

## Bedaya Grants: Support for Gulf Region CSOs

Partners for Democratic Change is implementing the *Support for Training, Advocacy, and Network Development* (STAND) organizational capacity building program in the Gulf region. Through the provision of training and other start-up assistance, our local partners, en.v (in Kuwait) and Partners Yemen, are mentoring nascent civil society organizations (CSOs) in their respective countries. These “NGO Trainees” also receive seed funding through the three phases of the program—*Bedaya* (Beginning), *Injaz* (Achievement), and *Ta’awun* (Cooperation). *Bedaya* was the first phase of the STAND initiative; CSOs will develop new projects in subsequent phases. Visit <http://www.partnersglobal.org/where/mena/stand> for more information on the STAND program.

Through participation in the STAND program, en.v is quickly building a reputation as a civil society expert in Kuwait. In addition to organizational development trainings and capacity building, they are offering other relevant trainings and workshops to Kuwaiti CSOs. en.v successfully mentored the following eight NGO trainees through the *Bedaya* Phase of STAND.



**Deera’s** goal is to bridge the gaps in the provision of public services through technological solutions. By developing an iOS app which allows people to report issues to the government and rate agencies, Deera is enhancing communications between the two groups. They have been working to persuade government officials to accept data generated from the app. If successful, this will represent a structural change to the government’s current paper-based reporting system.

**Equait** works to promote social equality and respect for all Kuwaiti residents, regardless of citizenship status. Equait is instilling the entrepreneurial spirit in Kuwaiti youth by exposing them to creative thinking and opportunities for mentoring by social development professionals. They held a workshop, engaging 28 youth, ages 15-26, around the topics of entrepreneurship, community projects, and advocacy.

**Fursa** is dedicated to providing a space for Kuwaitis to showcase artistic talents. Seeing a need to connect youth with business, they developed an Intern Placement Management System (IPMS) to pair the two groups. Thus far, Fursa has engaged six businesses and filled one internship position.

**Group29** advocates for the human rights of the Bidoun in Kuwait. Bidoun are “stateless people” with extremely limited rights. Group 29 implemented an awareness raising campaign around the importance of educating Bidoun children and were able to secure nine full college scholarships. They also improved their donor database, increasing the number of individuals, charities, and endowments they are able to reach.

**INJAZ Kuwait** is a part of a regional and global network of NGOs focused on “Junior Achievement.” Private sector volunteers use a standardized curriculum to conduct educational programs for youth on entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and work readiness. INJAZ Kuwait developed their Learning Management System (LMS), an online platform, to allow volunteers to sign up, receive training, and communicate with one another. The LMS also allows INJAZ Kuwait to communicate with volunteers through SMS text messages.

**K’S PATH** is Kuwait’s first and only open-door animal shelter, operating both as a sanctuary and adoption center. By purchasing shelter management software, they successfully transitioned from paper-based medical and adoption records to an electronic system. This move enhanced their operational capabilities, while increasing their ability to have more pets adopted. Having too many visitors places stress on the animals, therefore the new system allows clients to digitally preview a much wider variety of animals than they would otherwise be allowed to meet.

**Spread the Passion** supports community service by connecting volunteers with non-profit organizations and initiatives. Their *Bedaya* project was a key part of a larger database project that makes volunteer mobilization and follow-up smoother. They created a barcode system that scans the hours each volunteer works, their employer information, expertise, and other items directly into the database.

**Sout Al-Kuwait** was formed in response to a rise in parliamentary legislation that encroached on the constitutional rights and freedoms of Kuwaitis in 2008. The website, [www.raqib50.com](http://www.raqib50.com), was developed to monitor Kuwait’s parliament by showing the attendance and performance of Members of Parliament. Through this project, Kuwaitis now have a reliable source of information on their elected officials’ performance since 2009.

## Bedaya Grants: Support for Gulf Region CSOs

Partners Yemen (PY), a Partners for Democratic Change International affiliate organization, continues to mentor and support nascent CSOs that are working to improve the lives of Yemeni citizens. PY helped ten NGO Trainees navigate the Bedaya Phase of the STAND program, and reached thousands of Yemenis across the country.

**Activists Organization for Development and Human Rights (AODHR)** is dedicated to conducting human rights training, informing lawyers about international conventions, and raising awareness among youth. AODHR trained 25 youth activists on equal citizenship, the culture of dialogue, and the societal benefits of co-existence. In order to ease some ideological and generational tensions between teachers and students, the program included a separate training for 30 social workers and teachers on the importance of social and



psychological support for youth. Trainees then educated over 2,000 students at 14 different secondary schools in the city of Taiz on co-existence.

**Awakening Association** engages youth in playing a more active and effective role in society. Their project engaged youth leaders from diverse political affiliations, as well as the unaffiliated, to facilitate dialogue and mitigate political conflict. The youth received a series of six trainings on topics such as political practice, conflict mediation, and anti-corruption strategies. Youth also participated in a ‘religion and politics’ symposium and a ‘difference and diversity’ workshop. Facilitators observed an increase in the tolerance of participants when Houthi (Shi’a) youth prayed after the Salafi (Sunni) youth, even though this is forbidden in Shi’a doctrine.

