



المجلس العربي للطفولة والتنمية  
Arab Council for Childhood and Development



# Annual Performance Report 2013







المجلس العربي للطفولة والتنمية  
Arab Council for Childhood and Development

# Annual Performance Report 2013

## Annual Performance Report 2013

Copyrights reserved for the Arab Council for Childhood and Development (ACCD)

Prepared by: Child Media Unit – ACCD

Layout: Hossam Henetar

Cover photos are selected from ACCD's events

Arab Council for Childhood and Development

Intersection of Makram Ebeid & the World Health Organization Streets,

Nasr City, P.O. Box: 5737

Cairo 11762, Egypt.

Phone: +202 26712050/1/2/3

Fax: +202 26712059

[www.arabccd.org](http://www.arabccd.org)

[accd@arabccd.org](mailto:accd@arabccd.org)



“We hope to achieve our major noble goals that we aspire to the advancement of our children, through the rights approach, and on a basis of integration between child protection and social protection systems; in order to ensure children rights, achieve their welfare and safety, and provide them with a better life”.\*

### **Talal Bin Abdul Aziz**

\* Extracted from the Speech of HRH Prince Talal Bin Abdul Aziz, the President of the Arab Council for Childhood and Development (ACCD), at the opening session of a Seminar on Discussing Synergies between Child Protection and Social Protection Systems that was held in Riyadh, January 2013.



## Introduction

The year 2013 came to represent the last year of the Strategic Plan (2011 - 2013) of the Arab Council for Childhood and Development (ACCD), which was prepared based on mechanisms of advocacy, networking, capacity building, the provision of information and raising social awareness of childhood issues in the Arab world, in order to achieve the desired effect, under the patronage and guidance of HRH Prince Talal Bin Abdul Aziz, President of ACCD, as well as the support of the Arab Gulf Development Programme for Development (AGFUND) and the partners. ACCD has succeeded in implementing several projects and activities, including the completion of the Arab Project for Protecting Street Children in five Arab countries, the preparation of a Regional Study on Media and Addressing the Issues of Children's Rights, that was applied on samples of six Arab countries, and drafting a Strategy for the Development of Community Participation in Education.

The year 2013 has also marked the beginning of developing a new trilogy strategy (2014- 2016) that adopts a vision based on introducing a new model of social upbringing for Arab children, based on effecting a cultural change that ensures new upbringing for a new world and emphasizes the need for considering children's vision in such upbringing, which may intersect and vary with the vision of the adults to their world and ambitions. Conceptual and methodological frameworks have been developed to prepare a study on the social upbringing of children in the Arab countries, and a project on the inclusion of children with disabilities in education and society, in addition to an action program that adopts a new philosophical approach in the rehabilitation of street children through education for hope and developing their human-self using non-traditional methods, thus providing inclusion for them as active individuals in society.

We know that the next stage needs more determination and concerted efforts in light of what the Arab region witnesses of the radical changes that have affected positively and negatively the status of children. Therefore, we are hopeful to continue - in a spirit full of optimism - the effort with new shapes and mechanisms appropriate with the stage and its effects, collaborating with partners and hoping that our Arab countries would achieve safety, stability and prosperity. We wish to be worthy of our children, and to prepare them all possible ways for a new and appropriate upbringing that ensures their rights and achieves their dreams and ambitions for a better life.

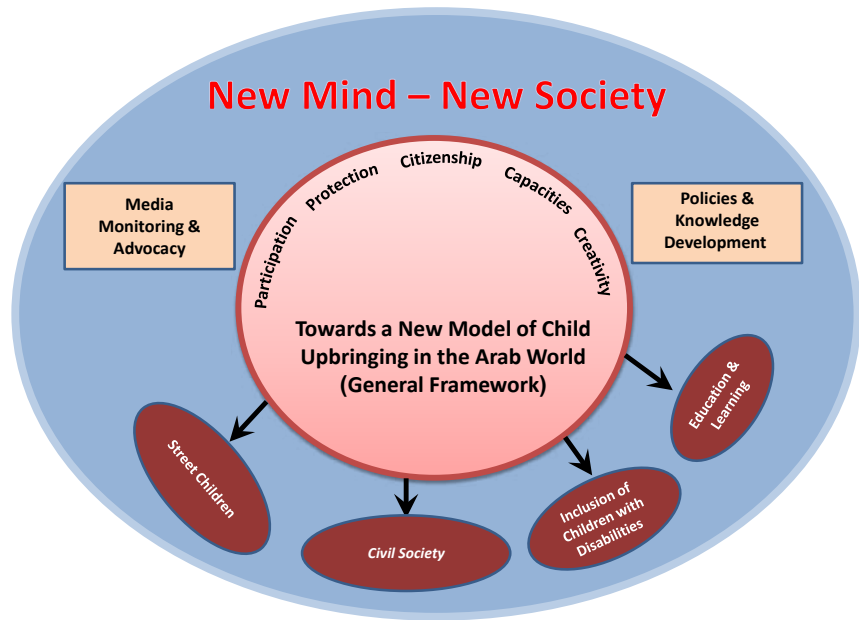
May God bless our efforts.

