



THE SCIENCE OF IMPROVING LIVES

## REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP ON CULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT

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### Quarterly Progress Report #9

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

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**FHI 360**

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The OMEP Regional Partnership on 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 ninth quarterly report of the program and covers the period from October 1 – December 31, 2012.

**Submitted to:** Mike Reilly  
Agreement Officer’s Representative  
OMEP/USAID

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## OVERVIEW

In this quarter, the Regional Partnership on Culture and Development (RPCD) continued to strengthen the Partnership Forum members through Webinars, National Workshops, and research products.

RPCD received more Research Requests from the USAID Missions in the region, conducted the first National Workshop, and produced another round of research publications, including a new format for the monthly newsletters that allows readers easier access to information.

The program conducted two follow-up webinars to capitalize on the foundations laid in the Qualitative Research Methods Workshops that took place in Erbil and Ramallah in the previous quarter. These follow-up Webinars were effective in deepening the participants' knowledge of the training topic, allowing them to practice the new methods on their own research projects, and to share these experiences with their peers.

The grants program closing date was November 7, 2012. RPCD received 15 applications from the region, and three were selected for pre-award surveys.

The program made its final preparations for its third Regional Event, the "*Climate Change Adaptation: The Pivotal Role of Water in the MENA Region*" in Amman, Jordan, to take place January 26-29, 2013. This event is co-organized with the Arab Countries Water Utilities Association (ACWUA).

## PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

### Staffing

RPCD became fully staffed this quarter, after receiving instructions from OMEP to refrain from hiring the Yemen Research Liaison Officer and continue to serve the Mission in Yemen through the RPCD Cairo office.

Mr. Salah Eldin El Rashidy joined the RPCD team as a Research Analyst for Democracy & Governance on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Rashidy has a background as a researcher in democracy and governance to inform government policy, and also has experience in conducting focus groups and overseeing quantitative research.

Ms. Sherine El Taraboulsi began work on November 15, 2012 as RPCD's Projects Manager. Ms. Taraboulsi is well-connected to other research institutions in the MENA region, having worked as a Research Manager at the John D. Gerhart Center for Philanthropy and Civic Engagement, at the American University in Cairo. Ms. Taraboulsi will manage a subset of research requests as well as conducting RPCD's outreach efforts. Her strong writing ability and knowledge of local civil society will serve the program and support building the PF network.

Ms. Dalia Bahaa was promoted to Human Resources and Finance Associate, taking on the responsibility to lead the management of grants on the program. She will receive extensive training and support on this subject, both from the FHI 360 headquarters and through a regional grants training planned for January.

## PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

### Component A: Access available regional research

#### Partnership Forum

In the reporting quarter, the Partnership Forum network grew from 135 to 144 research organizations around the MENA region.

In November, the RPCD Regional Program Director visited Beirut, Lebanon to launch the Partnership Forum there. This event was followed up with a survey to Partnership Forum members in Lebanon to gather their training and research interests. A National Workshop stemming from their requests will be held in Beirut in the next quarter. A trip report on the Beirut visit is included as Annex II.

The RPCD team is currently working with PF members to collect their input on their preferred structure for the Partnership Forum as an entity independent of RPCD. These inputs will be analyzed by the RPCD team to plan for the fourth regional conference in May 2013, to formally launch the PF network. This process will result in a PF that is self-managed and has sustainable sources of funding. More details are included in Component D.

In December, RPCD held a National Workshop in Cairo for its Partnership Forum Members, detailed under Component D.

#### Specialist Database

This quarter the RPCD database of experts reached 80 resumes, and includes specialists in the fields of Democracy and Governance, Youth Engagement and Development, and Natural Resource Management. The database underwent a revision. Each resume is assessed on three main criteria: the expert should have at least 7 years of professional experience, direct experience in one of the three focus areas, and a proven record of quality in his or her previous work. The geographic focus of the experts' research is also reflected in the database to facilitate the selection of experts on specific countries in the region.

The RPCD team is continually adding resumes to the database, which can be viewed at: <http://www.mena-partnership.info/experts>. The page will not be accessible to the public, though it will be made available to Partnership Forum members upon launching the new portal interface.

#### Publications

RPCD produced and distributed the third volumes of its Annotated Bibliography Series and Research Highlights this quarter. The team also produced the third volume of the Technical Publication Series and this will be distributed next quarter. The Annotated Bibliography Series highlights the most recent publications through brief evaluations of the work and context. Its purpose is to give quick explanations of recent research for those shorter on time. The Technical Publication Series presents full-length copies of compelling and useful articles to USAID readers in the region. Because RPCD only obtains

copyrights for limited distribution, the TPS is for use only by USAID and is not distributed publicly. Research Highlights alerts all RPCD stakeholders to research that is currently underway or will be published soon, to help information consumers stay on the cutting edge.

The process of selecting articles, drafting and reviewing abstracts, compiling the documents and disseminating them was the same as explained in the previous Quarterly Report for the second volumes. This quarter, RPCD diversified the scope of its research products to include a training manual in the Annotated Bibliography Series, a translated article from Arabic into English in the Technical Publication Series, and ongoing research projects in the Research Highlights to give readers more broader overview of ongoing activities in the three focus areas in the MENA region.

