. The problem with sharing raw data is the fear of it being mishandled, not acknowledged, copyrighted or accredited by others. There is a lack of protection of research integrity, therefore researchers are afraid that their work is stolen and thus do not share it until it is published through a magazine. He emphasized the need for protecting and copyrighting research rather than publishing only for the sake of financial return.

In terms of the language of research, Ms. Maysa Ayoub from the Center of Migration and Refugee Studies stated that the lack of research in Arabic makes it unavailable for non-English speakers. Literature is more available in English and the majority of Arabic literature is translated from English. This might be due to the disciplines being conducted in English. Other participants said that there is research in Arabic, especially in the water and environmental studies, and MA and PhD students at Cairo University conduct their research in Arabic. However, it is not widely disseminated beyond the library of the University.

The Partnership Forum also works on a regional level, connecting each country to the seven others in the region in the three sectors of RPCD. Participants agreed that the network on a regional level is useful. For example, Ms. Denise Waddingham from the British Council informed the forum that they work with youth on the Global Change Makers program at a regional level, as well as the Young Arab Activists Research Network. The Partnership Forum is useful to stay connected to other organizations in the region.

Ms. Sally Zohney from UN Women brought the issue of conducting field research in Egypt. She talked specifically about the challenges of research on violence against women as data is not specific to the national level. Governorates do not have local research or data unless it is at least 5 to 6 years old.

The discussion expanded on how to conduct research in Egypt being dependent on the approval of CAPMAS. Permissions take a long time which sometimes alter the structure and methodology of the research.

Mr. Berti Shaker from CID Consulting talked about research conducted as development practitioners that is meant to solve the problems of society. Government entities request research before the implementation of a project, and then a pilot project is conducted. However, government entities do not know how to translate that research into action and then wonder why the same problems arise from projects and in meeting the needs of its beneficiaries. There is a lack of involvement on the part of government entities in sharing lessons learned and access to data. The role of CAPMAS is important. Researchers need to be aware of how to deal with government entities and the reliability of ministerial data on a national level. He asked RPCD to raise the awareness and capacity of development practitioners to deal with these issues and government entities.

Ms. Dina Wafaa from the American University in Cairo's Global Affairs and Public Policy department said that they teach their research how to apply for patent protection at the government level in order to protect their ideas and researchers. There is a need to have an institutional protection of property rights, as well as standardization of research.

The problems of research are not only in terms of funding, but more important in the quality and access of information available. The Partnership Forum needs to develop tools and mechanisms to improve the situation of researchers and the state of research in Egypt. The dissemination of research must be done through social media as well as the Portal and formal ways.

Participants			
No.	Name	Position	Organization
1	Ahmed Khamis	Programme Officer	UNAIDS
2	Andreas Zoellner	Representative of the Country Director	GIZ
3	Imane Lahlou	Youth and Civic Engagement Technical Professional	GIZ
4	Denise Waddingham	Head Officer Partnership	British Council
5	Dina Wafa	Director of Executive Education	School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, American University in Cairo
6	Djahida Boukhalifa	Regional Project Coordinator	Water Governance Program , UNDP/RBAS
7	Hanan Nazier	Assistant Professor	Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University
8	Heba Kalaawy	Communication Head Officer	Population Council
9	Heba Nosseir	National Coordinator	UN Volunteers
10	Laila Iskander	Chairperson	CID Consulting
11	Berti Shaker	Projects Manager	CID Consulting
12	Mahmoud Badran	Training Manager	Desert Development Center, The American University in Cairo
13	Maysa Ayoub	Project Officer	Center for Migration and Refugee Studies, The American University in Cairo
14	Mohamed El Faham	Director	Center for Special Studies and Programs, Bibliotheca Alexandrina
15	Randa Kaldas	Associate Director	Economic and Business History Research Center, The American University in Cairo
16	Rania Mohamed Nofal	Coordinator	Center for Peace and Democracy Studies, Bibliotheca Alexandrina
17	Sally Zohney	Youth Specialist	UN Women
18	Samia El Gendy	Panel Member and Director	Advisory Panel Project on Water Management, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation
19	Sara Zahran	Social Researcher	Information and Decision Support Center
20	Shatha Al Monthri	Partnerships Officer	UNESCO
21	Yasser Sherif	General Manager	Environics

Contact Information:

Questions about the event may be directed to RPCD Regional Program Director Matthew Pietz, at mpietz@fhi360.org, or +20101815888.