**Dr. Hassan Al Bilawi**  
**Secretary General**

## ACCD's New Strategic Plan (2014 - 2016) adopts Developing a New Model of Child Upbringing in the Arab World

In 2013, ACCD has been keen to finish drafting the new strategic plan (2014 - 2016) that is based on developing a new model of child upbringing in the Arab world, taking into consideration the new international approaches and strategies in the field of child upbringing. This strategic plan focuses on the catalytic role played by ACCD in discussing the issues of child upbringing, collecting data that contribute

in reflecting the status of upbringing, as well as developing regional guiding policies, promoting national policies that achieve the best interest of Arab child, and advocating for child rights.



### Towards a New Model of Child Upbringing in the Arab World The Program of ACCD's Second Strategic Plan (2014 - 2016)

1. First Component: Building a New Model of Child Upbringing
2. Second Component: Inclusion of Arab Children with Disabilities in Education and Society
3. Third Component: Inclusion of Street Children through Education for Hope
4. Fourth Component: Arab Civil Society Forum for Children
5. Fifth Component: Knowledge Development of Upbringing Policies for Promoting the New Model
6. Sixth Component: Media Observatory for Arab Child Rights
7. Supporting Activities of the Strategic Plan (Media Activities, Developing the Technological Infrastructure, and Scientific Periodicals).



## The Board of Trustees of ACCD (2013 – 2015)

### The Chairman of the Board:



### HRH Prince Talal Bin Abdul Aziz

#### Members of the Board: \*

**Dr. Faeqa Al Saleh**  
Assistant Secretary General for  
Cultural and Social Affairs  
The League of Arab States



**Ms. Ghada Al-Dhakheel**  
Human Development Expert  
(Childhood development –  
Women Empowerment) Projects  
Department - AGFUND