The following articles appeared in the two publications this quarter:

### ***Annotated Bibliography Series***

<b>Title of Study</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Sector</b>	<b>Year</b>
The Arab World's Education Report Card: School Climate and Citizenship Skills	Regional	Youth	2012
The Political Empowerment For Youth: Yemen Case Study	Yemen	Youth	2011
Women's Citizenship Rights in Lebanon	Lebanon	Youth	2012
The School-to-Work Transition of Jordanian Youth	Jordan	Youth	2012
Research and Research Methods for Youth Practitioners	Regional	Youth	2012
Oil Curse in Yemen: The Role of Institutions and Policy	Yemen	DG	2012
A Decade of Struggling Reform Efforts in Jordan: the Resilience of the Rentier System	Jordan	DG	2011
Morocco: Gender and the Transitional Justice Process	Morocco	DG	2011
Fractured Walls, New Horizons: Human Rights in the Arab Region	Regional	DG	2011
Civil Movements: the Impact of Facebook and Twitter	Regional	DG	2011
Water Reuse in The Arab World from Principle to Practice	Regional	NRM	2011
Climate Change Adaptation and Natural Disasters Preparedness in the Coastal Cities of North Africa	Regional	NRM	2011
Assessing the Impact of Climate Change on Water Resources and Socio-Economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region: A Methodological Framework for Pursuing an Integrated Assessment	Regional	NRM	2011
Economic and Geopolitical Dimensions of Renewable vs. Nuclear Energy in North Africa	Regional	NRM	2011
Energy Subsidies in the Arab World	Regional	NRM	2012

### Technical Publication Series

Title of Study	Country	Sector	Year
Democratic Transition in the Middle East: Unmaking Power	Regional	DG	2012
Religion, Education and Governance in the Middle East: Between Tradition and Modernity	Regional	DG	2012
Equality of Opportunity in Education in the Middle East and North Africa	Regional	Youth	2012
Youth-Generated Media: A Case of Blogging and Arab Youth Cultural Politics	Regional	Youth	2012
Adaptive Capacity of Transboundary Basins in the Mediterranean, the Middle East and the Sahel	Regional	NRM	2011
Water resources trends in Middle East and North Africa towards 2050	Regional	NRM	2011

### Research Highlights

Title of Study	Country	Sector	Year
Predictors of Aggression among Palestinians in Israel and Gaza: Happiness, Need to Belong, and Self-control	West Bank/Gaza	Youth	2013
School Enrollment in Iraq During the U.S.-led Invasion: A Statistical Analysis	Iraq	Youth	2013
Taking to the Streets: Activism, Arab Uprisings, and Democratization	Regional	Youth	2013
MAWRED Land Data Assimilation System	Regional	NRM	2013
Water on Sand: Environmental Histories of the Middle East and North Africa	Regional	NRM	2012
Challenges to Treated Wastewater Reuse in Arid and Semi-Arid	Regional	NRM	2013

Areas			
Governance in the Middle East and North Africa	Regional	DG	2012
The Politics of Philanthropy: Sociopolitical Transitions and Shifts in Philanthropic Practices in Egypt, Libya and Tunisia	Regional	DG	2013
The Power and the People: Paths of Resistance in the Middle East	Regional	DG	2012

### **Newsletter**

RPCD issued three monthly newsletters in the October – December quarter. With each issue more individuals are expressing their interest in receiving the newsletter and RPCD is continuously improving its content and format. This quarter, the newsletter has been embedded into the body of the delivery email instead of being distributed as an attachment. This allows newsletter recipients to get easier access to information and hyperlinks of news and articles included in each issue. In addition to Partnership Forum member profiles and RPCD’s research products and events, the newsletter contains research tips and links to past Webinars.

The RPCD October, November and December newsletters are attached in Annex I.

## **Component B: Conduct research, evaluations, and analysis**

### **Research Requests**

RPCD continued to receive and respond to USAID Research Requests. The Rapid Response Research Requests status during the quarter included the following:

- **YMEP Mid-Term Evaluation – Yemen:** In the previous quarter, RPCD received a request to conduct a mid-term performance evaluation to assess the implementation, effectiveness, and progress of the Yemen and Monitoring and Evaluation Project (YMEP). A draft Scope of Work was provided by USAID Yemen; it was revised by RPCD and the team recruitment is currently underway. This evaluation is scheduled to start in March 2013.
- **Gender Assessment – Yemen:** In the previous quarter, RPCD received a request to conduct a gender assessment in Yemen. A draft Scope of Work was developed and submitted to USAID Yemen. This study is scheduled to start in March 2013.
- **Conflict Assessment – Yemen:** In the previous quarter, RPCD received a request to conduct a conflict assessment in Yemen. A Scope of Work was developed by RPCD and awaits confirmation from USAID Yemen. The study is scheduled to start in March 2013.
- **Literacy Assessment, Morocco:** On November 1, 2012, RPCD received a request from USAID/Morocco to gather information about institutions focusing on Arabic Literacy and Early

Grade Reading in Morocco. The study should highlight successful models that have proved impact, as demonstrated by evidence. RPCD had some comments and questions on the received SOW. The Mission submitted a final SOW to RPCD on December 17, 2012. RPCD will propose a team of four consultants to carry out this assessment early next quarter.