For Information about the OMEP/RPCD Program activities please contact: Dr. Adly Hassanein, at ahassanein@usaid.gov or +201222433898.

Annex 2: RPCD Newsletters

RPCD Monthly Newsletter – May 2012



USAID MIDDLE EAST REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP ON CULTURE & DEVELOPMENT

Every month, RPCD brings you the latest news on research in the MENA region. In this issue, we share our Research Highlights of current and upcoming studies; profile Houd Arroud, director of an RPCD Partnership Forum member organization in Morocco; and announce an upcoming workshop on qualitative research methods in Amman.

RPCD Research Highlights



Global Employment Trends (GET), International Labour Organization

[View Full Text](#)

This ILO report offers the most recent global and regional information, facts and figures, on several indicators of the labor market, including unemployment, youth employment and working poverty. [Click here for more publications on Youth Engagement and Development](#)



Adaptation to a Changing Climate in the Arab Countries

[View Full Text](#)

This World Bank report, expected this spring, will summarize available climate change literature in Arabic, French, and English as well as identify gaps and describe policy options. Through a participatory process, the report engages a broad range of regional stakeholders to ensure a comprehensive perspective of climate change impacts. [Click here for more publications on Natural Resource Management](#)



Morocco: Outfoxing the Opposition

[View Full Text](#)

Ahmed Benchemal argues that Morocco's vaunted constitutional reform and election of June-July 2011 fell short of the standards of democracy, because the constitutional changes are largely cosmetic and the election was ridden with irregularities. [Click here for more publications on Democracy and Governance](#)

News in Research



World Bank makes thousands of reports available for free

On July 1, 2012 the World Bank is launching a new Open Access policy, and accordingly the Bank has launched a new Open Knowledge Repository. The OKR contains World Bank books, working papers, and articles from 2009-2012 previously unavailable for free to the public. Check out this exciting resource at <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org>

[Follow on Twitter](#) | [Follow on YouTube](#) | [Join on Facebook](#) | [Follow on Google+](#) | [Visit our website](#)
Copyright © 2012 Regional Partnership on Culture and Development

RPCD Monthly Newsletter – June 2012



USAID MIDDLE EAST REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP ON CULTURE & DEVELOPMENT

Did you know 72% of migrants in Egypt say environmental problems contributed to their decision to migrate? Most MENA specialists interviewed in a recent study didn't predict there would be such a strong relationship between environmental conditions and migration.

RPCD's Annotated Bibliography Series contains summaries of this and much more surprising and useful research covering Democracy and Governance, Youth, and Natural Resource Management in the MENA region. You can find the full version of our most recent ABS [here](#), and you can read more about RPCD's current reports and activities below.

Annotated Bibliography Series



The Potential of Small-Scale Rainfed Agriculture to Strengthen Food Security in Arab Countries

This International Center for Agriculture Research article examines the challenges and possible solutions to ensure food security in the MENA region. It is up-to-date and regional in scope. Although brief, it touches on a number of important aspects of food security, including climate change, technology transfer, and water scarcity. [Click here for more publications on Natural Resource Management](#)



Confidence, Capacity, Connections: A Young Woman's Guide to Leadership

This NCI guide draws on the experiences of 25 young female activists in Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia to define the basic skills necessary for young women to learn leadership skills. It helps women focus on building confidence, enhancing their capacity and making connections. This guide is useful to gender and youth specialists to better develop programs that meet the needs of young women with leadership potential. [Click here for more publications on Youth Engagement and Development](#)



Year of Rebellion: The State of Human Rights in the Middle East and North Africa

This Amnesty International report provides a broad summary of human rights violations in the year 2011 across the Arab region. The report does not limit its scope to MENA authoritarian regimes, but discusses the response by international actors to the human rights violations, which the authors deem insufficient. It is of value as a reference to donors in the human rights field and researchers looking for data on violations that could otherwise be difficult to collect in the tumultuous environment of many of the subject countries. [Click here for more publications on Democracy and Governance](#)

This Month the RPCD Team...

