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April 2018 | Implementing Partners Newsletter

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.

DO 1: Broad-Based, Inclusive Economic Development Accelerated



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

USAID SCHEP, Ministry of Tourism, International Scholars, and Community Members Celebrate Bayt Ras Findings

Held under the patronage of Her Excellency Lina Annab Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, the Department of Antiquities and USAID Sustainable Cultural Heritage through Engagement of Local Communities joined government representatives, dignitaries, specialists, and members of the local community to announce the initial findings of the Bayt Ras Tomb Project. These findings are being documented and

the tomb preserved through a partnership between the Department of Antiquities, an international consortium of scholars, and USAID Sustainable Cultural Heritage through Engagement of Local Communities. The project also trained members of the Department of Antiquities, graduate students, and local community members in best practices for mural painting documentation and conservation. The Bayt Ras Tomb is important to both the cultural heritage of Jordan and to the economic prosperity of Bayt Ras town. The excavation of the tomb will provide opportunities to build local capacity in conservation and preservation and will attract tourists to the area. It will also add to the body of knowledge about Capitolas, the ancient Roman city that flourished there during the second century.

Watch the [video](#) to learn more about the results of Bayt Ras Tomb Project.

Jordan Competitiveness Program (JCP)

Secured Lending Law Passes in Parliament, Setting Stage for Massive Increase in Small and Medium Business Lending

In a major development, the Government of Jordan approved a landmark Secured Lending Law in April 2018, capping a multi-year effort by the USAID Jordan Competitiveness Program to advocate for the legislation and put in place the system to support it. A USAID Jordan Competitiveness Program-developed Online Collateral Registry, also completed last year, allows small and medium-sized enterprises to register movable assets with the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply and verify them as collateral for vendors, reducing the threshold for credit worthiness, and dramatically increasing their access to finance and, with it, opportunities for growth. The new law will offer guarantees to lenders that the movable assets registered will serve as secure collateral in case of default. Now that the law has passed in Jordan, the online registry will allow banks to lend to small and medium-sized enterprises against their movable assets. A USAID Jordan Competitiveness Program impact assessment shows that this should increase banks' lending to these enterprises by an

estimated 7 percent annually, amounting to an increase of over \$1 billion per year in available financing, which will ultimately translate to creating around 35,000 jobs in Jordan over the next 4 years.

Local Enterprise Support (LENS)

Food Showcase Connects Home-Based Businesses to Restaurants and Chefs

On April 18, 25 home-based businesses showcased their food products at the Royal Academy for Culinary Arts. The businesses had received various types of support through USAID Local Enterprise Support, including lab testing, product development, packaging and food hygiene standards.



Restaurant owners attend the showcase event to establish business relationships with home-based businesses from local communities to incorporate their products into their recipes in the upcoming Jordan Food Week in July.

Restaurant owners and chefs attended the event to taste the businesses' products as part of an effort to establish new business relationships between home-based businesses and restaurants in the lead up to Jordan Food Week. The restaurants indicated interest in not only using the products

directly in their recipes, but also dedicating shelf space in their locations to sell the products themselves, with Shams El Balad and Primal having already sent in orders. These new linkages will enable the home-based businesses to expand their markets and grow their businesses.

Building Economic Sustainability Through Tourism (BEST)

World's Lowest Football Match Brings Jordanian Tourism into the International Spotlight

A world-record breaking football match at the Dead Sea capped off the Jordan Quest, a series of activities reaching 800 girls to raise awareness of women's football and empower young girls through football in Jordan, including a series of football clinics throughout the country, a hike from Dana to Petra, and the record-setting game. The USAID Building Economic Sustainability through Tourism-supported Jordan Quest, which was organized by the Asian Football Development Project and Equal Play Field, received extensive exposure from local and international media outlets like the Jordan Times, Roya, CNN, ESPN, SBS News, ABC News, and the Guardian, spreading awareness of Jordan as an ideal touristic destination.



Jordan Quest players gathered post-match.

