



USAID | JORDAN

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

December 2015 | USAID Implementing Partner Newsletter

Democracy, Rights and Governance

Civic Initiatives Support Program (CIS)

CIS issued a new request for applications (RFA) for the “Societies Empowerment Fund” targeting current or past U.S. government-funded civil society organizations to improve their effectiveness and sustainability through a holistic organizational change approach. Deadline: January 27, 2016. The full RFA package can be found at www.cisjordan.org. 70 student activists from the North engaged in discussion with MPs representing two Parliamentary Blocs (Mu'taz Abu Rumman and Bassam Al Btoush) on Jordan's draft Election Law. Specifically, students raised questions on lowering the age of candidacy from 30 to 25 and on decreasing the number of seats from 150 to 130.

CIS is accepting applications for January and February 2016 courses focused on Project Design and Proposal Writing, Budgeting, Procurement and Effective Communications Planning for Development Projects. Contact the capacity building team for registration materials or visit www.cisjordan.org.

Community Engagement Program (CEP)

CEP held a completion ceremony for the “Solar Energy Heating System for the Abu Alluqas Primary School for Girls” in Yarmouk, which improved the educational environment and provided cleaner, cheaper and more sustainable heating. • With local Community Enhancement Teams (CETs) in Ramtha, the Marseille Company, and the Ministry of Education, CEP announced the winning schools of the “Towards More Beautiful Schools” competition. • A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Greater Irbid Municipality and the Nuaimah CET was signed to provide solid waste management and road lighting services and increase the municipality's community engagement capacity. • CEP conducted pilot trainings for Conflict Management and Mitigation (CMM) in Amman and Mafrq.

Elections and Political Process Strengthening Program

Consortium for Elections and Political Process Strengthening (CEPPS)-International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES)

CEPPS/IFES implemented four Introduction to Electoral Administration workshops, which were attended by 89 election officials (36 female), as part of its support of the long-term Professional Development Program for election officials in Jordan. • To improve access for persons with disabilities to electoral processes in Jordan, CEPPS/IFES assisted the Independent Election Commission (IEC) in conducting a technical assessment of nationwide polling station accessibility and general barriers to electoral participation for persons with disabilities. • CEPPS/IFES provided elections material and technical assistance to the IEC for the Karak 2nd district by-elections on December 19.

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.

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CEPPS-International Republican Institute (IRI)

IRI organized Citizen Academies in Hashmyah, Sahab, Karak and Tafleeh, where citizens learned about their city's responsibilities/operations from various municipal department managers. • IRI presented the latest results of the "Baldytak" citizen surveys to Mayors, Municipal Councilors, city staff and citizen activists from 16 municipalities. • IRI completed its first year of the Youth Leadership Academy focusing on skills including gender integration, leadership, coalition building, negotiation, critical thinking, public speaking and media/communication.

CEPPS-National Democratic Institute (NDI)

NDI's Women's Political Participation Program held a townhall meeting in Irbid for government representatives and 250 constituents about changes in the Draft Election Law, and in conjunction with the Parliamentary Strengthening Program, trained 34 newly-assigned fellows of the Parliamentary Fellowship Program in research, constituency events and public relations and online media management. • NDI's Good Governance Program supported a series of workshops under the Capacity Building Program agreement with the Prime Ministry's Office of the Governmental Coordinator for Human Rights. • NDI's Parliamentary Strengthening Program and the Youth Political Participation Program hosted over 330 student activists and 11 Members of Parliament in a series of public talks on the newly drafted Election Law. • NDI's Democracy and Civic Education Program hosted 85 discussion forums in Irbid and Mafraq with more than 780 community members and 292 displaced Syrians on various topics.

NDI's Democracy and Civic Education Program held 139 discussion forums in Irbid and Mafraq, with the participation of 1015 community members (277 male and 738 female) of Jordanian Citizens and 200 Syrian refugees (45 male and 155 female). Participants engaged in discussions on topics related to Democracy, Human Rights, the Role of Media and Local Governance.

NDI's Women Political Participation Program supported a workshop on Strategic Communication and Campaign Management for the Women's Caucus and women leaders presented by MP Najah Al Azeh, aimed at enhancing the participants' communication skills and providing fundamentals of a successful communication and outreach strategies.

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Economic DEvelopment and Energy

Building Economic Sustainability through Tourism Project (BEST)

The Jerash Visitor Center was launched by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, providing a world-class reception for visitors upon their arrival to the archaeological site. [Read more](#). • BEST supported the Jordan Tourism Board's production of "[Wadi Rum: Out of this World](#)", capitalizing on the release of the movie "The Martian."

Energy Sector Capacity Building Activity (ESCB)

About 150 women from the energy sector attended a training on social media, women's rights under Jordanian law and human resources policies affecting women in the workplace. • The Jordan Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Fund finalized negotiating Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with three Electricity Distribution Companies to fund an efficient lighting energy efficiency program.