- Drew up a succinct inventory of donor programs supporting labor in the MENA region, for the Office of Middle East Programs.
- Conducted a three-day workshop on Qualitative Research Methods in Amman, Jordan for Partnership Forum members.
- Made initial plans for a regional conference on the Role of Water in Climate Change, tentatively set for the end of 2012

[Follow on Twitter](#) | [Follow on YouTube](#) | [Join on Facebook](#) | [Follow on Google+](#) | [Visit our website](#)
Copyright © 2012 Regional Partnership on Culture and Development



Partner of the Month

Dr. Houd Arroud, founder and director of the think tank "Institut Houd d'Alémoudine pour la Reflexion et les Etudes"

Dr. Arroud is a Moroccan political scientist, researcher, writer, human rights activist and a poet. She obtained her PhD degree in Law and Political Science from Mohammed V University.

Arroud's first book "Revolutions in the Era of Hamotocracy" addresses major questions of democracy in Morocco and the Arab world. Her upcoming book is called "Sacred and Political Islam in Morocco of Mohammed VI".

"My vision is think, act and change," says Dr. Arroud. "The purpose behind creating an independent and nonpartisan think tank is to elaborate a reflection and studies pertaining to contemporary Morocco and the Arab World."

She says that RPCD's vision of sharing knowledge in order to develop the MENA region convinced her to join the Partnership Forum, Networking, sharing information, meeting other experts, becoming visible, participating in live and virtual events are all among the advantages she believes can be gained by working with RPCD.

Upcoming Events

- Partnership Forum Kickoff Meeting, by RPCD, May 31, Four Seasons Hotel, Cairo, Egypt
- Qualitative Research Methods Workshop, by RPCD, May 26-28, Crown Plaza Hotel, Amman, Jordan
- Rio+20: The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, 13-22 June, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



RPCD Partner of the Month

Houd Arroud is Director of the Houd Foundation's Governance and Research Center (HRC) and the former Director of Houd Policy Institute (HPI) and was recently nominated to the American Chamber of Commerce as "the best woman in the country's water" in Jordan (read more here).

Ms. Houd obtained her master's degree in International Relations from the University of Utah. She is a past IRC in 2008. Ms. Houd joined us to push the innovation front line in regional research.

Under her leadership, HRC has achieved a positive leap in the region's water, gender, conflict, security, economic, regional's environment, human rights and politics sectors (see our "2011 and 2012" and "2013" reports for the history of its research focus).

Ms. Houd approaches every an international project via RPCD working to bring together research organizations in the region. She became a part of the Partnership Forum for the opportunity to research with internationalists and create synergy among the Partnership Forum as well as to be inspired from our work "inspiration" is the key.

Upcoming Events

- Qualitative Research Methods Workshop, by RPCD, June 26-28 (to be confirmed), 2012, Rabat, Morocco
- Partnership Forum should look for application forms to attend the First Annual Inter-Regional Learning Exchange Conference in Oct 9-11, UN Buffer Zone, Nicosia, Cyprus. Five Partnership Forum members from each RPCD country will be chosen to attend!
- Takafal: Annual Conference on Arab Philanthropy and Civic Engagement, The American University in Cairo, June 10-12, 2012, Cairo, Egypt.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between RPCD and UNDP-ACT

Regarding

First Annual Inter-Regional Learning Exchange Conference on Citizen-led innovation and social change practices during periods of transition

Preamble

The USAID-funded Regional Partnership on Culture and Development through Implementing partner PH. 360, hereinafter referred to as "RPCD", and UNDP-ACT in Cyprus (each a "Party" to the MOU) wish to cooperate in a mutual effort to convene an international learning exchange on the role of citizens and civil society in stimulating social change during periods of transition.

