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**Fostering the Inclusive Participation and Effective Contribution of Women in the Public Sphere**



**Final Project Review Report**

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| **Contact Person/s:** | Kawtar Zerouali, Project Managerkawtar.zerouali@undp.org |

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# Acronyms

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| AWO | Arab Women Organization |
| CSOs | Civil Society Organizations  |
| CSW | Commission on the Status of Women |
| DPA | United Nations Department of Political Affairs |
| ECOSOC | United Nations Economic and Social Council |
| EEAS | European External Action Service |
| EMBs | Electoral Management Bodies |
| EP | European Parliament  |
| EWI | East-West Institute  |
| LAS | League of Arab States  |
| LAS-WAFCD | League of Arab States-Women, Family, and Childhood Department  |
| NAPs | National Action Plans  |
| NEAR | Directorate-General for Neighborhood and Enlargement Negotiations |
| NGOs | Non-Governmental Organisations |
| NCW | National Council for Women  |
| RBAS | Regional Bureau for Arab States |
| SDGs | Sustainable Development Goals |
| Sida | Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency  |
| TSMs | Temporary Special Measures  |
| UfM | Union for the Mediterranean  |
| UNHCR | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  |
| WHRI | Women’s Human Rights Education Institute  |
| YLP | Youth Leadership Programme |

# Introduction

**“*Fostering the Inclusive Participation and Effective Contribution of Women in the Public Sphere***” **– Mosharaka** is a three-year regional project that aims to address the deficits in the public participation and citizenship rights of women in the Arab Region, especially in transition, fragile and post conflict societies.

The overall outcome of the project reflects UNDP’s Regional Program for Arab States (2014-2017)- Outcome 3, namely, “faster progress is achieved in reducing gender inequality and promoting women’s empowerment”, which is also related to Outcome 4, namely “Early recovery and rapid return to sustainable development pathways are achieved in post-conflict and post-disaster settings” (UNDP Strategic Plan Outcome 4 and Outcome 6). The project has the following specific outputs that focus on strengthening participation, expanding opportunities and securing women’s rights in the region:

* Output 1: Support regional and national actors and institutions to establish measures to advance gender equality, and women’s political, social and economic participation (Strategic Plan Output #4.1; #4.3; #4.4) (RBAS Regional Program Output 3.1)
* Output 2: Establish women peace and security frameworks to reinforce human security and advance women’s economic opportunities in early recovery and post-crisis settings (Strategic Plan Output #6.4; #4.2 RBAS Output #4.1)

These outputs were realized through a multi-dimensional integrated approach and project/package of initiatives targeting various sectors and a multiplicity of regional and national stakeholders. These initiatives are primarily focused on knowledge management, capacity development, advocacy, networking, and alliance and coalition building between partners.

Mosharaka has mobilized national actors and regional women’s organizations to strategize the work on SDGs through focusing on women’s role in the implementation. The project has developed guiding documents on SDGs and gender equality. Additionally, an online database to provide a foundation for a collection of laws and legislations on women rights was launched. The Youth Leadership Programme (YLP) has also been launched to promote the role of youth in SDGs and gender equality.

Stakeholders include national and regional civil society organizations, NGOs, women machineries, think tanks, labor unions and professional associations, the League of Arab States, national governments, parliaments, local authorities and councils, political parties, UN Women, other UN agencies and donors, academic institutions/universities and the private sector. The project most closely worked with Karama and CAWTAR (regional NGOs), UN Women, the League of Arab States, and the Arab Women Organization to liaise with civil society and governments.

The project was managed by a small team, comprised of a project manager and a gender analyst. The team is responsible for: providing technical and strategic support to the project’s national partners; monitoring progress achieved in partner aims; developing concept notes; finding donors; and supporting gender mainstreaming for other regional and national projects.

# Progress review: key activities and results, 24th of July 2014-31st of December 2018

## Section 1: Overall progress against outcomes

**Mosharaka** aims to address the deficits in the public participation and citizenship rights of women in the Arab region, especially in transition, fragile and post conflict societies.

The overall outcome of the project, *“Faster progress is achieved in reducing gender inequality and promoting women’s empowerment”,* reflects UNDP RBAS outcome 2, “Strengthen institutions to promote inclusive participation, prevent conflict and build peaceful societies.”

The project contributed to the achievement of gender equality and women’s empowerment at an increased pace, through the identification of the gaps in the role of women in constitutional, legal reform, and judiciary processes.

Mosharaka aimed at supporting the role of women in implementing UNSC 1325 through building the capacity of the members of women, peace and security network on mediation and negotiations; as well as building a knowledge base on women rights through the development of legal profiles that will provide a comprehensive perspective on women’s legal status in the Arab region.

Additionally, the project has supported the regional network on constitution-making and legislative reform, as well as  youth-led initiatives on SDGs, gender equality, social cohesion and economic empowerment.

Finally, Mosharaka co-supported the first platform in the Arab region on women and SDGs, focusing on gender equality to initiate accountability and commitment at senior levels. This initiative contributes extensively to fostering progress in order to reach the 2030 agenda with the aim of reducing inequalities on a large scale.

