



Engaging Citizens in Jordan's Local Government Needs Assessment Process: National Dialogue Events



15 and 16 December 2020

MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION



**Middle East and North Africa
Transition Fund**



Context and objectives

Within the framework of the Jordan Decentralization project, the OECD in close collaboration with the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC) and Al Hayat RASED is organizing a two-day National Dialogue event to launch the OECD Review “*Engaging Citizens in Jordan’s Local Government Needs Assessment Process*”. This Review aims to support the Government of Jordan’s Decentralization reform by providing an assessment of the main gaps in the current Needs Assessment process, including those relevant to the governance, public communication and stakeholder participation aspects. The Review, complemented by the document “*Supporting Open Government at the local level in Jordan*”, will provide government representatives at all levels with a practical set of recommendations and cases from OECD countries to support implementation efforts in this regard.

In the advent of the draft Local Administration law, the second day of the event will provide a timely opportunity to gather stakeholders from national, governorate, municipal and local levels and support implementation efforts around the decentralization reform through capacity building activities. It will enable the exchange of best practices and lessons learnt on themes such as governance challenges, communication, inclusiveness and representativeness of stakeholders, amongst others, to identify future avenues to support the needs assessment process.

DAY 1: LAUNCH OF THE OECD REVIEW “ENGAGING CITIZENS IN JORDAN’S LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

15 December 2020

11.00 – 12.30 (Amman Time)

Opening Remarks and launch

11.00 – 11.20

- **His Excellency, Mr. Nasser Shraideh**, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, **Jordan**
- **Dr. Amer Bani Amer**, Founder and General Director of Al-Hayat RASED Center for Civil Society Development, **Jordan**.
- **Ms. Barbara Ubaldi**, Acting Director, Open and Innovative Government Division, **OECD**

MoPIC, together with the OECD and Al Hayat RASED, will officially launch the *Engaging Citizens in Jordan’s Local Government Needs Assessment Process* OECD review as part of this first session.

11.20 – 11.30 **Coffee Break**

11.30 – 12.20 **Presentation of the Key Findings and Recommendations of the OECD Jordan Review**

- **Presentation from the OECD Public Governance Directorate of the main findings**
 - **Michael Jelenic**, Policy Analyst, **OECD**
 - **Paulina López Ramos**, Junior Policy Analyst, **OECD**
- **Presentation of the recommendations matrix:**
 - **Hatem Habahbeh**, Head of Governorates Development Section, **MoPIC**
- **Tour de Table with public officials in Jordan**

The OECD will present a selection of the key findings and recommendations from the *Engaging Citizens in Jordan’s Local Government Needs Assessment Process* review, before opening the floor to discussions with interlocutors from the Government of Jordan on their implementation.

12.20– 12.30 **Closing remarks**

- **Hatem Habahbeh**, Head of Governorates Development Section, **MoPIC**
- **Michael Jelenic**, Policy Analyst, **OECD**

The closing session will help summarize discussions and inform participants of the capacity building workshops taking place in the framework of this National Dialogue event.

DAY 2: CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

16 December 2020

10.30 – 13.30 (Amman Time)

Opening Remarks

- 10.30 – 10.40**
- **Hatem Habahbeh**, Head of Governorates Development Section, **MoPIC**
 - **Ragheb Shraim**, Center for Civil Society Development, **Al-Hayat RASED**
 - **Michael Jelenic**, Policy Analyst, **OECD**

Session 1: Presentation of the Recommendations Matrix of the OECD Jordan Review

- 10.40 – 11.40**
- **Moderation**
 - **Michael Jelenic**, Policy Analyst, **OECD**
 - **Presentation of the recommendations matrix:**
 - **Hatem Habahbeh**, Head of Governorates Development Section, **MoPIC**

The Government of Jordan will present the recommendations matrix from the OECD Review “*Engaging Citizens in Jordan’s Local Government Needs Assessment Process*” which will serve as a blueprint to support the implementation efforts of the decentralization reform.

