



USAID
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JORDAN COUNTRY PROFILE

Jordan has made important progress expanding access to quality water, education, and health services. It boasts a youthful workforce, vibrant local business community, growing civil society, and increasing capacity for good governance. However, unemployment is high, particularly among women and youth, and the rapidly growing population and influx of refugees from regional crises are straining the country's limited resources, threatening to derail the country's continued development.

The United States and Jordan maintain a long-standing partnership to support economic stability, strengthen democratic governance, improve essential service delivery, and promote gender equality. USAID remains committed to working with the people and Government of Jordan to bolster the country's economic stability and security and help the country advance toward a self-reliant future.

OUR WORK

ACCELERATING ECONOMIC GROWTH

Jordan's youth and women struggle with disproportionately high unemployment, and businesses face a challenging regulatory environment with limited access to capital and services for growth. USAID works with the Government of Jordan to foster an enabling environment for private sector growth in competitive sectors; develop Jordan's energy resources and lower utility costs; train the workforce to meet market needs; and improve public financial management. With USAID support, the Government of Jordan enacted reforms that helped it advance 34 places on the 2019 Doing Business Ranking, the second highest improvement worldwide, and improved domestic resource mobilization, resulting in 100 million USD in new tax revenues in 2019 alone.

PHOTO CREDIT: MOHAMMAD MAGAYDA

STRENGTHENING DEMOCRATIC ACCOUNTABILITY

In 2011, King Abdullah II launched a political reform process to increase citizen participation in decision-making and to ensure governing institutions are accountable and transparent. USAID supports the King's vision by strengthening government institutions and citizen participation. USAID programs enhance rule of law, strengthen the process for free and fair elections, build the capacity of parliamentarians to perform their duties, and improve municipal delivery of services. USAID supports civil society organizations to advocate for citizens' interests, fosters citizen participation in local governance, and increases avenues for youth to engage in political life. In recent years, USAID helped establish and strengthen the Independent Election Commission to monitor elections; developed e-services for citizens to access government services; and developed the technical and administrative capacities of over 950 civil society organizations.

IMPROVING ESSENTIAL SERVICE DELIVERY

Population growth and a significant refugee population have strained Jordan's health, water, and education services, which have been further taxed by the COVID-19 pandemic. USAID partners with the Government of Jordan in health, water, and education to expand infrastructure, build staff capacity to deliver services, and strengthen institutional oversight and community engagement. USAID support includes renovating and modernizing 349 health facilities since 2002; building water and wastewater infrastructure like Zara Ma'in Water Treatment Plant, which provides drinking water to an estimated 1.7 million residents; building, expanding, and renovating 377 schools since 2007 to expand equitable access to education; and establishing 40 non-formal education centers for out-of-school children and youth.

PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY

Less than one-fifth of women in Jordan participate in the workforce, political participation remains limited, and violence against women persists. Across its work, USAID raises awareness of gender issues, strengthens gender-specific services, and supports community-led action to advance gender equality. USAID has supported the Government of Jordan to adopt and implement the Flexible Working Hours bylaw to encourage women's economic participation; helped the Ministry of Health launch Jordan's first National Maternal Mortality Surveillance and Response System Health, making Jordan one of the few middle-income countries with reliable, up-to-date data on maternal mortality; and provided campaign training to women candidates, contributing to the highest number of women elected in the 2016 parliamentary and 2017 local elections.



USAID helps women enter and excel in non-traditional economic sectors.
PHOTO CREDIT: KIWII MEDIA SOLUTIONS



With USAID support, water utilities improve infrastructure and reduce water losses.
PHOTO CREDIT: SALEEM FAKHOURY



USAID supports continuing education for health workers.
PHOTO CREDIT: SALEEM FAKHOURY

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