

Middle East & North Africa

With a portfolio of “learning by doing” projects in 13 countries throughout the Middle East & North Africa (MENA), Partners is strengthening civil society’s influence and empowering ordinary citizens to play an active role in the way their countries are governed. We are building the capacity of local activists, governments, and businesses to work together to achieve healthy, inclusive, and prosperous societies. Since 2004, Partners has equipped MENA citizens with the tools necessary to peacefully manage on-going political transitions, successfully engaging youth, women, and underrepresented populations as agents of change. With our affiliates in Jordan and Yemen, and an extensive network of over 70 local implementing partners in the region, Partners is harnessing the power of local leadership and collaboration for meaningful, sustainable change.



Strengthening Civil Society in the Gulf Region

Partners has been making a long-term investment in stronger, more sustainable civil society organizations (CSOs) in the Gulf region. The Support for Training, Advocacy, and Network Development (STAND) program continues to build the foundation for local organizations to address social and economic challenges in their countries. Partners provides technical assistance and organizational capacity building training to three Local Training Partners (LTPs) in Kuwait, Yemen, and Bahrain. In turn, these LTPs deliver high-quality training and mentoring to grassroots “NGO trainees.” STAND has enabled NGO trainees to create a variety of community-based projects that tackle the needs of those they serve. For more information on the local level impact visit <http://www.partnersglobal.org/where/mena/stand>.

Program Highlights:

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Local Training Partners adapting & developing curricula for their local environment [LTP example http://www.socialprograms.envearth.com/program_post_type/toolkit/]

450

CSO staff & volunteers improving their communities with skills gained through STAND

35

organizations receiving small grants for projects ranging from parliamentary tracking systems to women’s empowerment campaigns

Mobilizing Youth in Cross-Tribal Conflict Resolution

In vulnerable regions of Yemen, Partners and Partners Yemen are empowering youth to serve as peacebuilding delegates. This initiative provides young men and women with the resources they need to advocate for issues relevant to them; influence district councils and tribal leadership; lead conflict prevention and problem-solving trainings; and serve as peer-to-peer conflict mediators. Youth participants are emerging as important resources for local conflict mitigation by engaging in civic participation, identifying alternatives to violence, and more fully understanding the effect of conflict on development in their communities.



Training of trainers team building and conflict management activity, STAND program

Middle East & North Africa Focused Roundtables

As Partners implements programming throughout the MENA region, constant reflection about core issues related to our work ensures our continued contributions to sustainable development and dexterity in serving our local partners well. Through a series of roundtable discussions, we engage our colleagues as expert facilitators on relevant topics .

Partners has held a series of roundtables including, one on accountability, transparency, and corruption in the region. Our Iraq roundtable series has been quite popular. Designed to bring practitioners together to reflect on the latest developments in Iraq, practical challenges that accompany those developments, and potential solutions, the roundtables have analyzed violent extremism, the political security measures necessary to stabilize the country, and the role international NGOs are playing.

“People want change, but they need a guide.”

— *Misk , Partners Yemen*

Collaborating to Secure Workers’ Rights in Tunisia

Using Partners’ signature multi-stakeholder approach, the *Tunisia Inclusive Labor Initiative* (TILI) engages informal workers, employers, civil society, and government officials in developing strategies to incorporate workers into the formal economy. TILI also aims to facilitate workers’ access to government-mandated protections. The project is implemented in conjunction with the Global Fairness Initiative and the Tunisian Association for Management and Social Stability.

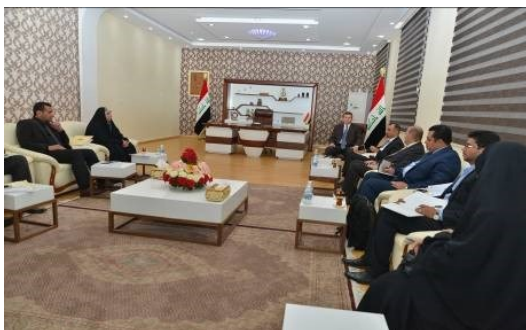
TILI coalition-building workshops prompted labor-related CSOs to combine their efforts around the integration of informal workers. Through the collaboration of all stakeholders, the “Roadmap to Social and Economic Inclusion in Tunisia” was released in 2014 with policy recommendations and suggestions for structural changes within related ministries.



Surveying workers in the Tunisian informal sector

Mitigating Conflict between Iraqi Host Communities, Internally Displaced Persons, Refugees, & Returnees

Partners' Takatuf project works in the provinces of Babil, Karbala, Kirkuk, and Najaf Iraq and aims to mitigate conflict in local communities experiencing the stresses associated with an influx of internally displaced people, who have fled violence in their home regions. As access to clean water, sanitation, electricity, and government services is already in short supply, the arrival of refugees, internally displaced persons, and young men returning from battle, threaten to create discord in these communities, drowning out the voices of moderation and inclusiveness that Iraqi society has struggled to nurture. By strengthening civil society, and opening new avenues for collaboration with local government, Partners seeks to improve the capacity of host communities to deal with this growing challenge. Engaging six organizations in this effort, local and international, Partners is making change through local level, sustainable, long-term strategies, that allow Iraqis to bring stability and peace to their locales.



Takatuf project, local partner introductory meeting, Iraq



Partners Yemen workshop with community facilitators

Engaging Local Communities in Yemen's Transition

Partners' Local Engagement for Advocacy and Dialogue (LEAD) project is helping local civil society organizations play a constructive role in the development of a new constitution and government framework for citizen participation in the current transition. Partners is building the capacity of 27 local Yemeni civil society organizations (CSOs) in eight governorates of Yemen to take an active role in the country's political transition through conducting outreach and education on National Dialogue outcomes, advocating for citizens' rights, and directly engaging with the transitional government on the constitutional development process.

As a result, the LEAD program has been instrumental in ensuring an inclusive transition process and promoting transparency in the decision-making process. Participating CSOs have contributed greatly to this impact and emerged as effective channels of communication between local communities and the national transitional government.

Program Highlights

- 6,124** Yemeni citizens, including women & youth reached through LEAD public forums and dialogues
- 27** CSOs are designing & implementing new issue-based advocacy campaigns
- 46** Agenda-Setting Community Dialogues have raised the profile of community concerns across eight governorates in Yemen
- 79** public forums have shaped Yemen's National Dialogue & influenced decision-makers

Enabling At-Risk Youth to Transform Conflict in Iraq

Partners, in cooperation with Baghdad-based local partner Iraq 2020 Assembly, is utilizing the power of sports and art to engage disenfranchised, at-risk youth who may be susceptible to violence. Through this effort, Partners is training young men and women from 10 Iraqi provinces in negotiation, mediation, and consensus building. These “Champions of Peace” also receive mentoring and small grant funds to launch innovative community service projects. By supporting creative activities and alternatives to violence, this program is helping Iraqi youth take a leadership role in building sustainable peace in their communities.



Youth “Champions of Peace” participants in Baghdad, Iraq

Strengthening Community-Based Approaches to Transitional Justice in Yemen

The Supporting Transitional Awareness and Reconciliation Techniques (START) program addresses the grievances of diverse groups to recalibrate relationships and forge new social contracts. Through community-based approaches that explore the intersections between informal, traditional, and formal justice mechanisms, the program supports local reconciliation processes among various groups, involving a cross-section of 11 Yemeni districts from 5 governorates. START helps Yemeni citizens cope with the past in a transparent manner and strengthens the pursuit of transitional justice around key issues: abuses by diverse power-holders, the fate of the disappeared, and a full account of offenses committed under the former regime.

Partners works with more than 70 local & international organizations in the MENA region



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