



MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

الصندوق الائتماني متعدد
المانحين للنمو في الأردن
JORDAN GROWTH MULTI DONOR TRUST FUND



وحدة دعم تنفيذ
الإصلاحات الاقتصادية
REFORM SECRETARIAT

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Reforms Catalysts

Unveiling Change: Field Visits on Empowering Lives and Transforming Agriculture

On 19 May 2024, representatives from the countries supporting the Jordan Growth Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF), along with the Reform Secretariat, conducted two significant field visits in Amman. Distinguished attendees included H.E. Tarik Khan, the Ambassador of Canada; H.E. Espen Lindbæck, the Ambassador of Norway; and Holly Welborn Benner, the World Bank's Resident Representative. These visits aimed to assess the impactful contributions of the Jordan Growth MDTF to economic, environmental, and livelihood improvements in Jordan.

The first visit was to the Central Market in Amman, where meticulous efforts are underway to advance Jordan's agricultural value chain. Supported by the Jordan Growth MDTF, the World Bank, and the Reform Secretariat at the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC), various initiatives are being implemented to modernize and elevate agricultural services. The second visit was to

the National Aid Fund (NAF), where the delegation observed the impactful execution of Jordan's Cash Transfer Program. With crucial support from the Jordan Growth MDTF, this program has modernized and digitized its operations, providing essential support to vulnerable households, particularly during crises like the COVID-19 pandemic.

Learn more: [Unveiling Change: Field Visits on Empowering Lives and Transforming Agriculture - Reform Secretariat \(reformjo.org\)](https://reformjo.org)

Successful Completion of "Inclusive and Result-Oriented Stakeholder Engagement" Training



During the last week of May, we have successfully delivered an impactful three-day



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training course on "Inclusive and Result-Oriented Stakeholder Engagement," designed specifically for Government of Jordan (GoJ) officials. This training represents a key element of our ongoing efforts to strengthen reform management, improve coordination, and enhance the effectiveness of policy implementation in Jordan, in alignment with the GoJ's principles of transparency, collaboration, coordination, engagement, inclusion, and equity.

Over 50 government officials from 22 governmental entities participated, gaining enhanced skills and knowledge to systematically engage stakeholders, incorporate their feedback into project and reform lifecycles, maintain transparent communication channels, and

promptly resolve grievances to ensure project and reform success. This process will be supported by a six-month mentorship program developed by the Reform Secretariat at MoPIC, providing continuous support and guidance. Additionally, a comprehensive training manual will soon be available online on the Reform Secretariat's website for anyone interested in learning more.

This training is a vital component of the "Strengthening Reform Management in Jordan" project, managed by the Reform Secretariat at MoPIC in collaboration with the World Bank, and financed by the Jordan Growth MDTF.

Access photos here: [Inclusive & Result-Oriented Stakeholder Engagement | Flickr](#)



Engaging various stakeholders in the decision-making process is essential for ensuring transparency, accountability, and the sustainability of government reforms. The government is deeply committed to engaging all stakeholders in its reform agendas and priorities, including the Economic Modernization Vision, the Public Sector Modernization Roadmap, and the Reform Matrix. This training significantly enhances our ability to conduct strategic stakeholder engagement and emphasizes the critical importance of thorough documentation.

Mr. Omar Fanek, Director of the Reform Secretariat

Reform Secretariat to Manage \$576 Million World Bank Financing for Women Economic Empowerment and Digital Transformation

The Reform Secretariat at MoPIC has been designated as the Project Management Unit (PMU) for two newly assigned World Bank financing programs amounting to \$576 million. These additions bring the Secretariat's overall cumulative portfolio to around **\$4.5 billion** since its establishment in 2019.

The new programs aim to bolster women's economic opportunities and advance digital government initiatives and transformation in Jordan.

Enhancing Women's Economic Opportunities in Jordan Operation

This unique operation is financed through a combination of loan and grant, employing the PforR and Investment Project Financing (IPF) mechanisms. It aims to enhance women's economic prospects by fostering a conducive environment and facilitating their integration into the labor market. The operation targets key challenges such as childcare, structured around four primary Result Areas (RAs):

RA1: Better and more adaptive workplace conditions for women

RA2: Women's financial inclusion and entrepreneurship

RA3: Safe public transport

RA4: Access to affordable and quality childcare

The IPF component focused on childcare and collaboration, supported by an evidence hub team. Its objective is to enable more women to participate effectively in the workforce by

addressing systemic barriers and providing necessary support systems.

