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TOWARDS AN EFFECTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE LEGAL AID SYSTEM



Last December, the final agreement between the European Union Delegation-EUD and AECID was signed to implement a new intervention during the coming years aimed to foster the access to justice and to increase legal empowerment among Jordanian citizens, towards an effective and sustainable legal aid system.

The action will be developed in the framework of the European Union's support to the Government of Jordan to consolidate the Rule of Law, its effectiveness, transparency, accountability and accessibility where Legal Aid has been identified as a key area to improve the access to justice.

The project pursues further development of Legal Aid for vulnerable groups and increased awareness of citizens of their rights under the Rule of Law, tackling an existing model performed by CSOs under a fragmented legal aid framework.

Under the agreement, a co funded budget of 3 MEUR is foreseen (1 MEUR to be provided by AECID and 2 MEUR by the EU) and the period of implementation will be 4 years, starting from September 2018 till September 2022.

The Ministry of Justice as the main institutional body, lawyers from the Jordanian Bar Association (JBA) and other governmental and non-governmental actors involved in legal aid provision in Jordan are going to be the direct beneficiaries of the project.



EMBAJADA
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QARARUNA. DEEPEN THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN DEMOCRACY



Following the objective related to deepen the role of civil society in contributing to democratic governance and policy making, AECID in Jordan has approved during the last quarter of the year 2018 new interventions throughout different local organizations.

On one side, the **Centre for Strategic Studies of the University of Jordan** has signed an agreement with AECID to carry out the capacity building objective of the project, by carrying out different activities such as research consultations and training workshop modules that would provide comprehensive capacity building and political knowledge, e-learning platform and internship. All the above mentioned aim to strengthen civil society towards better influencing on the democratization process.

On the other side, another agreement has taken place with the organization **Sisterhood Is Global Institute-SIGI** to identify gender inequalities in political participation for women, focusing on policy, programs and services by engaging local community organizations to perform and adopt best monitoring practices and techniques. Also to provide the local community with trusted clear data and reports about gender mainstreaming in public life, elections, electoral process, and to follow up on results of elected women candidates.

At the end of September, the representative of AECID in Jordan held a strategic dialogue with national civil society organizations in Jordan to present a call for proposals, funded under Qararuna project in the fields of youth participation, parliamentary monitoring and coalition building. Some of these organizations submitted proposals and during the first quarter of 2019, AECID will grant the most strategic proposals. Under the framework of the European Union funded programme **“Enhanced Support to Democratic Governance in Jordan - EU JDID”** which is composed of four components, the project **“QARARUNA - Support to Civil Society for Democratic Governance in Jordan”** is implemented by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation - AECID, and aims to deepen the role of civil society in contributing to democratic governance and policy making.

PROTECTION AND EDUCATION IN LEBANON

Under the frame of collaboration between AECID and Spanish NGOs, last November a long-term intervention in Lebanon by the Spanish NGO **Entreculturas** was approved and will be granted by AECID during the four coming years.

The project is aimed to provide access for the Syrian refugee population living in the municipalities of Baalbek and Bar Elias in **Bekaa Valley** to a comprehensive protection system. The intervention is mainly addressed to the most vulnerable refugees, how are children and women. A focus in post trauma rehabilitation and reconstruction of the social fabric is in the center of the strategy to be rolled out.

Following the guidelines of the World Humanitarian Summit, the protection system proposed foresees the consolidation, inside the education system, of safe spaces for the right holders strengthening their capacity on resilience and recovery. Foster the physical, mental, emotional and social wellbeing of those most in need is the objective.

On one side, in schools and social centers, services like formal education, training in basic skills, support groups, mental health services and psychosocial support will be provided, and a referral system will be bolstered allowing the people in need accessing all

levels of mental health and psychosocial support foreseen by humanitarian general standards (IASC).

On the other side, to approach a comprehensive human right focus, a collaboration with the duty bearers will be deployed as a strategy to strengthen a referral system that will allow the refugees in need to access further education, health services and legal assistance whether is needed. The project is aligned with the priorities settled by the Lebanese Crisis Response Plan 2017-2020 - LCRP.