To read more about DO 1: Broad-Based, Inclusive Economic Development Accelerated, click [HERE](#)

DO 2: Democratic Accountability Strengthened



Role of Law Program (ROLP)

Equipping Judges to Meet New Law Standards and Court Procedures



363 judges participated in a series of training workshops covering new laws and amendments that will accelerate and improve the quality of the litigation process.

From October 2017 to March 2018, USAID Rule of Law Program supported the Judicial Council in delivering a series of 20 sessions to 363 judges of Conciliation and First Instance Courts in Amman focusing on new laws and amendments, and particularly those elements aiming to accelerate and improve the quality of the litigation process. The training covered new laws and amendments such as improving appeals, penal, and conciliation processes; altering courts' specializations; delegating wider authority to public prosecutors, first instance, and conciliation court judges; introducing alternative sanctions for freedom-related penalties, such as community service; and, mandating the presence of a lawyer for those accused of crimes punishable by hard labor of over 10 years. Following the success of initial training efforts, USAID Rule of Law Program expanded the geographical reach of the training program to include judges in Aqaba and Irbid.

National Democratic Institute (NDI)

**Yarmouk University Usharek+ Students Present Bent 15
Campaign to the Parliamentary Committee of Women and
Family Affairs**



«المرأة وشؤون الاسرة النيابية تلتقي حملة «بنت 15»

Usharek+ students meeting the Parliamentary Committee of Women and Family Affairs

On March 11, 2018, students held presented their Bent 15 campaign, including campaign objectives and survey findings, to to the Parliamentary Committee of Women and Legal Affairs, as well as members of the Public Freedom and Human Rights and the Legal Committees. The Bent 15 campaign aims to amend Article 10 (b) of the Personal Status Law to prevent the marriage of minors under 15 years old. They developed the campaign as part of the Usharek+ program at their university, selecting the issue due to the growing prevalence of child marriage, which has increased from 9.5 percent in 2011 to 11.6 in 2015 according to the Higher Population Council. Following the meeting, members of Parliament Reem Abu Dalbough and Khalid Ramadan signed the campaign petition and promised to discuss their recommendations in upcoming parliamentary sessions, and to deliver them to the Legal Committee as it continues to debate the Personal Status Law. Later in the month, the Lebanese Arab News Broadcasting TV interviewed the students about their vision, challenges, community responses, and their use of social media to raise awareness on this crucial issue.

[Link to the interview](#)

Media coverage of the meeting:

- Royya News
- Jordan News Agency (Petra)
- Royya TV News(Minute: 3:57 - 4:17)

- Jordan TV Local News (Minute: 12:27 - 12:56)
- Jordanian Parliament Official Website

International Republican Institute (IRI)

In order to empower citizens to be more engaged in local governance, International Republican Institute held a workshop for 11 of its 20 Citizen Committees. During the workshop, committee member Ahmad Al-Namas shared his experience with Citizen Committees and discussed the importance of citizens' involvement in community affairs to ensure the sharing of municipal information, delivering of services, and collecting citizens' feedback. Through workshops like these, Citizen Committees are able to share best practices and collectively enhance their knowledge and skills to strengthen citizen engagement with local governance.



Irbid Citizen Committee member Ahmad Namas sharing experience, best practices, and achievements with new members

To read more about DO 2: Democratic Accountability Strengthened, click [HERE](#)

DO 3: Essential Public Services Improved

Education and Youth



Non Formal Education (NFE)

Hasan Discovers New, Positive Pathways through Non-Formal Education Center

Growing up in a negative environment, Hasan was a violent and angry teenager; however, when he learned about the USAID-supported non-formal education center in his area, he saw an opportunity to make a change. At the center, Hasan not only has learned to read and write, but he has also found a supportive community that has helped him discover his passion: music. "When the teacher asked me to list the letters of the alphabet, I told her I want to sing them along with playing the drums... When I make rhythms, I feel like I'm making all the anger and sadness inside vanish. I would love to join a band and make people happy all the time," reflects Hasan. Joining the USAID Non-Formal Education activity has transformed an angry teenager into a happy person with hopes and skills to realize a positive direction for his future.



