



**Dear Friends,**

**Partners-Jordan** gladly shares with you the *SECOND* edition of the electronic newsletter for the year 2014, to give you a quick view on the center's achievements throughout this period.

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[www.partners-jordan.org](http://www.partners-jordan.org)



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## Partners-Jordan Projects Activities



### "Participatory Budgeting, People's Voice in Numbers"

A project funded by the **Kingdom of the Netherlands Embassy in Amman**, for the period November 2012 – February 2014. The project aims to enhance the opportunities for citizen participation in the budget process as well as improve public access to accurate and timely information on municipal budgets and expenditures in six Jordanian municipalities, Al Naseem and Al Kfarat municipalities in the North of Jordan, Al Fuhais and Na'oor municipalities in the centre region, and Al Karak and Sheehan municipalities in the south of Jordan.

#### ***Launching Six Participatory Budgeting***

*Successful reallocations in 6 budgets based on Citizen Needs*

Under the above mentioned project; Partners-Jordan launched six budgets (one in each targeted municipality) between January the 18<sup>th</sup> and February the 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014, with the attendance of 301 local citizens.

During the launches citizens were introduced to the project goal, objectives and activities, in addition to the concept of Participatory Budgeting, the implementation of the concept in Jordan, and the amounts increased in the budget item lines in each municipality that reflects citizens' priorities and needs as follows:



1,104,000 JOD were allocated in Karak municipality, 120,300 JOD in Na'oor municipality, 105,000 JOD in Fuhais municipality, 29,000 JOD in Al Kfarat municipality, 25,000 JOD in Al Naseem municipality, and 13,800 JOD were allocated in Sheehan municipality.

## *Lessons Learned Conference*

### *Project Closure Ceremony*

Under the patronage of His Excellency Eng. Waleed Al Masri, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Partners-Jordan closed out this project by a two-day Lessons Learned conference, on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of February, 2014 at the Marriott Hotel – Amman, commenced by the Minister's Deputy Mr. Waleed Al Otoum, the General Secretary at the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, followed by a speech from His Excellency the Ambassador of the Netherlands Kingdom to Jordan Mr. Paul Van Den Ijssel, and a closure speech by Ms. Raja Hiyari, Partners-Jordan Executive Director.



This activity was divided into two parts; the first one was a public event, where 111 persons attended it, from different areas, such as: ministries, donors, international organizations, embassies and of course media. While the second part was a closed session, where stakeholders evaluated their experience in the project progress and provided their feedback on it, shared successful highlights and challenges faced throughout the implementation of the project.

Further description about the project implementation can be found on this link (<http://bit.ly/1dP59zo>). And further information about Participatory Budgeting can be found on this link (<http://bit.ly/1hvR3UM>).



## "Integrating Good Governance Best Practices on Municipality

Level"

A project funded by the **Middle East Partnership Initiative - MEPI**, for the period September 2013 – August 2014. The project aims to engage Community Based Organizations - CBOs representatives and government officials, in spreading good governance practices in three Jordanian municipalities: Irbid in the North of Jordan, Balqa in the Center, and Karak in the South of Jordan.



### *ToT on Good Governance Governance Best Practices*

As part of the above mentioned project; Partners-Jordan implemented five-day training on Good Governance Best Practices, between the 26<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, of January, 2014, at the Landmark hotel – Amman, with the attendance of 21 participants (11 males and 10 females), from three local organizations in the targeted areas, Al Hayat Center in Irbid, Mousa Alsaket Center in Balqa and Princess Basma Center in Karak, in addition to Partners-Jordan staff.



The training was delivered by Ms. Ana Vasilache, from Partners-Romania, who is an expert trainer on "Governance and Public Management". The training aimed at deepening participants' understanding and improving their knowledge on practical and innovative methodologies in combating corruption, and focused on strengthening Local Governments transparency, accountability, integrity and efficiency.





## Partners-Jordan Outdoor Contribution

### *Speaking about Pioneering in Participatory Budgeting in the Arab Countries*

Since Partners-Jordan is a pioneer in introducing the **Participatory Budgeting** concept in the Arab Countries and in Jordan in particular; Ms. Noor Zada was invited by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit – GIZ, to speak about this experience to The Coalition for Accountability and Integrity (AMAN), on the 13<sup>th</sup> of January, 2014, in the Dead Sea.

Ms. Zada discussed the best practices, the challenges, the method, the success stories and further details about the implementation of the concept in Jordan.

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### *Training on Dialogue and Media Campaign*

Ms. Raja Hiyari conducted 5-day training in Tunisia, on **Dialogue and Media** for 17 participants, representing different Local Community Based Organizations –CBOs, in various governorates of Tunisia as part of a project entitled "*Tunisian Inclusive labor Initiative - TILT*", implemented by Global Fairness Association and Partners for Democratic Change.

The training aimed at building the capacity and skills of CBOs on dialogue preparation and techniques, in addition to steps of developing a media campaign to encourage unstructured workers to become registered within the legal labor structure in Tunisia.

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### *Capacity Building for the Kurdish National Coalition*

Mr. Ibraheem Al Hayek and Ms. Rasha Abdel Latif, trained 28 participants from the Syrian Kurdish National Coalition – KNC, for four days, between the 7<sup>th</sup> and the 10<sup>th</sup> of March 2014, in Erbil, Kurdistan Al Iraq.

The training tackled mainly four areas: the first one: **Conceptualization of Civic Coalitions:** Building coalition, leadership, governance, internal bi-laws, and decision making process, the second one was: **Strategic Analysis:** Vision, Mission, Objectives, values, Goal, SWOT and TOWS, the third area was: **Networking and Communication:** Identifying grassroots and potential partnership, Identify target audience, Agreeing on coalition message, and internal and external communication planning, and finally an **Introduction about Proposal Writing.**

**Vision:**

Prosperity can be achieved through responsible participative citizenship

**Mission:**

Partners-Jordan, is a Jordanian not for profit organization, committed to advance civil society, promoting mediation, conflict management and culture of change, and encouraging citizen participation in Jordan's social and political development.

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