



**Final Narrative Report**  
**Capacity Building Program In Preparation for the**  
**World Summit on Sustainable Development 2002 (WSSD)**  
**Heinrich Boell Foundation (HBF)**  
**Arab Middle East Office – Ramallah**  
**In cooperation with**  
**Arab NGO Network for Environment and Development**  
**(RAED)**

**Introduction:**

Arab NGO Network for Environment and Development (RAED) has been initiated in 1991. RAED is a network of Arab non- governmental organizations including more than 200 NGOs from Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Sudan, Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen.

The objectives of the organization is to coordinate between regional community organizations in the exchange of skills, experiences and information. To create new grassroots activities to be implemented by RAED NGOs members. To encourage the inclusion of community participation projects in government programs to achieve sustainable development. And finally, to gather, disseminate and exchange regional and international data on different environmental and developmental problems.

The secretariat of the network is the Arab office for Youth and Environment (AOYE) has worked extensively with the national coordinators of RAED to ensure the coordination among the NGOs members in the network. This active coordination has been successful in making the network an influential actor in the field of environment and sustainable development throughout the Middle East region.

RAED has participated through its focal point in RIO conference 1992 and it has been accredited as regional NGO in the UN conferences since then. RAED participation reached the highest level in the last few years and it had the co-chairing position in the NGO forums of UN Conferences concerning the Environment and sustainable development.

RAED in cooperation with HBF have been agreed upon implementing a Capacity Building program in preparation for World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) targeting the second-Generation activists from the NGOs of Arab Countries to be back to back to the regional Prep-Com which be held in Cairo 23-25 October 2001.

The process moved softly and swiftly and got the best results that could be achieved through the effective partnership between parties and the valuable feedback of participants.

## **A: Short Presentation of the project**

### **\* Project Objective:**

The Capacity Building Course is mainly aiming at training a large group of second - generation activists of Arab Middle East NGOs working in the field of Sustainable Development in preparation for the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) that will be held in Johannesburg 2002. And to facilitate the flow of persona-based knowledge and information into key organizations and vice-versa.

### **\* Project Activities:**

RAED has been assigned to organize in cooperation with HBF the capacity building program through set of activities for achieving the ultimate aim of the course:

RAED and HBF were together in charge of organizing the whole process in accordance with the HBF Financial Guidelines.

The criteria of selection of attendants and their role in supporting their NGOs and nations to better benefiting them in more effective action in participation of the WSSD, September 2002.

Selection of trainers who could provide the basic training topics ... Poverty and Sustainable Development in the middle east in certain emphasis on Water issues.

The whole administrative and technical process for selecting and mailing the applicants and choosing the most appropriate 21 activist out of them, then preparing the travel and accommodation requirements in addition to choosing the training venue and facilitating getting the best quality in best cost.

### **\* Target Groups:**

Twenty-One participant of the second-generation activists of the Arab NGOs working in the field of sustainable development from eight countries ... Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Palestine, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia. Knowing that Morocco, Tunisia and Saudi Arabia have been included through negotiations between RAED and HBF to enrich and enlarge the basis of beneficiaries of such important Capacity Building Program.

### **\* Duration of the project:**

Three Months ... August – October 2001

## **B : Implementation**

### **Project Activities:**

RAED in Cooperation with HBF have executed many activities to let the Capacity Building Program achieving its anticipated outputs. The following activities have been done:

1. Set up the action plan of the program and visualized the main steps to reach realistic and tangible results.
2. Set the criteria of choosing the participants that should be from the active second generation and have special capabilities that enable them to better represent their NGO, homeland and region in the capacity building program and consequently in the WSSD 2002.
3. Communicating the RAED and HBF corresponding in the assigned 8 countries to nominate the proper applicants for such program who are coping with the set criteria . The communication was by e-mails, letters, faxes and calls counting on the availability of communication tools.
4. By the deadline of receiving applications there were enormous number of applications from assigned countries in variation between country to the other and the main target countries were Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan and Egypt and RAED succeeded in involving Morocco, Tunisia and Saudi Arabia in the process with one representative for each in the same assigned budget.
5. Twenty one participant have been selected carefully though the selection team from the HBF and RAED .. the contracting parties.
6. RAED Team headed by the program coordinator started parallel to find the most appropriate venues for training and lodging and getting the best prices.
7. RAED has succeeded to involve the League of Arab States (LAS) to host the Capacity Building Program in its premises that add new value for the training to be under the umbrella of LAS.
8. **RAED also succeeded to get the auspices of Mr. Amr Mousa – LAS Secretary General to the Training to give more power and influence for the training and to enable the participants to be more confident and creative.**
9. The organizing team kept on daily basis connecting all parties to facilitate the process of hosting and traveling to ensure the convenience of partners and smoothing of actions in regard to HBF regulations.
10. The five days Capacity Building Program have been organized and implemented as scheduled and it has four days in the LAS premises and one day in the hotel.
11. The capacity building participants prepared a message to the Regional Prep-Com for the Arab Environment Ministries and has been declared in the closing session and got high feedback from the attendance that add extra success for the training and trainees to get a voice in such important governmental regional meeting.

### **C: Assessment:**

- Thanks to God, The Capacity Building Program has been implemented successfully in its administrative and technical aspects BUT there were some negative feed back from participants about the way of lectures that have been offered of trainer.
- The Capacity Building got its aims of exchanging experience between participants from various countries and between them and experts.
- The hosting of LAS for the training indicated that current progress and future weighting for the participants when they feel that LAS is supporting them in addition to the power of their voice - God Willing – in WSSD 2002 as they were inserting their point of view in the Prep-Com meeting.
- The participants formed e-group to sharing all information frequently and not to lose their enthusiasm that guarantee the sustainability of common action and to be joined till the WSSD and hopefully after it.