Jordan Competitiveness Program (JCP)

At the Paris Sustainable Innovation Forum, JCP partner "AllCell" signed an MOU to install 10 electric vehicle charging stations in Amman. To read more on how USAID is assisting these efforts, click [here](#). • JCP is sponsoring 10 women for certification in the Renewable Energy Professional Training Program, which is recognized worldwide. • The first of several USAID-supported 3D printing courses for students, engineers and entrepreneurs concluded recently.

Jordan Fiscal Reform Bridge Activity (JFRB)

Jordan Customs inaugurated its Regional Training Center, which will host training and capacity building events. It will also serve as a center for sharing international best practices in customs management among representatives of 10 regional countries. • The Income and Sales Tax Department held two focus groups with representatives of large and medium-sized businesses – the two groups paying the majority of taxes – to gather feedback on new taxpayer services.

Jordan Loan Guarantee Facility (JLGF)

For fiscal year 2015, JLGF has guaranteed 112 loans for micro, small and medium enterprises, including loans to 35 businesses outside Amman, 20 women-led businesses, four startups and five renewable energy companies. Totalling \$25.5 million, these loans are estimated to have created 1,046 jobs in Jordan.

Jordan Workforce Development Project (WfD)

WfD held the "Proud to be a Craftsman" Platform in Irbid to link youth with employers from the garment-manufacturing sector. Attendees filled more than 150 job applications, and shortlisted applicants will be referred to the appropriate training before they can commence work. • The project signed MOUs with the Zarqa and Irbid Chambers of Industry, and the Eastern Amman Investors Industrial Association to establish employment promotion units, which will help employers identify and recruit trained Jordanians to the benefit of the local labor market. • The project organized the "Development of National Occupational Standards (NOS) for Career Guidance" workshop, which will help develop the "Career Guidance Counselor" curriculum. • The "Work Ready Now!" curriculum, which helps youth develop soft skills necessary to succeed in the workplace -- such as interpersonal communications -- has been adapted to the Jordanian context. • WfD conducted a workshop to develop a curriculum for hybrid cars, which will be used to prepare students for work as car mechanics. Eighteen representatives from Vocational Training Centers, training providers and hybrid car maintenance companies participated. • The project submitted to the Government of Jordan's Human Resource Development Committee a set of ideas for a comprehensive reform strategy for the Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector aimed at enhancing TVET quality and access and promoting industry-relevant workforce development.

Local Enterprise Support Network (LENS)

LENS held marketing training for nine diving companies to help attract more customers to Aqaba's diving industry. • The project issued two annual program statements for grant applications among micro and small enterprises and business service providers. A new request for applications was also issued to generate grant applications for tourism in Irbid and Azraq. • A LENS consultant assessed canyons and hiking sites to strengthen enterprises in the hiking industry, helping preserve the environment and upkeep of such sites.

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

SCHEP conducted a human resources (HR) needs assessment to help the Department of Antiquities implement their strategy for managing Jordan's Archaeological Heritage, which involves training in global

positioning systems, geographical information systems, managing World Heritage Sites, reading maps, aerial photography and more. • The project completed an HR assessment for the cultural heritage resources faculties of five universities, resulting in a capacity building program targeting more than 25 faculty members and 1,000 students. • SCHEP held a graduation ceremony for 25 community members who completed a seven-week training program on heritage site management at the Umm el-Jimal site.

Education and Youth

Cultivating Inclusive and Supportive Learning Environments in Jordan's Schools (CISLE II)

CISLE II has trained 4,581 teachers on psychosocial and interactive pedagogies, 73 percent of targeted teachers. • Work has continued with Arabic teachers who actively participated in Arabic Literacy training.

Early Grade Reading and Mathematics Project (RAMP)

RAMP delivered 14,000 copies of the Reading and Mathematics Teacher Guides to the Ministry of Education (MoE). • RAMP coaches were trained in RAMP methodologies in November and December. • RAMP coaches oriented the KG2-G3 MoE supervisors on RAMP methodologies and contents of the pre-RAMP training activity in late December for more than 11,000 teachers. • RAMP held a workshop with MoE officials responsible for the Parent Teacher Council and Parent Involvement programs, as well as principals and teachers to tailor RAMP activities to better address community needs.

Jordan School Expansion Project (JSEP)

Twenty Fast Track school expansions are being handed over to the Ministry of Public Works and Housing and are expected to be operational by the second school semester; 20 of 100 school expansion designs have been completed; and 51 kindergarten classrooms in three governorates are under development.

Non-Formal Education Program (NFE)

This new program is conducting a desk review of available research, surveys, and appraisals to identify high concentrations of out-of-school youth in Jordan.