- **Solid Waste Sector Assessment in Alexandria, Egypt:** In the previous quarter, RPCD received a request from USAID/Egypt to conduct a field study of Alexandria's solid waste sector to identify areas of opportunity and propose measures to improve solid waste management. USAID/Egypt will give more clear direction on the specifics of this study after meeting officials from the governorate in February 2013.
- **MEYMI Evaluation, OMEP:** RPCD launched an RFP on October 1, 2012 to call for proposals to carry out a series of focus groups to gauge the impact of the television program "The University" on viewers in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Iraq. The Program received 2 proposals by the deadline of October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012. RPCD recruited the winner, TNS, to carry out the series of focus groups and analysis. Field work will take place late January and will be attended by USAID representatives from OMEP and other offices in the region.
- **Local Governance Program Mid-Term Assessment, Morocco:** The evaluation team was able to complete all field work during the reported quarter. The draft report was submitted to the USAID Morocco Mission on November 21, 2012.
- **Basic Education Situational Analysis, Iraq:** On December 16, RPCD submitted the draft report of the situational analysis of the basic education system in Erbil, Dohuk, and Sulaymaniyah to USAID/Iraq. The study supports the Assistance Objective for Iraq, "Contributing to Regional Peace and Security". RPCD is expecting to receive and respond to comments from the Mission early next quarter. The final report is planned to be submitted in late January.
- **Local Capacity Development, Morocco:** The LCD team met representatives from the USAID Morocco Mission to agree on the details of the research request. The team submitted a methodology and workplan for the study to USAID on October 20. During the quarter, the team completed the majority of the field work, and it is planned to submit the draft report in early January.
- **Study Tour Options to Enhance Decentralization, Egypt:** RPCD submitted a draft report listing and analyzing options for a parliamentary study tour on November 11, 2012 to Ms. Salwa Tobbala, Decentralization & Local Governance Advisor at USAID/Egypt. Upon receiving comments from USAID Mission in Cairo, RPCD will finalize the report accordingly. Final report is expected to be ready for submission to USAID by January 2013.
- **Justice Sector Assessment, West Bank/Gaza:** In the previous quarter, the research team carried out the fieldwork for the assessment of rule of law sector in the West Bank. The draft report will be submitted in early January.
- **Public Opinion and Awareness Survey, Egypt:** This activity is addressed under "Public Opinion/Polling Research" below.
- RPCD wrote two scopes of work in response to discussions with some of the Missions in the region to consider for future implementation:

- **Influence of Arab Gulf States on the West Bank and Gaza:** This research is intended to provide an overview of Gulf relations with the Palestinian territories and to describe the level of influence wielded by the former. The information can help USAID West Bank/Gaza develop more relevant and appropriate programming by better understanding local contexts and political dynamics. The SOW was submitted to USAID/West Bank for review on September 30<sup>th</sup>.
- **Impact of the Arab Spring on West Bank:** The proposed research will provide insights into the levels of political activism and unrest in the West Bank/Gaza and identify reasons behind the relative stability there amid a wave of revolutions across the region. This information will support USAID programming in civic engagement, the development of democratic institutions, and rule of law. The SOW was submitted to USAID West Bank on September 30<sup>th</sup>.
- **Justice Sector Assessment, Egypt:** On October 9, 2012, RPCD received instructions from USAID/Egypt's by Christine Scheckler to hold off on this assignment until further notice.

## Research Grants Program

On September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012, RPCD launched a Request for Applications for its main grants program, requesting applications from Partnership Forum Members. The RFA was designed to solicit proposals for an estimated five to eight grants for research activities that would answer one or more of the nine research questions in the RPCD Research Agenda. The PF members were instructed to work together in coalitions and to answer the research question(s) with data from at least two countries.

The deadline for submitting applications was October 31, 2012. Based on the timing of local holidays, and requests from several applicants, the deadline was extended to November 7, 2012. By the deadline, RPCD received 15 applications. Dalia Bahaa, the lead RPCD staff member for grants management, reviewed all submitted documentation for compliance and to ensure completeness for technical review. Two proposals were eliminated because they did not respond to the key requirements listed in the RFA.

A scoring sheet, RFA, and copies of all 13 accepted applications were disseminated among the technical review committee, which included Matthew Pietz, Director, Mariam Hanna, Deputy Director, Pensee Affi, Research Analyst, and Salah El-Rashidy, Research Analyst, to be reviewed and scored based on the evaluation criteria outlined below. Scores were sent separately to the Ms. Bahaa, who compiled them in one document to be discussed in the first review meeting.

Application Evaluation Criteria	Weight
<p><b>Organizational capacity and past experience</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the organization have the necessary administrative and governance frameworks in place to make sub awards to Research Contributors? (15 points)</li> <li>• Do the organizations in the consortium possess the relevant research experience to implement the proposed project? (15 points)</li> </ul>	30 points

<p><b>Consortium Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will the Contributors make the majority of the technical contribution to the final product(s)? (5 points)</li> <li>• How will the Grantee consolidate contributions from the Contributors and ensure the quality of these contributions? (10 points)</li> <li>• Does the proposed management framework set out clear and logical roles and responsibilities? (5 points)</li> </ul>	20 points
<p><b>Project design and strategy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the proposed research methodology seem appropriate to the question selected, given all relevant considerations of context? Is the approach likely to yield substantive, meaningful responses to the question(s) selected? (15 points)</li> <li>• Are the details of the approach methodologically sound and consistent with best research practices? (15 points)</li> </ul>	30 points
<p><b>Cost effectiveness of proposed budget</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the budget cost effective? Does it reflect reasonable and applicable costs? (15 points)</li> <li>• Are all budget items clearly described? (5 points)</li> <li>• Does at least 60% of the award flow to the Research Contributors? (Unscored—failure to meet this qualification results in disqualification)</li> <li>• Are the costs allowable? (Unscored—unallowable costs result in disqualification)</li> </ul>	20 points
<b>Total</b>	<b>100 points</b>

The evaluation team met on November 18, at which point 8 applications were eliminated from further evaluation. The team short listed 5 applications, and agreed on a set of clarifications questions to be sent to the applicants for final decision and selection. Questions to applicants were sent on November 20, 2012, and feedback was collected on November 27, 2012. The committee reviewed the received clarifications, and convened again on December 3, 2012. Finally, three applications were selected for more reviews. Rejection letters, and provisional acceptance letters, were sent on Sunday, December 16, 2012.

Ms. Bahaa began the process of collecting more information from applicants to ensure compliance and eligibility for planned grants. Ms. Maria Patricia Gomez, FHI360 Finance Manager, will visit Cairo in early January to work closely with Ms. Bahaa to analyze cost elements in applicants' budgets and complete the negotiation process. Grants are expected to be signed in February, and research activities to begin immediately after.

