

Development of Rural and Disadvantaged Areas in Jordan

Background

On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH has established an Open Regional Fund for the Middle East and North Africa region, which is managed by the Cooperation with Arab Donors Programme (CAD). In partnership with CAD and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), the Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development (JOHUD) is implementing the Development of Rural and Disadvantaged Areas in Jordan Project.

The unemployment rate in Jordan is currently at 13.1% overall, with 30.6% unemployment between the ages of 20-24. Vulnerability in Jordan is attributed largely to the lack of economic development and infrastructure. Increase in prices, low wages and dwindling governmental support of social safety nets are major factors that contribute to the increase in poverty. The problem has significantly exacerbated after the Syrian crisis and the hosting of Syrian refugees in different areas of Jordan. Pressures on natural resources and unemployment have increased according to studies of the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC).

Since its inception in 1977, JOHUD has actively participated in the construction of an extensive support network and has consolidated its presence locally. Its goal is to work closely with its partners and communities in order to achieve sustainable social development. After 30 years of work and experience, JOHUD has created opportunities in all communities of the Kingdom. JOHUD works closely with the Government of Jordan, international development agencies and local community organisations, and offers a wide range of social development services.

IsDB and GIZ Contribution to the Development of Rural and Disadvantaged Areas in Jordan Project

GIZ and IsDB jointly fund the Development of Rural and Disadvantaged Areas in Jordan Project in 2016 to support the livelihood of vulnerable groups in two Jordanian villages in the Ajlun and Karak Governorates through Village Development Councils (VDC) and income generating opportunities.

Table: Jointly supported villages by IsDB, GIZ and JOHUD

Governorate	Village Name
Ajlun	Al Wahadneh
Karak	Gour Al Safi

Project Objective

The project aims of enhancing the engagement of the community and create more job opportunities to the local communities with a focus on women and youth in those areas including Syrian refugees.

Project Components

The joint GIZ-IsDB project features the following components:

- 1) Supervising the establishment of Village Development Councils "VDC" (*financed by GIZ*)

This component will be funded through GIZ. During this phase the JOHUD team in cooperation with the Community Development Centers will form the Village Development Councils and build their capacities through specific trainings.

- 2) Income Generating Projects (*financed by IsDB*)

This component will be funded through IsDB. The JOHUD team and Small Business Unit in cooperation with



the VDCs will conduct a needs assessment to identify the market demands in targeted areas to come up with the needed income generating projects. In addition, the VDCs play a vital role in helping the beneficiaries to propose their project ideas and give them support before and after the project implementation.

About IsDB

The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) is a regional development bank linked to the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) that became operational in 1975. The Islamic Development Bank is part of the Islamic Development Bank Group, together with five other entities:

1. The Islamic Research and Training Institute (IRTI)
2. The Islamic Corporation for Development of the Private Sector (ICD)
3. The Islamic Corporation for Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC)
4. The Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC)



The present membership of the Bank consists of 56 countries. The basic condition for membership is that the prospective member country should be a member of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), pay its contribution to the capital of the Bank and be willing to accept such terms and conditions as may be decided upon by the IDB Board of Governors.

For more information about IsDB please visit: <http://www.isdb-pilot.org/>

About JOHUD

Established in 1977, the Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development (JOHUD) is the oldest and largest non-profit, non-governmental organisation dedicated to promoting rights-based, sustainable human development in Jordan.

With a network of 51 Community Development Centres located throughout the country, JOHUD is at the forefront of building a brighter future for those living in

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under-served, poor, and remote communities. JOHUD provides sustainable support that empowers individuals to work with their neighbours, strengthen their communities and secure access to the resources they need to achieve healthy and fulfilled lives.

For more information about JOHUD please visit: www.johud.org.jo.

