



المجلس العربي للطفولة والتنمية
Arab Council for Childhood and Development



Performance Report **2011**
Executive Summary

**Performance Report of
The Arab Council for Childhood & Development
2011**

Executive Summary

Preface:

During 2011, The Arab Council for Childhood and Development (ACCD) has been keen to implement its Strategic Plan (2011-2013) that achieves the ACCD's developmental vision towards activating child rights, through carrying out a number of activities and projects that support the rights-based approach and depend on achieving a comprehensive development for the Child.

ACCD has exerted efforts to prepare for holding The Fourth Arab Civil Society Forum for Children and its parallel activities under the slogan: "The Right to Participation: Participation Means Protection". ACCD also developed the foundations for a number of its new projects including the following: Development of a Rights – Based Guiding Manual on the Formulation of Comprehensive Child Protection Policies, Combating Violence and Providing Safe Social Environment for Disabled Children, and Media Observatory for Child rights. In addition, ACCD has continued in implementing its projects in the field of protecting street children, spreading the culture of child rights, combating violence against children and establishing pilot centers for Arab child's culture. Also, ACCD has been strengthening cooperation and coordination with its partners at international, regional and national levels, especially in the fields of priority as early childhood development and combating violence against children.

In line with its exerted efforts under the patronage and with support of HRH Prince Talal Bin Abdul Aziz, ACCD's President, during the next period, ACCD shall continue to implement its Strategic Plan and to explore the future activities and projects that cope with the current groundbreaking and their impacts on the child.

Dr. Hassan El Bilawi

Secretary General

The Arab Council for Childhood and Development

(ACCD)

Vision:

ACCD is seeking to be a leading organization in the field of child rights in the Arab world, and a reference for institutions individuals and families to raising up of an Arab child able to participate in the development of his/her society and deal with the rapid global changes.

Mission:

ACCD works towards developing an Arab environment that promotes child rights in development, protection, participation and integration, within the context of the family and the society, through cooperation and effective partnership with governmental, non-governmental, regional and international organizations, in order to enable children to participate and interact positively in life, accept others, and love their homeland.

The Seventh Session of ACCD's Board of Trustees

Under the chairmanship of HRH Prince Talal Bin Abdul Aziz, ACCD's President, the seventh session of ACCD's Board of Trustees was held in Cairo from 27-28 April 2011. During the meeting ACCD's Strategic Plan (2011-2013) was adopted, which includes the following five main issues: child care and protection, Arab child development, Knowledge development, developing partnerships and child media. The Strategic Plan includes 12 projects that are implemented by ACCD in partnership and collaboration with its partners.

Members of the Board (alphabetical order)

- HRH Prince Talal Bin Abdul Aziz	Chairman of the Board
- Dr. Abdel Hussein Shabaan, Legal Consultant & International Expert	Member
- Dr. Baker El Naggar, Professor of Sociology - Bahrain University	Member
- Dr. Bandar El Sweilam, Secretary General of the Saudi National Committee for Childhood	Member
- Ms. Ghada El Dakheel, Coordinator of Projects, The Arab Gulf Programme for Development (AGFUND)	Member
- Dr. Hassan El Bilawi, Secretary General, The Arab Council for Childhood and Development	Member
- Eng. Nabil Samuel, Former General Director of the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services, Expert in the Field of Dialogue of Civilizations	Vice Chairman of the Board
- Dr. Raeda Kotb, Secretary General, The Jordanian Supreme Council of Population	Member
- Dr. Sima Bohouth, Assistant Secretary General for Cultural and Social Affairs at The League of Arab States	Member

First Issue: Developing Effective Partnerships & Networks with Civil Society Organizations

The Fourth Arab Civil Society Forum for Children:

In the context of the preparations to hold the Fourth Arab Civil Society Forum for Children under the slogan "Participation means Protection" in Beirut during 2012, ACCD has undertaken the following during 2011:

- Signing a Memorandum of Understanding to hold the Fourth Forum between HRH Prince Talal Bin Abdul Aziz, ACCD's President, and H.E. Wael Abou Faour, Minister of Social Affairs and Head of Higher Council for Childhood in Lebanon.

Holding a meeting for the advisory committee of the Arab Civil Society Forum for Children in Beirut during July 2011, to discuss all arrangements related to holding the Fourth Forum.