Article 1. Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to define the guiding principles of the cooperation between RPCD and UNDP-ACT regarding the Inter-regional Conference in Cyprus. The learning exchange will focus on three priority areas of clear relevance to the current historical moment in both regions and where an inter-regional dialogue can maximize learning and transfer of practical solutions as well as foster future mutual collaboration. The Parties believe that post-transition processes will benefit from the opportunity for thought leaders and development practitioners to share, in a structured manner, practical knowledge and tested tools for transitions, and to set up systems and relationships for future knowledge and information sharing.

Article 2. Focus of cooperation

The Parties therefore agree to cooperate on widening the environment for action by thought leaders and development practitioners at the inter-regional level. This forum will focus on the exchange of knowledge between Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the Arab region. The forum will be convened in the UN buffer zone in Nicosia, reflecting the position of Cyprus as a historical, cultural and geographical crossroads between the regions, and its status as a country with a history of notable reconciliation efforts.

Scheduled for October 9-11, 2012, with between 100 – 120 participants, the goals for the conference include:

- To share, in a structured manner, practical knowledge, tested tools and case studies that allow citizens, research institutions and civil society organizations to play an effective role in transitions.
- To showcase successful examples of harnessing innovative ideas for social change and ensuring their successful implementation.

Outcomes:

- A declaration of commitment for inter-regional collaboration.
- At least one inter-regional issue-based coalition/network
- A framework for the sustainability of inter-regional collaboration including proposals for mobilizing donor support.
- At least two concrete pledges of support for inter-regional social innovation camps that can lead to specific inter-regional project ideas.

Conference themes:

Social cohesion and reconciliation – The role of civil society in promoting constructive coexistence between diverse groups and communities in supporting the development of pluralistic societies. What support role can civil society play in ensuring social inclusion during periods of socio-economic fragmentation and stress?

Shaping the policy debate: research in action – The role of think tanks, thought leaders, universities, research organizations, and development practitioners in fostering a healthy democratic transition. What are the opportunities and priorities for thought leaders in influencing policy-making to ensure social equity, access to economic opportunities and the protection of vulnerable groups during periods of transition?

The right to be heard: community voice for representation – The role of new media in promoting equality and diversity and representing marginalized voices with a special emphasis on women and youth. What are the possible strategies for social media activists at the local and national levels for changing and influencing public opinion and promoting citizens' interests in a sustained way?

Article 3. Roles and Responsibilities

The Cypriot civil society network "Gaze it Together", in collaboration with the RP/CD Partnership Forum network, will host the conference in the UN buffer zone in Nicosia, Cyprus, with support from the United Nations Development Program's Action for Cooperation and Trust (UNDP-ACT) program, USAID/Cyprus, USAID/Office of Middle East Programs, UNDP's Regional Bureau for Europe and CIS, and UNDP's Regional Bureau for Arab States have already pledged their support and partnership for the exchange. Within 5 days of the signature of this MOU both parties will provide a list of focal points with communication references (title, phone, email) and respective responsibilities that will cover all aspects of this agreement.

RP/CD and UNDP-ACT will share in the implementation of conference components to include the following activities:

Article 3.1. Responsibilities of UNDP-ACT

The UNDP-ACT agrees to ensure the following:

Participants:

- o Identify European and CIS participants, and create and send their invitation letter.
- o Prepare application and announcement for the conference.
- o Develop participants manual detailing information needed prior, during, and after the conference.
- o Fund the participation of one key Arab speaker from the Arab region, possibly Tawfiq Khatib, subject to confirmation.

IT Support:

- o Request the Cyprus Community Media Centre to establish a social media presence which supports an ongoing discussion about the conference and which solicits ideas for input into the conference agenda. Manage the online participation Webpage during the 3-day conference. The link should be announced to partners and participants prior to the event.
- o Track themes and discussion input during the implementation of the working groups and sessions.