Mosharaka committed to working in strong, dynamic partnerships with other programmes within UNDP RBAS, sister UN agencies, civil society organizations, governments, non-profit organizations and the private sector. Through these multi-level, multi-sectoral partnerships, the project promoted gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in the Arab region by offering supportive spaces for cross-regional interaction, knowledge production and exchange, and the transfer of skills and good practices.

In addition to supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda from a gendered perspective, Mosharaka worked with peace and security networks, regional institutions, and civil society networks to promote the role of women and youth in preventing conflict and promoting peaceful societies. In line with the efforts of RBAS to ensure that *no one is left behind* in advancing the gender-responsive 2030 agenda, Mosharaka focusedon Arab youth, both as target group and as partners. Furthermore, the project emphasized the production and dissemination of knowledge to foster policy debate and evidence-based policymaking.

## Section 2: Monitoring of activities

Mosharaka continuously followed up with the regional networks on constitution- making, legislative reform, and women judges.  Members of each network have participated in Mosharaka’s regional conferences and activities to extend the learning process and create linkages with global networks.

As part of the cooperation between UNDP and CAWTAR in producing legal country profiles, follow-up meetings took place to discuss and evaluate progress with respect to publication and online posting.  Extensive follow-up was conducted to ensure that official mechanisms provided feedback and endorsed the different profiles.

Mosharaka followed-up with the regional network on women peace and security. Members of the network have participated in Mosharaka’s regional activities to extend the learning process and create linkages with global networks.

In cooperation with Mosharaka, the Arab Women Organization has led a number of activities, in order to promote women’s empowerment and the implementation of the SDGs in the Arab region. Mosharaka monitored these activities through progress reports furnished by AWO. The Arab Women Organization has been developing a practical toolkit to increase the capacity of policy and decision makers to develop gender-responsive policies and strategies. The manual to support regional driven gender-responsive SDGs implementation that was finalized and launched in December 2018 in Oman. It has also been monitoring the development of the Regional Network of Women in Elections that it contributed to create earlier this year. The manual will act as a practical roadmap to the gender related SDGs targets and indicators, associating them to Arab women’s empowerment.

The Youth Leadership Programme has developed through the reporting period. The youth were trained at the national level on SDGs, innovation and gender concepts.  The youth led ideas and initiatives were followed up and elaborated at a regional workshop. In YLP2 and YLP3, the 12 finalists from the regional workshop attended the ECOSOC meeting in New York.  This valuable opportunity provided the space for young men and women to network, learn and connect with global audience on youth and SDGs.

From the Regional Hub in Amman, Mosharaka followed up with the multiple activities organized by the UNDP Country Offices, keeping track of their progress and providing guidance and support when needed. YLP3 emphasized follow up activities with the participants of previous rounds of the programme, not only by checking on the progress of their projects, but also integrating them in the national and regional activities, as mentors of this year’s youth.

Also, Mosharaka has made an effort to gather video recordings from previous YLP participants, where they share their experiences with the programme. Closely monitoring the advancement of this youth on the planning and implementation of their initiatives and gathering their insight about the content and format of YLP activities, aid us in shaping future programmes and measuring the progress towards the achievement of our goals.

The fourth phase of the Youth Leadership Programme (YLP4) expanded into partnering with youth-serving organizations in the participating countries to reach more young people across the region. A first regional workshop was organized in May in Amman, engaging youthserving organizations who afetrwards submitted their national action plans to UNDP Country Offices and Mosharaka for revision and support. A second regional meeting was organized in Tunisia on 14th-17th of December 2018. Participants included youth, youth-serving organizations, UNDP youth focal points as well as members from the government from the participating countries.

## Section 3: Progress against each output

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| **Project Output 1:** Support regional and national actors and institutions to establish measures to advance gender equality, and women’s political, social, and economic participation |
| **Output indicators** | **Targets**  | **Progress against targets** |
| Number of knowledge products to support enacting meaningful/ practical legislative reforms to promote/ improve gender equality and women’s empowerment held | Baseline: 0 Targets:2015:20 leaflets2016:20 leaflets2017:1 (A study on Temporary Measures)2018: 1 (Tool to promote women’s political participation and representation) | 2015: 20 leaflets2016:20 leaflets2017: 22018:3 |
| Level of support to regional networks on constitution, legal reforms, electoral processes and judiciary to promote gender equality and women's empowerment provided | Baseline: Not AdequatelyTargets:2015: Largely2016: Largely2017: Largely2018: Largely | 2015: Partially2016: Partially2017: Partially2018: Partially |
| Number of youth trained and/or youth led initiatives to promote leadership, SDGs in the Arab Region with emphasis on gender equality and women's empowerment | Baseline: 0 Targets: 2015:25 trained and 5 developed2016:502017:20 2018: 70 | 2015: 40 trained and 10 developed2016: 552017: 702018: 70 |
| **Project Output 2:** Women peace and security frameworks to reinforce social cohesion and promote women’s equal access to political and economic opportunities in early recovery and post-crisis settings established. |
| **Output indicators** | **Targets**  | **Progress against targets** |
| Number of peace builders on conflict analysis, dialogue accompaniment, mediation and social mobilization trained | Baseline:02015:252016: 252017: 252018: 40 | 2015:02016: 02017: 402018:40 |
| Number of documented stories, lessons learnt, best practices of women engaged in peace building activities prepared | Baseline: 02015:202016: 202017: 202018:2 | 2015:02016: 02017:02018:2 |