**Bedaya Association for Development** began as a youth initiative to advance the values of democracy and the roles and rights of individuals as the path to peaceful co-existence. By engaging organizations and media activists in 10 districts in Sana’a around the issue of toxic pesticides, their *Bedaya* campaign informed citizens about the harmful effects of pesticides and called for laws to control and reduce their usage. The Bedaya Association trained 10 field coordinators and 100 youth facilitators, and gave them the goal of collecting 5,000 signatures for a petition. The youth ended up reaching 6,077 community members. The success of the campaign was also

demonstrated in community advocacy. After several citizens approached the Shu’oob District Police Department about odors coming from a residential building, police discovered toxic substances buried in the yard and arrested two individuals.

**Half of the Community/Society (Association of Nisf Almojtama’a for Development)** is committed to the social development of the Hodeida governorate. Their project provided training for 30 women, both voters and nominees for office, on women’s electoral rights under Yemeni law and in international accords and treaties. Participants discussed the constitutional amendments needed to support women’s rights and political empowerment, including the current quota law, which reserves 30% of seats in the Yemen Parliament for women. After being trained, the women conducted 30 community meetings in three districts of Hodeida to spread the word about the importance of women’s participation. They reached 300 women, including homemakers, the illiterate, and the marginalized.

**Me for Country** engages youth and adolescents in decision-making around problems they experience. Their project trained 33 children on dialogue skills, negotiation, facilitation, and good governance. Additionally, they formed the “Council on Child Dialogue” as a means for Yemen’s National Democratic Committee to address children’s issues. Council members conducted field visits to Hodeida and Haradh to gather more information on children’s needs and then held dialogue sessions on health services, education problems, and child abuse.

**Renaissance Youth Organization For Development (Alnhzh Youth Association for Development)** is a prisoners’

rights group. Their project focused on advocacy efforts for prisoners. They instructed 33 human rights activists, orators, journalists, lawyers, and representatives of the Central Prison Management in the Ibb Governorate. Trainees conducted field activities to monitor and document the health



and nutrition needs of 120 prisoners, including any violations they experienced. Renaissance Youth also created an advocacy campaign to reach prison officials. The campaign focused on health services and rights, analyzed potential interventions, and identified cases that require support. These advocacy efforts ultimately led to the release of two prisoners.

## *Bedaya Grants: Support for Gulf Region CSOs*

### **Window Foundation for Social Development - Alnafaidah**

is focused on improving the lives of residents in the Dhamar Province, especially women and children. For the *Bedaya* phase of STAND, they selected twenty nascent CSOs that were working without a strategic plan to participate in a five-day training, during which draft plans were developed. The Window Foundation followed up with the organizations to turn the plans into goal, mission, and vision statements. Training participants also formed a support group, allowing for continued communication, collaboration, and resource sharing.

**Youth Development Organization (YDO)** is on a mission to empower youth economically, politically, socially and culturally through training, awareness raising activities, networking, and research. Their Women's Voices project trained 50 women from the Taiz governorate on the importance of volunteering. Twenty-five



women received additional training on women's rights, facilitation, and awareness raising. The women then conducted activities in 12 secondary schools for girls, Taiz University, and Yemeni University, to encourage

volunteerism and community led projects. They reached 2,000 women. YDO's advocacy efforts were so successful they captured the attention of other organizations. They were approached by the National Cancer Control Foundation and accepted an invitation to conduct awareness raising activities around breast cancer prevention and protection.

**Youth Creativity Forum** is focused on comprehensive community development, specifically empowering women and fostering the capacities and abilities of youth as future leaders. The goal of their *Bedaya* project was to spread the values of peace and social unity throughout the Ibb governorate by training



23 journalists, imams (mosque preachers) and CSO representatives on conflict management and social peace building. Activities included 11 sermons on community peace building conducted by imams at Friday prayer. Youth Creativity Forum successfully reached the governorate's local council and obtained a memo informing all imams in Ibb that the issue of social unity was an approved topic on which they could preach. These sermons

reached more than 2,000 people, and 1,500 brochures reinforcing the messages of peace and co-existence were distributed. In addition, journalists published five articles about social peace and broadcasted on two local radio shows. As a result of the project, participants formed a network called Nushatta' Assalam (Peace Activists).

**Yemen Renaissance Organization** works to improve the administrative and institutional performance of CSOs in the Taiz governorate. They surveyed the field of CSOs in Taiz that work on issues related to women, youth, and children and chose four with which to work. After analyzing many facets of each organization's internal regulations, Yemen Renaissance held six-day meetings with each organization to identify performance gaps. Some of the areas they evaluated included strategic and operational plans, staff relationship building, human resources management, recruitment and training, designing and writing project proposals, project and financial management. Yemen Renaissance also provided a written report so each group could address deficiencies and receive targeted training.



*Partners Yemen staff with Bedaya Trainees*

**Partners for Democratic Change** works through a global network to support local leaders and create partnerships that transform conflict, strengthen democratic institutions, and achieve sustainable development.

### **Partners for Democratic Change**



[facebook.com/partners4democraticchange](https://facebook.com/partners4democraticchange)



[@Partners4DC](https://twitter.com/Partners4DC)



[youtube.com/Partners4DC](https://youtube.com/Partners4DC)



[menainfo@partnersglobal.org](mailto:menainfo@partnersglobal.org)



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