11.40 – 11.50 Break

11.50 – 12.30 Session 2: OECD Presentation of the document “Supporting Open Government at the local level in Jordan”

- **Presentation from the OECD Public Governance Directorate**
 - **Michael Jelenic**, Policy Analyst, **OECD**
- **Question and answer session**

The OECD will present the *document “supporting open government at the local level in Jordan”*, which aims to support public authorities and civil society stakeholders to mainstream the principles of transparency, accountability, integrity and stakeholder participation across local policies and services. This technical resource complements the OECD Review “*Engaging Citizens in Jordan’s Local Government Needs Assessment Process*”. Following its presentation, a question and answer session will be opened for participants.

12.30 – 12.35 Break

12.35 – 13.25 Session 3: Discussion of OGP Local opportunities and priorities

- **Dr. Amer Bani Amer**, Founder and General Director of Al-Hayat RASED Center for Civil Society Development.

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- **Ibrahim Al-karaki**, Mayor of the Greater AL-Karak municipality.
 - **Khaled Al-khushman**, Mayor of the Greater AL-Salt Municipality.

This session will aim at:

- Highlighting the importance of OGP initiative transformation from the central government level to the level of local administrations.
 - Discussing opportunities and priorities for this stage, especially since the Greater AL-Salt Municipality and the Greater AL-Karak municipality have become members of the OGP Local.
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13.25– 13.30 Closing remarks

- **Hatem Habahbeh**, Head of Governorates Development Section, **MoPIC**
- **Michael Jelenic**, Policy Analyst, **OECD**

The closing session will help summarize discussions and thank invitees for their contributions.

HAYAT-RASED

Hayat-RASED is a non-governmental civil society organization founded in 2006. The Centre has expanded to become one of the leading NGOs in Jordan, however it has always kept in mind the importance of maintaining links with grassroots organizations to create desired social change and impact. Hayat's overall mission is to promote accountability, governance, public participation, and tolerance in Jordan and the region within the framework of democracy, human rights, the rule of law, and gender mainstreaming in public policy and actions. Hayat works through two main programs: Accountability, Governance and Participation – Rased (The Observer) and Community Cohesion. Hayat's RASED for the past 14 years has been at the forefront of improving local democracy in Jordan and enhancing the accountability of the government and the parliament by establishing a culture of social accountability among citizens and CSOs. RASED has participated in increasing the trust of Jordanians in civil society, as Jordanians perceive it as a critical tool to keep them informed on decision-making processes in Jordan. An example of RASED's impact is the 2012 establishment of the Independent Election Commission in Jordan.

THE ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is an international body that promotes policies to improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world. It is made up of 37 member countries, a secretariat in Paris, and committees, drawn from experts from government and other fields, for each work area covered by the organisation. The OECD provides a forum in which governments can work together to share experiences and seek solutions to common problems. It collaborates with governments to understand what drives economic, social and environmental change. The organisation also analyses and compares data to predict future trends.

THE OECD OPEN GOVERNMENT UNIT

The OECD Open Government unit supports countries in their efforts to build more transparent, accountable and participatory governments that can restore citizens' trust and promote inclusive growth. Through data collection, capacity building and the promotion of regional peer dialogue, the OECD provides in-depth analyses of open government strategies and initiatives, coupled with policy advice and actionable recommendations. The unit's work is based on the [OECD Recommendation of the Council on Open Government](#), the first international legal instrument on the topic, which defines the main tenets of the governance of open government strategies and initiatives and paving the way forward for this agenda across OECD members and partners.

THE OECD JORDAN DECENTRALIZATION PROJECT (2016 – 2020)

The OECD Jordan decentralization project supports Jordan's efforts to foster inclusive growth by leveraging good governance, in particular open government policies, across levels of government and within municipalities. The overall objective of the project is to support Jordan's ongoing decentralisation efforts by promoting good governance and open government policies and practices across levels of government and with a focus on municipalities by:

1. Building the capacities of central and local institutions (governorates and municipalities) for inclusive and effective policymaking and public service delivery in the context of Jordan's ongoing decentralization reform; and
2. Supporting the implementation of open government principles and practices.