**Project Output 1:** Support regional and national actors and institutions to establish measures to advanceality, and women’s political, social and economic participation**Output**

### **Key achievements /results**

**2015**

* **Initiated a platform for sharing knowledge, expertise and stories of men and women experts in constitution, legal reform and judiciary**, which will serve as venue for interactions, capacity building and learning.

* **Created a Women Constitutional and Legislative Network**: the network is aimed at document the role of women in constitution making, legal reform and judiciary. The networks’ women members are diverse with vast experience on gender equality and women’s empowerment. The project developed an integrated framework for an electoral assistance process through elaborating on women’s roles as voters, candidates and active agents in electoral administration.

* **Supported and facilitated the work of the regional network on Women, Peace and Securit**y.  The network is playing an important role in supporting women’s active participation in the implementation of UN Security Resolutions on women peace and security.  “Mosharaka” facilitated the effectiveness of regional networks on women, peace and security through supporting the creation of a core group of mediators and peacebuilders.

* **Started the Youth Leadership Programme (YLP).**Mosharaka built a core of well-informed youth on leadership to promote social responsibilities among young women and men, and awareness on the importance of the SDGs, especially SDG5, gender equality. The youth engaged are eager to learn and to share their personal and professional stories, and many come from conflict areas with high hopes to change and create a difference.

* **Created knowledge-base on women’s rights in the Arab Region to provide functional resources for policy dialogue in different Arab Countries**. Through developing 20 legal country profiles and leaflets, Mosharaka aimed to improve the understanding of the challenges and best practices of legal reform of the countries.

* **Led regional discussions and debates on the role of women in the Sustainable Development Goals**.  Mosharaka leaded the Arab region’s first conference on women in the 2030 sustainable agenda in Cairo. The conference presented model recommendations and a platform for action to implement the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals for women in the Arab Region.

**2016**

* **Conducted follow-up meetings with YLP 1 participants**, to further explore the ideas developed by youth participants during YLP 1 and strategize ways forward. The 20 youth ideas touched on themes ranging from the environment, to people with special needs, green energy, working with displaced people, and gender equality in education. The follow up also included the creation of profiles to document the youth participant stories and main learning outcomes over the course of YLP2.

* **Launched an online platform on legal and human rights of women and men**.  The online database was launched on March 28th, 2016 and compiles laws from 20 Arab countries related to gender and human rights. The database, “Legal and Human Rights of Women and Men: Between Equality and Gaps,” aims to assist policy makers, women machineries and concerned civil society organizations to better assess, analyze and understand the legal status of women across the region by presenting the information in Arabic through a searchable online portal (http://www.arabwomenlegal-emap.org/) that is also available as a mobile application (womenlegalemap). The ultimate objective is to promote gender equality through improving national partners’ access to legal information on women’s rights and status. This initiative was a joint effort between UNDP, UN Women and CAWTAR. A press release was issued with information on the database and how to access it. This release was disseminated widely among national partners and uploaded on the UNDP website.

* **Coordinated workshop on gender and electoral management bodies**: The workshop took place at the Dead Sea in Jordan from 19-21 April 2016.  The aim was to facilitate the exchange of expertise and lessons learnt among EMBs in the Arab Region to promote women’s electoral participation.  This included undertaking situation analysis to identify challenges facing women and evaluating a number of strategic interventions to increase women’s participation in the electoral cycle. The workshop brought together key representatives from Arab EMBs to provide a forum for peer-to-peer discussion on a) the role of EMBs in enhancing women’s participation, b) successes and existing good practices in policies and practices in the region, and b) the experience of EMBs from other regions including those from Asia, South Africa, Europe and Latin America. The workshop represented the first step to development of network of women in elections.

