



# USAID | JORDAN

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

August 2016 | USAID Implementing Partner Newsletter

## Sustainable Development Goal Three: Ensure Healthy Lives and Promote Well-Being for All at All Ages

### Community Engagement Program (CEP)

Health facilities in Jordan suffer from lack of adequate environment and equipment. USAID CEP has implemented and supported a total of 13 health projects including four free medical days that contributed to the improvement of health services in those communities. The projects included provision of necessary health equipment and renovation of health centers in addition to holding various awareness sessions on pressing health related topics in Irbid, Mafraq and Tafileh governorates.



Sabha Free Medical Day

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

The Jordan Communication Advocacy and Policy Activity (JCAP) overall strategic objective is to increase the use and continuation of family planning and reproductive services as a safe, effective, and acceptable way to ensure a healthy family, build a sustainable community, and maintain a secure Jordan. JCAP contributes to SDG#3 to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages by implementing social and behavior change and policy advocacy activities in a synergistic approach, enabling families and young people in Jordan to make informed fertility choices and use family planning services to

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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achieve more prosperous lives. JCAP also contributes to SDG #5 to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls by empowering women to make informed fertility and family planning decisions.

An example of JCAP's work towards contributing to the above goals is the Community Outreach program through a network of community health workers (CHW) throughout the Kingdom. These CHWs counsel married women of reproductive ages and provide them with information about modern family planning methods and the importance of birth spacing in order to ensure that the women lead healthy lives and are able to raise healthy and happy children (attached is a story about one of the CHWs).



JCAP also works with youth through its grants program to address issues such as early marriage, delaying the first baby, gender equality and female empowerment (attached is a story "Youth Speak Out" about the interactive utilization of film-making to tackle these issues produced by youth through one of the JCAP grants).



### Human Resources for Health 2030 (HRH2030)

The Human Resources for Health in 2030 (HRH2030) Activity supports Jordan in building the accessible, available, acceptable, and high-quality health workforce needed to improve health outcomes and advance universal health coverage. Through this work, HRH2030 contributes towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 target of “substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States.” Achieving this target requires making the best possible use of limited health resources, ensuring they are employed strategically and given the tools to succeed.

HRH2030 invests in the health workforce to accomplish a more sustainable and responsive skills mix, improve recruitment strategies and retention of qualified workers, increase access to continuous professional development opportunities, and develop clear career pathways for human resources for health. Interventions include improving planning and human resources management capacity at the Ministry of Health, better understanding what workplace factors retain and motivate high-skilled staff, and improving performance by bolstering supervision, appraisal, and feedback systems.

HRH2030 social media handles (for global HRH2030 program):

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HRH2030>
- Twitter: @HRH2030Program

## Sustainable Development Goal Four: Ensure Inclusive and Quality of Education for All and Promote Lifelong Learning

### Jordan School Expansion Program (JSEP)

#### Quality Education for All: The JSEP Story



Ambassador Alice G. Wells and Prime Minister Dr. Abdullah Al Nsoor celebrate the groundbreaking of the Jordan School Expansion Project on April 22, 2015.

Currently, poor learning environments, in part caused by inadequate physical infrastructure, compromise the quality of education in Jordan. Fifty-five percent of classrooms are overcrowded, and 25 percent of schools in Jordan are considered “extremely overcrowded” with low squared meters per student, high numbers of students per classroom, and large student to teacher ratios.<sup>2</sup> Many of these classrooms are in urban areas, and due to the influx of Syrian refugees, the situation has worsened. Moreover, many schools are in need of repair, updated facilities, and new equipment.

Overcrowding affects not only standardized testing scores, but also the child's own enjoyment of school and learning, setting them up for failure in the future. Teachers in overcrowded classrooms may be more stressed and overwhelmed, feeling as though they lack the time and resources to truly make a difference, which can lead to teacher burnout.

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Jordan Nationwide Assessment in Public Schools for Strategic Planning, 2015-2016: p. 16. This report defines overcrowding as having less than 1.3 m<sup>2</sup> per student.<sup>1</sup> 2 ERfKE II School Rationalization Baseline Evaluation, March 2011: p. 6.



