2022 Activities Report

Arab Center Washington DC
المركز العربي واشنطن دي سي
Bringing Arab Perspectives
to US Policy Conversations
since 2015

OUR MISSION

INDEPENDENT RESEARCH • DIVERSE EXPERTISE • IMPACTFUL ANALYSIS

Arab Center Washington DC (ACW) is a nonprofit, independent, and nonpartisan research organization dedicated to furthering the political, economic, and social understanding of the Arab world in the United States and to providing insight on US policies and interests in the Middle East. As a Washington-based, authoritative research center on the Arab world, ACW addresses fundamental aspects of US-Arab relations through timely and objective academic research, policy analysis, and educational exchange.

OUR VALUES

Our work is guided by a strong belief in

- a respect for HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES
- the importance of DEMOCRACY AND EFFECTIVE AND TRANSPARENT GOVERNANCE in the Arab world
- a just and peaceful RESOLUTION TO CONFLICT
Dear Friends,

On behalf of my colleagues at Arab Center Washington DC, I would like to extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation to all of you who have supported the center and interacted with us since our inception in 2015.

If you have read a policy paper, attended a public briefing, listened to a podcast episode, watched a video, attended a virtual event, or engaged with us on social media, you already know that ACW believes in the vital importance of democracy in the Arab world, respect for human rights and civil liberties, and a just and peaceful resolution to conflict. These values guide both our work as a policy research center and that of our many resident and non-resident contributors, to whom we are extremely grateful.

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented formidable challenges and uncertainty over the past three years, but also new opportunities. With the dedication of ACW’s team of creative and skilled staff and fellows and the support of our board members and constituents, we managed to quickly adjust and to utilize online platforms to expand our reach and impact. As an authoritative research center on the Arab world and US-Arab relations, ACW persisted in providing timely, nonpartisan, objective, and evidence-based academic research and policy analysis. It is our hope that you found our papers, events, videos, and podcasts informative and intellectually stimulating, and we trust that you will continue to follow and support our work in 2023 and beyond.

Our work would not be possible without the generous support of private and institutional donors who provide the funds necessary to attract and retain outstanding scholars and maintain our academically rigorous and independent research agenda. I hope that you will consider making a tax-deductible contribution to help us advance this critical work.

We look forward to your continued engagement with our activities in 2023.

Sincerely,

Khalil E. Jahshan
Executive Director

At Arab Center Washington DC, we are committed to providing timely, unparalleled, objective, and evidence-based policy analysis that is viewed by millions of people around the world.”
ACW maintained its excellent reputation for publishing independent, evidence-based research, organizing timely and engaging seminars to discuss the implications of recent developments, ensuring the inclusion of women experts and indigenous voices in all activities, and elevating voices from the Global South.

In 2022, ACW expanded its areas of focus and identified new thematic priorities covering a range of emerging issues and threats facing the Middle East and North Africa, including climate change, cyber warfare, economic development, food security, and energy crises, while also providing a deep and nuanced understanding of the unique contexts and ever-evolving conditions shaping the region.

In 2022, ACW increased its global footprint by producing prompt and incisive analysis, by convening authoritative international experts, and by engaging with senior officials and civil society alike in order to aid decision-making in the United States and around the world and to inform policy choices that prioritize justice, democratic governance, and long-term sustainable development.

ACW continued to focus on producing quality analysis and research publications and expanding its diverse pool of experts who cover various issues pertaining to US foreign policy in the Middle East and contribute to shaping the global agenda and charting a path forward for the MENA region.

Generating Innovative Policy Insights

Addressing Challenges in the MENA Region

Creating a Lasting Positive Impact

In 2022, ACW maintained its excellent reputation for publishing independent, evidence-based research, organizing timely and engaging seminars to discuss the implications of recent developments, ensuring the inclusion of women experts and indigenous voices in all activities, and elevating voices from the Global South.
In 2022, ACW’s research department focused on diversifying the topics we cover, moving away from predominantly political and strategic issues toward a greater number of economic, social, and environmental concerns in the Middle East and North Africa, and also adding several experts from diverse backgrounds.

Imad K. Harb
Director of Research and Analysis
As US policy conversations have traditionally excluded both women and people from the Arab world, our policy at ACW is to ensure equal representation of women in our programs and to include contributions by experts from the region and by those of Middle Eastern background. In 2022, we continued to make this a priority, and were able to maintain a ratio of at least 50% women experts and 70% native scholars participating in ACW events.

Tamara Kharroub
Deputy Executive Director and Senior Fellow

ACW continued to invest in young talents in 2022 through our paid internship program, providing opportunities to students from diverse backgrounds and assigning a dedicated and committed team of mentors that support our interns throughout their internship and in their future professional careers.

Marvin Perry
Operations and Human Resources Manager
Growth and Outreach

"We significantly expanded our online presence in 2022 with a nearly 40% increase in web traffic, much of which came from new readers. Our continuous efforts to increase the visibility and accessibility of our content made us one of the highest-ranked online search results for topics in Middle East policy."

Nabil Sharaf
Communications Director

People Directly Engaged with Our Content

675,000

Event Attendees

6,000

Newsletter Subscribers

7,750

Over

2.5 MILLION

Reached on Social Media

35,000

Views on YouTube

Twitter Followers

22%

Web Traffic

37%

Audiovisual Analyses

"I’m excited to join ACW and to lead our new multimedia initiatives, designing and producing short, dynamic audiovisual analyses specifically designed for social media and for reaching larger audiences and diverse demographics online."

Bahraa Hijazi
Multimedia Specialist

Infographics
Expert Interviews

Video Series
Podcast

ACW Experts Respond to the News
As part of our mission to bridge the gap between academic research and the policy world, in 2022, we continued our outreach to like-minded academic and research institutions, sharing our work with them and collaborating in organizing seminars and conferences and publishing papers.