Provisionally Selected Grantees:

Three applicants were selected for grants, pending cost verification and pre-award capacity analysis:

1. *Academy for International Development – Middle East(AID-ME):*

The Academy for International Development – Middle East (Prime Applicant), Albadeel Centre for Studies and Research from Jordan (Research Contributor), and INMAA Organization for Development from Iraq (Research Contributor) will work together on this research project. The objective is to map and analyze the roles of civil society organizations and the private sector in filling gaps in the delivery of local services that might otherwise be provided by the government in Iraq and Jordan. The study will demonstrate challenges and barriers faced by civil society and the private sector in providing such services through a comparative study in the two countries. The research will also provide data on best practices in this area and that could be replicated in the MENA region.

2. *Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem (ARIJ):*

The Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem (ARIJ) from the West Bank (Prime Applicant) will collaborate with the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) from Jordan (Research Contributor) to develop a Decision Support System, a database to inform decisions on land and water use for agriculture in the Jordan River Valley. The system will allow farmers and other decision-makers to make projections about the possible results of certain choices in land, water and crop use. The resulting scenarios and recommendations of the study will be disseminated to USAID Program Officers in Jordan and West Bank and other stakeholders, including governmental bodies, research institutions, and NGO-supported agriculture programs. USAID will also have direct access to the decision support system.

3. *The Columbia University Middle East Research Center (CUMERC):*

The Columbia University Middle East Research Center (CUMERC) in Amman (Prime Applicant), the Desert Development Center (DDC) at the American University in Cairo from Egypt (Research Contributor), and the American University of Beirut (Research Contributor) will study the impact of population growth on water scarcity and food security in Egypt and Lebanon, while considering the role of gender as well. This coalition of research centers will provide USAID with a synthesis study and five case studies that will conclude with actionable recommendations.

## **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**

On October 24, RPCD presented the findings of the first public opinion poll to gauge Egyptians' awareness and opinion of USAID to agency staff at the Mission. The presentation was well received and attended by approximate fifteen staff members.

After the presentation, USAID and RPCD met to discuss the next steps in this research. USAID's Julie Fossler and Taly Lind informed RPCD that they were using the results of the first round of research to produce their outreach messages, and were awaiting approval of the first draft of messages from USAID/Washington. USAID also offered to put RPCD in contact with the local advertising agency that is working on the development of the messages, so RPCD can set up focus groups to test them once approved.

In addition, USAID requested that RPCD conduct follow-on surveys to the first Opinion Poll. Subsequently, RPCD negotiated an agreement with its subcontractor, Nielsen, to repeat the polling on a quarterly basis. RPCD stands ready to conduct a second round of polling, whenever the agency is ready to submit the first draft of questions for the second round. To complete all polling activities on time RPCD would benefit from receiving Mission approval to proceed when there are at least five months of operation left in the program.

## **Component C: Document USAID lessons learned and best practices**

### **TIPs (What Works)**

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 received many research requests. The first issue of What Works was developed by RPCD. It focused on best practices in organizing conferences and expected to be released in the next quarter. FHI 360 technical expert Nicholas Wedeman will travel to Cairo in late January to provide training to RPCD staff on how to produce best practice and lessons learned documents tailored to USAID needs.

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

### **Portal**

The RPCD is moving toward a model of stronger reliance on field-based technical support and less reliance on support from the DC office of FHI360. To this end it has contracted IPL Media, a Cairo-based technology firm, to provide the program support in redesigning and restructuring the Portal. During the quarter this work continued, with the subcontractor sending RPCD several versions of the pages that compose the site and RPCD requesting a number of cosmetic and functional revisions. RPCD plans to have a fully redesigned and functional Portal early in the next quarter.

### **Webinars**

RPCD conducted two Webinars during the quarter, and received positive feedback from attendees, including PF members and USAID staff, who have also expressed interest in attending future Webinars. After each session, RPCD shares the final report, link for the recorded Webinar, list of attendees, and the presentation with all PF members. Details on the Webinars are as follows:

- On November 11, 2012, Dr. Laila Iskandar, Chair of CID Consulting Egypt and PF member, conducted a webinar on the “Garbage Problem in Egypt” for Partnership Forum members. Around 16 participants from the MENA region attended the webinar.
- On November 28, 2012, Mrs. Khadija Ramram, an education specialist and PF member conducted a follow-up to the National Workshop on Qualitative Research Methods. Participants from the Morocco PF attended the webinar.

RPCD will conduct at least one Webinar per month for the remainder of its period of performance.

## **Regional Conferences**

### ***The Power of One***

RPCD conducted its second regional conference “The Power of One: Citizen-led Innovation and Social Change Practices during Periods of Transition” in collaboration with UNDP Act and USAID/Cyprus on October 9-12, 2012 in Nicosia, Cyprus. Application forms were sent out to Partnership Forum Members, 43 members were selected by the Committee. RPCD invited Mr. George Ishaq to participate as a keynote speaker for the event. RPCD also organized a training event for its Partnership Forum members on October 12, 2012 on Translating Research into Policy.

This event was innovative and exciting in several respects. It was not a “conference” in the traditional sense, in that it had only two speeches in the entire four days, and no panel discussions or presentations. The whole event was focused on getting participants to actively collaborate and plan future actions together, through a skillfully-facilitated process of problem identification, proposing solutions, and forming teams around the solutions that seemed most viable and effective.

On the final day the attendees of the conference voted on the activities they felt were most likely to succeed, and the three winning ideas will receive grants from UNDP and RPCD. The grants will be managed directly by UNDP, and will be funded by a pool to which RPCD will contribute.

