



# USAID | JORDAN

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

November 2015 | USAID Implementing Partner Newsletter

## Democracy, Rights and Governance

### Community Engagement Program (CEP)

Community enhancement teams drafted long-term development plans, ultimately identifying six immediate solutions not requiring CEP assistance, 84 interventions that are already included in 2015-2016 government plans, and initiating the design of all community-led projects to be implemented this year.

- Consultations between mayors, community enhancement teams, and MOPIC resulted in the inclusion of 76 community-led interventions in the draft of the 2016-2018 Executive Government Development Program.
- In Mafraq's Al Salhiya community, an initiative was launched to advocate against celebratory gunfire, and over 150 community members have already pledged to abstain from the practice. An anti-drug campaign was also launched in the region to inform students of the dangers of drug use.
- CEP signed memoranda of understanding with the Khalid bin Al Waleed and Muath bin Jabal communities to improve each municipality's ability to respond to citizens' needs.
- The "Towards a More Beautiful School" competition was launched in Ramtha to mobilize community support to alleviate education sector stressors within CEP's partner communities.

### International Republican Institute (IRI)

IRI is presenting survey data (collected in 16 municipalities through IRI's Baldytak app) to local officials, city residents and activists to align municipal plans with citizen priorities and facilitate constructive debate between constituents and elected representatives.

- IRI has completed the inaugural Citizen Academy session in Hashmyeh municipality. Sessions will be held throughout Jordan, allowing residents to learn about the work of municipal departments to help them become more engaged in their community.

### National Democratic Institute (NDI)

NDI's Youth Political Participation Program held a graduation ceremony and exhibition for 350 graduates from 16 universities, attracting MPs, the Director of Senate and House Affairs, and representatives from the Ministry of Education, UNRWA and civil society organizations.

- The Parliamentary Strengthening Program and Youth Political Participation Program began a series of 14 public talks between university student activists and representatives of eight parliamentary blocs on the newly drafted elections law.
- NDI's Women's Political Participation Program supported three town hall meetings for MPs in Balqa, Al Shobak and Jerash to support their legislative efforts and to enhance constituent outreach.
- The Democracy and Civic Education Program conducted discussions at 51 neighborhoods in Irbid and Mafraq on human rights, the role of media, citizenship and electoral systems. The program has so far enlisted 260 Syrians to participate in the discussion groups.

Bringing our implementing partners the most recent news and information over the past month. Learn about USAID's support in your communities and about our mutual goals across all sectors.

#### TWITTER

@USAIDJordan  
@G\_Communities  
@fhi360  
@MSIWorldwide  
@AnaUsharekJO

#### CONTACT US

ammandocs@usaid.gov

### **Economic Development and Energy**

#### **Jordan Local Enterprise Support Project (LENS)**

Stakeholder meetings are being held in nine partner municipalities to prepare a strategy for local economic development. The workshops bring together people from the public and private sector to set a long-term plan that will encourage business growth, investment and partnerships with the private sector. • USAID and the Companies Control Department (CCD) signed a PIL to award the CCD JD 100,000 for the purchase of a server to upgrade their e-capacity and improve the business registration process. LENS is also supporting the CCD in producing a business registration guide for MSEs by the end of 2015.

#### **Jordan Competitiveness Program (JCP)**

USAID JCP and Microsoft held an event featuring more than 80 graduates of the Microsoft Academic Accelerator Program, honoring six teams of programmers for the innovative tech solutions they developed while participating in the program. • The project has completed its second round of Youth Entrepreneurship Training, with this month's sessions including students at the Hashemite University for the first time ever. • JCP's role in convening key ministries, the Amman municipality, and private-sector fuel and car retailers for the first time has helped push through important tariff waivers that will make buying and maintaining electric vehicles easier. • The establishment of the JCP-supported Energy and Environmental Sustainability Unit was recently announced. Housed at the Jordan Chamber of Industry, the unit responds to the high energy prices facing the industrial sector and frequent interruptions to the power supply.

#### **Sustainable Cultural Heritage through Engagement of Local Communities Project (SCHEP)**

Nizar Al Adarbeh was hired to be the Chief of Party for SCHEP and started in mid-September. • The Jordan Heritage Consortium convened at the American Center of Oriental Research (ACOR) as part of the effort to engage stakeholders involved in preserving Jordan's heritage. • The hiking trail from Bi'r Mathkour to Jabal Haroun was completed last month. U.S. Ambassador Alice G. Wells hiked the trail as its first documented foreign hiker.