**Dr. Ghada Gholam**  
Ex-Officer in charge of UNESCO  
Cairo Office  
Senior Education Specialist



**Mr. Ghanem Bebi**  
Expert in the Field of Childhood



**Dr. Hassan Al Bilawi**  
Secretary General  
ACCD



**Mr. Jibrin El-Jibrin**  
Director of Projects  
AGFUND



**Eng. Nabil Samuel**  
Expert in the Field of Human  
Development  
(Vice Chairman of the Board)



**Dr. Nahla Kahwagi**  
Professor of Childhood Studies  
King Abdul Aziz University



**Mr. Nasser Al-Kahtany**  
Executive Director  
AGFUND

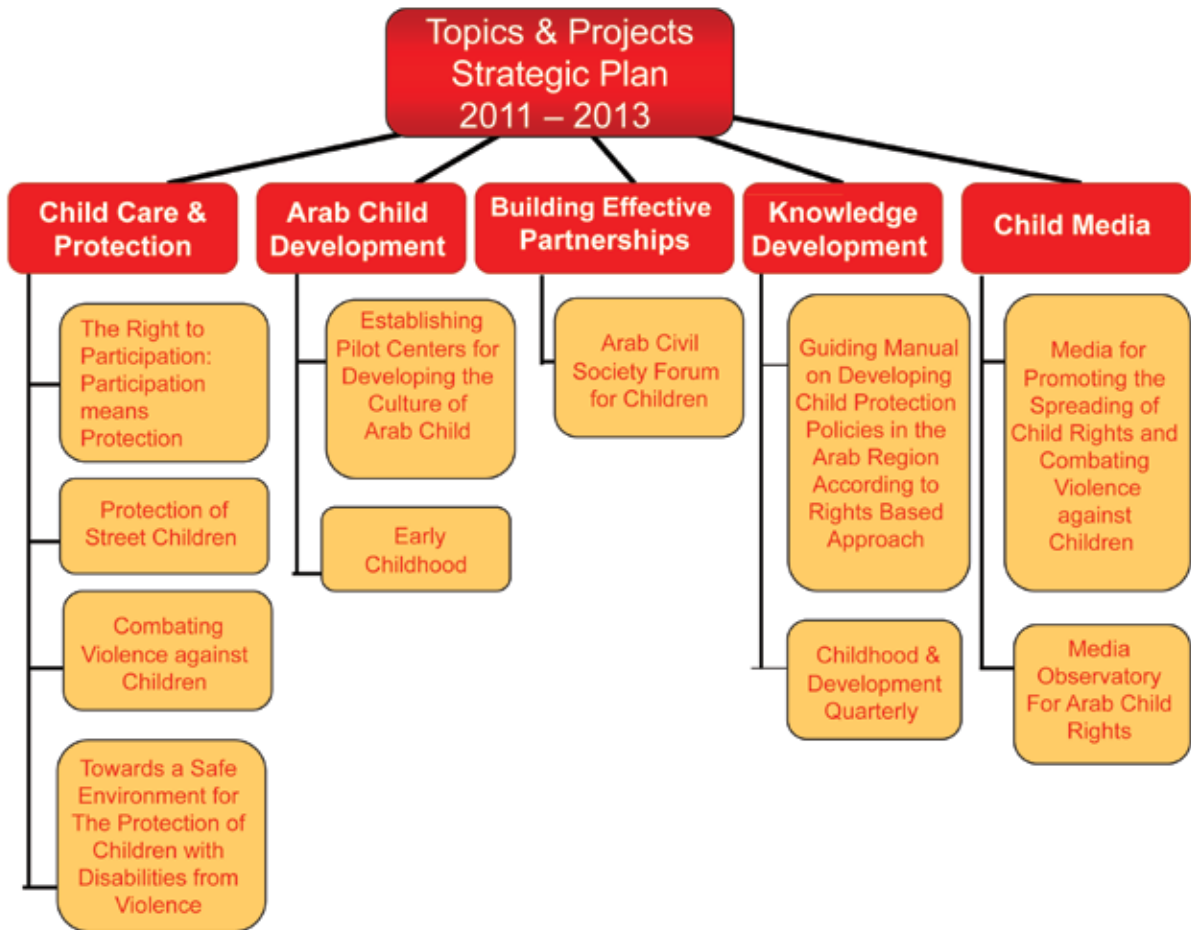


**Dr. Sima Bahous**  
Assistant Secretary General  
Assistant Administrator and  
Regional Director  
Regional Bureau of Arab States,  
UNDP



\*(Alphabetical order)

## ACCD's Strategic Plan (2011- 2013)



### ACCD's 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 society and deal with the rapid global changes.

### ACCD's Mission:

ACCD works towards developing an Arab environment that promotes child rights in development, protection, participation and inclusion, 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.

# **ACCD's Achievements in 2013**

## ACCD Prepares to Hold the Fifth Arab Civil Society Forum for Children «Upbringing in a Changing World»

Recognizing the outcomes of the Fourth Arab Civil Society Forum for Childhood held in Beirut under the slogan «The Right to Participation: Participation means Protection», during the period 3 – 4 July 2012, ACCD is working on the preparations of holding the Fifth Arab Civil Society Forum for Children under the slogan «Upbringing in a Changing World». The recommendations of the Fourth Forum have emphasized the importance of adopting a new model of social upbringing for Arab children, that is based on creating cultural change which ensures a new upbringing appropriate for a new world, taking into consideration children's vision of upbringing that might be crisscrossing or different from adults' vision of children's world and ambitions.

### Analytical Study on Child Upbringing in Eight Arab Countries

ACCD has been committed to implement the Fourth Forum's initiative regarding developing and disseminating a new model of child upbringing in the Arab society, in order to develop and instill in the child a time-honored culture of values and behaviors which will promote building a society based on citizenship, participation, accepting of



*The Components of the Fifth Forum include launching the outcomes of an Arab analytical study on child upbringing in the Arab world, standards of child upbringing, and the outcomes of the Second Arab Children Forum (to be held in parallel with the Fifth Forum), as well as discussing a number of scientific papers on the policies and programs of upbringing children, developing their culture, and the international contemporary pedagogical theories and approaches.*

### What is the Forum?

The Arab Civil Society Forum for Children is a periodical gathering aiming at institutionalizing efforts of Arab civil society organizations in the field of childhood. It has a permanent secretariat and an advisory committee of Arab organizations, in addition to a website ([www.megdaf.org](http://www.megdaf.org)), and more than 400 member organizations. The Forum aims at raising developmental awareness about the issues of children in the Arab World, and it adopts rights and development approach, stemming from the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Forum plays a pivotal role in providing capacity building for the Arab civil society organizations working in the field of childhood, through identifying a main theme for each of the Forum's sessions.

others, tolerance, ability to express, dialog practice, management of difference and creation of a state of social compatibility. The model will depend on free active learning, serious effective participation, encouraging initiatives, and recognizing pluralism and diversity, through a relationship based on



non-discrimination among children, placing the interest of the child above all other interests, as well as respecting the right to friendliness between parents and children, targeting that parents' influence results in a positive role in the upbringing process.

ACCD initiates its work with examining the status of child social upbringing in the Arab countries through conducting an analytical study, which is funded by the Arab Gulf Programme for Development (AGFUND), and will be drafted by a group of Arab researchers in eight Arab countries: Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Iraq, Qatar, Lebanon, Egypt, and Yemen. The study targets identifying the points of views of both educators and children regarding the used methods of upbringing and the provided education and culture, as well as their visions of culture and their role in producing this culture, in addition, the study tackles to what extent children participate in this thought as young individuals and citizens who have vision and right to express their opinions and participation.

In 2013, ACCD finished developing the conceptual framework of the study, and selecting the senior researcher and his assistant staff, as well as selecting the regional group of researchers, in addition to developing the tools of measuring, targeting to initiate the field work in the beginning of 2014.

### **A Roundtable on the Conceptual Framework of Child Upbringing Study**

ACCD held a Roundtable on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2013, to discuss the conceptual framework of the analytical study on child upbringing in the Arab world, with the participation of elite of experts in the fields of sociology, education, media, and philosophy. This conceptual framework is considered to be the basis for developing essential standards, stemming from the international Convention on the Rights of the Child that will guide in how to ensure the implementation of child rights with procedural practical methods, it is also expected that these standards will prove the extent of child participation in the Arab countries.

## Megdaf Website is a Communication Channel for

### Arab Civil Society Organizations Concerned with Childhood

Megdaf website is considered to be a communication channel for Arab civil society organizations concerned with childhood, and an information source providing Arab and foreign reports and publications related to childhood issues, as well as, the website provides databases for individuals and institutions concerned with the field of childhood, in order to create opportunities of cooperation and coordination among all elements of civil society.