Three proposals were selected at the conference, and a total of nine were submitted for selection by committee after the conclusion of the conference. The Selection Committee (composed of UNDP and RPCD) met on December 10<sup>th</sup> to discuss the scores for each proposal. As a result of this meeting, the committee listed some questions to be clarified by applicants. Pending these answers, the three selected grantees are expected to start their activities by mid-February 2013.

### ***Climate Change and Water Management***

In this quarter, RPCD made the bulk of preparations for its third regional conference. RPCD is collaborating with the Arab Countries Water Utilities Association (ACWUA) in Jordan to host the 2<sup>nd</sup> Arab Water Week. It will be held in Amman, Jordan from January 27 – 29, 2012. The event is bringing together academics, government officials, CEOs and civil society leaders to discuss water issues in the Arab world. The collaboration with ACWUA fits within RPCD’s objective of linking research with action and will help ACWUA activate its technical working group on water resource management and climate change.

The chief aim is to share cutting edge information about the state of climate change readiness in the water sector and identify critical gaps that must be addressed in order to increase the action being taken. ACWUA is the main organizer of the event, and RPCD will contribute to the funding as well as the organization of an additional day for special sessions on climate change and water. RPCD will invite 30-40 participants from the MENA region.

RPCD is organizing a pre-conference workshop for its participants. The workshop on “*Climate Change Adaptation: The Pivotal Role of Water in the MENA Region*” will take place on Saturday January 26, 2013 in

Amman, Jordan. The aim of the event is to bring together a group of 30-40 high-level experts to discuss research gaps in the area of climate change adaptation and water resources in the MENA region.

It will follow closely the successful model of the Cyprus conference. Workshop participants will be asked to identify critical research questions that they feel must be addressed in order to better understand or respond to the threat of climate change on Arab water resources. Once the initial research ideas are formulated they will be presented to the rest of the group. Participants will have the chance to select their favorite questions in a “market of ideas.” They will then be asked to form research teams to further develop the best ideas into a full research proposal. The teams will be invited to come together at the end of each conference day to work on their proposals. The entire body of ACWUA attendees will select the top three proposals through anonymous voting, and those three will each receive a \$30,000 grant award from RPCD to carry out the research.

Following the workshop, participants are invited to attend the 2nd Arab Water Week (organized by the Arab Countries Water Utilities Association and co-sponsored by RPCD) from January 27-29, 2013. This year the conference is titled “*New Prospects and Challenges for the Water Sector in the Arab Region*” and will comprise the following three themes:

1. Utilities Effectiveness and Efficiency
2. Innovative Technologies and Private Sector
3. Water Science for Policy and Governance

Three distinguished experts will be invited to present by RPCD, as well as one keynote speaker. The identities of these speakers and their abstracts will be included in the next quarterly report.

## **National Workshops**

National Workshops not only focus on the capacity-building of the Partnership Forum members, but enhance the sustainability of the network. In this quarter, one National Workshop was conducted, in Egypt. PF members there selected the topic of Qualitative Research Methods.

### ***National Workshop on Qualitative Research Methods - December 12-13, 2012, Cairo, Egypt***

The two-day interactive workshop was facilitated by Dr. Pandeli Glavanis, Associate Director of the Center for Learning and Teaching at the American University in Cairo. The workshop provided skills in designing and carrying out a qualitative study with an emphasis on participatory research methods. Using case studies and group work, it offered an overview of commonly used qualitative methods: structured and unstructured interviews, participatory learning methods, and group and individual methods. The specific objectives were to provide the knowledge and skills to do the following:

- Design a participatory qualitative research study
- Manage and analyze qualitative data
- Evaluate and present research data

A total of 10 participants from 10 research institutions and non-governmental organizations attended. A follow up Webinar forum is planned to take place in March 2013 to discuss and review participants' practice of skills acquired during the two-day workshop. The overall feedback from the participants was very positive and indicates the workshop was a success.

## **PLANNED EVENTS**

### ***Arab Water Council General Assembly meeting (to take place February 26-28, 2013)***

This event was planned to take place on December 2012, due to political situation in Egypt the event is now postponed to February 26-28, 2013. RPCD will support the Arab Water Council by sponsoring three experts from the region to attend and present study findings on climate change and water relevant to the AWC members. These presentations may take about 2 hours. All PF members in Egypt working on Natural Resource Management will be invited to attend.

### ***Water Footprint Assessment Training - Jordan (to take place late March 12-14, 2013)***

This event will be implemented in collaboration with Water, Energy and Environment Center at University of Jordan (WEEC), a PF member. RPCD conducted several virtual meetings with WEEC to discuss next steps and means of collaboration. The two parties agreed to plan for the event to take place in March 2013. The event will gather PF members in Jordan and other institutions who are focusing on water issues and who will benefit from learning more about the water footprint technique.

### ***Turning Research into Action – FY 2013 National Workshops***

RPCD is working with the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) in London to develop a Training of Trainers on Turning Research into Action. During the quarter RPCD called for applications from PF members interested in receiving this TOT, and received around 25 applications. Two applicants were selected based on their previous experience: Ms. Khadija Ramram from Morocco and Dr. Ramy Lakkis from Lebanon. Both will join RPCD Deputy Director Mariam Hanna in the training of trainers in late January.

During this quarter, RPCD worked with ODI to plan for the training. ODI also engaged the three trainees by sharing some preparation materials to study before the training. After the ToT completes, RPCD will develop a workshop curriculum on this subject and then will deliver the training to all interested Partnership Forum members, country by country.

These events will form the bulk of the RPCD's required second round of NWs in FY 2013. It is expected that three National Workshops will take place by March 31, probably in Egypt, Lebanon and Morocco.