USAID/Jordan's education strategy is designed to support Jordan's education system through multiple interventions. One key component is improving school environments to provide safe schools, reduce overcrowding in classrooms, and enhance community involvement. However, meeting all these objectives requires an environment with adequate and well-maintained physical structures that is supplied with effective teaching materials and equipment. This responds to the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goal no.4: *"Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning."*

One of the targets of this goal is to: *"Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, nonviolent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all."*

In April 2014, USAID launched the Jordan School Expansion Project (JSEP). The project's primary goal is to reduce overcrowding in public schools, replace rented and double-shifted schools, and provide a safe and more suitable school environment. JSEP will expand and improve existing schools to accommodate increased enrollment and enhance school functions.



JSEP classroom at Om Al Sumaq Al Shamali Secondary School in Amman, newly built and furnished: six new classrooms were added to the school as part of the expansion, alleviating classroom crowding for more than 450 students.

This will be achieved through the renovation and expansion of 120 Ministry of Education schools, construction of 300 public kindergarten classrooms, and construction and/or renovation of 50 sports and recreation facilities.

JSEP aims to provide adequate space for each student; as a result, the space allocated for each student has increased from 0.55m<sup>2</sup> per student in most of the schools to the standard 1.4m<sup>2</sup> per student in USAID-funded classrooms. The improvement include other educational spaces, such as laboratories, libraries, vocational workshops, and resource rooms. These infrastructure improvements are expected to improve the students' academic achievement, as well as increase satisfaction and a sense of belonging among students. Through the expansion of Om Al Somaq Al Shamali School in Amman, the school has two new science laboratories. The laboratories are designed to cluster students for group activities and experiments.

### Community Engagement Program (CEP)

Education has been one of the top priorities in USAID CEP-targeted communities. A total of 20 educational projects and initiatives were implemented in Irbid, Mafraq and Tafleeh governorates, under which school facilities were rehabilitated and necessary equipment were provided to enhance the education environment in those schools.

In addition to the school rehabilitation projects, a total of five school competitions entitled “Towards More Beautiful Schools” were implemented in Hosha, Yarmouk, Ramtha, Taybeh and Al Hasa communities. This competition is community-led and designed to increase community engagement in school maintenance and education.



Al Mafraq School

### USAID Civic Initiatives Support Program (CIS)



STEM: Students at the Irbid STEM club utilizing their knowledge in science to build robots. This activity is part of a grant from USAID Civic Initiatives Support Program to the Jubilee Institute STEM ( Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) initiative to address the mismatch between education and the demands of a knowledge-based economy in Jordan.

Civic Initiatives Support program (CIS) provides support to several initiatives that aim to further develop the education system in Jordan by providing innovative approaches that lead to better student's achievement on the educational and personal levels. CIS supported the Jubilee STEM Initiative (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) to address the mismatch between education and the demands of a knowledge-based economy in Jordan by educating young men and women who are empowered to fill the skilled-labor market needs. The project created a STEM center in Irbid in addition to two STEM clubs in two public schools (one for males and one for females). Both the center and the clubs are run by trained personnel (including local trainers, school administrators and teachers) who transfer their acquired skills in creativity, innovation, scientific research, leadership, math, science, electronics and robotics skills on to the students empowering them to take an active role in improving their local communities. The main objective of the project was to create a sustainable, replicable STEM model that provides learning-by-doing applications of science and prepares a skills-rich STEM-literate workforce at an early age. The Irbid STEM students competed in the 11<sup>th</sup> National Robotics competition, were the Male's school club got the "Best Team" award, and a Female school club teacher got the "Best Trainer" award.

Another example of CIS support to education came under a grant for I3zif (Izif) for Music that provided quality music education to public schools students in Jordan that is expected to cause positive change in students' culture, skills, academic performance, social behavior and self-confidence. Students use the computer lab in the school to learn how to play their favorite instrument from scratch and free of charge. To see the lessons online click : [www.i3zif.com](http://www.i3zif.com)

### **Sustainable Development Goal Five: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls**

#### **Consortium for Elections and Political Process Strengthening (CEPPS) National Democratic Institute (NDI)**



The Ana Usharek ("I participate") program is an extracurricular program for students at 25 Jordanian universities. Through discussions and debates, youth openly discuss democratic practices and current events while learning about the basic principles of democracy, human rights, political parties, local governance, the role of media, citizenship, elections, and conflict resolution.

In March, 2016, in partnership with the Jordanian National Committee for Women (JNCW), NDI launched a comprehensive training program that aims at achieving the core objectives of the political empowerment component of the National Strategy for Jordanian Women, by supporting and strengthening their political participation, especially in the upcoming elections.

The National Strategy for Jordanian Women aims to provide better and equitable opportunities to ensure women's active participation and gradual access to a percentage of representation of not less than (30%) in all policy and decision-making positions in the various sectors of the authorities, as well as the elected and the appointed councils.