In 2013, this website was renewed to meet modern technology, facilitate the accessibility of data, and disseminate the experiments of civil society organizations. In addition, three issues of the electronic newsletter of the website were issued on child rights and the status of children in the context of Arab changes.

www.megdaf.org



#### What is Arab Children Forum?

Arab Children Forum aims at emphasizing the significance of children participation, encouraging and facilitating their efficient participation, and seeking towards promoting the suitable social environment for this participation, through the establishment of national forums for children whereby their views would be heard, and identifying their points of views in the programs directed to them.

This Forum is a safe channel to convey children's voices to the concerned people and decision makers. ACCD has initiated with holding the Constitutional Arab Children Forum during the period 22 – 25 February 2010, and hosting and supervising the headquarters secretariat of Arab Children Forum, in addition to, establishing an interactive website for the Forum whereby children will be able to express their opinions.

## Arab Children Forum is a Communication Channel for Effective Children Participation

Through establishing Arab Children Forum and national Forums that are formulated in cooperation with higher councils and national committees for childhood, and civil society organizations in Arab countries, ACCD seeks to further efforts exerted for the advocacy of effective children participation, in order to develop a generation conscious of his rights and duties, others' rights, and accepting different points of views, as well as recognizing future directions and participating in its defining.



### Preparations for Holding the Second Arab Children Forum

According to the recommendations of the Forum's children regarding the importance of the periodicity of holding the Arab Children Forum, ACCD is working on the preparations of the Second Arab Children Forum to be held in parallel with the Fifth Arab Civil Society Forum for Children that are intended to be held in 2014. The Second Arab Children Forum aims at encouraging children participation and identifying their opinions and visions regarding their experienced culture, as well as their points of views towards the status of upbringing in the Arab world. Furthermore, ACCD furthers its efforts to the establishment of national forums for children.



## A Website for the Arab Children Forum

sawa-online.org

In 2013, ACCD has renewed the website of Arab Children Forum whereby children will be able to express their opinions ([www.sawa-online.org](http://www.sawa-online.org)), and it is considered to be the first Arab interactive website enabling safe participation of children. ACCD has been keen to contact the advisory committee of children that its members were elected during the First Arab Children Forum which was held in 2012, in order to consider their opinions in managing the website.



## TOT Workshop in the field of Child Rights Concentrating on Child Participation

In cooperation with the Arab Scout Organization, ACCD held a TOT workshop in the field of child rights concentrating on child participation for scout leaders in Arab countries, during the period 16 – 20 December 2013 in Cairo, with the participation of more than twenty of scout leaders representing eight Arab countries: Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, and Egypt. The workshop applied a Training Manual on Child Rights and Participation that has been prepared by ACCD, aiming at raising awareness of trainees, as well as providing them with knowledge on child rights, skills of training children on participation, and collecting the comments of the workshop participants regarding the manual, to improve it.





**A New Publication of ACCD on Children Participation Entitled:  
«Children Participation:  
Empowerment, Protection and Sustainability»**



ACCD published a book entitled «Children Participation: Empowerment, Protection and Sustainability», that addresses the issue of children participation being one of the basic pillars of child rights, and one of the main topics adopted by ACCD's action strategy, according to the developmental rights-based approach which qualifies children for the future and enhances the establishment of a society based on citizenship, democracy, social compatibility, tolerance and acceptance of pluralism and diversity. This scientific work has been prepared by Dr. Talaat Mansour, professor of psychological health at Ain Shams University, who presented the work to ACCD with a dedication in its first pages to HRH Prince Talal Bin Abdul Aziz, in recognition of the Prince's pioneering initiatives and generous efforts as an Arab, civilized, and humanitarian movement, and also in appreciation of the role played by ACCD under the auspices and presidency of his Highness in order to establish the rights of the Arab child as a civilized and humanitarian reality lived and deserved by our children.

The book, which includes ten sections involving twenty-eight chapters, contains a knowledge and newsworthy experience based on global and national experiences, research results and creative models for the participation of children in a variety of fields, where it asserts in its entirety that children participation is a real approach for childhood and a right for children. It also emphasizes the importance of empowerment approach in children participation in the strategies and efforts of protecting and developing children.

## ACCD initiates the Preparations for Implementing a Project for Street Children in Egypt during 2014

Aiming at extending its efforts in the field of protecting street children, ACCD has developed, during 2013, a project for street children, in the context of the new vision of upbringing, so as to work towards the rehabilitation of street children through education for hope, which is an essential component of ACCD's strategic plan (2014 - 2016).