Learn more: [Enhancing Women Economic Opportunities in Jordan Operation - Reform Secretariat \(reformjo.org\)](https://reformjo.org/)

Jordan People-Centric Digital Government Program for Results

This program, funded through a loan, concentrates on enhancing government efficiency, transparency, accountability, and service delivery via digital transformation. The primary goal is to improve service delivery and government effectiveness, emphasizing inclusive digital identity and data sharing. Key Result Areas (RAs) include:

RA1: Improved service delivery: Expanding trusted and inclusive access to people-centric digitalized services, increasing the inclusive adoption of people-centric digital public infrastructure (DPI), and enhancing medical record management.

RA2: Enhanced government effectiveness: Professionalization of civil service, digitalizing student assessment, and improving health information exchange.

RA3: Transparency and accountability: Enhancing e-information, broadening access to interactive statistical data, and strengthening health data quality ultimately boosting Jordan's rating in the UN E-Government Development Index.

The Program promotes social and gender inclusion and accessibility in access to e-services, education, and health, for both Jordanians and non-Jordanians - amongst whom refugees.

Workshop on Sovereign Green Bonds for the Governmental Working Group

Continuing the joint efforts between the World Bank, the Ministry of Finance, and the Reform Secretariat at MoPIC, a workshop on sovereign green bonds for the governmental working group took place on May 28th. This workshop

aimed to build local capacity and raise knowledge on eligible projects for financing through green bonds. The importance of this workshop lies in its role as a precursor to the first issuance of Jordan's green bond during next year, and to support the implementation of climate responsive capital projects.

During the workshop, the working group thoroughly reviewed the first draft of the "green bond framework" which will be adopted at a later stage. Additionally, the members

discussed potential projects within their own institutions to be financed through green bonds issuance. In this context, success stories were showcased for couple of countries that succeeded in issuing green bonds.

Transformative Capacity Building Training on Green Finance and Climate Risk Management



A three-day capacity building training on Green Finance and Climate Risk Management, jointly organized by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), The World Bank and the Reform Secretariat and supported through the Jordan Growth MDTF took place during the second week of May.

Approximately 80 participants representing the private sector from the Jordanian banks, insurance companies and micro-finance institutions participated in 12 sessions designed to provide them with the knowledge and tools needed to integrate green finance practices into their operations.

[Learn more about the event](#)

Successful Conclusion of the Second B-Ready Workshop in Amman



The Reform Secretariat, in collaboration with the World Bank, has successfully concluded the second round of the Business Ready (B-Ready) workshop after three intensive days in the last week of June in Amman. This workshop brought together the World Bank and the Reform Secretariat's technical teams from, alongside 97 participants from 10 working groups representing 43 ministries and government agencies, to present comprehensive business environment action plans and finalize the modalities for implementing agreed-upon reforms.

Jordan, as one of the 120 countries participating in the World Bank's Business Ready Report (B-Ready), continues to advance its regulatory framework, public services, and market efficiency. Under the guidance of the Reform Secretariat at the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, the focus includes modern economic considerations such as digital adoption, environmental sustainability, and gender participation.

With the conclusion of this workshop, Jordan is poised to implement these reforms, leveraging B-Ready insights to drive policy improvements and foster a thriving business ecosystem.

Notably, in the first quarter of this year, the Ministerial Economic Development Committee approved the establishment of 10 governmental working groups to develop and implement a national action plan containing a set of actions and reforms aimed at improving Jordan's ranking in the report. This plan ensures comprehensive coverage of various areas,

including Business Entry, Business Location, Utility Services, Labor, Financial Services, International Trade, Taxation, Dispute Resolution, Market Competition, and Business Insolvency.

Access photos here: [B-Ready 2nd Workshop | Flickr](#)

First Meeting of the Investment Working Group Sets the Stage for Prosperity



On June 3rd, the first meeting of the Investment Working Group was held at MoPIC, aiming to enhance Jordan's investment environment by supporting the Ministry of Investment in achieving its desired goals and objectives including its priorities under the Economic Modernisation Vision for a prosperous investment landscape in Jordan. The meeting marks an important step towards fostering dialogue on Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) in Jordan, coordination, unifying efforts to implement the promotional strategy, and discussing related ongoing projects and reforms.

It sets the stage for the group's role in directing developmental efforts to further bolster Jordan's investment environment.