A writing class at the non-formal education center helped transform Hasan's life for the better.

Early Grade Reading and Math Project (RAMP)

USAID RAMP Hones in on Early Grade Math with New Booster Training

A mid-line assessment conducted in May 2017 showed that children in early grades still had difficulty using fundamental skills and basic operations to solve mathematical problems. In response, the USAID Early Grade Reading and Math Project developed a targeted Mathematics Booster Program to equip teachers with concrete teaching techniques that will allow children to explore different strategies to solve complex problems and will move away from traditional rote memorization methods. The training was conducted in April 2018, and reached nearly 8,000 teachers throughout Jordan who will help ensure that children learn the fundamental skills they need to succeed in school and, later on, in the workforce.

Cultivating Inclusive and Supportive Learning Environments in Jordan (CISLE)

Training Teachers and Supervisors for Sustainable Improvements in Learning Outcomes

As of April 30, 2018, USAID Cultivating Inclusive and Supportive Learning Environments has trained 8,963 teachers on psychosocial and interactive pedagogy and conducted introductory and face-to-face meetings in 43 schools in order to provide teachers with the skills necessary to provide quality education to students with increasingly complex needs. Moreover, USAID Cultivating Inclusive and Supportive Learning Environments launched the supervisor training for the first group of 39 Ministry of Education supervisors, aiming to establish a core team in schools to oversee and maintain the quality of teacher training.

Water and Environment



Water Innovation Technologies (WIT)

Building Capacity of Members of Local Organizations to Enhance Awareness on Water Conversation



Members of local organizations participated in trainings to raise awareness of local communities on water conservation practices and resources

Through its partners the Jordan River Foundation, the Royal Scientific Society, and Dinarak, USAID Water Innovation Technologies is building the capacity of community-based organizations to raise the awareness of local communities on water conservation practices, available technologies and available financing instruments to adopt these technologies in homes. This month the project trained 46 participants from ten organizations in Ajloun and Mafraq in the following topics: life skills, water issues, advocacy and e-financial literacy. Furthermore, the training included a module on e-wallet management as the project has recently deployed digital financial services within the organizations. This effort follows the Central Bank of Jordan's vision to increase the number of people included in Jordan's financial matrix.

Water Management Initiative (WMI)

Protecting Our Water Resources



Technical experts from prominent water-sector entities participated in field visit learn how to better manage water resources in Jordan

In April, the USAID Water Management Initiative developed a step-by-step Water Safety Plan to help the Government of Jordan maintain a safe supply of drinking water for the public by adapting regulatory standards addressing the country's four main water systems in Amman, Jerash, Karak and Zai, and in accordance with World Health Organization guidelines. To further share best practices on producing safe-drinking water, USAID's Water Management Initiative conducted its first-ever Water Safety Planning and Auditing training program to help the Ministry of Water and Irrigation build staff capacity and better manage water resources long-term. During the four-day training, 32 technical experts from entities such as the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, the Water Authority of Jordan, Miyahuna, Yarmouk Water Company, and the Ministry of Health participated in simulated exercises and hands-on field visits to Wadi Mujib Dam, which pumps water to critical water sources for Amman and the northern governorates, to identify and audit potential hazards when assessing Jordan's water supply systems and to Deek and Zai Water Treatment Plants to plant to develop a detailed risk management plan inclusive of real-world scenarios. This effort is part of USAID's larger focus in helping the Ministry of Water and Irrigation build staff capacity to better plan and manage water resources

Non Revenue Water (NRW)