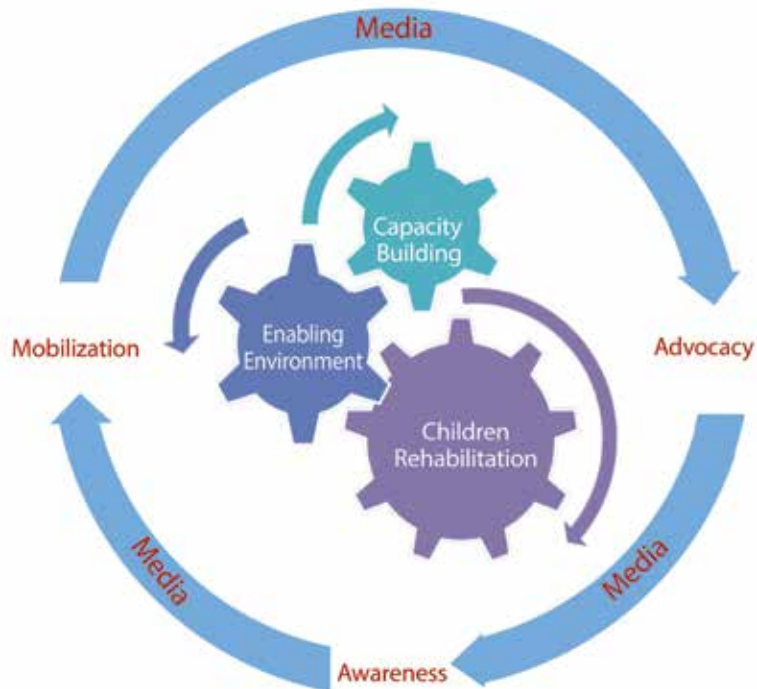
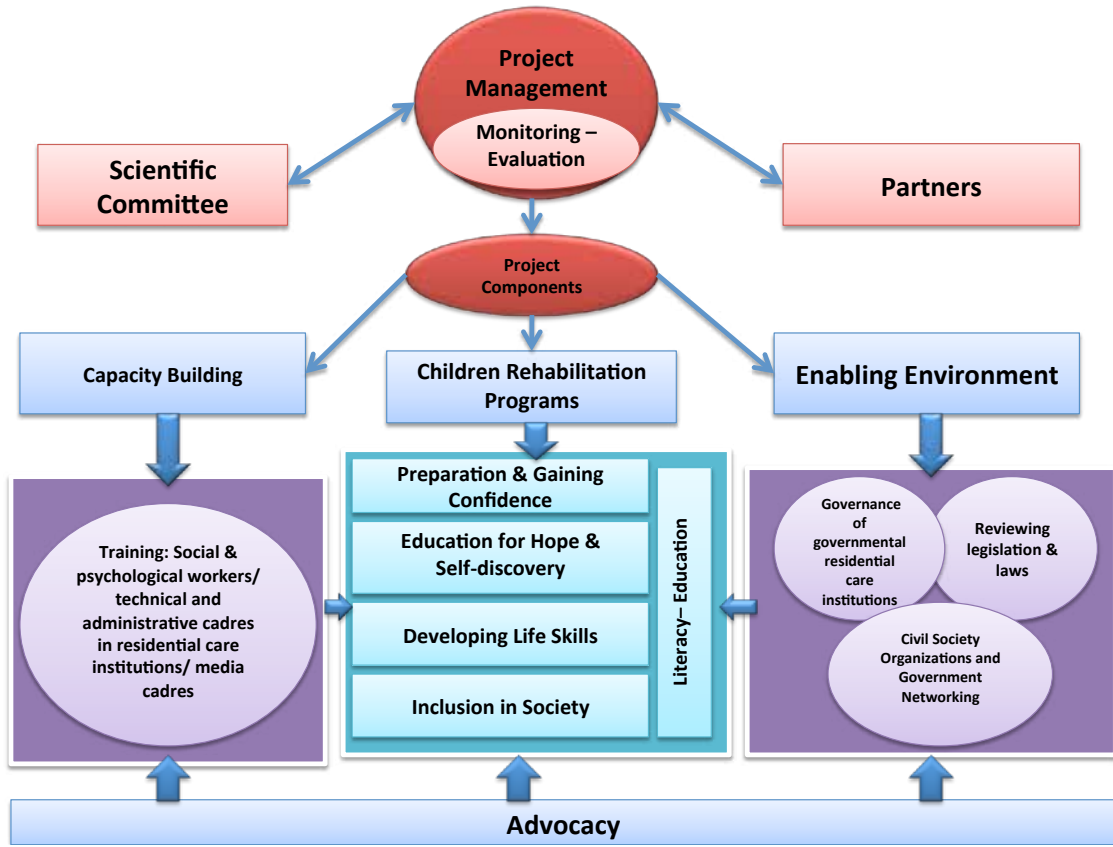
In 2014, ACCD will start implementing the project in Egypt in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Solidarity and a number of other governmental partners, based on the learned lessons of the first phase which was implemented in five Arab countries: Sudan, Lebanon, Egypt, Morocco, and Yemen. This project is considered to be a pilot in working with street children, as it adopts non-traditional methods of self-discovery of street children and identifying their tendencies and skills, in order to develop their sense of belonging and their value as effective individuals in society, thus achieving their inclusion.

### Guiding Manual for Social Workers Dealing with Children in Residential Care Institutions

In the context of the Project of «Protecting Street Children in Egypt: Capacity Building of Social Workers Dealing with Street Children» which is implemented by ACCD in cooperation with the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood in Egypt, a Guiding Manual for Social Workers Dealing with Children in Residential Care Institutions (with special emphasis on street children) has been issued in 2013. This Manual illustrates the content of the training workshops that were held aiming at providing capacity building for those who deal with street children in residential care institution in a number of 17 Egyptian governorates.



