



Mari Research  
And Development



# Mari Research And Development

**MariRD** Organization Profile 2023



# MariRD

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Mari Research And Development (hereinafter referred to as “MRD”) is a non-for-profit organization operating in multiple countries.

In 2018, a group of civil society activists were brought together by their common passion to establish an organization to address the challenges of post-conflict communities.

MRD seeks to build a stable and just society where peace and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms prevail. In order to enhance cohesive and tolerant societies where justice and equality prevail, we seek to promote human rights and to make them the primary and main drivers of the diverse societies which we target through our work.

MRD has powerful and diverse ties with key local and international individuals, activists, grassroots, civil society organizations and international organizations.

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## Our Mission

MRD is committed to empowering society through civic engagement, promoting democracy, and supporting and developing local communities with a focus on human integrity at the center of our work.

MRD endeavors to unleash the potential of disadvantaged communities to succeed in life through enhancing reintegration and resilience of local communities with a focus on empowering women and youth and marginalized groups.

## Our Approach

MRD strives to support institution-building by empowering grassroots, civil society organizations, groups and individuals. Also, MRD enhances the capacity of local leaders, women and youth while promoting diversity and inclusion of all cultural and social groups. Through its work, MRD seeks to promote the protection of civil and human rights, and ultimately foster equality of opportunities.

In our work, we adopted a human rights-based approach towards women's rights and gender equality as MRD strongly believes that democracy can not be achieved without gender and equality justice.



## Our Vision

MRD believes in the respect and protection of fundamental human rights as essential in building a stable and cohesive and just community.

## Overall Objective

MRD seeks to empower target communities to tackle their own social and economic problems and to promote sustainable community development in accordance with the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

1. Ensure full and meaningful participation of local grassroots-organizations and local communities in the decision making processes including problem identification, planning, management, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation aimed at sustainability
2. Support communities resilience through various rehabilitation and reintegration programs along with stability-support community development.
3. Implement women's welfare and development programs aimed at socio-economic and political empowerment of women through their participation in all developmental processes
4. Create and enhance space for dialogue and exchange of perceptive problems impacting the community at all levels.
5. Networking with locals, national and international NGOs.



## Main Tracks and Areas of Programs

### 1 Civil Society

(Women and Youth Empowerment)  
 (Promoting Active Citizenship)  
 (Stabilization and Peacebuilding)  
 (Capacity development)

### 2 Community Resilience Strengthening

(Livestock and Agriculture rehabilitation)  
 (Livelihood and Economic Development)  
 (Protection, Education and Capacity Building)

## How We Work

With local and international partners, MRD works collaboratively to provide holistic and comprehensive support to communities through capacity building, sustainable impact development and active civic engagement.

MRD operates with institutionalized yet dynamic processes which seek out unique and creative impact thanks to support from various stakeholders, multiple non-profit organizations and donor agencies.

### Quality and accountability commitments

Below is our approach that encapsulates globally accepted principles of quality and accountability as recognized by the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) and other related global initiatives such as the Global Standard for CSO Accountability.

#### A. Ensuring quality of projects through standardized project cycle management

MRD is committed to maintain quality, manage risks, maximize resources while ensuring balance between competing priorities of scoping, budgeting, and scheduling. MRD recognizes the following stages as critical for effective and efficient project cycle management to produce relevant and appropriate results:

Needs Assessment, Designing, Planning, Implementation, Monitoring & Evaluation, Closure

MRD is committed to strengthening local capacities while avoiding negative effects in every project and ensuring that services are delivered according to Sphere Standards as far as possible. Moreover, we recognize 'staff welfare and care' as the core principle that guides our program management at all levels.

## B. Demonstrating accountability to beneficiaries

MRD is committed to establish mechanisms and allocate resources to demonstrate its commitment to remain transparent, impartial, and participatory while upholding human dignity throughout its interaction with the beneficiary community.

MRD recognizes the significance of coordination and complementarity among various humanitarian agencies at local and global levels. We put conscious efforts to uphold the following three principles to demonstrate accountability in our actions:

1. Establishing impartiality and accountability through community participation, feedback, and review of programs.
2. Ensuring transparency in communicating MRD's presence, intentions, and services to the local community.
3. Promoting rights and dignity through complaints handling.
4. Ensuring complementarity and accountability through coordination.



## C. Assuring quality and accountability

MRD commits to continually fulfill its vision, mission and aims. We are aware of our global presence and hence ready to confront program challenges while learning from a variety of our experiences. We consider the following functions as key to sustain and improve quality and accountability features of our programs:

1. Managing organizational knowledge through staff capacity development and establishment of policies, best practice guides strategies, frameworks, templates and standards.
2. Ensuring consistent compliance verification through audit, review, and evaluation functions at global level.

MRD reaffirms its commitment to promote and strengthen accountability and quality principles while working with partners, donors, and membership bodies.

MRD has endeavored to enhance its work by obtaining certificates from prestigious entities, opening the way for us to work harder and with more quality to deliver the best services to the beneficiaries.

## MRD overall transparency policy statement

- MRD believes transparency ensures honesty, accountability and improved performance and has adopted it as one of its core ways of working and integrated it within its code of conduct and operating systems.
- MRD believes it is the right of our beneficiaries, supporters, and other stakeholders to be informed and have access to information about our operations and their results as well as the structure and policies we employ.
- MRD strives to ensure that information related to its operations, decision making, finances, structure, policies, procedures, and governance is transparent, accessible, and communicated to relevant stakeholders in a timely and appropriate manner.
- MRD achieves this by detailing standards for accessibility and communication of information at all levels and making staff accountable for adhering to these standards.
- Where necessary MRD will balance the need for providing information with the need to allocate resources reasonably, and the justifiable risks sharing such information may present to the organization and our staff. In these cases, our policy states whose responsibility the risk assessment is and the scrutiny process over justifications made. In practice this will fall under three main areas
  - Transparency surrounding our presence and operations in an area.
  - Transparency around our organization and its decision making, and key documents.
  - Transparency surrounding our spending: MRD has committed to providing full financial transactions for government and third-party audits.