* **Launched Youth Leadership Programme 2 (YLP2)**: YLP 2 was launched on 18th of April 2016 with 11 UNDP country offices, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Palestine, Somalia, Syria, Sudan, Tunisia, and the United Arab Emirates. The programme focused on the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda, with the aim of helping young people to become engaged citizens, effective leaders and successful problem-solvers. Gender equality and women’s empowerment were prioritized as key to understanding the SDGs as a whole. YLP 2 has generated great interest within the participating countries, with some countries receiving up to 200 youth applications. YLP 2 supported young men and women from across the region in addressing sustainable development challenges in four thematic areas, as prioritized during YLP 1: Gender Equality, Good Governance, Social Cohesion, and Economic Empowerment.  Over the course of the year, selected youth received ongoing support, a series of interactive hands-on learning workshops, as well as targeted mentoring to unpack the SDGs, identify entry points for change, and develop skills in various social innovation approaches and methodologies.  By the end of the year, the young participants became better advocates for the SDGs and began to implement their ideas for social change. In the final stage of YLP2, a regional workshop was held in Kuwait on “Youth Actions towards SDGs” from the 14th-19th of December 2016. The workshop gathered more than 60 young men and women from 11 Arab countries including Jordan, Iraq, Palestine, Syria, Somalia, Sudan, Lebanon, UAE, Kuwait, Tunisia, and Egypt. The event sparked more than 1,000 tweets, reaching an online audience of 4 million. #YLP2 was trending for couple of days during the workshop in Kuwait.

* **Organized consultative meetings to strategize Mosharaka’s next steps:** Several consultative meetings have been held with the participation of experts to discuss Mosharaka’s contributions to its four thematic areas: peace and security, SDGs, gender justice and economic empowerment. A project brochure and several concept notes have been finalized outlining Mosharaka’s future directives and strategic interventions and served as a foundation for collaboration with UN agencies, donors, international and regional organizations, the private sector and media. Social innovation is a key element integrated into the project and frames Mosharaka’s effective, efficient, and sustainable solutions.

* **Provided technical assistance to WHRI**: UNDP Arab States, through Mosharaka, is providing technical advisory support to the Canada’s Women’s Human Rights Education Institute (WHRI). WHRI conducted a project that facilitates the sharing of best practices for promoting women’s empowerment and gender equality in the Middle East with other organizations. This project also enables key stakeholders in the Middle East and gender fields to network and develop initiatives with new partners in the future.

**2017**

* **Strengthened regional cooperation to advance women’s political participation, gender justice, and peace and security; while mainstreaming gender in all SDGs**. A strategic partnership with Karama, the Arab Women Organization (AWO) and CAWTAR was established, which concretize in support to policy dialogue, skills’ transfer, and knowledge and capacity development.

* **Having participated in a number of meetings, which served as advocacy platforms**On the occasion of the International Women’s day, Mosharaka’s team met in Brussels with counterparts at the East-West Institute (EWI), the European Parliament (EP), the European External Action Service (EEAS), the Directorate-General for Neighborhood and Enlargement Negotiations (NEAR), and UN Women, to discuss gender status in the Arab region. We presented UNDP gender strategy and work in the region, including Mosharaka accomplishments, and positioned UNDP as a platform for youth actors, NGOs, and the international community. Also, a meeting was held in Cairo with AWO, the National Council for Women in Egypt (NWC), UNDP CO-Egypt, the British Embassy, the League of Arab States (LAS), the Swedish Embassy/Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), and Karama where we discussed the status of women throughout the region and proposed potential avenues for collaboration.

* **Promoted SDGs and gender equality with renewed coordinated efforts**. Through its partnership with AWO, Mosharaka actively work towards promoting a gender sensitive implementation of the SDGs. The 2017 Arab Sustainable Development Week, that took place in Cairo during the month of May, served as a forum for AWO and UNDP to raise awareness of the importance of mainstreaming gender across all SDGs, including mobilizing women’s machineries and civil society organizations; emphasizing also the role of women in sustainable development. A session on “Gender Responsive SDGs Implementation” was held in conjunction with AWO, and a session on the “Role of Women in Sustainable Development” was held in collaboration with AWO, UN Women and Karama. AWO worked on developing guiding tools to measure progress when integrating women into development policies, and together with UNDP, the organization worked on a manual to support regional-driven, gender-responsive SDGs implementation. The guide aims at providing greater access to knowledge bases on what works and does not work when it comes to gender mainstreaming indicators in development policies; as well as making available measures that will facilitate policy makers' application of such indicators.

* **Youth Leadership Programme 3 (YLP3). Increased youth involvement in gender equality advocacy and commitment towards the SDGs.**Mosharaka positively impacted a diverse group of young women and men in the Arab region, by enriching their knowledge on innovation, SDGs and gender equality, through its YLP3 engaged them as agents of change, and the youth developed solutions for their communities’ challenges, starting on a path to impact themselves, their surroundings and the next generation; advancing gender equality and women’s empowerment. In 2017, national, regional and global activities of YLP were implemented as follows:

* ***Participation to 2017 ECOSOC Youth Forum*:**12 young women and men that excelled during the second edition of the Youth Leadership Programme were chosen at the end of 2016 to attend the ECOSOC Youth Forum, held in the UN Headquarters in New York, in January 2017. Mosharaka organized and led the Arab States Regional Breakout Session, providing a platform for the YLP2 change makers to take the lead and talk about how their role in achieving SDGs. YLP2 participants had the opportunity to showcase the solutions they developed through the programme and through their own means. As ambassadors of the region, they discussed challenges facing the youth in the Arab States relating to empowerment, political participation, access to the labor market and youth involvement on the SDG achievement. The event promoted innovative approaches and initiatives for advancing the youth development agenda at national, regional and global levels with a view to advancing global (multilateral) solutions to the global challenge of “shared prosperity”.

