



FACT SHEET

Civil Society Advocacy Project (SANAD)



Youth using USAID/SANAD Net Group to share information on advocacy campaigns, training and funding opportunities. (Photo by: USAID)

CONTEXT

Morocco's 2011 Constitution seeks to address citizen demands for political reform. It gives civil society organizations (CSOs) unprecedented prerogatives to advocate for citizens' participation in public policy. Morocco's CSOs, however, have had little success in influencing reform because of limited resources and capacity. In recent years, participatory practices have fostered more inclusive governance, such as the creation of youth councils; the design of communal strategy plans; the creation of a new complaint management system; the holding of public forums; design of

communication strategies, and the creation of gender equity commissions. In addition, an advocacy initiative led by a core group of Moroccan parliamentarians promoted legislation ensuring youth inclusion in local governance.

USAID RESPONSE

During the past three years, USAID contributed to the development of the capacity of Moroccan civil society organizations (CSOs) to promote democratic reform and to advocate for citizens and marginalized and disaffected groups, particularly the young and the poor, at the national and local levels through the following lines of effort:

- **Strengthening Civil Society Institutional Capacity & Advocacy:** In USAID provided technical and financial support to civil society organizations, networks and coalitions to pursue advocacy objectives and built organizational and advocacy capacity. USAID also promoted advocacy through sharing international best practices.
- **Encouraging synergies between the national and local levels of civil society:** USAID strengthened networks and coalitions that link the local and national levels and fostered the emergence of local advocacy initiatives, coalitions and networks. SANAD introduced IT solutions such as mediated list serves, video ads and the use of webinars to promote greater exchange between CSOs

QUICK FACTS

- **Program Name:** Civil Society Advocacy Project (SANAD)
- **Program Duration:** June 2009- November 2012
- **Program Goal:** to advance Moroccan initiatives for peaceful reform
- **Program Objective:** to increase civil society's contribution to public policy

- Developing the capacity of local organizations to play a strategic role in the INDH: USAID supported local participatory planning under the National Human Development Initiative (INDH) to federate CSOs around local issues and objectives and link CSOs with government entities to foster coordinated and collaborative responses.
- Enhancing the capacity to use civil society mobilization and advocacy to improve education quality at the community level: USAID improved parent and community mobilization around education quality and student performance issues by working with Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs), PTA federations and education CSOs.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- The new constitution includes two reform measures proposed by SANAD-supported youth CSO coalitions.
- Established participatory local development plans and CSO mobilization in two large cities.
- The project helped to secure hundreds of thousands of dollars in local government funding to CSOs, including in-school and out-of-school education initiatives.
- SANAD's model of civil society support to schools is being locally funded and implemented by CSOs in at least two cities with the prospect of disseminating to six more cities by the end of this year.
- SANAD introduced an email listserv connecting 1,400 members of civil society, webinars as training tool, the use of video in advocacy, and a web interactive map to promote access for the disabled.