Definition of Arab Civil Society Forum for Children

It is a regular meeting for institutionalizing the efforts of Arab Civil Society Organizations (ACSOs) in the field of childhood. It has a permanent secretariat, an advisory committee of Arab organizations, a website and membership of more than 400 organizations. The Forum aims at raising developmental awareness of Arab childhood issues on rights-based approach, and the International Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The Forum plays a pivotal role in networking and building the capacity of the ACSOs in the field of childhood, and linking them with the efforts of the higher councils, national committees for childhood and relevant governmental institutions. The Forum is being held periodically in one of the Arab countries, and addresses one of the main themes in each session.

Partners of the Fourth Forum: Arab Gulf Programme for Development (**AGFUND**), in collaboration with the Higher Council for Childhood (HCC) in Lebanon, the League of Arab States (LAS), Save the Children Sweden, UNICEF Regional Office, and the Saudi National Commission for Childhood (SNCC).

Advisory Committee of the Forum: It includes five Arab non-governmental organizations (NGOs); Saudi National Family Safety Program - Iraqi Children's Parliament, Makassed Philanthropic Islamic Association of Lebanon, Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services in Egypt, National Observatory for Children's Rights in Morocco, in addition to representatives of LAS, AGFUND and UNICEF Regional.

Website of Arab civil society Forum for Children (Megdaf)

ACCD continues its role of managing and updating the Forum's website that was launched in 2006. During 2011, efforts has been exerted in redesigning and preparing a new version of the website to be launched in 2012. In addition, ACCD issued three editions of Megdaf's Newsletter "Megdaf's Echoes".

Second Issue: Child Care & Protection

The Right to Participation: Participation Means Protection

Arab Children Forum:

The Project of the Right to Participation consists of four key elements:

- **An Analytic Study on Child Participation in the Arab World:** to be carried out with the support of AGFUND, SNCC and HCC, and it covers 8 Arab countries.
- **A Documentary Film on Child Participation in the Arab World:** handling samples of participation in four Arab countries, with the support of AGFUND and in partnership with Gudran Association for Art and Development (non-governmental organization).
- **Website for Arab Children Forum:** ACCD is working on establishing a website for the Children forum where by children will be able to express their opinions, ambitions, exchange ideas between themselves and others in the area of childhood, and communicate their voice via this site to decision makers in the Arab world and to the international community. During 2011, ACCD established the experimental version of the website and it will be launched in the Fourth Forum in 2012.
- **The National Forums for Children:** National Forums aim at providing a constructive dialogue among children in the Arab world on their issues at the country level. In 2011, ACCD established national forums for children in: Saudi Arabia (March 2011) in partnership with SNCC, Lebanon (June 2011) in collaboration with HCC, and in Egypt (July 2011) in partnership with National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM), in addition to the forums established previously in Yemen, Libya and Qatar.

The Project of Street Children Protection:

ACCD continues implementing the Arab Project for Street Children Protection in five countries (Sudan - Lebanon - Egypt - Morocco – Yemen) based on the themes of ACCD's Strategy of Street Children Protection which includes: capacity building, children empowerment, changing negative perception towards Street Children, ensuring legal protection for Street Children, and data collection.

During 2011, ACCD has undertaken the following:

- A documentary film on street children in Lebanon in collaboration with HCC and Sons of Love Association.
- Holding four training workshops in Egypt in collaboration with NCCM.
- Holding two training workshops in Morocco in cooperation with Bayti Association and the Ministry of Social Development, Family and Solidarity.
- Conducting media interviews with a number of Yemeni officials in collaboration with the Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood and Ministry of Information in Yemen.

During 2012, ACCD seeks to conducting a comprehensive evaluation of the impacts of the Project in the five countries, as well as conducting an analytic study on the services provided for street children.

In the next period, ACCD plans to hold a charity party for the benefit of street children and children in difficult circumstances, that will be held in an Arab country.

Combating Violence against Children:

ACCD has played an important role in the field of combating violence against children, which is considered to be a pivotal and crosscutting issue in its activities and projects. As a result of its efforts in this field, ACCD has been selected to be the Representative for the Middle East and North Africa Region in NGO Advisory Council for Follow-up to the UN Study on Violence against Children. ACCD continues in exerting efforts in this field through utilizing the mechanisms of training and advocacy, as in holding training workshops in Arab countries for media people on combating violence against children, in addition to activating its role and participating in the meetings of NGO Advisory Council.