* ***Youth Leadership Programme 3***: On its third year, YLP benefited over 1,000 youth for the national activities held in 14 countries across the Arab region. The theme of YLP3 was “Action for the 2030 Agenda: Accelerating Innovative Solutions for Sustainable Development”. This year’s programme was the result of fruitful collaboration with UN Women, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), and Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation. UNDP Country Offices in Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, KSA, UAE and Yemen organized events between June and November, nurturing the youth creativity, strengthening their leadership skills, and helping them improving their own communities by realizing their ideas and projects; whether these are social enterprises, nonprofits, NGOs, initiatives, or campaigns. YLP3 Regional Forum took place the first week of December 2017 in Cairo. the top-five solutions from each participating country were selected to attend the Regional Forum, whose main objective was to support participating youth in refining their innovative ideas, and to help them prepare for implementation and ultimately scaling up of their solutions. The Forum focused on technical and hands-on sessions following the year’s four thematic areas, namely, technical knowledge, partnerships, technology and finance. A key outcome of YLP3 was the “YLP Declaration”, an official reflection of the youth’s vision, principles and commitments to fellow youth, communities, governments, and international bodies. Mosharaka succeeded at having the YLP3 Regional Forum participants joining one day of the RiseUp Summit in Cairo, one of the largest entrepreneurship and innovation events in MENA. Mosharaka did also finalize a new knowledge product, the first YLP publication titled “Design Thinking: A Guide for Prototyping and Testing Solutions for the Sustainable Development Goals”. The Guide, developed in collaboration with UNDP Tunisia, comes to aid young change makers in creating human-centered solutions when attempting to solve the sustainable development challenges at hand. Adopting a human-centered approach is believing that all problems—as difficult to eradicate as they may seem— such as poverty, gender equality, and access to clean water, can still be solved. This guide, available online in Arabic, French and English, will become a major reference for our youth, the regional demographic group primarily affected by today’s problems, who is devoted to finding sustainable solutions.

* **Improved knowledge-based strategic planning on women’s political participation**. Mosharaka took important steps towards supporting the enactment of meaningful and practical legislative reforms promoting and improving gender equality and women’s empowerment. A study on Temporary Special Measures (TSMs) and women's political participation was the first step in 2017, on a larger research programme with actionable results. The study reviewed the trends and developments in quotas for women in parliaments across the Arab States, including the current situation and remaining gaps. With this key knowledge product in hand, Mosharaka organized a “Technical Consultation Meeting on Fostering Women’s Political Participation”. The two-day meeting held in September in Amman, brought together 29 experts from 10 UNDP Country Offices, the UNDP Regional Hub in Amman, UN Women and DPA, to ensure that the upcoming research phase responds to the needs of the practitioners. The technical consultation presented a great opportunity for experts to discuss ways for developing practical tools and guidance to introduce, support and implement TSMs in the Arab region.

* **Developed better synergies and improved channels of cooperation to promote women’s role on preventing violent extremism**. A strategic partnership agreement with UfM, UNDP, and UN Women began in 2017, and will help strengthen the role of women and youth in preventing violent extremism in the Euro-Mediterranean region. In July, Mosharaka facilitated a meeting in Barcelona on this subject. More than 40 regional experts, academics, practitioners and advocates, came together to identify key priority actions and approaches towards enhancing women and youth involvement in peace advancement and violent extremism prevention. The engagement resulted in the agreement to produce a regional action plan, and actionable recommendations to be presented to governments and other key partners in the Euro-Mediterranean region. Towards the end of the year, Mosharaka met with the European Commission Directorate-General for Neighborhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), bringing into the table recommendations from the Barcelona experts’ meeting and discussing new forms of collaborations.

* **Strengthened the capacity of the peace and security network on peacebuilding, mediation and negotiations skills.**A seminar on mediation and negotiations skills—the second on a series of trainings organized by Karama with the support of UN Women and UNDP, under Mosharaka—was held in Cairo in the month of February. 25 women and men from 8 participating Arab countries, namely, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia, Sudan and Yemen shared knowledge and experiences, and learned by examining transition case studies from Spain and Colombia. Through analysis and applied conflict resolution techniques, the seminar helped the participants develop practical skills necessary for managing and resolving conflicts in their own contexts. The training sessions addressed and highlighted the importance of involving women in decision-making and peace negotiation processes. At the end of the event, the participants recommended to support similar workshops, as they facilitate the exchange of knowledge, and encourage young women and men activists to get involved in peacebuilding activities.