## The Components of the Project of «I Have Chosen Hope»



## ACCD Adopts a New Project for the Inclusion of Arab Children with Disabilities in Education and Society

In continuation to the concern of ACCD with the issues of children with disabilities, and after finishing the implementation of the project «Towards a Safe Environment for the Protection of Children with Disabilities from Abuse»; among its main outputs is the intellectual framework of the meaning of safe environment that should be provided to the children with disabilities, and a set of training manuals and tools for training of trainers in this field, as well as holding a TOT regional workshop, with the presence of more than sixty participants from fourteen Arab countries. During the year 2013, ACCD worked on the preparation of the project of the inclusion of Arab children with disabilities in education and society; since that the issue of the inclusion of children with disabilities in education and society is considered to be a cultural, political, and social process in our Arab societies, and represents a fight against exclusion, marginalization and isolation. The project is based on a number of components that include conducting a study on the status of the inclusion of children with disabilities in education and society in the Arab countries, and developing an intellectual guiding framework in addition to inclusion standards in education and society, as well as preparing training manuals, building specialized cadres, and educating children through animated films and stories dealing with the subject of inclusion and building media cadres for disseminating the culture of inclusion.

*The inclusion of children with disabilities is a social, political and cultural process in our Arab societies, and a fight against exclusion, marginalization and isolation.*



## Preparatory Workshop Held with the Participation of Thirty Experts from Six Arab Countries, in Cairo, in 2013.

In preparation for the project of the inclusion of Arab children with disabilities in education and society, ACCD held a workshop entitled «The Inclusion of Arab Children with Disabilities in Education and Society», during the period 2 - 3 November 2013, at the headquarters of the Arab Scout organization



in Cairo, with the participation of thirty experts in the fields of inclusion from six Arab countries: Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Libya, Lebanon and Egypt.

The workshop aimed at discussing the initial conception of the project and a number of issues, which include general trends in providing care and inclusion for children with disabilities, and the challenges facing the Arab world in the transformation of isolative education systems to inclusion environments, and the role of civil society in the inclusion of children with disabilities, information technology and educational solutions in the education process of children with disabilities, in addition to reviewing a number of Arab and international experiences in the field of inclusion to access a certain model of the inclusion.

### A New Issue of Childhood and Development Quarterly

ACCD issued the twentieth issue of Childhood and Development Quarterly (a specialized scientific periodical), that aims at enriching the Arab scientific knowledge, contributing in raising awareness, encouraging Arab researchers to publish their studies and researches, and mobilizing the Arab public opinion about childhood development and child rights issues. The issuance of this quarterly stems from ACCD's vision to enrich the Arab library with the scientific publications and provide it with scientific researches and studies in light of what the Arab region suffers in the absence of accurate information and data about the pressing issues of the status of childhood in the Arab world.



This twentieth issue of the quarterly includes a number of topics ranging from studies, researches and articles, in addition to the initiatives, seminars and book reviews. The issue addresses some subjects, including developmental pillars for the appropriate methodological practices in early childhood education, and the skills of self-protection in intellectual education schools for students with down syndrome and some demographic variables, in addition to the issue of child pornography and the extent of its relationship to crime information, in addition to the suffering of Iraqi children, how to develop scientific thinking, and the reasons for street children phenomenon and the methods to address them.

## Guiding Integrated Policies Ensuring the Arab Child Right to Protection

In the context of implementing the Project of «Guiding Manual on Developing Child Protection Policies in the Arab Region According to Rights Based Approach», funded by AGFUND, during the year 2013, ACCD has finished drafting and reviewing the Manual, as well as discussing it with the experts who participated in its drafting. It is intended to launch the Manual and disseminate it in Arab countries in the beginning of 2014.

### A Seminar on «Discussing Synergies between Child Protection and Social Protection Systems» under the auspices of HRH Prince Talal Bin Abdul Aziz

Under the auspices of HRH Prince Talal Bin Abdul Aziz, a seminar on «Discussing Synergies between Child Protection and Social Protection Systems in Gulf Countries» was held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, during the period 15 – 16 January 2013, in partnership among UNICEF-GAO, AGFUND, and ACCD, targeting to draft recommendations in the field of child protection and developing the concept of protection.

ACCD has undertaken the preparation of the scientific content and research papers of the seminar that addressed the following issues: the concept of rights based approach in ensuring protection of Arab child, (a research paper presented by Dr. Adel Azer), social protection of children (a research paper presented by Dr. Ghassan Khalil), and child protection polices in Gulf countries (a research paper presented by Dr. Ahmed Zayed).



**UNICEF Honors HRH Prince Talal Bin Abdul Aziz  
and Appreciates His Venerable Efforts  
towards the Children of the World**



The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) expressed its great appreciation to HRH Prince Talal Bin Abdul Aziz, President of the Arab Council for Childhood and Development (ACCD), and President of the Arab Gulf Programme for Development (AGFUND), and highly praised his venerable efforts for the children of the world, and the fruitful cooperation between the UNICEF and the developmental organizations sponsored by HRH Prince Talal.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of January, 2013, at the office of HRH Prince Talal in Riyadh, Dr. Ibrahim Al-Zik, representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for the Gulf States, represented a memorial shield to HRH Prince Talal, as recognition of his efforts in childhood development and care, in the presence of Dr. Hassan Al-Bilawi, the Secretary General of ACCD.