Schools for a Knowledge Economy (SKEP)

SKEP completed the main planning, design and site selection for construction of the first six of 25 new schools.

Support for Child and Youth Initiatives (UNICEF)

More than 1,500 parents and caregivers of children 0-8 years olds were reached by early childhood development program workshops throughout the country. • The Learning for All Campaign held door-to-door visits and awareness sessions for local community members. Save the Children Jordan assisted children with access to other services provided by Legal Aid, Care, DRC and Medical Clinic. • We Love Reading held two workshops in host communities and camps as part of preparations to set up libraries; 46 libraries were established in different locations.

Gender

Takamol

Takamol kicked off the "16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence" (GBV) campaign with a celebration attended by HRH Princess Basma and USAID Mission Director Jim Barnhart. As part of the "16 Days" campaign, Takamol launched a street campaign covering bridges and billboards to advocate for putting an end to GBV. "Faces of Takamol" stories focused on various forms of GBV that affect all ages, geographic areas and genders. Takamol also hosted Jordan's first poetry slam during the "16 Days" closing ceremony, the conclusion of a month-long spoken-word poetry and gender training agenda called "El Ma7ki Ma3 Takamol," which crowned three unique poets who raised their voices on important gender and youth issues. • Takamol inaugurated Jordan's first NGO marketplace for community-based organization proposals that was attended by over 1,500 participants. • In Russeifa, Zarqa, Takamol launched the "Women Pushing

Boundaries” mural created by local community members and internationally-acclaimed street artists. • Takamol held a policy workshop on administrative detainees in Jordan that provided advocacy tools and techniques for law, women’s studies, and international relations students at the University of Jordan. • “Takamol Leaders of the Future” volunteer doctors toured the country to raise awareness among under-served communities on health and gender issues.

Mission Update

USAID/Jordan Implementing Partners Meeting: Focusing on Results I

USAID/Jordan staff, counterparts from the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC) and chiefs of party from almost 50 USAID/Jordan projects gathered for the Mission’s implementing partners’ meeting on November 24. Attendees networked, listened to presentations by USAID/Jordan and project staff and met in small groups to discuss how to enhance cooperation. USAID/Jordan Mission Director Jim Barnhart opened the meeting with remarks focused on his management philosophy and a big-picture look at how the Mission’s work fits in with the broader development goals of the Agency and the Government of Jordan (GOJ).

Mr. Barnhart shared his management philosophy, noting “Our job is to make your life easier.” One way USAID seeks to achieve this is by managing relationships with GOJ counterparts and other international donors. Projects should not be in a position to negotiate directly with the Jordanian government or other donors, according to the Mission Director. There are three reasons why this is the best practice: USAID/Jordan has to maintain a long-term relationship with the GOJ that goes far beyond any one project’s or individual’s tenure; USAID/Jordan has a broader perspective of other projects, probable consequences and the historical context; and USAID/Jordan must keep the Ambassador informed about ministerial-level meetings.

The Mission Director noted the multitude of project-driven outreach events have stretched resources in the technical offices, among support teams and in the Front Office. The current “event moratorium” is meant to allow USAID and project staff to focus on project implementation, site visits and strategic planning. Going forward he seeks to have a more strategic approach to outreach that moves beyond ribbon cuttings and project close-outs and seeks to rationalize events within the context of larger development milestones.

After sharing his management philosophy, Mr. Barnhart then moved on to a big-picture discussion. Jordan is facing significant political and social challenges. The Syrian refugee crisis has increased the population, strained already outdated infrastructure and limited resources and puts community cohesion at risk throughout the country. “We have to be part of the short and long term solutions,” Mr. Barnhart said. He suggested two questions the Mission and its implementing partners can ask themselves as they work to affect positive change in Jordan as it deals with this crisis:

1. How are we engaging in the major Jordanian development plans: the Executive Development Plans and the Governorates Development Plans, which build on [Jordan 2025](#), and the [Jordan Response Plan](#)? **It’s important that implementing partners be able to reflect what they’re doing within the context of these plans.**
2. With the above point in mind, how are we maximizing our impact on Jordan? In other words, what are the tangible and substantial results of our work in delivering on these plans?

Since the Syrian refugee crisis is the biggest factor affecting Jordan’s development future, special care and attention should be placed on what is being done to substantially assist the GOJ in addressing the crisis – in both the short and long term – within the mandate of the [Country Development Cooperation Strategy](#).

One way to ensure that implementing partners maximize their impact on Jordan is for partners to work cooperatively with others who do similar work or who are in the same geographical area. Collaboration will lead to greater impacts for beneficiaries, and save time and money for additional endeavors.

Finally, USAID/Jordan does not exist in isolation. It is part of a larger mission to assist in the development potential of countries and peoples globally. Consideration must be given to that greater task and how USAID/Jordan fits into it. Director Barnhart encourages partners to reflect on that higher purpose when engaging in their work.

