

Madrasati – Safe and Creative School Spaces

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 OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID), the Madrasati Initiative is implementing the Madrasati Safe and Creative School Spaces Program in Jordan.

The recent political context has created serious challenges for the Jordanian government to ensure adequate education in Jordanian schools. The conflict in Syria has led to the influx of over 660,000 registered Syrian refugees. Approximately every third refugee is in school age, which means between 5 and 17 years. Following the agreement by the Jordanian Government to enrol these students in public schools, the need arises to direct more resources to Jordanian public schools to better absorb the increasing number of new students. Moreover, there is a clear need to improve the overall quality of education, through better teacher training, provision of safe infrastructure and after-school activities.

The Madrasati Initiative was introduced by Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah in 2008. It set out to rejuvenate 500 public schools, in dire need for safer, brighter and more inspiring learning environments, across Jordan. During the last years it effectively reached an estimate of 170.000 students and 11.000 teachers.

OFID and GIZ Contribution to the Madrasati Initiative

GIZ and OFID joined the ongoing Madrasati Initiative in 2015 to support 8 more schools which are particularly affected by the influx of Syrian refugees. The schools

are from five governorates (Amman, Irbid, Mafrq, Balqa and Karak).

Table: Cooperatively funded schools by OFID, GIZ and Madrasati

Governorate	School Name
Mafrq	Jaber Al Sarhan Comprehensive School for Boys Manshiyyat Al Sulta Mixed School
Karak	Rakeen Secondary School for Boys
Balqa	Safout Secondary School for Girls Ma'addi Secondary School for Boys
Amman	AlRasheed Basic School for Boys
Irbid	Soum Secondary School for Boys Amrawa Secondary School for Girls

Project Objective

The objective of the cooperation is to improve the quality of education, both for Jordanian and Syrian refugee students, to empower them through enriching the classroom and after-school learning and providing them with life skills that are necessary to contribute to social peace in the Jordanian host communities.

Project Components

The joint GIZ-OFID project features the following three interlinking components:

- 1) Construction Works (financed by OFID)

The facilities of schools are often in neglected conditions. This is the reason why this component aims at filling in the gaps of financing in public schools to cover needed maintenance and infrastructural work in schools in targeted areas. With the contribution of OFID playgrounds, sanitary units, classrooms, walls, doors, fences, etc. will be renovated and solar panels in four schools installed



- Light maintenance works (€250.000)
- Refurbishing and equipping (€220.000)
- Installment of solar panels in 4 schools (€140.000)

During the course of the project, the Madrasati Initiative will contribute with their own finances (€860.000) to the renovation of schools.

2) Youth Clubs (financed by GIZ with €360.000)

In the schools, pedagogically useful extracurricular activities are missing. Therefore, student friendly youth clubs in each of the targeted schools will be established. Each youth club will be designed to meet the needs of the student body and include a specific set of activities and training courses for students. The programme aims at developing social competencies, like self-confidence, resilience, teamwork, discipline and fairness. This is being done amongst others through cultural activities and sports.

3) "Proud to be a Teacher" Programme (financed by GIZ with €80.000)

Teachers in Jordan receive less social appreciation for their work. Realizing that teachers play a pivotal role in any school; Madrasati initiated Proud to be a Teacher project to recognize the teachers. The critical role they can play in schools is not fully communicated to them and is underestimated. Thus, Proud to be a Teacher focuses on inspiring and motivating teachers by showing them that every teacher can make a difference and by encouraging teachers to look within themselves and see the positive talents or skills they have and how to bring them out inside the schools.

The cooperation project started in September 2015 and is set for two years. Around 900 pupils and 230 teachers in primary and secondary schools in Jordan participate in it. The Madrasati Initiative provides €860.000, OFID €600.000, and the GIZ, on behalf of the BMZ, is contributing up to €440.000.

About OFID

The [OPEC Fund for International Development](#) was established in 1976 with the objective to foster South-South development cooperation and to provide help to the poorest countries in the world. The Fund is based on partnership and financial cooperation between its member countries and developing countries. OFID's priority areas are energy, agriculture, transportation, finance, trade, capital markets, funding for Micro Small and Medium Enterprises, multi-sectoral community-based development, water and sanitation, health, and education.

For more information about OFID, please contact elvira.ganter@giz.de.

About Madrasati

Launched by Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah in 2008, [Madrasati](#) ("My School") works under the legal umbrella of the Jordan River Foundation and aims at enhancing the educational experience of students and providing them with a safe physical environment to learn, develop and grow. The initiative set out to rejuvenate the overall learning environment in 500 public schools across the country.

In order to achieve those goals, the Madrasati initiative includes efforts to upgrade the schools' physical environments, to implement dynamic and needs-driven educational programs, and to bring together public, private and non-profit sectors in a comprehensive education initiative.



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