## **ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER**

In the ninth quarter of RPCD, January- March 2012, a number of activities will be launched whose groundwork was laid this quarter. Expected activities include:

- Publication of the fourth volume of the Technical Paper Series
- Publication of the fourth volume of the Annotated Bibliography
- Publication of the fourth volume of the Research Highlights
- Launch of the "What Works" series to summarize development best practices

- Conduct Focus Groups to test communications campaign messages to develop greater awareness of USAID assistance in Egypt
- Designing sustainability mechanisms for the Partnership Forum network
- Conduct National Workshops on Research Into Action
- Conduct the Climate Change Adaptation Regional workshop in Jordan
- Implementation of at least 2 Webinars
- Launch the redesigned and enhanced Portal
- Respond to one more research requests submitted by USAID Missions

## ANNEXES

### Annex 3: RPCD Newsletters, October - December 2012



REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP *on*  
CULTURE & DEVELOPMENT

**What motivates Palestinian suicide bombers?** The answer may not be what you think—poverty and depression are often cited by analysts as key factors, but new research by RPCD Research Liaison Officer Dr. Bader Araj, published this month in the *Canadian Review of Sociology*, shows that this is mistaken. Based on in-depth interviews with the families of 42 suicide bombers from the Second Intifada, Dr. Araj establishes that the top motivating factor is to respond to earlier attacks against Palestinians. Click [here](#) to see the abstract.



**PARTNERSHIP FORUM MEMBER OF THE MONTH**

Partnership Forum member Dr. Khalil Gebara is a professor of political economy and Middle East politics at the American University in Beirut. He served as the Head of the Good Governance Unit in the Office of the President of the Council of Ministers from 2010-2011. Dr. Gebara is a founding member of the Arab Initiative to Monitor Elections and the Lebanese Economic Association. He holds a Ph.D. in political economy from the University of Exeter, UK and has published

extensively on the issues of good governance, corruption, the public sector and political and economic reform in the Arab region.

Dr. Gebara recently led the RPCD webinar “Fighting Corruption as Tool to Strengthen Democratic Transition in Post-Arab Spring”. He says of the event, “As my first time to experience webinars, this was a stimulating experience and the interaction was very progressive.” Click [here](#) to listen to recording of the webinar discussions.

**Just days remain** in the countdown to RPCD’s conference “The Power of One: *Citizen-Led Innovation and Social Change Practices during Periods of Transition*” in Nicosia, Cyprus from 9-11 October 2012. Follow the conference proceedings [online!](#)



**Research Highlights**



**Civil Movements: The Impact of Facebook and Twitter**

By analyzing data on Twitter and Facebook users in 22 Arab countries, in addition to Iran, Israel and Turkey, this Dubai School of Government report highlights the role of these networking sites in the civil movements that

have swept the region. This is part of a larger research initiative focused on social engagement through ICT in Arab states. [Click here for more publications on Democracy and Governance](#)



**Energy Subsidies in the Arab World**

Energy subsidies are one of the key controversies in energy policy throughout the Middle East. This UNDP study considers the rationales for and against energy subsidies and looks at their impact

on efficiency, equity, macro-economics and the environment. The report suggests a medium to long term reform process that incorporates adequate compensation for poor populations and adequate communication and transparency. [Click here for more publications on Natural Resource Management](#)



**The Political Empowerment for Youth**

Youth political empowerment can be enhanced with the wide range of exercises and programs that are discussed in this training manual. The Foundation for Future manual includes methods to enhance political participation, promote an understanding of civil rights and duties and encourage youth to be active and empowered members of society. The manual, written in Arabic, aims to improve youth political and civic empowerment. [Click here for more publications on Youth](#)

**Upcoming Events**

**Doha Climate Change Conference**

Discussions of the Kyoto Protocol and international negotiations on climate change will resume at the 18th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 18) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, from 26 November to 7 December 2012 at the Qatar National Convention Centre.

**Regional Consultation**

The “Groundwater Governance: A Global Framework for Country Action,” is holding its 3<sup>rd</sup> regional consultation meeting in Amman, Jordan from 8-10 October 2012. Organizers include FAO, The World Bank, UNESCO, IAH and GEF.

**Researchers’ Guidelines**

Bibliotheca Alexandria has organized a training on effective research, including study design, data collection, funding and dissemination, from 1-3 October 2012 at Bibliotheca in Alexandria, Egypt. To register email: [Karim.Nashaat@bibalex.org](mailto:Karim.Nashaat@bibalex.org).



REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP *on*  
CULTURE & DEVELOPMENT

**Female school enrollments in the MENA region have grown much faster than male enrollments during the past decade**, according to the World Bank's World Development Report 2012: Gender Equality and Development. Learn more about gender and development [here](#).

Also in this month's newsletter, learn about upcoming RPCD events and webinars, fascinating articles about water and human rights in the region, and the most exciting outcomes of the "Power of One" conference in Cyprus. Don't forget to send us your updates for inclusion in the next newsletter.

Prominent Egyptian political activist **George Ishaq** inspired delegates at RPCD & UNDP's Power of One conference on October 9, 2012. *"I commend the young generations for their courage and commitment,"* Ishaq declared in his keynote speech. Ishaq is the former general coordinator of the "Kefaya" movement, which served since 2004 as a platform for protest against political corruption, stagnation, and disregard for human rights. Since then, Ishaq has been at the forefront of Egypt's grassroots struggle for political reform. The activist leader joined civil society representatives and thought leaders from across the MENA region and Europe for the four-day exchange of ideas and planning for collaborative action in Cyprus.