Technical management:

- o Before the conference UNDP-ACT will ensure the following:
 - Work on the three themes of the conference to refine the objectives and set specific research questions and details to be addressed during the groups' discussions during the conference.
 - Assign technical committees for each of the three themes to lead the development of the technical content of each session.
 - Develop the detailed conference Agenda.
 - Provide background material for the conference – readings, handouts, etc.
 - Collect the speakers' presentations and edit for technical content and branding requirements.
 - Engage rapporteurs, keynote speakers and conference facilitators for the conference according to the agenda.
- o During the conference a team of international and local facilitators (7), hired by UNDP, will coordinate the proceedings in conjunction with UNDP/USAID and the Cyprus Peace It Together Network, including the following:
 - Technical/substantive issues and quality of the technical content.
 - Facilitate small working group sessions.
 - Collect the technical inputs of the smaller group discussions in collaboration with selected participants to prepare the finalized conference results noted in Article 2.
 - Take notes in plenary sessions to be shared along with working group reports for the final report.

Logistics management:

- o A locally (Cyprus) hired events management company will coordinate the logistical services for:
 - Airport pickup and drop-off
 - Reserve hotel accommodation for Arab participants funded by USAID/RPCD.
 - Arranging meeting rooms, settings, equipment, transportation, handouts, name tags.
 - Manage the venue and the implementation of the conference sessions.

Branding and outreach:

- o Manage assistance with press coverage and other outreach efforts.
- o Develop a branding plan for all the conference outreach, documents, and communications; this will be done in consultation with all involved partners.

Article 3.2. Responsibilities of RPCD

RPCD agrees to undertake the following:

Participants:

- o Select between 35-45 candidates from RPCD presence countries from the Partnership Forum to participate in the conference.
- o Upon receiving the agreed on invitation with UNDP-ACT, send the invitation letters for participants in the Arab region.

- o Manage a briefing and orientation meeting with all Arab region participants prior to their travel to Cyprus.
- Logistics:**
- o Secure all the travel arrangements of Arab region participants being funded/supported by RPCD including visas, insurance, flights, and accommodation (in cases where participants may need to transit).
 - o Fund all the associated costs for Arab participants' visas, flights, per diems, transportation and accommodation, and handle logistical arrangements for same.
 - o Provide to UNDP-ACT in a timely fashion the names and respective details of participants from the Arab region funded by RPCD (passport number, visa number, arrival details and departure details). Such details will be provided in a structured fashion and be completed by 31 July 2012.
 - o Fund the participation of at least one (possibly two) key note speaker from the Arab region; possibly Wael Ghonim, subject to confirmation.

Technical management:

- o Review the updated concept note and communicate feedback to UNDP-ACT Cyprus.
- o Give recommendations on potential key note speakers from the Arab region, one of whom UNDP will fund.
- o Identify strong case studies and related speakers that can make major contributions to the knowledge exchange. This category of participants will be funded by RPCD.
- o Work with UNDP-ACT to connect counterparts from the two regions to lead the content development of each theme.
- o Contact suitable think tank candidates from the regional forums to be assigned to each theme and support the management team in Cyprus.

Branding and outreach:

- o Coordinate with UNDP-ACT team on the branding issues for all the conference documents as soon as the two parties agree on a branding plan.
- o Agree with UNDP-ACT on a briefing plan and media plan/messages for the conference.

Article 4. Publicity

The UNDP will give appropriate publicity to RPCD and the contributions of USAID. Branding of USAID/RPCD will be consistent with USAID and UNDP's corporate guidelines and where appropriate with UNDP's local branding policy arrangements with USAID in Cyprus. Other donors to the conference will also be granted due visibility in the public information produced for the conference. Visibility will be given to the Cyprus Peace it Together Network as the hosting entity for the conference, with UNDP, USAID and other donors given the status of conference supporters.

Article 5. Amendments and Modifications

This MOU may be amended or modified by written agreement of the Parties. The list of responsibilities described in Articles 3 and 4 of this MOU may only be changed by mutual amendment of this MOU, signed by both parties.

Article 6. Obligation of Funds

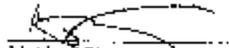
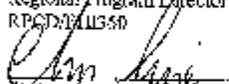
Notwithstanding the financial commitments by each party to support from its own resources activities specified above, this MOU does not effect an obligation of the transfer of funds between any of the parties signed hereunder or mentioned herein.

