

“Decentralization and the Call for Jordanians’ Participation”

6 July, 2017

On July 6, 2017, as part of the USAID Cities Implementing Transparent, Innovative and Effective Solutions (CITIES) series of “Learning Hours”, the guest of honor, H.E Khaled Al Kalaldeh, Chairman of the Independent Election Commission (IEC), spoke about the need of convincing citizens of the credibility of the electoral market and the ballot boxes.

International donors, USAID Implementing Partners, members of the USAID Democracy Rights and Governance Office, and CITIES staff were all invited to the “Learning Hour.”

Throughout the session, participants intently listened to H.E.’s first-hand experiences preparing for the 15 August elections. The elections signal the start of a decentralization process embracing the engagement of the local community in the decision-making process, empowering the role of women in the elections, and reinforcing a positive transformation of the image of local government.

“We couldn’t have a better person in a better time to inform us about elections than H.E Al Kalaldeh”.
Sean Osner, Director of Democracy Rights and Governance, USAID.

The elections on 15 August of this year marks the visible manifestation of decentralization in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan as it makes a historical shift in how the Government approaches implementation of strategies and action plans that embrace the concept of bottom-up consultations with local communities.

The movement towards decentralization will only succeed with the full engagement of all segments of society. H.E. Al Kalaldeh emphasized the importance of the equal opportunities for, and encouragement of, women of all age groups to run for elections as being a key principle of full engagement of society.



From left to right: Husni Olama, HR specialist, USAID-CITIES; H.E. Khaled Al-Kalaldeh, Chairman, Independent Election Commission, Sean Osner, Director of Democracy Rights and Governance, USAID, and Mark Grubb, Chief of Party, USAID CITIES. Photo by: CITIES.

“At least 25% of seats in the municipal councils allocated for women”.

H.E Khaled Kalaldeh, Chairman, IEC



Dr. Fares Braizat, Chairman, NAMA Strategic Intelligence Solutions, during Q&A session at CITIES learning hour. Photo by: CITIES

In the end, a Q&A session was conducted where participants were encouraged to raise questions and concerns about the decentralization and election processes. H.E. Al-Kalaldah summarized the security steps being taken with the ballot and the transparency of the candidacy process to preserve the image of the government and to provide a better future for Jordanians.



Mr. Mark Grubb, Chief of Party, USAID CITIES welcomed H.E. Al-Kalaldeh and all participants to CITIES Learning Hour.

“Elections are the hallmark of a democratic process where Jordanian men and women step forward to serve their kingdom as patriots to perpetuate the basic tenets of democracy and self-determination”.

Mark Grubb, Chief of Party, USAID CITIES.