## Research Highlights



### [Water Reuse in the Arab World from Principle to Practice](#)

The World Bank, in collaboration with the Arab Water Council, the Islamic Development Bank and the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture produced a joint report about major water issues affecting the

Arab World. The report highlights the economic dimensions of water reuse including the high cost of wastewater treatment and conveyance infrastructure as well as the current lack of financial incentives. It also presents several case studies showcasing successful water reuse in agriculture, long-term cost recovery and best practices in national water reuse strategies. It concludes with nine key recommendations for resource policy makers including: greater exploration, adoption of efficient technologies, improved monitoring mechanisms and stronger water use regulation. [Click here for more publications on Natural Resource Management](#)



### [Fractured Walls, New Horizons: Human Rights in the Arab Region](#)

In its Fourth annual report, the Cairo Institute for Human Rights analyzes the status of human rights in the Arab world in 2011, and how it was affected by the Arab Spring. Beside its main purpose, which is to evaluate the degree of progress and regression in the state of human rights in the Arab region, this year's report attempts to assess the extent to which the political transitions that swept over the region managed to improve the state of human rights and liberties, especially in those countries that witnessed drastic changes in political regimes. [Click here for more publications on Democracy and Governance](#)

## Upcoming Events

### **Webinar (RPCD) - Solid Waste Management: Egypt as a Case Study**

November 12, 2012 at 3:00 pm Cairo Time. The session will be led by Dr. Laila Iskander, Chairperson of CID consulting Egypt.

### **Qualitative Research Methods Follow-up Webinars (RPCD)**

Dr. Amer Jabarin will conduct two follow up online sessions with the participants of the September Qualitative Research Methods workshops. The Webinars will be conducted late December 2012 and will include PF members from West Bank and Iraq to consolidate the skills they learned at National Workshops in September.

### **"Climate Change and Water in the MENA Region" at upcoming AWC's General Assembly**

The Arab Water Council will be hosting its General Assembly meeting on December 17-18, 2012 in Cairo Egypt. RPCD will bring three experts from the region to present cutting edge research on water and climate change adaptation in the MENA region.

### **The 2nd Arab Water Week**

RPCD in cooperation with the Arab Countries Water Utilities Association (ACWUA) will organize the region's 2nd Arab Water on January 27 - 31, 2013 in



**REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP *on*  
CULTURE & DEVELOPMENT**

**2010 was globally the warmest year since the 1800s, with 5 Arab countries setting new national temperature high**, as described in the recently released World Bank report, "Adaptation to a Changing Climate in the Arab Countries: A Case for Adaptation Governance and Leadership in Building Climate Resilience." You can read the report [here](#).



Dr. Laila Iskander is an Egyptian social entrepreneur who has been working with Egyptian grassroots organizations for over 20 years. She is a chairperson and founding board member of CID Consulting, which strives to create holistic growth solutions by bridging corporate and developmental objectives. CID Consulting is a member of the RPCD Partnership Forum.

Last month RPCD was delighted to have Dr. Iskander lead a webinar entitled "Why Do We Have a Garbage Problem?" [Click here](#) to view the recording. *"This webinar was an added value on the topic of waste. I gained many additional information about the situation of garbage... which I wasn't aware of before"* – said Majed Abu Azzam, Researcher from the King Hussein Foundation.

**Research Highlights: Upcoming Studies**



**Governance in the Middle East and North Africa**

This World Bank publication will serve as an all-inclusive handbook for governance issues in the Middle East and North Africa. The book will combine both theoretical frameworks and real-world case studies from the region. It will portray case studies from almost all countries of the region and will target scholars, activists and policy makers. The book will be edited by Abbas Kadhim, an Assistant Professor at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California and a Visiting Scholar at Stanford University. It is expected to be published by the end of December 2012. [Click here for more publications on Democracy and Governance](#)



**Challenges to treated wastewater reuse in arid and semi-arid areas**

This article in the Environmental Science & Policy Journal evaluates technical, legal, social and economic challenges facing treated wastewater in arid and semi-arid areas, using the West Bank as a case study. The study uses field surveys and interviews to show that farmers are willing to irrigate many crops utilizing treated wastewater; however, there are discrepancies between what farmers are willing to implement and what planners and policy makers would recommend. This paper will be published in the upcoming issue in January 2013, of the peer reviewed journal. [Click here for more publications on Natural Resource Management](#)



**Taking to the Streets: Activism, Arab Uprisings, and Democratization**

This collection of articles details the rise of activism in the Arab world using cases of uprisings and democratization. The book is edited by Hana Khorshid.

**Upcoming Events**

**"Climate Change and Water in the MENA Region" at the upcoming AWC General Assembly**

The 3rd General Assembly of the Arab Water Council, a body of the Arab League, will be held in Cairo from December 18 – 20, 2012 at the Conrad Hotel. USAID/RPCD is collaborating with the AWC to host a session entitled "Translating Climate Change Science into Adaptation Strategies: New Developments to Support Arab Water Decision-Makers" on December 18 from 14:30-17:30. Partnership Forum members are invited to attend this workshop upon registration.

**Qualitative Research Methods Workshop**

The first RPCD National Workshop in Egypt will take place from 12-13 December 2012 at the Dusit Thani Lakeview Hotel. Dr. Pandeli Glavanis, Associate Director of the Centre for Learning and Teaching at the American University in Cairo, will be leading the training which will focus on Participatory Research Methods. The deadline for registration is December 9<sup>th</sup>.

**The 2nd Arab Water Week**

RPCD will participate in the proceedings of Arab Water Week from January 27-29, 2013 in Amman, Jordan. The conference will be preceded on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January by a special workshop on "Improving the Adaptive Capacity of Water Managers in the MENA Region," organized by RPCD, that will gather Partnership Forum members and other water and climate change experts in the region.