The Investment Working Group is co-chaired by the Ministry of Investment and the Reform Secretariat at MoPIC. It is worthwhile to mention that this group is the second in row out of six working groups that the Reform Secretariat aims to establish through the Jordan Inclusive Growth and Economic Opportunities MDTF, which is co-chaired by MoPIC and the World Bank.



Jordan Growth MDTF Sponsored a Study Tour on Hydrogen and Ammonia



A senior delegation from the Government of Jordan and the World Bank participated in a study tour on hydrogen and ammonia in the Netherlands and Belgium during the first week of June. The tour, coordinated by the World Bank in collaboration with MoPIC and supported by the Jordan Growth MDTF, aimed to provide a comprehensive understanding of hydrogen and ammonia developments in Europe and foster future trade connections between Jordan and Europe.

The delegation, comprised of representatives from the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, MoPIC, the Ministry of Investment, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, the Energy and Minerals Regulatory Commission, the National Electricity Company, Aqaba Development Corporation, and Jordan Oil Terminals Company (JOTC), conducted field visits to hydrogen export terminals and technology inspection centers related to green hydrogen manufacturing.

This study tour to the Netherlands and Belgium is significant because these countries are actively developing green hydrogen projects as part of their efforts to achieve carbon neutrality and promote energy sustainability. The Dutch port of Rotterdam is particularly noteworthy as one of the most important European hubs facilitating the import and export of green hydrogen.

Final Workshop on Legal and Regulatory Options for Hydrogen Production in Jordan



Under the patronage of the Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources, H.E. Dr. Saleh Al-Kharabsheh, the final workshop was held on Tuesday 12 June 2024 on the "Legal and Regulatory Options for Producing, Using, and Exporting Green Hydrogen in Jordan" study. The study, supported by the Jordan growth MDTF and conducted in collaboration between the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources-Jordan, the World Bank, and MoPIC aims to review the legislative framework for the green hydrogen industry in Jordan and propose updates to attract foreign investments.

Minister Al-Kharabsheh highlighted renewable energy as a key factor for green hydrogen production, citing Jordan's success in the renewable energy sector. Notably, 12 MoUs were signed to explore green hydrogen production opportunities, alongside the development of a national strategy.

Noteworthy that this workshop marks the fourth and final session on the study, focused on presenting the study's outcomes and recommendations, followed by discussions on the implementation plan. It underscores stakeholders' involvement in shaping Jordan's green hydrogen industry.



MDTF Support for Digital Transformation and Stakeholder Engagement: Tawasal E-Participation Portal



In the last week of May, the Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship (MoDEE) launched the demo version of the "Tawasal" E-Participation Portal, which is being developed and designed with support from the Jordan Growth Multi-Donor Trust Fund. This portal, also known as the Unified Public Consultation (UPC) portal, provides a unified interactive channel for all community segments and stakeholders—including citizens, residents, the private sector, and civil society organizations—to participate in decision-making processes and the design of government services.

The UPC portal will enhance community participation in the legislative process by making draft laws, regulations, policies, and other government decisions available for feedback during their drafting period. It aims to make government services inclusive and accessible, enhance trust in government performance, and leverage community skills, aligning with His Majesty's vision to "enhance popular participation in decision-making."

Moreover, in the first week of June a workshop was held by MoDEE to introduce the portal to 50 representatives from the CSOs, NGOs, media institutions, and partner organizations.

We encourage you to explore the Tawasal Platform. Your feedback and inquiries are welcome: [Tawasal Platform](https://reformjo.org/)

Strategic Reform: New Flexible Work Bylaw for 2024 Approved

In June 2024, the Council of Ministers approved the flexible work bylaw for 2024. The bylaw aims to boost employment rates in the labor market, decrease unemployment, enhance women's economic participation, ease burdens on workers, and promote work-life balance in accordance with evolving work patterns. It also seeks to lower operational costs, reduce job turnover rates, and empower the Ministry of Labor to effectively regulate the labor market overall, with a specific focus on flexible work arrangements.

Workshop on Jordanian Civil Aviation Sector Review



On behalf of the Minister of Transport, Captain Haitham Misto opened the "Jordanian Civil Aviation Sector" workshop in Amman on Monday, 10 June 2024. The workshop aimed to review and discuss the results of the diagnostic report on the civil aviation sector to develop a national air transport policy which was prepared by the World Bank financed by the Jordan Growth MDTF. The workshop was attended by representatives from government entities and civil aviation service providers.



Norwegian Embassy
Amman



Kingdom of the Netherlands



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