**2018**

* **Finalized a Gender Strategy for the Regional Electoral Project.**Mosharaka finalized a Gender Strategy to further elaborate the areas of gender mainstreaming identified in the elections programme document and to bring them together ―along with the output that specifically targets women’s participation― in one framework to ensure all efforts are working in a concerted, consist manner. The purpose of the gender strategy is to support and advocate for the equal participation of men and women in the election process, as voters, candidates, election administrators, and observers, by identifying and addressing the barriers to and opportunities for women’s full and meaningful participation. Mosharaka’s collaboration with the Electoral Project surpasses the work on the gender strategy. We work together to ensure collaborative activities on gender are implemented, focusing on initiatives to promote women’s participation in the political and social spheres through election assistance and capacity building, as well as encouraging youth civic engagement and active political participation in the region.
* **Advocated for women’s ability to pass along citizenship at high-level ministerial conference.** Mosharaka attended the high-level regional ministerial conference on “Belonging and Legal Identity,” organized by the League of Arab States Women, Family, and Childhood Department (LAS-WAFCD) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), under the patronage of Tunisian President Beji Caid Essebsi. The event served to highlight reforms and identify best practices to protect children from statelessness and uphold their rights in relation to legal identity and family reunification, to promote women’s rights, and to enhance equal access to citizenship. During the conference, member states also adopted the Arab Declaration on Belonging and Identity, signaling a commitment to protect women, children, and families by improving civil registration systems and access to nationality. At the meeting, Mosharaka’s Project Manager made a statement on how citizenship is defined and how it relates to human rights-based approaches. Kawtar Zerouali discussed the Arab countries that have recently made policy changes enabling nationality to be passed on matrilineally (Egypt, Algeria, Iraq, Morocco, Tunisia, and Yemen) and advocated for encouraging other countries to do the same.
* **Represented UNDP in the preparatory meeting for the 62nd Commission on the Status of Women**. Mosharaka’s Project Manager attended the regional preparatory meeting for the 62nd Commission on the Status of Women, which met at HQ from 12-23 March 2018. The preparatory meeting was organized by LAS, the Tunisian Ministry of Women, Family, and Childhood, and the UN Women Regional Office for Arab States. It was attended by ministers and head of women machineries, UN agencies, and a range of civil society organizations. Together, the participants were able to finalize a unified Arab vision and regional position towards the CSW theme of “Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls.” This vision was then presented by the Tunisian Minister of Women, Family, and Childhood as the Chair of Arab Ministers in the CSW 62 in New York.
* **Co-organized with AWO and UN Women the side event “Rural Women in the Arab Region: Cases of Challenges and Resilience” during the 62nd Commission on the Status of Women.**The side event brought together Ministers from Arab States and UN officials. Representatives of the governments of Jordan, Tunisia, Mauritania, Palestine and Morocco as well as from the League of Arab States were engaged in different panels, taking advantage of this forum to present the views from the Arab States on the importance of investing in rural women across the region, and the impact of such investment on development, in their respective societies. Sarah Poole, RBAS Deputy Director, delivered a statement stressing the opportunity offered by the 2030 agenda and the SDGs, to promote gender equality across all development goals; emphasizing that the agenda, and its principle of leaving no one behind can only be achieved if the barriers that hold women back are properly addressed.

* **Youth Leadership Programme 4 (YLP4). Increased youth involvement in gender equality advocacy and commitment towards the SDGs.**In 2018, national, regional and global activities of YLP were implemented as follows:

* **Selected youth of YLP participated to the ECOSOC Youth Forum**, held at UN Headquarters in NY, in cooperation with the ILO. The well attended session provided a platform to discuss the youth’s role in achieving SDGs and to showcase the solutions they had developed through the YLP programme. The youth led discussions on policies and strategies enabling/or not, youth’s participation and inclusion in achieving the SDGs; as well as challenges and priorities facing the region, youth empowerment and inclusion, SDG achievements, and social change initiatives. The recommendations from the Breakout Session, were presented to the plenary by Moneera Yassien, one of our most active youth form Sudan. Aside from the Breakout Session, the youth had the chance to take part in a number of meetings with UN partners and academic institutions. These interactions proved to be a great added value for the youth’s leadership development. Furthermore, they participated in selected side events organized under the umbrella of the ECOSOC youth forum. A global webinar on “How to use science, technology and innovation to facilitate youth engagement, development and resilience", provided the youth with a great opportunity to share their experiences. The youth had also the occasion to meet with Mourad Wahba, Director of UNDP RBAS, who encouraged them and the YLP focal points to propose to RBAS ways in which the management can help to scale up their work and impact, at a time when UNDP’s work in innovation is gaining important momentum as a key part of our overall offer on the SDGs and delivery against our Strategic Plan.