**"Globalization, Human Rights and the**

## **ANNEX II: Trip Report – Lebanon PF Launch**

**TRAVEL FROM:** Cairo, Egypt **TRAVEL TO:** BEIRUT, LEBANON

**TRAVEL DATES:** November 6, 2012-November 8, 2012

**AWARD NUMBER(S) AND FCO(S)/GFAS IDs (OR CHARGE CODES):** Award No. 263-A-00-10-00052-00/Charge Code 4345-07

### **PURPOSE:**

To launch the Partnership Forum in Beirut, and to meet with USAID/Lebanon and discuss the services RPCD can offer.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

RPCD has been working in 5 countries for many months, but had not been given clearance by USAID to expand its work to Lebanon until November 2012. Experience shows the only way to launch the network in a new country is to visit. This two-night visit consisted of a launch meeting with potential Partnership Forum members, in-person visits to three organizations that couldn't make the launch meeting, and a meeting with USAID's Georges Boulos to explain the services the program can offer.

### **ACTIVITIES, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AND DELIVERABLES:**

On November 6<sup>th</sup>, the Research Liaison Officer for Lebanon, Dayana El Baba and I met with Rayan Al Amine at the American University of Beirut, to discuss the possibility of the Issam Fares Institute becoming a member. IFI had had some reservations about joining, but in that meeting we answered their questions and they did become members. On the same day we met with Hamad Al Ammari the Deputy Secretary General of Arab Thought Foundation and the Executive director of FIKR.

The key meeting of the trip was the PF Launch on November 7<sup>th</sup>.

5:00 – 5:15	Introduce RPCD team: Matthew Pietz, Regional Program Director of RPCD Introduce participants and organizations
5:15 – 5:45	Introduction of objectives of RPCD and Partnership Forum
5:45 – 6:00	Discussion on the Needs of Practitioners
6:00- 7:00	Questions, Comments, Closing

### **Main Points of Discussion**

The discussion began with introduction of the services the RPCD provides. I stressed the benefits that RPCD can provide for research centers in Lebanon and in the MENA region by helping to create a network of research organizations. In Lebanon a major problem, as many participants mentioned, is the duplication of work, so the need for networking is essential in order to be up-to-date with what is currently going on.

Participants mentioned that there is also a lack of research in Lebanon compared to other countries. For example, only 6,000 reports were published last year compared to 60,000 in other countries nearby. Individual comments included:

- Dr. Rami Lakkis from the Lebanese Organization for Studies and Trainings (LOST) stated that LOST does a great deal of academic research and their main focus is to translate research into projects that youth can benefit from. He said that the problem is how to translate the research into action on the ground. However, he mentioned that when he received the invitation to submit his application to participate in the Training of Trainers on Translating Research into Action that RPCD offered with the partnership with the Overseas Development Institute in London, he felt that this training is severely needed by his organization, and that in fact instruction in translating research into action is needed by every institution in Lebanon. In addition, Dr. Lakkis mentioned that in Lebanon research centers lack the know how to make the policymakers and decision makers listen to research. So training in this field is also needed.
- On the other hand, Mr. Toni Mattar the director of the Lebanese Association for Energy and Saving & for Environment (Almee) revealed that there is not enough support in Lebanon to research on energy and natural resources, although Lebanon and the larger region need such research. Mr. Mattar stated that RPCD provides a good opportunity for Almee to announce their programs and potential conferences, and he added that every initiative or research that is not well promoted will fail to reach beneficiaries and will definitely lose its importance.
- Cedric Chouceir from the Youth Economic Forum stated that there is a lack of access to information in Lebanon, particularly to numbers and figures needed to assess development topics. Chouceir stated that the research centers in Lebanon face a challenge whenever numbers and figures are needed. In addition, there is a lack of information on which development policies work in the Lebanese context. Chouceir revealed that the Youth Economic forum is currently writing research policy papers that can help decision makers in Lebanon to reform laws, but the challenge remains in the lack of access to data. Another challenge cited was how to understand policy development as both a science and a process.
- Rania Abi Habib from the Lebanese Center for Policy Studies mentioned that one of the challenges that research centers face is how to communicate research to the public. Abi Habib stated that there is a lot of well done research in Lebanon but unfortunately the public do not know about it and do not benefit from it. In addition, there is a lack of communication among the research centers in Lebanon, and therefore there should be a system for information sharing between research centers and researchers.
- Participants mentioned that donors usually do not take into account reality, and provide funds according to pre-set agendas regardless of the real need in the country. Participants suggested a conference bringing together donors, government and researchers to talk about priorities for research on local development.
- Participants mentioned that research and civil society work must be more transparent and shared with the public. Participants admitted their own weakness in presenting their work and a lack of knowledge of ways to get their messages out to the public, and asked if RPCD can help in this regard.
- Finally, many participants stated that NGOs seeking to do research would benefit from a “Research 101” workshop to strengthen their capacities in this area.

On November 8, Ms. El Baba and I met with Dr. Maha Shoueb the director of the Center for Lebanese Studies, who was eager to sign up.

My final meeting was with Georges Boulos, USAID/Lebanon's M&E officer. Mr. Boulos had been present at the PF Launch so he understood the purpose of the Forum but wanted to discuss more about the research RPCD can offer the Mission. He said RPCD was "like a dream" and thought the Mission would be very interested in having us conduct research in the future. He will convey our services to Mission leadership. RPCD is aware that direct support to Government of Lebanon entities is not permitted, and will ensure that its research activities do not include such support.

**PERSONS CONTACTED:**

Georges Boulos, USAID/Lebanon

Rayan El-Amine, American University of Beirut

Dr. Maha Shoueb, Director of the Center for Lebanese Studies

Hamad Al Ammari the Deputy Secretary General of Arab Thought Foundation

*Partnership Forum Members*

**NEXT STEPS:** A National Workshop will be designed using the ideas generated by participants for capacity building; and a conference call will take place with USAID/Lebanon to pitch our research services to Mission leadership.