



## REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP *on* CULTURE & DEVELOPMENT

**A total of \$513 billion was pledged to support the advancement of sustainable development goals at Rio+20.** This month thousands of participants from governments, the private sector, and NGOs met in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil to move beyond mere talk on sustainability and into action. Learn more about Rio+20's outcomes below.

Also in this issue, our "Research Highlights" call your attention to exciting, yet-to-be-released research in the MENA region, and we explain the Webinars and National Workshops RPCD is offering this month.



At Rio +20 a total of \$513 billion was pledged by governments, companies, civil society and other groups to support the advancement of sustainable development goals. The outcome document "[The Future We Want](#)" was adopted by 193 nations, and covers a broad array of sustainable development issues including poverty, water, food security and oceans. It also called for the creation of a Sustainable Development Financing Strategy that will improve the efficiency of current financing mechanisms.

Still, critics of the event have been outspoken. The failure by governments to reach an agreement on the abolishment of fossil fuel subsidies or to establish of Sustainable Development Goals to replace the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 are two noted shortcomings.

Perhaps one of the most important outcomes of the Rio conference was not the political statement, but rather the gathering of concerned citizens, companies and NGOs from around the world. More than 700 voluntary commitments by non-state actors were registered on the Rio +20 website showing that citizens are no longer leaving it up to governments to make social change a reality.

### Research Highlights

#### *Ecological Footprint and Sustainability Options in the Arab Countries*

The upcoming 2012 report by the Arab Fund for Environment and Development (AFED) will analyze environmental sustainability in Arab countries based on a survey of their ecological footprint, capturing the gap between available renewable resources (or biocapacity) and consumption. AFED has also commissioned the Global Footprint Network (GFN) to produce an Ecological Footprint Atlas for the region. The study covers the period from 1961 to 2008 and includes the 22 members of the League of Arab States. The report will be released in November 2012. [Click here for more publications on Natural Resources management](#)



#### *2011 Civil Society Organization (CSO) Sustainability Index for Middle East and North Africa*

Under the USAID-funded CSO Sustainability Index project, this summer MSI will launch a series of country reports on seven dimensions of CSO sustainability, including legal environment, organizational capacity, financial viability, advocacy, service provision, infrastructure, and public image. The CSO Sustainability Index model was successfully used in Eastern Europe and Eurasia and Africa and is now extended to the Middle East region. Reports will cover Egypt, Iraq, Yemen, West Bank/Gaza, Morocco, Lebanon and Jordan for the year 2011. [Click here for more publications on Democracy and Governance](#)



#### *An Assessment of Supply and Demand for Family Planning Services from a Human / Reproductive Rights Perspective*

For a better understanding of the factors underlying current stalled fertility in Egypt, Population Council will analyze family planning (FP) services in four governorates in Upper and Lower Egypt as well as conduct a community assessment in these four governorates. The situation analysis (SA) will assess FP service quality and document the perceptions of beneficiaries, service providers, and policy makers of FP services and the extent to which they reflect a rights-based approach to service delivery. The report is expected to come out next November 2012. [Click here for more publications on Youth Development and Engagement](#)

### Recent RPCD & Partnership Forum News

#### **Ethics in Research - Roundtable Discussion**

RPCD and Columbia University Middle East Research Center (CUMERC) co-organized a roundtable meeting that gathered more than 25 research centers representatives in Amman Jordan on July 17, 2012, and resulted in a plan to create a new set of principles for ethics in research in the country.

#### **Qualitative Research Methods: Principles and Applications**

RPCD conducted a successful three-day workshop for Partnership Forum Members in Rabat, Morocco on June 27-29, 2012.

#### **Report Launch: Economic Report on Africa 2012**

On June 13, 2012, Partnership Forum member the Egyptian Center for Economic Studies, working in collaboration with the UN Economic Commission for Africa, launched its 2012 economic report titled "Africa's Potential as a New Pole of Global Growth". The launch event examined key findings of report and how to harness both the productive potential and untapped consumer demand of the continent. [Click here to access the report.](#)

#### **Documentary: Wastewater Management**

Partnership Forum member the Water Energy and Environment Center (WEEC) has produced a documentary about decentralized wastewater management in rural communities in Jordan. [You can also view it on RPCD's YouTube Channel.](#)

### Upcoming Events

#### **Webinar – Youth Unemployment in the Arab World: The Gap between Education and Employment**

- Monday July 12, 11am-12pm Cairo Time. Dr. Hind Arroub, Founder and Director of Institut Hyptiad'Alexandrie pour la Reflexion et les Etudes

#### **Webinar – From Theory to Action: Gender Mainstreaming**

- Monday July 23, 11am-12pm Cairo Time – Ms. Nermeen Mourad, Executive Director of the Information and Research Center (IRC), King Hussein Foundation

#### **Webinar - Outcomes of Rio +20 and Implications for the Arab Region**

- Monday July 30 11am-12pm Cairo Time (to be confirmed) - Eng. Lama El Hatow, Environmental and Social Consultant, International Finance Cooperation (IFC)

#### **Turning Research into Action: Marketing and Presenting Information to Affect Decisions**

- July 11-12 (to be confirmed), 2012, Cairo Egypt

To be considered for inclusion in any of these events, contact us at [info@mena-partnership.info](mailto:info@mena-partnership.info)

*""These kinds of activities and events are really important to Moroccan research centers: They help fill existing gaps in action and field research conduct. The workshop and the last three days of training were very useful for me: we were enabled to extend our knowledge of qualitative research methods, and learn to apply them in our research work."*

Mr. Abdelhak Saaf - Center for Studies and Research in Social Sciences, one of the attendees of the Qualitative Research Methods Workshop in Rabat, Morocco on June 27-29, 2012