#### **Building Economic Sustainability through Tourism Project (BEST)**

BEST announced its Tourism Partnership Fund grants program, which will serve as a catalyst for investment and increase competitiveness in the tourism sector. • The project developed and presented its Tourism Competitiveness Index to the Government of Jordan, which will measure incremental progress and benchmark improvements in tourism competitiveness. • BEST is supporting an updated National Tourism Strategy (2016-2020), and delivered the initiation plan to the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities.

#### **Jordan Fiscal Reform Bridge Activity (JFRB)**

The World Customs Organization recently accredited the Jordan Customs Regional Training Center for the MENA Region as a regional center of excellence in capacity building. The center was inaugurated by the Secretary General of the World Customs Organization. • The Jordan Customs Department earned the internationally recognized ISO 27001 Certification in recognition of significant reforms to its information security management system. • The Ministry of Finance published the 2013-2014 Tax System Benchmarking Report, which tracks the performance of the tax system and supports the Fiscal Reform Project's goal of making Jordan a regional leader in tax modernization.

#### **Energy Sector Capacity Building (ESCB)**

ESCB inaugurated the Jordan Customs building's new solar panel system. The panels will contribute to JD 30,000 annual savings and 100 percent of annual consumption. • The project sponsored 12 engineers, including five females, for renewable energy professional training organized by EDAMA and the Jordan Energy Chapter.

### Education and Youth

#### Early Grade Reading and Mathematics Program (RAMP)

USAID RAMP conducted a workshop on lot quality assurance sampling (a random sampling methodology) to build understanding of the tool and how it can be used in routine monitoring. The workshop came as part of developing the capacity of Ministry of Education staff to use assessments of their results to make data-informed decisions. • The project has started establishing its three regional offices, which will be located within the Ministry of Education directorates in Irbid, Amman and Karak.

#### Jordan School Expansion Project (JSEP)

Twenty “fast track” school expansions aimed at rapidly responding to the pressures of the refugee crisis are under construction. More than 80 percent of the works are complete, and the schools are expected to be operational by second semester. • Twenty school expansions out of 100 have completed the 90 percent design phase and are currently developing the 100 percent design phase. These 20 expansions are expected to be ready for bidding this month. • Fifty-one kindergarten classrooms from three governorates are under design and have completed the 30 percent design phase.

### Gender

#### USAID Takamol

The latest episode of ‘Bel3aks’ has been released, exploring the issue of single parenthood. Check it out [here](#). • Takamol and the Ministry of Public Sector Development completed the last two rounds of the “Woman Leadership Training Program,” providing 180 female government employees with the tools needed to compete for leadership positions. A new round targeting another 180 female employees has also been announced. • For the upcoming “16 Days against Gender-Based Violence,” Takamol will host activities including street campaigns in Amman, Irbid, Zarqa, Karak, and Aqaba, a slam poetry contest, and the “[Souk Takamol](#)” NGO marketplace. • Takamol has continued supporting the Jordanian National Commission for Women by helping develop its three-year action plan, integrating gender mainstreaming into the Jordan 2025 national strategy, and assisting the development of a paper outlining a 2030 scenario on gender by examining the current situation of gender in Jordan, the challenges and the drivers of change.

### Partner Support

#### Jordan Monitoring and Evaluation Support Project (MESP)

The first draft of the Civic Initiatives Support evaluation report has been submitted by MESP for USAID review. • MESP provided a half-day data quality assessment workshop, as well as an Activity Monitoring and Evaluation Plan/Performance Indicator Reference Sheet workshop for implementing partner staff. • MESP has continued to support implementing partners during the Q4/2015 data entry on DevResults. Over the course of this entry, MESP staff have noted a substantial reduction in requests for technical assistance for the current reporting period, which can be attributed to the improved capacity of M&E specialists in using DevResults. • As part of the second cohort of DevResults, MESP conducted training sessions for Cultivating Inclusive and Supportive Learning Environments and the Management Engineering Services Contract Activity. MESP has also trained two newly recruited M&E specialists at the Jordan Workforce Development Program.

