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- USAID has built 28 new schools, expanded 97 existing schools and renovated 609 kindergarten classrooms since 2006.
- USAID has provided nearly \$700 million to the water sector throughout Jordan since 2000 including the construction of the As-Samra Wastewater Treatment Plant and the establishment of the Aqaba Water Company.

Photo: USAID JCAP Project

Country Profile

The United States and Jordan have worked in partnership in development since 1957. Today, USAID's development strategy includes programs in education, water, economic development and energy, democracy, rights and governance, family planning and health, gender equality, and female empowerment. USAID also supports Jordan's efforts to address increased challenges resulting from the influx of refugees, while building resiliency to support national stability.

OUR WORK

DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

USAID aims to strengthen democratic accountability in Jordan using a comprehensive approach. USAID supports civil society, expands civic participation, promotes human rights through democratic reforms, strengthens representative political parties, promotes free and fair elections, and enhances community resilience. USAID supports the Jordanian government's objective to improve its national democratic institutions, local governance, rule of law, and transparency by working with national institutions, civil society organizations, and communities. USAID also encourages the inclusion of women, youth, people with disabilities, and refugees in all programs to improve democratic processes, service delivery, and social cohesion, particularly for communities hosting Syrian refugees.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENERGY

USAID programs promote economic growth by improving the business-enabling environment, increasing competitiveness, creating a skilled workforce, and helping vulnerable groups. Since 2006, USAID has helped to attract \$1 billion in new investments to Jordan and to create tens of thousands of jobs. Its efforts have accelerated growth in tourism, medical services, and information and communication technologies, and have fostered the creation of a microfinance industry that serves over 300,000 people with a \$187 million portfolio. During the past two years, USAID has helped the Government of Jordan (GOJ) raise \$3.75 billion in affordable financing from international capital markets so it can provide critical services to its citizens as it enacts economic reforms and hosts approximately 655,000 registered refugees, while continuing to support improved government financial management through implementation of a unified financial information management system for the GOJ and improved revenue performance and tax administration. USAID is also developing strategies to lower energy costs, foster public and private investment in clean energy technologies, and create a new market for Jordanian energy companies and service providers. It is also helping the GOJ increase energy efficiency and diversifies its energy resource base to incorporate renewables including solar and wind power.

POPULATION AND FAMILY HEALTH

The influx of Syrian refugees has overwhelmed and weakened the Kingdom's health system. Service delivery has become fragmented and less client-centered as demand now outpaces capacity. In order to protect previous maternal and child health progress from backsliding, USAID is supporting the GOJ to: 1) Expand its capacity to provide quality health services to meet the increased demand, and 2) Develop the resiliency and promote the stability of its healthcare system to respond to these (and future) stressors. USAID is currently expanding Irbid's Princess Rahma Pediatric Hospital to increase its capacity by 35 percent.

EDUCATION AND YOUTH

USAID programs support the GOJ to reform the educational system by building the capacity of teachers and administrators and through school construction and rehabilitation of classrooms that facilitate child-centered learning. USAID works with the GOJ on strengthening reading and math skills in the first few grades of school both inside the classroom and in a child's community, as well as providing psychosocial training to teachers. Since 2006, USAID has built 28 new schools, expanded 97 existing schools and renovated 609 kindergarten classrooms. Jordan has established that, due to the influx of refugees and population growth, the country requires an additional 5,000 classrooms over the next four years. To support that effort, USAID will build 2,000 of those classrooms by investing \$230 million to build 25 new schools, expand another 120 schools and renovate 132 schools.

WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

Jordan is one of the most water scarce countries on in the world. Demand for water exceeds Jordan's renewable freshwater sources. The influx of refugees has sharply raised water demand by 20 percent across the country and 40 percent in northern governorates, and increased pressure on water and wastewater-treatment infrastructure. To address increased needs, USAID is strengthening water and wastewater infrastructure, improving water sector management, protecting natural resources and increasing and conserving water supply. Since 2000 alone, USAID has provided nearly \$700 million to the water sector in Jordan: the construction of As-Samra wastewater treatment plant, Zara Ma'in water treatment plant, community-based water projects in all 12 governorates, major improvements to Amman's water network, the establishment of the Aqaba Water Company and work to rehabilitate the north of Jordan's infrastructure.

GENDER EQUALITY AND FEMALE EMPOWERMENT

Enhancing gender equality and female empowerment is a priority for USAID. USAID partners with the Government of Jordan, donors and civil society organizations to promote changes in discriminatory social norms and practices, enhance advocacy and policy reforms for gender-based issues, expand access to female-centered services and encourage women's political and economic participation.

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USAID is continuing its 55-year history of partnership with Jordan's government and private sector to build and expand the country's water infrastructure.
PHOTO: MOHAMMED MAGHAYDA FOR USAID



Students practice being chefs for the morning on a field trip to the USAID-funded Hospitality and Tourism Vocational Training Institute in Aqaba.
PHOTO: USAID/BUILDING ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH TOURISM (BEST) PROJECT



A nurse tends to a baby in Karak Hospital's neonatal intensive care unit. USAID has expanded and equipped hospitals throughout Jordan in partnership with the Ministry of Health. PHOTO: MOHAMMED MAGHAYDA FOR USAID