Combating Violence and Providing Safe Social Environment for Disabled Children:

In Continuation of its efforts in the field of disabled children, ACCD has developed the Arab Project for Combating Violence and Providing Safe Social Environment for Disabled Children. In 2011, ACCD has initiated in implementing the components of this project which include the following:

- **Developing Guiding and Training Manuals on Disabled Children:** aiming to provide basic knowledge and information for handling and protecting disabled children, as well as providing safe social environment for those children. In 2011, ACCD has completed the final draft of the Manuals that will be launched in 2012.
- **Developing a Guiding Illustrative Manual for Disabled Children:** depends on participation and interaction with disabled children, through using modern technologies and programs, including creative and innovative means, with concentration on four handicaps (mentally retarded, autism, blind, and diff children). During 2011, the concept paper of the Manual has been discussed with some specialists of psychology and psychological counseling, children writers and poets, as well as communicating with companies specialized in animated and cartoon works for producing the Manual on CDs.

- **Holding Training Workshops for those who are dealing with Disabled Children:** ACCD is preparing to implement these workshops in phases, aiming to rehabilitate and train of trainers staff (TOT) of the Ministries of Education, institutions and associations working in the field of disabled children in Arab states.

Partners of the Project:

Islamic Development Bank - *Kuwait Fund For Arab Economic Development – League of Arab States – World Health Organization*

The Goal of the Project:

Raising social awareness of violence against disabled children in the Arab world, through preparing cadres who are active, trained and able to build the capacity of workers at organizations and societies working in the field of disabled children, as well as training them to deal with media.

Launching the Integrated Approach Manual on Ensuring Child Rights:

On 4/7/2011 The Arab Council for Childhood and Development organized an event to launch the manual of "The principles of the Rights-based approach in ensuring children rights", with the presence of His Excellency Dr. Sema Bahos, the LAS Secretary General Assistant, elite specialized experts in children rights field, as well as a number of CSOs, regional and international representatives and media men. This manual reflects the crystallized philosophy and vision of the Council in promoting and enhancing children rights. It considers various approaches of ensuring children rights, provides those concerned with childhood's issues and strategies a scientific vision that participates in crystallizing a thought based on right not need, and ends up with finding a sustainable development based on children as human beings.

Third Issue: Arab Child Development

The Project of Promoting Establishing & Upgrading Pilot Centers for Developing the Culture of Arab Child:

In partnership with AGFUND, ACCD is implementing the Project of Promoting Establishing & Upgrading Pilot Centers for Developing the Culture of Arab Child, through supporting the Cultural Center of Princess Salma Bent Abdullah in collaboration with Jordanian Ministry of Culture, in Al Zarqa governorate, Jordan; as a pilot model that can be replicated in Arab countries. In 2011, ACCD has completed the following activities:

- Drafting and implementing the executive plan for supporting the Centre.
- Adding services that aim at developing and improving the Center in the fields of: art activities, music, and computer.
- Developing and implementing the training plan for the cadres of the Center especially in the field of child rights.
- Establishing a parliament for children in the Center to promote children's right for participation.

In 2012, ACCD will seek to document and evaluate this experience, in addition to working in cooperation with a number of partners on the possibilities of replicating this project in the Arab world.

Early Childhood Development (ECD):

ACCD has sought in the framework of its Strategic Plan to include the issue of early childhood as a priority that should be addressed. During 2011, ACCD has undertaken the following:

- 1- **Coordinating with AGFUND and Open Arab League to develop an early childhood project** that is based on holding workshops on teaching and learning process in early childhood, and developing teaching and learning basics in kindergarten ages (4-5 years).
- 2- **Joined the membership of the Arab Regional Network for Early Childhood Care** which is formed by UNISCO following the Arab Regional Conference on Early Childhood Care. Its role is to enable the Arab states to develop their plans and programs for early childhood caring, raising and development.
- 3- **A Member of Experts' teamwork for the Arab Project for Promoting Early Childhood** launched by LAS. ACCD played an active role in experts meeting held in LAS General Secretariat headquarters from 21-22 September, where ACCD has been selected as a member in the Steering Committee of the Project.