**Launching the Study on:  
«The Promotion of Community Participation  
in Education in Upper Egypt»  
in Partnership with the UNICEF Office in Egypt**

In cooperation with UNICEF office in Egypt, ACCD launched a scientific study on the status and capacities of civil society organizations to promote community participation in the education of children in Egypt, on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April 2013.



The study aimed at identifying the status of civil society organizations working in the field of education and their abilities to manage kindergartens and community education projects, in addition to developing quality standards for civil society organizations to evaluate their capacities to carry the burdens of providing the service, monitoring and evaluating kindergartens and community schools for the Egyptian child, further to developing an action plan for future strategic interventions for community participation in education.



Worth mentioning is that the study - carried out by a research team under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Ahmed Sayed Ibrahim, Dean of the Faculty of Education at Assiut University - included three governorates in Upper Egypt; Assiut, Sohag and Qena, and about 40 civil society organizations working in the field of Education. The study concluded with a strategy proposal to improve the performance of civil society organizations



working in education in accordance with the requirements of the modern era, facing its accelerating requirements, and a package of guiding standards to the quality of civil society organizations working in education.



## **Seminar on Child Rights in the Egyptian Constitution Participants: Yes to a Constitution that Respects and Promotes the Rights of Citizenship and Achieves Social Justice**



In partnership with the ACCD, the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood held a seminar on «Child Rights in the Draft of the Egyptian Constitution of 2013», on the 24<sup>th</sup> of December 2013, with the participation of Mr. Amr Moussa, Head of Committee of Fifty to prepare the Constitution, Dr. Hussein Kamel Bahaa Eldin, the former Minister of Education, Counselor Ali Awad, Presidential Advisor, Dr. Hassan El Bilawi, Secretary General of ACCD, and Counselor Ahmed Al-Sergani, Assistant Minister of Justice for the sector of human rights, and with the presence of a number of members of the Committee of Fifty and Committee of Ten, in addition to the representatives of civil society, experts, media, and children.

ACCD's Partnership in this seminar stems in the context of strengthening the process of cooperation and coordination with the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood, as well as from ACCD's mission to achieve children's rights, welfare, and development through building constitutions that reflect the popular ambition, and work as a guarantee and a fence of the rights and duties of all citizens equally, especially children and other vulnerable and marginalized groups.

The analytical intervention presented by Dr. Hassan Al Bilawi, the Secretary General of ACCD, in this seminar has confirmed that the draft of the Egyptian Constitution of 2013 has achieved the three pillars of social justice which form an integral whole of the meaning of social justice in its wide scientific concept, so as to include protection, enabling environments for children, capacity building and citizenship.

## Media Observatory for Arab Child Rights

ACCD has endeavored to establish Media Observatory for Arab Child Rights, aiming at monitoring and analyzing the content of Arab media regarding child rights, seeking professionalism to attain further communication and effectiveness of the Arab media product and its commitment to rights based approach. The observatory is based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child; as such rights are integrated and consistent, and that its articles are deemed practical indicators to measure monitoring process. Furthermore, the observatory seeks to be a mechanism in the preparation of studies and research reports, as well as in developing policies and media plans.

### Field Study in Six Arab Countries to Evaluate Media Performance in the Field of Child Rights

ACCD, in cooperation with the League of Arab States (Department of Women, Family, and Childhood and the Pan Arab Project for Family House), and funded by AGFUND, conducted an Arab study to evaluate Arab media addressing of child rights issues. The study stems from ACCD's mission to develop an Arab environment that promotes child rights, as well as the role media plays in the formation of public opinion and community outreach in general, and guidance to children and family issues in particular, enabling them to defend their rights and participate in the development of their communities. The study tackles six Arab countries: Tunisia, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Lebanon, and Egypt, it monitors and analyzes the content of Arab Media in the field of child rights in light of the current successive Arab political developments, in which media plays an essential role.



This study consists of three subsidiary studies: the first deals with evaluating the Arab media addressing to child rights issues through analyzing a content sample of the material provided to the general public with a sample of Arab media, while the second study covers a survey on the opinions of a sample of children in a number of Arab countries about what media broadcasting for them, and the third study evaluates the professional environment in which the communicators work in the field of child media in the Arab countries.

The results of this study in its entirety - that was conducted by a team of researchers supervised by Dr. Adel Abdel Ghaffar, professor of media at Cairo University -stressed that child rights issues are weakly tackled in the Arab channels under study, as well as the failure to allocate sufficient space of time to review these issues and discuss

the reality of the Arab child and his/her related vital issues, in addition to presenting the dimensions of the problems and their proposed solutions. Worth mentioning too is that the largest portion of the programs that addressed the child rights issues have overlooked allowing the children with special needs to participate - whether gifted or children with disabilities - in expressing and discussing their rights. The study has also presented a set of proposals that aims to stress Arab media's need to seek more depth in dealing with children's issues, with an urgent need to focus on the importance of formulating general guidelines, or code of ethics for media and child rights, to ensure Arab media practices that respect and activate the rights of the Arab child.