Providing women and girls with equal access to education, health care, decent work, and representation in political and economic decision-making processes will fuel sustainable economies and benefit societies and humanity at large.

The gender module is a pioneering topic which was introduced in 2016 with the help of USAID's gender program "Takamol". The module begins with the most important events and dates that are concerned with women's political participation in Jordan and internationally. From there, students get to discuss major challenges that women face in the Jordanian labor market and measures to achieve justice and equality for Jordanian women.

### **USAID Civic Initiatives Support Program (CIS)**

Gender equality and women's empowerment: Civic Initiatives Support (CIS) Program is a strong believer of gender equality, and tries to implement this concept on all its initiatives as much as its possible. CIS supports initiatives that work on the national level like the project with Sisterhood Is Global Institute (SIGI) – Jordan (NAJAT) that aims to reduce the number of discriminatory laws and regulations with negative impacts on women and girls' human rights. This initiative is supporting SIGI to advocate for removing Article 308 in the Penal Code (which allows a rapist to escape prosecution if he marries his victim) and amending the Personal Status Law to eliminate the exception to force girls under the age of 18 (and others affected by this law) to get married.

CIS is also working on initiatives that aim to reduce domestic and gender-based violence and providing women counseling services, in addition to supporting an initiative that aims to improve the health conditions of women farmers through advocating for access to the Government's free health insurance system, by conducting a legal analysis of the current laws and legislation that regulate the health insurance sector and documentation of cases from the ground, to design and implement the advocacy campaign.

Women empowerment is the essence of the Disi Women Association project that contributed to improving the economic situation for a group of low-income families in the Disi district through specialized training programs in ceramic manufacturing. That led to part time employment of 12 women who work at the ceramic workshop and market their products for tourists at Aqaba governorate and thus improving their social and economic situation. "My Journey to change" is yet another women empowerment project in Aqaba that engages women from two marginalized local communities - Karameh and Rashideh - in a process to empower them to effectively participate in family and societal level decisions.



Disi Women Cooperative employee using the clay piston to manufacture a ceramic plate. This employee along with another 11 received technical artistic training through a grant from USAID Civic Initiatives support Program, to learn ceramic manufacturing to be able to work at the cooperative, manufacture and sell their ceramics and thus leading to empower them economically and socially

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

Subgoal 5.5 - 5.5 – Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life

*“Powering Jordan’s future – these are the challenges that require all hands on deck, including manicured ones”* said US Ambassador to Jordan Alice G. Wells at the opening of Energy Sector Women’s Leadership Forum and Networking Event last year. 300 women joined 30 exhibitors to discuss information on workplace rights and career opportunities, and challenges facing women in the energy sector. For USAID’s Energy Sector Capacity Building Project, supporting SDG goal# 5 – *Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls* – provides additional support to our core SDG goal # 7 – *“Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.”*



US Ambassador to Jordan Alice G. Wells at Energy Sector Women’s Leadership Forum  
With HR Noor bint Asem

ESCB’s mainstreaming of gender considerations and leadership promotion has resulted in women taking positions such as Heads of Demand Side Management Units at electricity companies; serving as Energy Officers in government ministries, and the first female Arabic-speaking certified trainer of

CMVP. 40% of all technical trainees are women, and ESCB conducts workshops on career development, including public speaking, use of social media for professionals, networking skills and workplace rights. In 2016, ESCB is starting a project with Solar Mamas, which will upgrade skills of women in rural areas to directly provide renewable energy to unserved households.

For a report on Women in Energy in Jordan and other resources on #WomENERGYJO - <http://escb-jordan.org/gender/>



Irbid District Electric Company Engineer Dena Shahrer, here consulting with technician Fayez Bataineh, is one of the increasing number of women benefiting from USAID energy management training and women's leadership activities.

### **Sustainable Development Goal Seven: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all**

#### **Jordan Loan Guarantee Fund (JLGF)**

The work of solar energy systems designers and installers adds to sustainable industrialization and fosters innovation in alternative energy sources. USAID JLGF believes in the UN's Sustainable Development Goal of increasing the share of renewable energy sources and promotes the role of SMEs in Jordan's green economy by increasing their access to affordable credit. USAID JLGF has already encouraged lending to green projects by providing partial loan guarantees from OPIC, like the one for Jerash University's solar energy system, which was designed and installed by Intishar for Technological Projects.