* **Organized the first 2018 regional meeting of the Youth Leadership Program (YLP4) in Amman, Jordan on May 10-12, 2018 in collaboration with UNITAR**Under the theme of “Innovating for Sustainable Impact.” YLP4 aimed to expand its outreach and amplify its positive effect on local youth and communities. The workshop brought together around 80 representatives of youth-serving organizations from across 13 Arab countries. The event introduced YLP’s vision to national counterparts, which then worked to jointly finalize how this vision will be implemented at the national level. Over the three days, participants engaged in interactive sessions that were intended to enhance their awareness of and familiarity with the principals and topics that are at the core of YLP. First, it was key to ensure that they would ground their activities in the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), placing the principle of ‘leave no one behind’ at the forefront. Second, gender-sensitive youth programming provided participants with useful guidance on how to engage young women and promote gender equality throughout their work. Third, participants were introduced over several sessions to methodologies related to social innovation, communications, and training, which were intended to help them design effective initiatives tailored to the needs of their beneficiaries. Dedicated sessions were also held to guide participating organizations in the development of National Action Plans (NAPs) to help frame their YLP-related activities in their respective countries.
* **Organized the second regional meeting of the Youth Leadership Programme (YLP4) in Tunisia on 14th-17th of December 2018.**

A second regional meeting of YLP4 in Tunisia on 14th-17th of December 2018, which doubled the impact of the previous regional meeting that was held in Amman in May. The second meeting provided partner organizations with technical skills and tools to facilitate support for youth in refining their innovations and getting access to mentoring services and financing opportunities. The meeting did also bring youth innovators, youth-serving organizations and national policy makers together to initiate policy dialogue about existing gaps and opportunities in the ecosystem of youth-led innovation in Arab region.

* **Established a Regional Network of Women in Elections**From 28 to 30 April 2018 in Istanbul a workshop aimed at establishing a Regional Network of Women in Elections was held. Building on the recommendations from a previous meeting that was held in March 2016 at the Dead Sea in Jordan, led by the Organization of ArabEMBs and UNDP Regional Electoral Support Project, the workshop’s goal was to achieve general consensus among EMBs and other key electoral stakeholders on key issues concerning the establishment of a network on Women in Election, which was deemed fundamental in order to exchange experiences and information on the obstacles faced by women of the region in the electoral processes. The participants were representatives of the ArabEMBs, UNDP, IDEA, the National Independent Electoral Commission, The Central Elections Commission, IHEC Iraq, The Independent Elections Commission, representatives from National Election Commissions and the Former Major of Bethlehem. The participant agreed to hold the next Working Group in Tunisia, on August 13th 2018. The group also agreed on the need to ensure the network is launched by December 2018.
* **Participated in the “Women4Mediterranean Conference” organized by Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)**In the occasion of the international conference “Women4Mediterranean” that was organized by the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) in Lisbon, Portugal, on October 10th-11th, Mosharaka facilitated the keynote speech of Sarah Poole, Deputy Director of the Regional Bureau for Arab States and organized a side-event on Behavioral Insights for Women’s Empowerment Economic.  The deputy director’s speech applauded UNDP innovation in better understanding and overcoming obstacles, such as gender stereotypes, to women’s empowerment, and stressed the role of UNDP in encouraging the utilization of measurement tools for nuanced assessment of gender equity in all sectors. The side event on “Behavioral Insights for Women’s Economic Empowerment” took place on October 11th and was organized by UNDP RBAS and the Behavioral Insights team. The main goal of the event was to understand how BI can be used to address the challenges to women’s economic empowerment in the Arab region and to create a path to success for women and young women entrepreneurs. Several policy makers, entrepreneurs and young women entrepreneurs from UNDP’s Youth Leadership Programme attended the event.

* **Organized the regional meeting “Strengthening Civil Society’s Role in Promoting Gender Equality through the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda” in Amman on October 29th-30th**In relation to Mosharaka Output 1, “Support regional and national actors and institutions to establish measures to advance gender equality, and women’s political, social and economic participation”, a regional workshop was organized in Amman on October 29th-30th in partnership with the Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND). The overall objective of the meeting was to facilitate the establishment of tripartite mechanisms to engage governments, civil society and UN Agencies in ensuring the implementation of the gender targets within the SDGs. In order to achieve this goal, about 40 representatives of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) of the region working on the SDGs and engaged achieving gender equality convene in Amman. They attended sessions on capacity building and participated in group workshops which helped UNDP understand the major obstacles that CSOs of the region face, to better support them to play an active role in the implementation of the 2030 agenda from a gender perspective. A final report with relevant findings and recommendations for improving UNDP’s work in support of CSOs of the region was produced.

* **Organized the regional meeting “Enhancing the Role of Arab Women Religious Leaders in Promoting Social Cohesion” in Beirut on October 18th-19th**In relation to the project Output 2, “Establish women peace and security frameworks to reinforce human security and advance women’s economic opportunities in early recovery and post-crisis settings”, Mosharaka organized a regional meeting in partnership with UNDP regional project on social cohesion PSCAR on “Enhancing the Role of Arab Women Religious Leaders in Promoting Social Cohesion”. The meeting took place in Beirut on October 18th and 19th and was attended by about 20 women religious leaders of the region. The sessions aimed to increase the understanding of the current role of women religious leaders in promoting social cohesion at the national and regional levels and the ways UNDP, as well as other development organizations, religious institutions and governments could support them better in advancing women’s rights and social cohesion. A final report of recommendations was produced and served as a tool for discussion during the “Interreligious Dialogues” that took place in November.