### **Beirut Witnesses Launching the Study of Media and Addressing the Issues of Children's Rights in Arab Countries**



Under the patronage of HRH Prince Talal Bin Abdul Aziz, the President of ACCD, and the league of Arab States, the Regional Study of «Media and Addressing the Issues of Children's Rights in Arab Countries» was launched on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November, 2013 in Beirut, in the presence of childhood officials in fourteen Arab countries and the representatives of Arab media, experts, and related organizations.

At the end of its 19<sup>th</sup> Session, the Arab Childhood Committee expressed its thanks and appreciation for ACCD, AGFUND, and Pan Arab Project for Family House, for cooperation and coordination in conducting this Study, and called on member states to disseminate the outcomes of the Study, as well as implementing its recommendations and proposals.

## Scientific Conference on «Childhood Issues and the Future of Egypt» in Partnership between ACCD and the National Center for Social and Criminological Research



In partnership with ACCD, the National Center for Social and Criminological Research held the Fifteenth Scientific Conference «Childhood Issues and the Future of Egypt», during the period 13 -15 May, 2013, under the auspices of the Minister of Insurance and Social Affairs.

ACCD was keen to cooperate in holding this scientific conference stemming from its specific importance in light of the current circumstances witnessed in Egypt and the genuine political, social and economic changes that will have the greatest impact on the future of the children. The Conference addressed several key topics, including childhood, identity, participation, cultural and creative composition, the risk of poverty, marginalization, protection, and social and legal care issues, in addition to a discussion panel about children and drugs, and concluded with a roundtable about the strategy for the future of childhood in Egypt attended by a group of experts and researchers from Egypt and the Arab world.



## Training Media Figures on Spreading the Culture of Child Rights and Combating Violence against Children

Recognizing the importance of media and its effective and influential role, and its being a key partner in supporting the efforts of child protection, ACCD -in continuation of its efforts in the field of training media figures – has held a series of workshops at the regional and national levels in the field of combating violence against children and spreading child rights culture.

In 2013, ACCD has continued to implement this approach through:

### Developing the Training Manual for Media Professionals on Spreading the Culture of Child Rights and Combating Violence against Children

ACCD has concluded developing the Training Manual for Media Professionals on Spreading the Culture of Child Rights and Combating Violence against Children, which is designed in the form of a training module that includes an advanced level of knowledge, concepts, and basic principles related to media and children in light of international documents and conventions, regional and global experiences, and scientific expertise, with a special emphasis on child rights and the establishment of child rights culture in media. The Manual aims at enabling media professionals of knowledge and understanding of child rights and capacity building, in addition to promoting values and ethics of media performance as applied to child rights, and to promote the culture of child rights in media environment. The Manual consists of two complementary parts, namely: a Training Manual for Media Professionals and a Resource Manual. It is scheduled to launch a new series of TOT workshops at the regional level in the next phase in collaboration with the League of Arab States.

Together to stop  
violence against children



#### **From the Recommendations of the Arab Childhood Committee, affiliated to the League of Arab States (Session 19) held in Beirut, 2013:**

1. Requesting the Technical Secretariat to cooperate with the Arab Council for Childhood and Development in holding regional training workshops for media professionals in the field of child rights.
2. Requesting the Member States to consider the possibility of hosting or funding training media professionals in the field of child rights, as well as funding the other components of the project of «Media Observatory for Arab Child Rights».
3. Acknowledging and appreciating the contribution made by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs of the Republic of Iraq to finance the media training project.

## A Memorandum of Understanding to Promote the Rights of Children without Parental Care

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of June, 2013 a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between ACCD and Wataniya Society for the Development of Orphanages, with a view to strengthen the partnership and cooperation, thus activating the quality and raising the efficiency of employees and those who deal with the orphans, enhancing the rights of children without parental care, and ensuring the improvement of alternative care system.



The said Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by Dr. Hassan Al-Bilawi, the Secretary General of ACCD and Ms. Azza Abdel-Hamid, Chairman of Wataniya Society. Worth noting that the first result of this Memorandum of Understanding will be organizing a joint workshop between ACCD and Wataniya Society targeting media professionals, that is intended to be held in 2014 in Cairo, seeking to provide media professionals with a knowledge background about the rights of children without parental care, and to enable them of skills to activate the role of mass media in protecting the rights of these children and taking care of them, in addition to embedding this vision in media messages and programs in order to raise the level of awareness of community members and decision makers of childhood issues, and child rights and protection.

## Arab Media Network to Spread of Culture of Child Rights and Combating Violence against Children

The Network aims at reaching to a constructive role of media through contributing in highlighting and monitoring the status of violence against children in the Arab world in its different forms, and promoting the role of media in raising awareness of the society, decision-makers, families, children and professionals of child rights and violence against children. The website of this network targeting spreading the national, regional and international programs in the field of combating violence against children, so as to be a tool to provide an opportunity for children to exercise their right to participation and to protect them from violence directed against them. The Network includes more than 400 media professionals till now.

[www.shabaka.arabccd.org](http://www.shabaka.arabccd.org)



## ACCD Partners



المنظمة الكشفية العربية



القانون والكويت للتنمية  
والرؤى المجتمعية والتربية  
منذ 1981  
شركاء في التنمية



وزارة التضامن الإجتماعي



وزارة التعليم