Fourth Issue: Knowledge Development

Development of a Rights – Based Guiding Manual on the Formulation of Comprehensive Child Protection Policies:

ACCD is working on implementing a Project of the Development of a Rights – Based Guiding Manual on the Formulation of Comprehensive Child Protection Policies, in partnership with AGFUND. During 2011, ACCD has undertaken the following:

- Drafting an Analytical Report on the current situation of child protection policies in Arab countries based on a set of UN and Arab and international relevant documents.
- Holding a Roundtable comprising a number of experts in the field of childhood, the experts' team who prepared the report and ACCD's team in order to discuss the draft report (July 2011).

In the coming phases, ACCD plans to complete the implementation of the project components, as well as preparing a guiding manual on the formulation of rights-based comprehensive child protection policies in Arab countries, in addition to preparing training cadres (TOT) in the field of protecting child rights.

Childhood and Development Quarterly:

In 2011, ACCD has published two issues (18 & 19) of Childhood and Development Quarterly (a scientific and specialized quarterly).

- The profile of Issue No. (18) tackled the subject of "**Citizenship and Childhood**".
- The profile of Issue No. (19) tackled the subject of "**Child Culture**".

Fifth Issue: Developing an Arab Media for Promoting childhood Issues

The Project of Media for Spreading Child Rights Culture & Combating Violence against Children:

ACCD is implementing the Project of Media for Spreading Child Rights Culture & Combating Violence against Children, in partnership with AGFUND. The Project aims at drawing attention to the issue of violence and all its forms practiced against children in order to combat and reduce it through working with media people and forming an Arab Network for Media People to Combat Violence against Children. In 2011, ACCD has continued holding the series of training workshops which have been launched in Yemen, Jordan, Qatar and Lebanon, as the following has been undertaken:

- **Holding a Workshop on Media for Childhood in Saudi Arabia** (March 2011), in collaboration with the National Commission for Childhood and with support and partnership of both Arab Bureau of Education for Gulf States (ABEGS), "AGFUND", UNICEF and Family Safety Program.
- **Holding a Workshop for Media People on Protecting Child Rights in Muscat** (December 2011) in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Development, with the support of AGFUND.
- **The Website of Arab Network for Media People to Combat Violence against Children:** this website is being developed by ACCD to be a room for communication and exchange experiences in the field of support child rights, that will be launched in 2012.

The Project of Media Observatory for Arab Child Rights:

ACCD has adopted the Project of Media Observatory for Arab Child Rights in order to monitor, watch, analyze, and investigate the professionalism of the broadcasted content of Arab Media that is related to child rights, aiming at improving the performance of Arab Media regarding the issues of child rights. In 2011, ACCD has launched this Project in partnership with AGFUND and LAS, where the following steps have been undertaken:

- Coordinating with the relevant parties for the support and partnership, and ACCD has signed a Memorandum of Understanding for this Project with **AGFUND**
- Developing the Executive Plan of the Project to be implemented during the next three years, as follows:
 - 1) Preparing Code of Ethics of media that promotes child rights.
 - 2) Conducting A study on the situation of Arab Media Performance in the field of child rights, where a part of it will be allocated to children's questionnaire on what they are watching.
 - 3) Building intellectual trends for the Media Observatory in the field of child rights and the stages of its work.
 - 4) Operating the Media Observatory for child rights.
 - 5) Holding training workshop in the field of media observation.

Media Observatory's Vision: to be a distinct mechanism to observe and watch what is published and broadcasted in Arab media, as well as analyzing the contents negatively and positively on the children rights in order to ensure that Arab Media is committed to the human rights of children.

Media Activities:

In 2011, ACCD has issued the following publications:

1. 12 Press Files on what is published on Arab Childhood and Development.
2. Annual Performance Report of ACCD for the year 2011
3. Annual Calendar for the year 2012 on "The Rights of Disabled Children", in partnership with AGFUND.
4. English brochure of ACCD.
5. Media Summary for ACCD's Strategic Plan (2011 – 2013).

This is in addition to managing ACCD's portal on childhood issues (www.arabccd.org), and arrange media coverages for ACCD's events and activities.