## MRD's Target Groups

### 1 Individuals

In our programs, we target individuals, whether they are working, unemployed, or even members of general sector, private sector or third sector by equipping them with the knowledge necessary to launch their own projects, promoting dialogue among them, and integrating visions.

### 2 CBOs

We target this type of organization because they are aiming at making desired improvements to a community's social health, well-being, and overall functioning. Community organization occurs in geographically, psychosocially, culturally, spiritually, and/or digitally bounded communities.

# Program and Centers Portfolio

## EDUCATION, PSYCHOSOCIAL AND PROTECTION PROGRAM

MRD constantly seeks to reduce risks of harm and abuse, threats to safety, dignity and rights of individuals and communities. Therefore, MRD focuses on providing the most impacted populations with capacities and resources to be self-protected. Also, MRD prioritizes the safety and well-being of the most vulnerable groups. Therefore, all of the activities prioritize countering gender-based violence and ensure child protection policies and procedures are maintained.

MRD worked with adolescents to develop life skills in order to build resilience and prevent violent extremism. MRD provided social and emotional learning to establish a safe space for non-formal education, and thereby making them vulnerable.

Also, MRD implemented interventions where displaced women and youth were at the center of the activities. By equipping them with skills and knowledge as well as access to resources through education and training, MRD supported women, youth and children as well as persons with disabilities to improve their protection conditions.

MRD supported CSO-led reintegration and protection of women and children impacted by the conflict. MRD worked on fostering leadership and collaboration among a diversity of civil society stakeholders on the reintegration and protection of women and children in the target areas. It also helped foster community support for the reintegration and protection of women and children in the target areas.



## LIVELIHOOD AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

As reducing economic vulnerabilities through increasing the resilience and self-reliance of communities, MRD worked hand in hand with women and youth to develop their access to income generating activities.

Thanks to these initiatives, MRD was able to provide women-breadwinners with technical support to improve agricultural production and enhance their livelihood. Also, MRD supported individuals with capacities and equipment to develop their economic activities. For instance, women from the IDP community were provided with training on farming in greenhouses. Also, through other interventions, MRD provided vocational training to help the most vulnerable finding income generating activities.

MRD designed interventions to enable farmers to increase their income and diversify their livelihood as well as adapting growing environmental restraints.

## EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

In order to empower local communities, particularly women and youth, MRD leads raising awareness, capacity building and networking among various stakeholders to advance equality, good governance, accountability and inclusion.

Through promoting effective communication between citizens and increasing their engagement in decision-making processes, MRD could promote community dialogue through a participatory approach with citizens, civil society activists, local authorities and service providers.

Also, by empowering women, youth and people with disabilities through including them in determining strategies in their communities, MRD contributed to the stabilization and rehabilitation of the region.



## PEACEBUILDING PROGRAM

In order to resolve conflicts and address their drivers, MRD partnered with local communities to develop capacities for pinpointing and mediating local conflict resolution and reducing violence. Such interventions brought together host and displaced communities, along with returnees, who were forced to leave their hometowns during the control of extremist groups.

Also, MRD implemented community security activities in partnership with local security governance bodies, developing their capacity to design and deliver security services that respond to the population's needs and establishing civilian oversight over the security sector.

## Hygiene and Health Program

MRD realizes that access to clean water supply, sanitary facilities and adequate sanitation systems are essential to improve health, reduce the impact of lethal diseases and enhance the quality of life of conflict-affected populations. Therefore, MRD works with local communities to address hygiene, sanitation and water quality issues. This includes promoting hygienic practices on the local community levels and improving the efficiency, sustainability and integration of hygiene and sanitation interventions into communities. Also, MRD works with local stakeholders to identify and control the impact of pollution, such as water and air pollution, on public health.

Additionally, MRD firmly believes that strengthening local communities' resilience plays a vital role in reducing the risks of health crises, such as caused by the collapse of public health systems and the outbreak of epidemics such Malaria and Cholera. Therefore, MRD works arm in arm with the local communities to help them identify the health-related problems and risks to develop solutions and response mechanisms. In collaboration with local and international partners, MRD seeks to improve healthcare for the most vulnerable groups, especially elderly, children and women who live in IDP camps.



## Mari's Women Center for Freedom and Human Rights

Through Mari's Women Center for Freedom and Human Rights, MRD seeks to address women's main issues through forming a women-based network and providing a safe space for women who are affected by the ongoing conflict in Syria. This center works on capacity building for women, supporting gender roles in the local communities, raising awareness on gender roles and enhancing women's inclusion in the public sphere.

## Mari's Center for Justice

Through Mari's Center for Justice, MRD seeks to raise awareness and collaboration on topics related to transitional justice, conflict resolution, accountability, human rights and peace building. Also, this center is dedicated to building the capacities of human rights defenders and activists.



# Where we work



# Partners

USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Foreign & Commonwealth Office

EXPERTISE FRANCE

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

CREATIVE

NDI

Chemonics

WILPF

SEARCH FOR COMMON GROUND

DT Global

Norwegian People's Aid

icmp International Commission on Missing Persons



## Mari Research And Development

### MRD... Towards Active Community Participation



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