



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 Resources management](#)



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

This NDI guide draws on the experiences of 25 young female activists Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia to define

the basic tools 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



RPCD Partner of the Month

Nermeen Murad is Director of the Hussein Foundation's Information and Research Center (IRC), and the former director of Jordan Media Institute (JMI). She was recently recognized by the American Chamber of Commerce as "the best woman in the nonprofit sector" in Jordan ([read more here](#)).

Ms. Murad obtained her master's degree in International Relations from the University of Leeds. Since she joined IRC in 2008, Ms. Murad aspired to push the organization from local into regional research.

Under her leadership, IRC has achieved a quantum leap in the topics it tackles. Gender studies, community violence, women's empowerment, human rights and children issues are all within the sweep of its research focus.

Ms. Murad appreciates seeing an international program like RPCD working to bring together research organizations in the region. She became a part of the Partnership Forum for the opportunities to network with stakeholders inside and outside Jordan. "Joining the Partnership Forum is a way for us to be known and have our work recognized," she says.

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 Venue, Nicosia, Cyprus. Five Partnership Forum members from each RPCD country will be chosen to attend!
- Takaful: Annual Conference on Arab Philanthropy and Civic Engagement. The American University in Cairo, June 10 - 12, 2012, Cairo, Egypt.