Shaping Water Awareness in the Classroom



Learning to save water in a country where water has always been limited is a valuable life skill. Engineers at Jordan's water company, Miyahuna, are helping students do just that by teaming up with leading educators and recipients of Queen Rania's Award for Distinguished Teachers and Principals to promote water conservation education in Jordan's schools. "Some students have grown up their entire lives not knowing that water is limited. [And] most students don't know how they can be a part of the solution," notes lead engineer and workshop facilitator Mobadda Ali Allabadi. Miyahuna's water awareness workshops teach youth ages 7 to 22 years old how to conserve the limited water they have by identifying and reporting water loss. In the past month alone, nearly 500 students from various classrooms in Abu-Alanda, Yasmin, Sahab and Wadi Al-Sir participated in interactive sessions to shed light on Jordan's difficult water shortage. By teaching students water conservation techniques at a young age, USAID Non-Revenue Water helps ensure that a generation of Jordanians are equipped with the knowledge and skills to conserve the country's most precious resource for generations to come.

Sustainable Environment and Economic Development Project (SEED)

USAID SEED Showcases Rangeland Rehabilitation Work for International Experts

Mrs. Bethanie Walder, Executive Director of the Society of Ecological Restoration, accompanied by Mr. Tariq Abu Taleb, Executive Director of the Royal Botanical Garden, and Dr. Sabah Saifan visited Sabha Community Nursery on April 19, 2018 to learn about the important role that the USAID Sustainable Environment and Economic Development Project plays in rangeland rehabilitation.



Executive Directors for the Society of Ecological Restoration and Royal Botanic Garden visit Sabha Community Nursery

"It was inspiring to learn from Sabha nursery ladies about the process of native plant production starting from seed collection and ending by out planting in the native habitats. The level of knowledge they demonstrated shows the quality of information people can learn in such a short time without previous agricultural background. As Jordan is one of the most water-poor countries in the world, the provision of these high-quality seedlings by SEED Project to rehabilitate the Jordan Badia is crucial to revive ecosystems, prevent erosion,

help in ground water recharge, and eventually improve the livelihoods of the local communities", added Mrs Walder.

Population and Family Health



Human Resources for Health Activity (HRH 2030)

Government of Jordan Enacts New Mandatory Bylaw for Health Professional License Renewal with Support of HRH2030

On April 1, the Government of Jordan enacted a new mandatory bylaw for health professional license renewal in Jordan. Published in the official gazette, the bylaw was developed under the High Health Council with the technical support of the USAID Human Resources for Health in 2030 Jordan Activity. The bylaw requires all health professionals to renew their license every five years based on obtaining continuing professional development and education credits. In line with Jordan's Vision 2025 goal of achieving universal health coverage, this bylaw is envisioned to improve the sustainability and resilience of quality health services in Jordan. The activity is planning a launch event for the bylaw under the Patronage of the Chairman of the High Health Council and Minister of Health Prof. Mahmoud Al Sheyyab and in the presence of national stakeholders in Jordan on May 9, 2018.

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To read more about DO 3: Social Security Quality Improved, click [HERE](#)

DO 4: Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Enhanced



Health, Finance, and Governance Activity (HFG)

Three USAID Implementing Partners Collaborate to Bring Clarity for Health Coverage of Children of Jordanian Mothers under Six

On April 10, 2018 the Civil Health Insurance Program issued a circular that explicitly states that "children under 6 of Jordanian mothers are treated like Jordanian children." This came as a result of a number of discussions and advocacy interventions conducted by three USAID implementing partners - the USAID Health Finance and Governance Activity, the USAID Rule of Law Program and USAID Takamol - to bring clarity on a decree issued by the government in 2014 to provide non-Jordanian children of Jordanian mothers with rights such as health coverage, education, employment, ownership, issuance of private car driving licenses and investment for their children. The implementation of the 2014

decreed was not always consistent by government entities especially with regards to health care specifically for children under six years. Jordanian mothers are not able to pass on Jordanian citizenship to their children, and they have faced many challenges to provide their non-Jordanian children with the basic rights that Jordanian children receive. This circular helps ensure that all children under six of Jordanian women have access to quality health services in Jordan.

