



LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

PROGRAM BRIEF

The “Leadership and Community Development” project funded by the UKaid was launched in December 2012, in 6 communities with the aim to enable most at-risk Jordanian hosts and Syrian refugees to manage current and emerging tensions between their communities and develop common solutions to immediate problems that threaten to destabilize relations between them. Problems youth face include deepening poverty, conflicts over resources, and raising unemployment among youth that underscore the urgent need to strengthen engagement between municipal authorities and civil society. In response, the program supported participatory and responsive governance structures and sought to bridge the citizen government divide. Current activities place additional focus on local-government effectiveness, efficiency, and inclusiveness as well as local civic engagement with national structures and resources. Since then, and for the following 6 consecutive years a new wave of communities was targeted by the project every year. The project currently works in 36 communities in 12 governorates. The final year will focus activities on responding to the current COVID-19 crisis and its long-term effects besides the aforementioned activities.

IMPACT

** all 6 years*

106 infrastructure projects (Target 81)

593 community-based activities
(Target: 561)

105 trainings to **616** community leaders (interest-based negotiation and life skills) (Target: 105 trainings, 616 community leaders)

25 trainings to **363** youth leaders (profound stress and attunement) (Target: 25 trainings, 300 youth leaders)

82 youth-led initiatives (Target: 82)

258 Apprenticeship opportunities (Target: 160)

25 one-time grant for small Business (Target: 25)

12 Youth Campaign (Target: 11)



INTERVENTIONS

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Mercy Corps works with community members to identify medium-sized infrastructure projects based on community needs and aligned with the local government development plans. The goal is to mobilize communities around transparent and inclusive consultation, planning and implementation practices.

INTEREST-BASED NEGOTIATION (IBN) TRAINING

An advanced IBN training is delivered in locations where basic training was already conducted. This training will provide community leaders with advanced tools to identify and mitigate conflicts.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS

Local government actors receive training on topics such as community engagement for local planning, project management and proposal writing. This training improves local development planning processes and public consultation mechanisms. Training for municipal staff focuses on the basics of community engagement and developing municipal theories of change.

COMMUNITY LEADER'S NETWORK SUPPORT

Mercy Corps supports the National Network for Social Cohesion and Negotiation Skills, a newly registered independent NGO consisting of 750 community leaders, by helping them professionalize their operations and further establish them as a key stakeholder within the local consultation processes.

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Mercy Corps strengthens youth leadership and voice in governance decision making through key interventions:

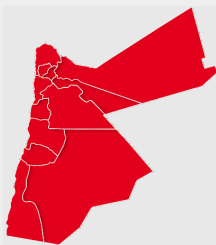
- Peer-to-peer capacity building and learning exchanges around IBN skills and strategies to identify and reduce profound stress
- Youth-led initiatives that address needs and align with existing national strategies and plans



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REACH

Irbid, Ajloun, Mafraq, Zarqa, Ma'an,
Karak, Amman, Salt, Jerash, Tafilah
Balqa and Aqaba



DONORS

FCDO

Conflict, Stability and Security Fund
(CSSF)

\$42M | April 2016-Sep 2021



APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES (SHAGHER 2020)

Through the apprenticeship program, Mercy Corps aims to link 258 skilled job seekers aged between 18-30 years old with local and private companies in five governorates of Jordan (Amman, Zarqa, Irbid, Karak, Aqaba). The program pays the first three monthly salaries of the apprentices including their social security. Mercy Corps and employers work with the apprentices to improve their relevant skills and enhance their knowledge during a three-month period, with the aim of cultivating permanent job opportunities for apprentices in the related sector.



ONE-TIME GRANT FOR SMALL BUSINESS (DAMAN 2020)

Daman 2020 supported 25 at-risk businesses from all Jordan's governorates with one-time grants to facilitate market re-entry, including staff rehiring. The selected businesses benefited from grants ranging from 3,000 JOD to 7,000 JOD. The total amount supporting the (25) businesses is (125,000 JOD).



YOUTH CAMPAIGN

In December 2020, Mercy Corps launched a new campaign called "Support Youth Voices" that aims to create opportunities for increasing youth engagement to hold the government accountable by articulating clear policy tasks and using peaceful, influential tactics, as well as building responsive governance structures that are better able to inform and engage with communities on issues of shared concern.