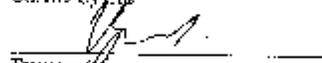
Article 7. Succession

The Parties shall be represented by those holding or acting in the offices held by the signatories to this MOU. Each Party may, by written notice, identify additional representatives authorized to represent that Party for all purposes other than executing formal amendments to this MOU.

Article 8. Duration of the Agreement

The MOU shall be effective upon signing by both Parties and will end upon the successful completion of all mutually agreed activities in the MOU.


Matthew Piate
Regional Program Director
RPOD/US50

Christopher Lortisa
Programme Manager
UNDP-ACT

Alan Davis
Director
USAID/Cyprus

Tsvetan Anov
Operations Manager
UNDP-ACT

Annex 4: Workshop Agenda - Toward a Standard of Research Ethics – Jordan

Jordan: Steps toward a Comprehensive Research Ethics Strategy

Agenda

June 17th, 2012

10:30 am – 10:35 am	Welcoming Remarks, Professor Safwan Masri, <i>Director of the Columbia University Middle East Research Center (CUMERC)</i>
10:35 am – 10:45 am	Introductions by participants
10:45 am – 10:55 am	Overview on the current status of Research Ethics in Jordan. Dr. Musa Shteivi, <i>Director of Center for Strategic Studies</i>
10:55 am – 11:05 am	Discussion: Status of Research Ethics in Jordan <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How do organizations in Jordan conduct ethical research?• What are the challenges facing ethical research in Jordan?• What are the lessons learned that can be derived from the KHCC model and the Clinical Research Law in Jordan?
11:05 am – 11:25 am	Moving Forward: IRB for the Social Sciences in Jordan <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is the role of the different sectorial organizations in promoting Research Ethics in Jordan?• How can these organizations contribute to the development of a comprehensive Internal Review Board in Jordan?
11:25 am – 11:35 am	Prospects for collaboration between Columbia University and Jordanian researchers
11:35 am	Wrap-up and Next steps

Annex 5: Workshop Agenda - Qualitative Research Methods – Morocco

Agenda: Qualitative Research Methods

Morocco June 27 – 29, 2012

Qualitative Research Methods: Principals and Applications Rabat, 27-29 June, 2012		
Mercure Sherahazade Hotel		
Hour	Activity	Methodology
Day I		
8:30 – 9:00	Registration	Pre-training evaluation
9:00 – 10:30	Launching of workshop activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of workshop context and scope. • Participants' introduction, their expectations, objectives, the sought results and the agenda of workshop. 	Plenary/interactive session
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee break	
10 :45 – 12 :45	Presentation on Qualitative Research Techniques (1): Definition, basic concepts, strengths, and challenges.	Brainstorm Plenary/interactive session (15 minutes)
	Participants' experience in Qualitative Research Techniques	Group work
12 :40 – 13 :30	Lunch	
13 :30 – 14 :10	Presentation on Qualitative Research Techniques (2): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beyond quantitative research tools. • How to design qualitative research projects? 	Brainstorm Plenary/interactive session
14:10 – 15:30	Research Techniques and Development	Plenary and interactive session
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee break	
15:45 – 16:45	Case Study	Group Work
16:45 – 17:00	Closing session	Plenary session
DAY 2		
9:00 – 09:30	Getting started: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rappel of main conclusions of Day I and present Day 2 agenda 	Plenary session
9:30 – 10:30	Focus Groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of key elements of FG (prerequisite, preparation, and 	Group work Plenary session

