***Mosharaka*** - **Exit strategy**

The sustainability plan of the regional project Mosharaka has been entrenched in both program design and implementation since its first stages. With the aim to foster women’s participation in the public sphere, the so far achieved outcomes of the project contributed to ensuring an exit strategy based on a phasing over approach. This approach ensures that both direct stakeholders as well as indirect beneficiaries can take advantage and benefit from the outcomes of the project on the long term.

By passing the torch of women’s inclusion in the public sphere to civil society we can ensure Mosharaka’s goal for sustainability of the project outcomes after its end. With this in mind, since 2015 the project organized meetings which enhanced capacity building and networking among different stakeholders of the region working to achieve gender equality, while also developing interactive knowledge tools that could have a long-term impact.

In 2018, in this regard, a meeting with Civil Society Organizations working on the SDGs, and especially on SDG5, has been organized in partnership with the Arab NGO Network for Development. The meeting successfully built CSOs expertise and fostered their networking for them to become strong accountable actors for gender-sensitive design and implementation of the SDGs in their countries. In the same framework, the project is also engaged to establish a tripartite mechanism of work between CSOs, the UN and Arab governments to ensure that gender-sensitive implementation of the SDGs and CSOs concerns are taken into account in the long term. Moreover, the project worked on the side of women religious leaders, enhancing their voices for achieving social cohesion and stability in the region, fostering their networking with the aim to influence policy work in current and future times.

Among the knowledge tools that the project produced and which are meant to be at disposal of organizations working on the SDGs as well as activists and civil society more broadly, a manual on gender sensitive implementation of the SDGs has been developed in partnership with the Arab Women Organization (AWO). Also, an e-platform on legal and human rights of women and men has been produced in partnership with the regional NGO the Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (Cawtar), which is currently running it and will continue to update it in the future.

Mosharaka did also succeed to create a network of women in elections and a reference guide. The group will continue to work on the most pressing needs in order to foster women’s participations in elections and presence in electoral bodies.

After having successfully enhanced the skills of many young Arab innovators, changemakers and entrepreneurs through the Youth Leadership Programme (YLP), 2018 was dedicated to work with youth-serving organizations in the region, with the aim to increase their capacities and networking and therefore being able to support Arab youth innovators and changemakers in the long run at their best.

The exit strategy of the project ensures that all stakeholders involved have ownership of part of the project and that their capacities have been enhanced for a fruitful continuation of relevant debates and activities aimed at fostering women’s and youth’s rights in the Arab region.