#### Useful Online Resources

Have you ever wished that there were a user-friendly resource that could walk people through how USAID’s funding process works, and provide them with practical tools to apply competitively for funding? Are you an AOR/COR or an activity manager who often has to train partners on award management and want to provide them concrete tools to help save time? If you are not yet aware of it, such a resource is available at: <http://www.usaid.gov/work-usaid/get-grant-or-contract/trainings-how-work-usaid>. The training series answers some of the most frequently asked questions from organizations interested in partnering with USAID, particularly those with little to no experience working with USAID. Running times range from 7-35 minutes.

### Population and Family Health

#### Health Systems Strengthening (HSS) II Bridge Project

Following 12 months of dedicated work, the HSS II Bridge project concluded in Jordan, bringing the decade-long HSS journey (2005-2015) to an end. Through partnership with public health sector entities including the Ministry of Health, Royal Medical Services, Higher Population Council, Jordan University Hospital and Jordanian Nursing Council, the project supported significant achievements in health care and improved health outcomes in Jordan.

#### Human Resources for Health

We're proud to announce that Jordan is part of the new flagship Human Resources for Health (HRH) project. HRH 2030's goal is to improve the accessibility, availability, acceptability and quality of the health workforce. These goals align with the UN's sustainable development goals, which call for increased health financing, and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce.

#### Jordan Communication and Advocacy Project (JCAP)

JCAP collaborated with King Hussein Cancer Foundation (KHCF) through the Jordan Breast Cancer Program's family festival for the October Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign. JCAP contributed with a booth staffed by community health workers to promote family planning as a means of improving women's health and wellbeing. This participation is part of JCAP and KHCF's efforts to integrate family planning/reproductive health messages within KHCF's breast cancer awareness campaign. • JCAP conducted training on gender equity and women empowerment related to family planning and reproductive health for its grantees and members of the Jordan Civil Coalition for Family Health in order to ensure gender considerations are integrated in their plans and activities. • JCAP organized a meeting in Jerash – the governorate with the highest fertility rate in the kingdom – for its Health, Population and Policy Committee and Executive Council. The Secretary General for the Higher Population Council presented the impact of population growth on the governorate's health, water, energy and education needs. Participants supported the necessity to continue tackling family planning and reproductive health issues to achieve balanced population growth. • Partners can now visit the JCAP website ([www.tawasol-jo.org](http://www.tawasol-jo.org)) where they can find the activity's latest news, information about its interventions and photo and video galleries.

### Water Resources and the Environment

#### Institutional Support and Strengthening Program (ISSP)

ISSP hosted "60 Years of U.S. Support for Water in Jordan," which honored the impact and scope of U.S. assistance to the water sector. U.S. Ambassador Alice G. Wells delivered a policy speech, and Minister of Water and Irrigation Dr. Hazim El-Nasser recognized the unique impact of this partnership. The event also celebrated the accomplishments of ISSP, which worked side-by-side to restructure the Ministry, strengthen wells management practices, complete strategic planning for water and wastewater infrastructure, and supporting water utilities through management improvements. Read more for [media coverage](#) or see our [Facebook post](#). • ISSP held the "Groundwater Use in Jordan" workshop to discuss ISSP's major national socio-economic study which surveyed all wells in the Kingdom. This resulted in comprehensive updates of technical data for agricultural, industrial and tourism wells. It also analyzed the many social and economic uses for Jordan's groundwater, highlighting major policy considerations to ensure protection of this scarce and threatened resource.

#### Management Engineering Services Contract (MESC)

USAID/Jordan's office of water resources and environment is proud to announce the "Management Engineering Services Contract," or MESC. MESC will: 1) improve the capacity of the Jordan Water Company (Miyahuna) to plan, design, procure, and manage infrastructure upgrades under the Non-Revenue Water Project so future upgrades can be completed autonomously; and 2) improve Miyahuna's ability to measure and manage non-revenue water (water conveyed through the distribution system but not billed due to inaccurate measurements, illegal connections and leakages).

### **Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC)**

With numerous project closeouts on the horizon, we are reminded that the successful conclusion to each activity is truly bittersweet. In October, USAID/Jordan was proud to see a past initiative – the As-Samra wastewater treatment plant – in the news once again. Initially constructed in 2008 through USAID support, As-Samra recently celebrated the completion of its phase II expansion under MCC. Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour, MCC CEO Dana Hyde and Minister of Water and Irrigation Dr. Hazim El-Nasser attended. Today, the plant treats over 70 percent of Jordan's wastewater. See our [Facebook post](#) for more.