	implementation of FG, roles of moderator and note takers...)	
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee break	
10 :45 – 12 :45	Focus Groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants identify a topic a qualitative research project. • Prepare and conduct a role play for a FG activity. 	Group work Role play Plenary session
12 :45 – 13 :30	Lunch	
13 :30 – 14 :10	In-depth interviews (IDI): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of key elements of IDI (Prerequisite, preparation, and implementation of IDI, roles of interviewers...) 	Brainstorm Plenary session
14:10 – 15:30	In-depth interviews (IDI): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants identify an issue for an IDI, prepare and simulate an IDI. 	Group work Role play Plenary session
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee break	
15:45 – 16:45	Essentials elements of FG and IDI use in data collection and analysis.	plenary
DAY 3		
9:00 – 09:30	Getting started: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rappel of main conclusions of Day 2; present Day 3 agenda 	Plenary session
9:30 – 10:30	Data analysis: approaches to data analysis	Plenary Group work
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee break	
10 :45 – 12 :45	Data analysis: approaches to data Analysis. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs to use different Qualitative Research Techniques? • Triangulation between Qualitative Research Techniques? • Designing qualitative reports 	Brainstorm Plenary session
12 :45 – 13 :30	lunch	
13 :30 – 15 :00	Case Studies: Division of the participants to groups to conduct exercises using qualitative research techniques	Group work Plenary session
15:00 – 15:15	Coffee break	
15:00 – 16:30	Presentation of Group work	Group work
16:30 – 16:45	Concluding remarks	Plenary
16:45 – 17:15	General evaluation of the workshop	Plenary

جدول ورشة العمل: طرق البحث النوعي

٢٨-٢٦ ايار ٢٠١٢ عمان

ورشة عمل حول طرق البحث النوعي: المبادئ والتطبيقات ٢٨-٢٦ ايار ٢٠١٢ عمان فندق كروان بلازا - قاعة البتراء ٢٦ مايو ايار ٢٠١٢ اليوم الاول		
التسجيل		٩:٠٠ - ٨:٤٥
د. عامر جبارين	الافتتاح ومقدمة عن الورشة (اهدافها والنتائج المتوقعة والبرنامج التدريبي للأيام الثلاثة)	٩:٣٠ - ٩:٠٠
د. عامر جبارين و ا. عمر الحمود	توقعات المشاركين من الورشة التدريبية	٩:٤٠-٩:٣٠
د. عامر جبارين و ا. عمر الحمود	مراجعة لأهم الاسس في البحث العلمي، اهمية جمع البيانات وانواعها	١٠:٠٠- ٩:٤٠
د. عامر جبارين و ا. عمر الحمود	مزايا البحث النوعي واغراضه وتحدياته (امثلة من المشاركين)	١٠:٣٠-١٠:٠٠
استراحة القهوة الاولى ١٠:٣٠ - ١١:٠٠		
Module 1) الوحدة الاولى		
د. عامر جبارين	انواع الابحاث النوعية وتجميع بياناتها (مقدمة في البحث النوعي)	١١:١٠ - ١١:٠٠
ا. عمر الحمود	أخذ العينات في البحث النوعي	١١:٣٥ - ١١:١٠
د. عامر جبارين	التوظيف في البحث النوعي	١٢:٠٠ - ١١:٣٥
ا. عمر الحمود	المبادئ التوجيهية الأخلاقية في البحث النوعي	١٢:٢٠ - ١٢:٠٠
	مناقشة عامة للخطوات السابقة	١٢:٣٠ - ١٢:٢٠
استراحة غداء ١٢:٣٠ - ١:٣٠		
د. عامر جبارين و الحمود	تجارب سابقة للمشاركين في اخذ العينات والتوظيف	٢:٠٠ - ١:٣٠
د. عامر جبارين	Module 2 - (المقابلات المعمقة الثانية)	٢:٢٠ - ٢:٠٠
د. عامر جبارين	نظرة عامة على إجراء المقابلات المعمقة	٢:٤٠ - ٢:٢٠