* **Participated in the Seminar on Gender Inclusion in Peacebuilding in the Mediterranean Region organized by CITpax on October 25th in Madrid**Mosharaka’s project manager Kawtar Zerouali participated as panelist to the “Seminar on Gender Inclusion in Peacebuilding in the Mediterranean Region”, organized in Madrid on October 25th by the organization CITpax, specialized in mediation for conflict resolution. She was invited to talk about the UN role on Gender Inclusion in Peace processes.

* **Updated the e-platform on Legal and Human rights of Women and Men in the Arab region**

The platform, initially launched in 2016 by Mosharaka in partnership with the NGO CAWTAR, was updated and the new version was presented in occasion of the launch of UNDP “Gender Justice in the Arab Region” report on December 10th-11th in Beirut.

* **Launch of the manual on gender-sensitive implementation of the SDGs produced by AWO**

On December 18th-19th the manual on gender sensitive implementation of the SDGs produced by the Arab Women Organization (AWO) in partnership with Mosharaka was launched in Oman.

# Key challenges and lessons learned

In October 2017, the results of an independent evaluation of Mosharaka, concluded that although the project is highly relevant to UNDP regional and national policies and strategies, and its activities highly effective in expanding the discourse on gender equality and women’s empowerment in the region. However, some challenges in the implementation of the project was also identified.

Identified challenges to implementing some of Mosharaka’s planned activities have been political turmoil, consolidated stereotypes and unavailability of estimated funds. The scarcity of funds has also resulted in a reduction of the project’s team, impacting the ability to swiftly handle all managerial responsibilities. Whereas external factors cannot be avoided, the project evaluation recommended to explore additional resource mobilization channels for the project.

To overcome the challenge, and be able to achieve the project’s goals, the Mosharaka team forged internal partnerships with UNDP’s regional electoral and Trade for Aid to implement mutual gender activities. The team also committed to developing a resource mobilization plan, mapping former, current and potential funding sources and partners.

# Major risks and mitigation measures

The political and security situation remains challenging in some Arab Countries like Yemen, Syria and Iraq.  In some regional activities it becomes difficult to ensure the participation of men, women and youth from the latter countries due to visa complications. To overcome this obstacle, the project aimed to hold events in a country with easier entry processing.

# Partnerships and sustainability

Mosharaka was designed to promote partnerships at the national and regional levels to strengthen the discourse on gender equality and women’s empowerment. The project offers supportive space for cross-regional interaction, knowledge exchange and transfer of skills and best practices among stakeholders in the Arab region. Forging partnerships at multiple levels have strengthened the capacities of women and sustained the learning process.

Mosharaka has collaborated with regional counterparts such as CAWTAR and Karama to expand its networks on peace and security, constitution making, and legislative reform. The partnership with CAWTAR on the online database developed in 2016, has increased the usage and accessibility of the Legal Country profiles among interested researchers. Furthermore, Mosharaka worked with CAWTAR on developing gender policy based advocacy trainings in a number of countries, to build capacity and skills that will reinforce the interventions of the gender advocates and civil society organizations.

Collaborating with Karama remains strategic to expanding the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 through building a core of well-trained and experienced regional experts and exchanging lessons learned.

AWO is one of the strategic partners of Mosharaka in the area of SDGs and gender equality. The various initiatives include creating a think tank and follow up committee to monitor the work of SDGs and gender equality implementation, and the publication of toolkit on SDGs implementation from a gender lens.

Mosharaka also formed a strategic partnership with the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Secretariat, to work on the role of women and youth in the prevention of violent extremism and the promotion of peace.

Strong partnerships with UN Women, the League of Arab States, and the National Council for Women in Egypt (NWC), have led to a successful exchange of knowledge and lessons learned and generated firsthand information from women, including women in conflict and post-conflict situations.

Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation, and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) collaborated with the project on the implementation of the Youth Leadership Programme.

Mosharaka worked closely with UNDP election and social cohesion projects to ensure collaborative activities on gender are implemented. The collaboration focuses on building initiatives to promote women’s participation in the political and social spheres through election assistance and capacity building.

# Financial summary

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| **Project Output Financials 00082484** |
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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Output** | **Description** | **Fiscal Year** | **Budget** | **Utilization** | **Utilization Ratio (%)** |
| 00091377 | RBAS Gender (MOSHARAKA) | 2018 | $617,781 | $475,194 | 77 |
| 00091377 | RBAS Gender (MOSHARAKA) | 2017 | $325,000 | $324,102 | 100 |
| 00091377 | RBAS Gender (MOSHARAKA) | 2016 | $350,000 | $385,838 | 110 |
| 00091377 | RBAS Gender (MOSHARAKA) | 2015 | $820,994 | $849,527 | 103 |
| 00091377 | RBAS Gender (MOSHARAKA) | 2014 | $450,000 | $164,209 | 36 |
|  |  | **Total** | **$2,563,775** | **$ $2,198,869** | **86** |

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# Annexes

## Lessons learned