



NGO REPORTER

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Arab Human Development Report

For the first time, UNDP has issued a regional report along with its regular report on the human condition throughout the world. It was researched by a number of distinguished Arab scholars who presented their assessment of the conditions in the 22 States of the Arab League. The report lumps the countries together, with no attempt to sort out the differences between them, and asks some searching questions. Why, in a region with ample natural resources, increased life-expectancy, and a higher percentage of GDP spent on education than in any other developing region, is the area doing so poorly in comparison to comparable areas? Why do half the teen-agers want to emigrate, and many of the best educated people flee to better opportunity elsewhere? In a region where 38% of the inhabitants are under fourteen years of age, it is imperative that answers be found quickly before the best minds are drained away.

The Arab States cannot compete globally. Worker productivity fell from 32% of the North American level in 1960, to 19% in 1990. The gross domestic product (GDP) of all 22 countries combined is less than that of Spain. One out of every five Arabs lives on less than \$2 a day, though they have a low level of *dire* poverty, defined as half that daily amount. Freedom ranges from severely limited to non-existent. The use of computers is the lowest in the world. Scientific expenditure for the entire group of States is less than that of Cuba.

The authors of the report feel that the answers are to be found in three great deficits of Arab society: freedom, the empowerment of women, and the quality of education. The area has some of the greatest constrictions on liberty in the world. There is little public participation in the political

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Demystifying Resource-raising: An NGO Primer

The NGO/DPI Communications Workshop Committee sponsored a day-long workshop in early June that was devoted to removing the mystery surrounding the resource-raising process. The speakers stressed the need for NGO fund-raisers to know their organizations well. They should know their competitors and how they can demonstrate their particular distinctiveness. Foundations, corporate donors, and those who have more modest contributions to make, are more constrained these days in their giving patterns. All the more reason why one has to prove the viability and accountability of the NGO and demonstrate the importance of the funding request to the success of its mission.

Establishing relationships is the first order of the day if you intend to convince prospective donors of the importance of your cause and why your NGO is an appropriate organization for their support. You must know exactly what you are seeking to accomplish and be able to explain it clearly and succinctly, within your NGO, and later as you start the funding search. Are you sure that the funding you are seeking will enable you to develop and run a project clearly related to your organization's mission? You will need to present a strong case, based on your NGO's effective leadership, its dedicated personnel, and its success in attracting volunteer professional support.

While you are still in the planning stages, an early imperative is to identify potential funding sources. What foundation sources have already been identified? Who are the contact persons? What individuals should be considered for possible contributions? Is there anyone in your NGO who has contacts with these organizations or individuals and who can participate in the fund rais-

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What in the World?

The UN has been trying to raise money to feed the 250,000 starving in **Swaziland**. But the king of Swaziland just bought himself a shiny new personal jet that cost \$55m – which is twice the amount of money the UN is seeking to alleviate starvation in that country.

Zambia has refused to accept genetically modified food from the World Food Programme, although the country is facing famine.. **Zim-**

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What in the World

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babwe is also demurring, though it is facing severe shortages, in part because it has forced experienced white farmers off their land. WHO has certified the grain as safe. **Mozambique**, whose ports are used for transit, plans to severely restrict the genetically modified food that passes through the country. 13 million people are facing death from starvation in Africa, and the U.S. has said it is prepared to donate about 70% of the food needed, but the politics of starvation seems to have overtaken many of the countries. Zambia has asked that it be given money instead of food. Donors may look to the example of

Malawi, which is also rejecting GM food. That country has faced such corruption that its former minister of poverty alleviation sold off the country's maize reserves and pocketed the money himself. Some countries are relenting and agreeing to accept grain if it is milled so that it cannot contaminate local crops.

A report to the United Nations by the Cuban government claims that damages to the economy on the island resulting from the blockade exceed \$70 billion. This is a consequence of what **Cuba** terms an extraterritorial attempt to hamper the sovereign rights of nations to trade with each other, free from external interference. The island is lagging in health

care, and in technological advances. Education has been severely impacted: notebooks and pencils distributed during the last school year amounted to only 50% of what they had been in 1989. Cuba devotes a high percentage – 8,1% – of its gross domestic product (GDP) to education.

The UN has warned that **China** faces an AIDS epidemic of untold proportions, estimating that as many as 1.5 million HIV infections were contracted there last year. The report calls China's AIDS risk "titanic" and says that ten million Chinese could be infected by the end of the decade. Ignorance of the causes of the disease, and discrimination against infected people are rife.

Resource Raising

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ing efforts? Initial research is essential. Before you embark on a project you should be well-versed on the organizational or personal backgrounds of potential donors. What are their interests? What has been their past history of giving? Are your interests similar to theirs? Donors tend to be specific in what they intend to support. What have been their past patterns of giving?