الحمود	المبادئ التوجيهية الأخلاقية	٣:٤٠ - ٣:٠٠
استراحة القهوة الثانية ٣:٠٠ - ٣:٣٠		
د. عامر جبارين	الدراسة تغيير السلوكيات في الاردن معده من قبل مشروع التحفيز لتغطية جوانب معينة في الوحدات المقدمة. سوف تستخدم هذه الحالة كتمرين على اعداد خطة البحث النوعي	٣:٣٠ - ٥:٠٠
اليوم الثاني: ٢٧ مايو/ايار ٢٠١٢		
د. عامر جبارين	مراجعة سريعة لليوم الاول (اسئلة واجوبة) و مراجعة لبرنامج اليوم الثاني	٩:٠٠ - ٩:٣٠
د. عامر جبارين	الاجراءات اللوجستية لإجراء المقابلات	٩:٣٠ - ٩:٥٠
ا. عمر الحمود	كيف تكون مقابل فعال	٩:٥٠ - ١٠:١٠
ا. عمر الحمود	نصائح لتدوين ملاحظات	١٠:١٠ - ١٠:٣٠
استراحة القهوة الاولى ١٠:٣٠ - ١١:٠٠		
المجموعة د. عامر جبارين و ا. عمر الحمود	تدريب على اجراء المقابلات - لعب ادوار - دوافع السلوكيات المرتبطة بالمياه - المقابلات المعقدة	١١:٠٠ - ١٢:٠٠
المجموعة	مناقشة نقدية للتمرين (مايقال ولا يقال)	١٢:٠٠ - ١٢:٣٠
استراحة غداء ١٢:٣٠ - ١:٣٠		
Focus Groups - مجموعات التركيز (Module 3) الوحدة الثالثة		
د. عامر جبارين	نظرة عامة على مجموعات التركيز	١:٣٠ - ٢:٠٠
ا. عمر الحمود	المبادئ التوجيهية الأخلاقية	٢:٠٠ - ٢:٣٠
د. عامر جبارين	الاجراءات اللوجستية لإجراء مجموعات التركيز	٢:٣٠ - ٢:٤٠
ا. عمر الحمود	كيف يمكن ان تكون ميسر فعال	٢:٤٠ - ٣:٠٠
٣:٣٠ استراحة القهوة الثانية ٣:٠٠ -		
د. عامر جبارين	كيف يمكن أن تكون مدون ملاحظات فعال	٣:٣٠ - ٣:٥٠
ا. عمر الحمود	نصائح لأخذ ملاحظات في مجموعات التركيز	٣:٥٠ - ٤:١٠
المجموعة و د. عامر جبارين و ا. عمر الحمود	استمرار تطبيق ومناقشة الحالة الدراسية عن تغيير السلوكيات في الاردن معده من قبل مشروع التحفيز	٤:١٠ - ٥:٠٠

	لتغطية جوانب مجموعات التركيز	
اليوم الثالث: ٢٨ مايو/ايار ٢٠١٢		
د. عامر جبارين	مراجعة سريعة لليوم الثاني (اسئلة واجوبة) + مراجعة لبرنامج اليوم الثالث	٩:٢٠ - ٩:٠٠
ا. عمر الحمود	الطرق المستخدمة في تحليل البيانات النوعية	١٠:٣٠ - ٩:٢٠
استراحة القهوة الاولى ١٠:٣٠ - ١١:٠٠		
د. عامر جبارين و ا. عمر الحمود	اساليب عرض البيانات والتحليل وكتابة التقرير (جبارين والحمود)	١١:٣٠ - ١١:٠٠
د. عامر جبارين	استكمال عرض ومناقشة الحالة الدراسية عن تغيير السلوكيات في الاردن في جوانب تحليل وعرض البيانات النوعية	١٢:٠٠ - ١١:٣٠
د. عامر جبارين و ا. عمر الحمود	شرح تفصيلي لتمارين التطبيق على الطرق الثلاثة لفترة بعد الغداء وتوزيع المجموعات	١٢:٣٠ - ١٢:٠٠
استراحة غداء ١٢:٣٠ - ١:٣٠		
	عمل المجموعات	٣:٠٠ - ١:٣٠
اسباب تراجع معدل انتشار الساخانات الشمسية في الاردن - تطبيق باستخدام ٣ تقسيم المجموعات الثلاثة للتمارين مجموعات تركيز (جبارين)		
د. عامر جبارين	مجموعة ١: اصحاب المنازل (جبارين)	
ا. عمر الحمود	مجموعة ٢: مصنعي الساخانات الشمسية (الحمود)	
د. عامر جبارين	مجموعة ٣: صناع القرار - المسؤولون (عامر)	
استراحة القهوة الثانية ٣:٣٠-٣:٠٠		
	تقديم نتائج المجموعات الثلاثة (المجموعات الثلاث)	٤:١٥ - ٣:٣٠
	تقييم	٤:٣٠ - ٤:١٥
الختام		