

**PROJECT INFORMATION DOCUMENT (PID)
IDENTIFICATION/CONCEPT STAGE**

Report No.: PIDC107407

Project Name	Jordan Integrated Social Services for Vulnerable Youth (P163241)
Region	MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA
Country	Jordan
Lending Instrument	IPF
Project ID	P163241
Borrower Name	Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation
Implementing Agency	Ministry of Youth
Environmental Category	C - Not Required
Date PID Prepared	01-Feb-2017
Estimated Date of Approval	
Initiation Note Review Decision	

I. Introduction and Context

Country Context

Jordan has done well in terms of economic growth and achievement of human development indicators in the past decade. The country is in a strategic geographic location that has helped it benefit from investments from Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries as well as from remittances from Jordanians living in these countries. However, economic growth has slowed down over the past few years due to lack of cross-border access. Investments have also dropped resulting in limited availability of private-sector jobs and high levels of unemployment. Unemployment amongst youth exceeds 20% and is more acute in the country's peripheral towns. The country's achievements in terms of social service availability, although impressive, have also led to provision of services of varying quality around the country. In terms of poverty, while Jordan's poverty headcount is low, at around 14 percent, one third of the population transitions into poverty during a year and rising energy and transport costs impact greatly the lower quintile of households.

Jordan's strategic geographic location has also made it quite vulnerable to spillovers from regional conflicts. Over the past five years, Jordan has received an estimated 1.2 million Syrians of whom 650,000 are registered as refugees. Over 85% of the refugee population lives in urban centers and shares services offered by the Government of Jordan to its own population. Other than for those living in camps (only 15% of Syrian refugees and the 2 million Palestinian refugees), refugees use the same services available to Jordanians and this has placed a heavy burden on the ability of the Government to provide adequate access that can preserve its human development achievements. The demographic pressure created by this population, along with the perception that their displacement is unlikely to end in the near future, contributes to social tension in the country and puts pressure on service provision.

Sectoral and Institutional Context

Young people in Jordan have been disproportionately affected by the slow-down of the country's economy. The social contract in Jordan is largely based on the government's ability to provide public sector jobs for many of its citizens and to subsidize prices for services and utilities. As the economy slows, young people are less likely to be able to find jobs, and are more likely to suffer from poorer quality services, leading to a breakdown in trust between younger citizens and their government. The country is likely to start to feel this impact now, due to pressures on services arising from the refugee population, but is likely to be exacerbated in upcoming years, as the 34 percent of the country's children reach adolescence, and find that the government is not able to meet their expectations. In fact, there is already a sense that a large number of youth, and especially those in lagging regions, feel alienated.

To address these issues, the government has carried out multiple diagnostics and put in place a large number of strategies. Just over the last decade, the country has had a National Agenda, a poverty reduction strategy, and National Employment Strategy, and numerous reviews and country strategies undertaken by external partners. However, implementation of these strategies has been lacking. In consultations leading up to the Jordan 2025 strategic blueprint, citizens described their fatigue with participation in strategic exercises and emphasized the need for implementation. Jordan 2025 therefore places a great deal of emphasis on strengthening implementation mechanisms.

The most important goal of the Jordan 2025 vision is improving the welfare of citizens and the basic services provided to them, to create a balanced society where opportunities are available to all and the gap between governorates is bridged. The vision puts Jordanian citizens at the heart of the development process; success and failure are measured by the extent of the progress made at the level of individuals, and therefore the welfare of the community. Relatedly, the Council of Ministers has also endorsed an update on the National Youth Strategy for 2016-2019. Several other policies are being developed to enhance youth participation in labor markets and to promote youth well-being more generally.

Over the past two years, the Government of Jordan has been championing a global effort to focus on the youth agenda. In April 2015, Jordan convened and chaired a Security Council Debate on the Role of Youth in Countering Extremism and Promoting Peace. In August 2015, Jordan hosted the first Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security. Both events were chaired by the Crown Prince of Jordan. This focus on the need to address the role of youth in Jordan's society translated into raising the status of the Higher Youth Council, converting it into a Ministry of Youth and designating a very dynamic official as the new Minister of Youth. In this context, it is important for the World Bank to demonstrate its support to the Government's effort to address the needs of youth as a segment of Jordanian society that faces many challenges and, in light of regional conflict and instability, is at risk of increased radicalization.

Relationship to CAS/CPS/CPF

The project proposed JSPF-funded Jordan Integrated Social Services for Vulnerable Youth Project is well-aligned with the recently approved Bank's Country Partnership Framework (CPF FY2017-2022) and would support its focus on enhancing inclusion through social protection and local development. The project will directly address the CPF's objective of promoting public participation and civic engagement by empowering and engaging young citizens at the grassroots level. By strengthening the voice of vulnerable youth, the Government will be better able to understand and address the needs of the society as a whole in policy development, implementation and monitoring. Finally, youth empowerment will foster stronger engagement and consultation between the Government and young people, strengthening the social contract and reducing youth alienation. The World Bank's experience in Jordan and in this bottom-up youth empowerment and engagement approach will be essential in

supporting the Government's efforts to implement this activity. Through this support, the Bank will help to promote other such activities that empower the most vulnerable citizens, improve the quality of services provided to them, and increase the accountability of government to citizens.

By providing the opportunity to adopt an innovative approach to service design and delivery that would empower youth to take an active role in community development, the JSDF will be essential in ensuring that social services are effective and well-targeted towards the poorest and most vulnerable youth. Consideration for sustainability is a major feature of the proposed project, which will rely on a well-planned exit strategy to be developed in the initial phase of the project. This strategy will outline concrete actions to ensure that project achievements are not compromised at project's completion. The capacity-building aspect of the proposed project, which will build local NGO and CBO capacity, will increase the ability of these entities to design and implement innovative, feasible and sustainable action plans and approaches to provide high quality services for youth and to promote youth development and empowerment following the end of the proposed project's funding. A high level of collaboration and partnerships between community members, services providers and other stakeholders on the development and implementation of these plans will be essential to having an effective exit strategy.

II. Project Development Objective(s)

Proposed Development Objective(s)

The project development objective is to improve the quality of life of vulnerable youth by increasing the provision of services to young people, by increasing the participation of youth in decision-making related to these services, and by empowering local NGOs/service providers and communities.

Key Results

The Project is expected to benefit an estimated 3000 youth with improved skills and improved community services. Of those, a certain percent is expected to have access to employment opportunities. NGOs and community organizations would have been trained on delivering improved and targeted services to youth enhancing their integration into local communities.

III. Preliminary Description

Concept Description

IV. Safeguard Policies that Might Apply

Safeguard Policies Triggered by the Project	Yes	No	TBD
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01		X	
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04		X	
Forests OP/BP 4.36		X	
Pest Management OP 4.09		X	
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11		X	
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10		X	
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12		X	

Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37		X	
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50		X	
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60		X	

V. Financing (in USD Million)

Total Project Cost:	2.8003	Total Bank Financing:	0
Financing Gap:	0		
Financing Source			Amount
Japan Social Development Fund			2.8003

VI. Contact point

World Bank

Contact: Sima W. Kanaan
 Title: Lead Social Development Specialist
 Tel: 5380+3705 /
 Email: skanaan@worldbank.org

Borrower/Client/Recipient

Name: Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation
 Contact:
 Title:
 Tel:
 Email:

Implementing Agencies

Name: Ministry of Youth
 Contact:
 Title:
 Tel:
 Email:

VII. For more information contact:

The World Bank
 1818 H Street, NW
 Washington, D.C. 20433
 Telephone: (202) 473-1000
 Web: <http://www.worldbank.org/projects>