Mr. Barnhart encourages everyone to consider his main points when assessing their plans. Leave communication with the GOJ to USAID. Plan events judiciously and with purpose. Consider the kind of impact you are making in Jordan and do your best to make sure it is as powerful as possible, especially regarding the Syrian refugee crisis. Be aware of how projects fit into the larger goals of the GOJ and USAID. And remember, when we work together we are stronger and we accomplish more than when we work alone.

Stay tuned for additional information, follow up actions and resources from the partners meeting.

Communication Working Group

The Development Outreach & Communication (DOC) team will host its first quarterly communication working group on Wednesday, January 13, 2016 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Amman (venue TBC). The working group is intended for the outreach & communication specialists among our implementing partners (or whomever the Chief of Party designates -- one person per project). If you have any questions, please email AmmanDOCs@usaid.gov.

Partner Support

Knowledge Management Portal (KaMP)

KaMP (<https://usaidjordankmpportal.com/>), a one-stop shop for Jordan-related development data and information, will launch in early 2016. KaMP provides a collaborative online platform to access and share Jordan-specific reports, studies, assessments and publications produced by partners, grantees, Government of Jordan (GOJ) agencies and other donors. It will also contain the latest USAID approved templates, tools, and how-to's. USAID Monitoring and Evaluation Support Project (MESP) is populating KaMP with key sets of related resources grouped into thematic "Collections," such as USAID/Jordan monitoring & evaluation (M&E) templates and tools, essential documents for understanding the Syrian crisis and the latest research on how to empower Jordanian at-risk youth, as well as uploading GOJ reports, statistics, GIS files and other resources.

Monitoring and Evaluation Support Project (MESP)

In anticipation of designing an apprenticeship program to create a new pool of M&E professionals, interviews have been conducted with implementing partners (IPs) to assess M&E staffing needs. • DevResults data entry for Q4/2015 was successfully completed, with the majority of IPs reporting their data before the deadline. For the next phase, IPs will report on their activities' indicator baselines and targets from the start date of their respective projects. Read [MESP's latest newsletter!](#)

Outreach & Communication Project

In conjunction with the USAID Development Outreach & Communication (DOC) team, Al Nasher is working to develop the annual work plan for 2016, including event support, a paid mass media campaign and other outreach activities. In addition, Al Nasher continues to provide support to USAID-funded projects' events, including branding, premiums, printing, photography, translation and media relations.

Population and Family Health

Jordan Communication, Advocacy and Policy Activity (JCAP)

On December 2, JCAP partnered with the Ministry of Health's Community Health Committees to develop action plans for community mobilization activities, which will support the March 2016 Family Planning Social Behavior Change Communication Campaign. • In collaboration with the Higher Population Council, JCAP organized a meeting in Ma'an, led by the Governor, to present statistics quantifying the impact of population growth on the governorate's economic and social resources.

Water Resources and the Environment

Community-Based Initiatives for Water Demand Management

Minister of Water Hazem Al Nasser and Ambassador Alice Wells inaugurated Ma'raq's rehabilitated Sumaya Pump Station on December 14. Repairs made under the project reduced leakages from 75 percent to 15 percent, expanding water resources for 180,000 residents and improving water pressure for surrounding communities. See media coverage in the [Jordan Times](#).

Hydroponic Green Farming Initiative (HGFI)

HGFI partnered with Irbid's Bani Kaneneh Association to train women and youth on hydroponics to address unemployment and poverty. Visit HGFI's [website](#) for pictures, videos and further info on the project.

Ma'raq Wastewater Treatment Plant

Like many services in northern Jordan, the Ma'raq Wastewater Treatment Plant has been stretched to the limit by the refugee crisis. USAID-funded upgrades to the site will more than triple the plant's capacity, allowing it to serve Ma'raq until 2025.

Water Reuse and Environmental Conservation Project (WRECP)

WRECP held a closeout workshop with the Ministry of Environment to review the achievements of the last five years and discuss the path forward. The project was busy as ever during its final month, celebrating the cabinet's recent approval of the new Environmental Protection law, providing tender documents for the Ekedder Emergency Landfill and developing guidelines for the Badia Restoration Program.

Water Sector Infrastructure Project (WSIP)

WSIP oversees the construction of East Jerash and Tafileh wastewater treatment plants. Construction on the East Jerash plant began in September 2015 and is scheduled to be completed in October 2017. It will serve the surrounding community through 2035.

Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project (WIP)

The Abu Alanda System and Dabouq Pump Station construction projects are in their final stages, while the project continues the design/tender process for future construction, including the Wadi Arab Water System II project and the West Zarqa Force Main and Shafa Badran Wastewater Networks.