National Democratic Institute (NDI)

Parliamentary Women and Family Affairs Committee Meets with Women Activists and Female Members of Local Councils in Mafraq.



Activists and local council members met with the Women and Family Affairs Committee to learn more about the committee and to encourage cooperation between grassroots activists and the committee.

Aiming to enhance the knowledge and understanding of the work of the Women & Family Affairs Committee, the National Democratic Institute's Parliamentary Strengthening Program and Women Political Participation Program assisted the Committee in organizing a meeting with women activists and female members of local councils from local communities of

Mafrq Governorate. During the meeting, Chairperson of the Committee Member of Parliament Reem Abu Dalbough introduced the legislative priorities of the committee and the current legislative agenda of the Parliament, followed by a presentation and discussion on the roles and responsibilities of various elected entities and the need for further cooperation between the parliamentary committee and grassroots activists. Members of the committee expressed interest in organizing similar workshops in other governorates as well with the support of the National Democratic Institute.

"We seek to overcome the challenges and difficulties facing women through strengthening the frameworks of cooperation and communication with all relevant parties in order to support women in leadership positions and in continuing to lead in serving their local communities," reflected Ms. Reem Abu Dalbough.

Media Coverage: Madina News, Petra News

Success Story

Cities Implementing Transparent, Innovative, and Effective Solutions (CITIES)

USAID CITIES Partners with the Ministry of Interior to Advance Opportunities for Women

Meet Dr. Ruba Al Hujran, a native of Al Karak Governorate with a PhD in Criminology. Ruba grew up with a deep sense of responsibility for the people in her hometown of Al Karak. Ruba is committed to learning more about when, where, and how she can turn her sense of responsibility into something positive for her community. "I knew I had to take up a career in the governmental field to be able to convey the needs of my people and address issues that I grew up with," Ruba recalls.

Ruba's goal was to reach a place that brings her closer to the local community. Her opportunity came when she was appointed as the head of the Community Outreach/Equal

Opportunities Departments within the Al Karak Governorate and the Secretary General of Al Karak Governorate Council.



Certificate award ceremony of the USAID CITIES Governorate Community Outreach/Equal Opportunities Departments Training

USAID CITIES works with the Ministry of Interior to develop and strengthen the capacities of Governorate Community Outreach/Equal Opportunities Departments across the Kingdom. Through a series of intensive workshops on how to prepare the Governorates' Needs Manual, members of these departments, like Ruba, received comprehensive training and guidance on identifying data related to those community needs in order to prepare development plans that will contribute to a unified governorate needs list. These workshops also empowered and provided opportunities for proactive female governorate employees like Ruba to leverage this newly acquired knowledge and skills by conducting needs identification sessions with civil society organizations.

After completing the training workshops, Ruba worked for months with the communities to prioritize their needs, delivering a thorough needs list that covered all official and community sectors in the districts of Karak Governorate. "My new expertise as the head of the Community Outreach/Equal Opportunity Department gave me more credibility and increased people's confidence that allowed them to talk about their needs with the right person - me," says Ruba. "With my

knowledge and my vital position, I was able to bring the local community in contact with Al Karak Governor through periodic meetings, making every voice matter," she adds.

Today, Ruba and her Community Outreach/Equal Opportunities Departments' colleagues are achieving their goals with support from the USAID CITIES. Formulation of the Needs Manual is considered a crucial first step towards working within the Law on Decentralization, and one that Ruba and her peers work hard to translate into development plans that begin and end with the community.

Content Development Support

The DOC team has created a Content Development Support Form which you can use to request photography and content development not directly related to events from Bidaya and the DOC team. The forms were originally sent to partners and AOR/CORs. However, they will always be available [here](#) for your convenience.

Contact Information

Contact information for USAID/Jordan programs is available on our website: <https://www.usaid.gov/jordan/work-with-us/partners>. If you would like to contact a specific person, please go through your COR/AOR. Thanks.

<https://www.usaid.gov/jordan/work-with-us/partners>

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