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FACT SHEET

PRE-SERVICE TEACHER EDUCATION IN JORDAN

2019-2025 • \$28 million • 4 universities • Partners: Ministry of Education; Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research; Accreditation and Quality Assurance Commission for Higher Education Institutions; Queen Rania Teacher Academy; IREX

BACKGROUND

Jordan's population is disproportionately young, with nearly 40 percent of the population being school-aged children and youth. Over the past decade, Jordan's performance on international assessments in literacy, mathematics, and science has declined, with boys underperforming girls at all levels. Jordan has made great strides in strengthening education in early grades through in-service teacher training programs, curriculum reform, and increased access to kindergarten nationwide. However, teachers for grades 4 through 10 are recruited based on subject-specific degrees, and often begin teaching with no background in curriculum development, classroom management, or pedagogy.

Out of nearly 80,000 public school teachers, fewer than 700 attended pre-service education training in university before entering the classroom. In addition, there are no pre-service education opportunities for aspiring male teachers in Jordan. In partnership with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, the Accreditation and Quality Assurance Commission for Higher

Education Institutions, and Queen Rania Teacher Academy, USAID works to make sure aspiring teachers can gain the skills they need to engage their students and prepare them to succeed in the 21st-century knowledge economy.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

USAID is partnering with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, the Accreditation and Quality Assurance Commission for Higher Education Institutions, and Queen Rania Teacher Academy to launch a pre-service education program that prepares aspiring teachers at universities nationwide to become certified teachers equipped with essential pedagogical skills. The Pre-Service Teacher Education in Jordan activity will support four universities to introduce and implement a pre-service teacher education program that will supplement subject-specific degrees. Through the program, university students will learn relevant pedagogy, interactive learning methods, effective classroom management, and how to integrate issues such as gender equity, disabilities inclusion, and environmental awareness into their teaching. The program will be adapted from Queen Rania Teacher Academy's widely recognized postgraduate pre-service diploma, which is currently only offered in Amman. The project will work closely with the universities to ensure that university staff are appropriately trained to administer the program and that mechanisms are in place to ensure the quality of graduates.

EXPECTED IMPACT

- With accredited pre-service education programs established at four universities throughout Jordan, more prospective teachers will gain pedagogical skills and provide quality education to students in rural and urban areas of diverse socio-economic demographics.
- Public schools in Jordan are gender-segregated after third grade, and boys consistently underperform girls. Through Pre-Service Teacher Education in Jordan, aspiring male teachers for grades 4 through 10 will have access to pedagogical training at universities for the first time to gain practical experience to help their students learn.
- Through strengthening the professional development of teachers, future generations of youth will increasingly view the education sector and teaching profession as a career choice.

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