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SUCCESS STORY

Jordan's First M&E Association Reaps USAID's years of Leadership

USAID's best practices in data management yields the largest assembly of monitoring and evaluation professionals in the MENA region



*6th EvalMENA General Assembly and Evaluation Conference
Amman, Jordan - October 7-10, 2017*

"USAID's support to this remarkable event is only a natural continuation of its outstanding leadership and support to the Jordanian M&E community."
Mohammad Qaryouti, Monitoring and Evaluation Director - USAID Jordan Cities Project; Implementing Transparent, Innovative, and Effective Solutions (CITIES)

Over the past decade, Jordan has become home to a growing number of development projects and more than 50% of unregistered Syrian refugees living within the local communities. The lack of documented improvement of operations and the ever-increasing complexity of data and its significant impact on results, are all reasons why monitoring and evaluation of development and humanitarian assistance has become a topic of academic and political importance.

The United States Agency for International Development in Jordan has been a cynosure of monitoring, evaluation, and learning within the international donor community as a leader for development projects. Through USAID's professional record of best practices in this area, M&E has become Jordan's ever-expanding critical tool for results-oriented management by professionals from governmental, non-governmental, and international organizations.

In May 2014, two of USAID's own M&E professionals, Mohammad Al-Qaryouti and Hayat Askar, committed to bringing M&E practitioners together through the establishment of the Jordan Development Evaluation Association (EvalJordan). The association's core-vision lies in establishing a culture of M&E that improves evaluation practices and methods; strengthens officials' fact-based decision and policy-making; expands the use of M&E tools; and increases access to regional and international M&E expertise.

With a modest effort of only 15 committed professional members in 2014, EvalJordan now enjoys over 80 M&E passionate professionals working as one and leading the largest assembly of monitoring and evaluation professionals in the MENA region. Having started at the local level, EvalJordan's presence expanded on a regional scale to become one of eight officially registered members in The Middle East and North Africa Evaluation Network (EvalMENA).

This year, EvalJordan marked years of its hard work by hosting the 6th Annual EvalMENA Conference in Amman. Thanks in no small part to its commitment to support the M&E community in Jordan and the region, USAID held pre-conference professional development workshops for local evaluators and M&E professionals from Jordan and the region, especially young and emerging evaluators.

It comes as no surprise that today, the M&E Director of the USAID-funded CITIES project, Mr. Al-Qaryouti, is serving as the Chairman of the Board for both EvalJordan and EvalMENA offices, while Ms. Askar is the Board's Treasurer. Both individuals see their current positions of responsibilities and influence within EvalJordan as a natural outcome of their years of service within the USAID-Jordan's family of Jordanian M&E professionals.