How does one find this information? One excellent place to start is by consulting *Resources for Mobilizing Funding for Development Projects*, prepared for the Small Grants Program, Social Development Department, World Bank and International Youth Foundation, Baltimore, Maryland. Copies of this document can be downloaded from the World Bank website, www.worldbank.org/ngos. It is divided into sections devoted to nuts and bolts issues of fund raising: Technical Assistance in How to Mobilize Resources; Categories of Donors; Researching Donors and Intermediary Organizations.

The Foundation Center in New York City provides a wealth of

fund raising information. In addition to its extensive research library, it offers an on line librarian to answer questions. The center issues *Philanthropy News Digest*, a weekly email newsletter, to which you may subscribe at the following address: www.fdncenter.org/pnd/info/subscribe.jhtml. University and college libraries house many directories, registers, and grant-proposal guides. The reference librarian should be very helpful. The standard source for government grants in the United States is the *Federal Register*, published weekly. It contains guidelines and requests for proposals (RFP) for all federally-funded projects. Once you have clearly identified potential donor sources, you should designate someone from the NGO to conduct the funding search and obtain proposal guidelines from your intended sources, public or private, and draft the proposal. Sometimes this can be a letter of intent; sometimes the proposal must follow federal or foundation guidelines, which must be strictly adhered to. Your proposal should be succinct. Describe your organization and its mission; summarize the project

you intend to implement and how it relates to your mission; detail the costs of the project and the funds being solicited. Request a follow-up meeting and, if you are invited, be prepared and keep to the issues. Bear in mind that all donors want to be assured that your organization is accountable and transparent and that you will make effective use of their support. The search for financial assistance requires ingenuity and imagination. NGOs can sponsor special giving opportunities, where donors can make in-kind contributions: office furniture, volunteer work, etc. Volunteers also are an important factor in fund raising. They can staff telethons and on-line solicitations. Public service announcements are effective and free ways of spreading information about fundraising events. In all cases, donors must be recognized for their contributions. An obvious reason for this, besides the courtesy of a thank you, is that a pool must be developed and sustained for future reference of all organizations and individuals who have offered support.

Joan Levy and Lester Wilson

Ensuring Cybersecurity

In the wake of September 11th, we all agree on the need for protecting the critical infrastructure: telecommunications, electric power, transportation, banking, and finance. Much of this critical infrastructure depends upon the Internet and cyberattacks could be devastating. It is an international problem. Penetrating a computer that controls Washington D.C.'s electric power is as easy from an Internet cafe in Sao Paolo as from one in San Francisco.

Security depends upon the power of encryption, which is the process of transforming understandable and usable text into a scrambled incomprehensible form from which it can only be recovered by those in possession of the correct secret key. The harder it is to break the codes, the more protected the sources. Securing the information infrastructure is a complex process requiring the cooperation of industry and governments worldwide. Security standards are a key ingredient but standardization is a tricky business: there are right ways to go about it and wrong ways.

One current wrong way, in our opinion, is the U.S. administration's plan for homeland security, which proposes moving the Computer Security Division of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) into a department dominated by law-enforcement and national-security. If international industry is to embrace rather than resist standards, those standards must be developed in an open process that accommodates industry's needs. Security standardization has been a thorny problem since well before September 11th and we can learn from its long history.

In the United States, computer security outside the national-security community has been a responsibility of the Commerce Department, which houses NIST, since 1967, but in the 1980s, that authority was challenged by the

National Security Agency (NSA), which is responsible for securing classified government information. NSA pressed the bankers to adopt systems whose workings were secret, over the Data Encryption Standard promulgated publicly by NIST. They forgot that banking standards are international and that there was no way other countries could accept standards that they couldn't evaluate for themselves. At a critical moment, NSA's gambit set the financial standards-making back almost a year and a half.

The 1980s and 1990s saw many battles over cryptography standards, with national security and law enforcement arrayed on one side, industry and the public on the other. According to the Congressionally commissioned National Research Council study *Cryptography's Role in Securing the Information Society*, the "Crypto Wars" delayed the deployment of secure systems, exactly the opposite of what is needed now. At other times the U.S. government has done much better. NIST's Computer Security Division has learned how to smooth the path to widespread international use by developing standards in an open environment. A recent success included the approval of the Rijndael cryptosystem, designed by two Belgian cryptographers, as the new Advanced Encryption Standard (AES). A four-year effort by NIST's Computer Security Division has produced an algorithm that is widely respected and likely to experience rapid international adoption.