Intishar for Technological Projects' team install solar panels for Jerash University. Jordan Ahli Bank's financing included an OPIC loan guarantee from USAID JLGF. ©USAID JLGF

Based on its belief in the viability of the sector and the success of its loans to renewable energy companies like Intishar, Jordan Ahli Bank approached USAID JLGf about creating a product specifically designed for these new economy businesses. Based on that early-stage advice and an introduction to another USAID implementing partner, Jordan Ahli Bank and USAID JCP recently initiated the bank's 'Clean Energy Solutions' program, which offers financial and technical resources in support of high-efficiency, renewable energy projects. Systems suppliers or purchasers that are SMEs can also benefit from program lending that includes USAID JLGf's partial loan guarantees from the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC).

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

#### **SDG 7.2 – By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix**

Jordan's Energy Strategy aims to raise the percentage of renewable energy from 2% in 2010 to 10% by 2020. The recently commissioned Tafileh Wind Farm will produce 117 megawatts of power – 3% of Jordan's energy needs. The USAID Energy Sector Capacity Building Project (ESCB) provided critical support in training, testing, certifying compliance for the Wind Farm and will provide similar assistance to other major solar and wind projects owned by the National Electric Power Company. ESCB is also assisting NEPCO to upgrade the national electricity grid for renewable energy integration and supporting NEPCO, government, utilities and the private sector on adoption of renewable energy project and establishing internationally accepted monitoring and evaluation procedures. Building the capacity of the public and private sector through training and establishment of an accreditation system for Energy Service Providers will lead towards a more rigorous process for design, implementation and evaluation of renewable energy projects. ESCB developed a financial model for micro loan products (appliances, solar water heaters and PV) – the first of its kind on Jordan. The National Microfinance Bank has just launched its first "green loan" based on this model.

Under its Flexible Response Mechanism, ESCB has established two solar PV demonstration sites for educational visits, which include a dashboard showing energy savings, worked with international NGOs to identify impact of solar water heaters on households, and supported the Greater Amman Municipality to develop a waste-to-energy tender for Amman.



Tarek Qubain, USAID Jordan Energy Sector Capacity Building Project engineer, and three trainees, Alaa Ayman Al-Sharif, Omar Ali, and Abdallah Elhambouth celebrate completion of solar PV installation on the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation in Amman.

#### **SDG 7.3 - By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency**

A small investment in energy efficiency measures will reduce energy bills by 1/3, with payback in less than a year. These are the groundbreaking results of energy audits conducted for six Government of Jordan ministry buildings. The USAID Energy Sector Capacity Building (ESCB) Project conducted these audits in cooperation with Energy Officers from each Ministry, and the support of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources coordinates a government wide energy saving program. SDG goal #7.2 calls for doubling the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency. USAID is supporting Jordan to reach that goal through capacity building and technical support for energy audits, accreditation of Energy Service Providers to conduct audits and implement Energy Conservation Measures, and developing operational plans and procedures for innovative financing and programs with the Jordan Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Fund. ESCB also initiated, with government and electric utilities, the first Demand Side Management program in the Middle East, and conducted a comprehensive household load survey on electricity use. For Arabic summary and full audit report, and posters summarizing audit results:

<http://escb-jordan.org/public-sector/>



## Sustainable Development Goal Eight: Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all

### Building Economic Sustainability through Tourism (BEST)

Adventure lovers can now explore the Jordan Trail, a pathway spanning 600 kilometers of beautiful hiking through Jordan's diverse terrains and landscapes. Starting from the forests of the north and continuing to the mountains, deserts and canyons of the south, the trail passes through 52 villages where hikers can enjoy local food, explore historical sites, and have an authentic Jordanian adventure. USAID is supporting the Jordan Trail Association (JTA) to develop and promote the national Jordan Trail over the next 12 months. The USAID Building Economic Sustainability through Tourism Project (BEST) awarded JTA a grant to develop the trail and a strategy that fosters adventure tourism, and enables service providers to run tours and trips along the trail. USAID BEST and the JTA will create investment opportunities for local communities

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along the trail, focusing on two of its sections: Um Qais to Ajloun and Dana to Petra. This can help create up to 200 jobs in five years, especially among women and youth, and bring income directly to local communities. In addition, USAID will support marketing and promotional activities, build the capacity of JTA staff and train 20 guides.



US Ambassador to Jordan and Minister of Tourism and Antiquities lead a hike along the first part of the trail, between Um Qais and Ajloun. The trail passes through 52 villages, bringing direct economic benefits to those communities.