Lana Kattan
Director of Partnerships and Strategy
Op-Ed Highlights

**NBC NEWS**
“The ISIS leader killed in a U.S. special forces raid will be replaced. ISIS is reviving.”
Charles Dunne, February 3

**THE NATION**
“On Watching Ukraine Through Palestinian Eyes”
Yousef Munayyer, March 4

**THE WASHINGTON POST**
“Will Israel further normalize relations with its Arab neighbors?”
Dana El Kurd, July 11

**MIDDLE EAST EYE**
“Why Egypt is not too big to fail”
Khalil al-Anani, May 30

Media Contributions

[Logos of various media outlets]
Policy Engagements

BRIEFING TO US STATE DEPARTMENT
“The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam: Limited Options for a Resolution
Khalil al-Anani, September 22

AMERICAN DIPLOMACY
“Fighting Corruption in the Arab World Should Be a U.S. Priority”
Imad Harb, November 1

ROME MED CONFERENCE 2022
“Struggling with Disinformation”
Tamara Kharroub, December 1

Washington Policy Weekly

Arab Center Washington DC produces a comprehensive weekly report outlining and analyzing developments in US policy related to the Middle East and covering activities in all three branches of the US government.

“This year, ACW expanded its outreach to congressional and executive branch staff working on Middle East policy issues, establishing relations and keeping staffers informed through the distribution of both relevant ACW policy analysis and event announcements.”

Douglas Christensen
Liaison for US Government Affairs
Invest in Evidence-Based Research

ACW relies on contributions from individual supporters, organizations, foundations, and corporations. Contributions to ACW—a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization—are deductible under Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Donations provide critical support for our important work, helping ACW attract and retain outstanding scholars to maintain our academically rigorous and independent research agenda.

Arab Center Washington DC is extremely grateful to each of you for engaging with us this past year through our events, publications, podcasts, and other initiatives. As we work to expand and upgrade our programming, we increasingly rely on the commitment and support of private and institutional donors who share our vision. We hope that you will make ACW a giving priority and that you will continue to engage with us and support our work in 2023 and beyond.

A Global Research Network

ACW is affiliated with the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies (ACRPS) and its network of research centers around the world. Headquartered in Doha, Qatar, ACRPS is one of the premier independent research institutes in the Arab region.
Leadership and Experts

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Radwan Ziadieh  
Senior Fellow
Areas of Study: Research Highlights

Centering Equality and Human Rights

▶ The Biden Administration Must Press for Accountability and Justice for Shireen Abu Akleh
▶ Slavery in Mauritania: The Long Road to Real Emancipation
▶ Sisi’s Transnational Repression: Silencing Political Dissidents in Exile
▶ The Trampled Rights of Political Prisoners in the Arab World
▶ Iran’s Ongoing Protests and Potential Scenarios

Addressing Challenges to Inclusive and Democratic Governance

▶ Tunisia’s New Constitution Will Hasten the Country’s Transition to Autocracy
▶ Challenges and Prospects Facing the New Government in Iraq
▶ Lebanon Faces a Prolonged Governance Vacuum
▶ Parliamentary Elections are Unlikely to Alter Kuwait’s Political Landscape
▶ Israeli Elections 2022: Between Fragile Coalitions and Extreme Nationalism

Examining Emerging Threats in a Changing Region

▶ COP27 in Egypt: Progress or Stalemate on Climate Justice?
▶ Mapping Digital Authoritarianism in the Arab World
▶ Climate Change and Migration in the Middle East and North Africa
▶ Iran-Israel Drone Competition and the Changing Nature of Warfare in the Middle East
▶ Confronting Water Scarcity in North Africa

Emphasizing Health, Gender, and Development in the MENA Region

▶ Women at Work in the Arab World: Trends, Gaps, and Effects on the Region
▶ Advancement and Inequality in the Arab World’s Medical and Pharmaceutical Sectors
▶ The Captagon Problem in Saudi Arabia and Other Gulf Countries
▶ The Flaws and Failures of International Humanitarian Aid to Yemen
▶ Syrian Refugees in Turkey Face an Uncertain Future
Assessing the Impacts of Regional Relations and Geopolitics

- Biden Fails to Counter Russia and China in the Middle East
- Lebanon Will Not Benefit from Its Maritime Agreement with Israel
- A Developing Authoritarian-Israeli Nexus in the Middle East
- Turkey-Brokered Grain Deal Bolsters Erdoğan-Putin Partnership
- Implications of the War in Ukraine for the Middle East

Exploring the Future of Energy and Economic Development

- US-Saudi Relations after OPEC+ Production Cuts
- Egypt and the IMF: Greater Foreign Debt and Deeper Economic Decline
- International Aid to Palestinians: Between Politicization and Development
- Horn of Africa: Security Concerns and Economic Crises
- The Need for an International Development Fund for Lebanon

Informing Peacemaking Efforts and Regional Conflicts

- Yemen's Prospects for Unity are Uncertain after Many Years of War
- The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam: Limited Options for a Resolution
- Political Paralysis and Continued Uncertainty in Libya
- Governance and Territorial Fragmentation in Syria: Assessing the Humanitarian and Political Challenges
- The Muddled Diplomacy of Sudan's Tripartite Mechanism

Forging a Constructive US Foreign Policy in the Middle East

- What Lies Ahead for Saudi Arabia in the 118th Congress
- Biden's Trip to the Middle East: Embrace of Arab Autocrats Ends Hope for Democracy
- The US Midterm Elections Spell Further Trouble for the JCPOA
- Congress Versus Biden on Foreign Assistance to Egypt
- US Silence Enables Israel’s Crackdown on Civil Society Organizations