We may not have the sixteen months that banking lost when NSA tried to take to itself issues that belonged properly to the civilian world. As reported in the *Washington Post* on June 27, Al Qaeda has been exploring cyberattacks. Nations will need to develop resources to prevent them from launching these attacks and these include proper security stan-

dards in computers controlling critical infrastructure. Some standards will differ from nation to nation and could feasibly be housed in departments responsible for homeland security, much like the Treasury Department's standards for electronic funds transfer within the U.S. General computer-security standards, such as cryptographic algorithms or basic network security protocols, need international consensus. This can be achieved only if they are developed in open processes. If governments move control of computer-security standards into departments controlled by law enforcement and national security, they will diminish the acceptance of these standards and end up leaving cyberspace less secure, not more.

*Whitfield Diffie and Susan Landau, of Sun Microsystems, are co-authors of **Privacy on the Line, the Politics of Wiretapping and Encryption**. Diffie is the co-inventor of public-key cryptography.*

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Economists Allied for Arms Reduction

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NGOs

What They're Doing

The World Wide Fund for Nature, and *Conservation International*, along with other organizations, have helped to create the world's largest tropical park in Brazil. Tumucumaque Mountains National Park comprises 9.6 million acres of virgin forest.. Now, 350 species of birds, eight types of primate, and 37 different kinds of lizards will be protected

The South African chapter of *Economists Allied for Arms Reduction* and its chairman, Terry Crawford-Browne, have lodged a class action suit against the government. The South African Constitution is one of the most progressive in the world. Its Bill of Rights guarantees food, water, health care, education, and housing. In testing the strength of the new Constitution, the suit challenges that SA's \$5 billion armaments program for new warships and warplanes com-

promises the country's ability to reduce the nation's poverty. About 35% of the population is unemployed, and more than 50% are in the "poverty" classification. The suit contends that government money should be used for human security rather than military expenditure. Contacts: website: www.ecaar.org. Parent organization: ECAAR, Suite 1, 39 E. Central Avenue, Pearl River, N.Y. 10965. U.S.A. Ph: 864-620-1542. Fax: 845-620-1866.

The world's businesses realize the economic toll of HIV/AIDS. In some parts of the world it is necessary to train two workers for every job, since one may succumb to the disease. In a display of corporate responsibility, the *Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS* has assembled multinational companies pledged to commit to programs to combat the disease in their workforce. See www.businessfightsaids.org

The Center for Justice and Accountability helped bring two gen-

erals from El Salvador to trial. They were held accountable for human rights violations during the civil war in that country. An estimated 75,000 people were killed. A previous trial, instituted by *The Lawyers Committee for Human Rights*, was brought against them in a case in which four churchwomen were raped and murdered while helping the poor in El Salvador. In that trial the jury, confused by the judge's instructions, found the generals not guilty because the wartime chaos meant the generals had no control over their troops. In this trial, however, the generals were ordered to pay \$54.6 million to three torture victims. *The International Committee of the Red Cross* had visited and interviewed one of the victims, and presented their findings to the jury. *The SHARE Foundation* also visited victims. Although the two generals will not have the money to pay the awards, this is a moral victory for those who contend that horrific acts cannot be committed with impunity during wartime.

Development

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process. The media are muzzled. Civil society actors have great difficulty breaching the bureaucratic constraints imposed upon them. Voices of dissent are stifled. (In an ironic affirmation of the findings, two weeks after the report was issued Tehran's Revolutionary Court meted out lengthy jail sentences to 33 members of the *Iran Freedom Movement* for defying the "holy system" of government. Egypt sentenced a distinguished academic for criticizing the system, and also sent 16 Islamists to prison..)

The issue of women's rights plays a large part in the inability of Arab states to cope globally. The area has made great strides in reducing illiteracy, but two thirds of its illiterates are women. One out of every two women can't read or write. In

some countries women cannot vote or hold office, and in the more progressive countries they hold only 3.5% of the seats in parliaments, compared to 11% in sub-Saharan Africa. The region has discarded the potential of half of its inhabitants.

There are also problems with an educational system that is not geared to teaching the analytical and creative skills that would prepare people for the job market, resulting in decreased productivity, unemployment, and lower wages. Rote learning discourages the process of inquiry. There is little relation between the material taught and the skills necessary to compete in a globalized world. Learning is designed to perpetuate the old religious and political systems. Emphasis needs to be placed on science and technology, and this cannot occur while authoritarian governments decree the content of the courses.

Access to the Internet is the lowest in the world, exacerbated by the fact that most of the information is in English, not Arabic. The Report suggests that the expertise of a million Arabs working in industrialized countries should be utilized to revamp the antiquated systems.

Not much will be changed while the Arab region continues with the lowest freedom scores in the world. Laws to protect liberties are few, and are disregarded. The authors of the Report feel that good governance, the liberating of civil society movements, and free media are necessary if the region is not to stagnate. There must also be a greater effort to reconcile cultural and religious groups. A reduction of conflict and greater cohesion – perhaps through the creation of a customs union or a common market – would help to escort the region into the new era of globalization.