This intervention is co funded by AECID and implemented by the Spanish NGO Entreculturas and its local partner, the **Jesuit Refugee Service Lebanon** and is part of the Humanitarian Strategy for the Syrian crisis context of AECID. A total budget of 2.930.000 Euros is foreseen, with a contribution by AECID of 2.500.000 Euros.



30TH ANNIVERSARY AECID

Last November, the **Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation** celebrated its 30th anniversary. Three decades that has allowed **AECID** to consolidate on its role as the main public body implementing national policies in Spain addressed to development cooperation.

The fight against poverty and the sustainable human development without leaving anyone behind have been the core objectives of AECID work. Some of the most meaningful elements of the development and humanitarian strategies deployed abroad have been gender equality and women empowerment, the fight against hunger and malnutrition, sustainable development, promotion of the right of education and culture as a tool for human development, among others. To carry out its responsibilities AECID count with a large network of Country Offices (31), Cultural Centres (19) and Training Centres (4) spread through Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Asia that manage and promote development and humanitarian interventions under a strategic dialogue with counterpart states.

None of this would have been possible without a committed and solidary citizenship in Spain and the collaborative work with NGO, other public administrations, universities and trade unions among other actors actively involved in the design and implementation of the development cooperation policies in Spain. The current celebration stands not only to value the work done so far but also to build up on the future of the development cooperation policies and strategies. A cooperation policy more settled on the core of the national politic agenda, more effective and efficient to contribute to the sustainable development goals achieving and guaranteeing the human rights of the more vulnerable worldwide. The future of the planet and the humanity is a share challenge and the solutions must be shared by a large range of countries and a diversity of actors.

The **Spanish Cooperation in Jordan** is actively involved supporting Jordan in processes addressed to strengthen democracy and the rule of law and at the same time is committed to support the humanitarian response to meet the needs of the victims of the Syrian crisis.



Aniversario



YOUNG JORDANIAN ARTISTS DRAWING FOR PEACE

For the second consecutive year young Jordanian artists took part in the **project Comicipate**, financed by AECID and implemented in partnership with the local NGO IDare for Sustainable Development. Throughout an intense 5-days workshop led by Yorgos Konstantinou, professional designer and illustrator, the participants carried out many artistic activities with the final goal of creating comic-style stories promoting positive values such as peace, social cohesion and tolerance. There are many reasons behind the choice of comics as a mean to spread these values. Suha Ayyash, IDare's Projects Director, highlighted that they are universal and eternal and easy to understand, regardless the nationality. Therefore, they can reach out many people, even those who do not have to internet or social media. Moreover, in Jordan comics are not widespread and for young artists is difficult to work with them or to find opportunities to learn about it. This project generates a space of discussion, creation and reflection in which young artists can on one side increase their awareness about some of the problems affecting the society, especially in Jordan, and on the other deliver important messages on paper in a direct way.

Deema, a young student of graphic design, was impressed by how powerful comics can be to spread positive messages within the society

and show people the reality and the existing problems. Also, she stressed the importance of being advised and helped by professional during all the process, because things can be said, but in the right way. Another of the participants, **Rateb**, grew up in Lebanon and does freelance work related to art, especially drawing, given his passion towards comics since he was a child. He agrees with the necessity to be directed and guided in order to draw and write in a way which permits to send powerful messages without hurting anyone. He added that artists are very sensitive when it comes to social justice and tolerance, cause many of them have been persecuted just for expressing their ideas.

In line with the project Comicipate, and in order to celebrate the International Human Rights Day on the 10th of December, an activity financed by EUNIC and implemented by Cervantes Institute in Amman and IDare was carried out. The activity under the name: **"Rights on the Wall"**, aimed at promoting Human Rights across the community throughout painting a huge comic-style graffiti in an UNRWA school in Jabal Al-Nuzha neighborhood.

[More information
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tCNwogvn44w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tCNwogvn44w)

"...comics are easy and fast to read and understand, so they can increase our awareness of the problems affecting the society."



— DEEMA,
PARTICIPANT