



U.S. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

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USTDA PROMOTES IMPROVED WASTEWATER AND SOLID WASTE TREATMENT IN JORDAN



American Ambassador to Jordan David Hale and Her Excellency Suhair Al-Ali, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, sign the USTDA grant that will fund a study on reducing pollution in the Zarqa River.

AMMAN, JORDAN – (September 10, 2007) Recognizing the importance of water resources and wastewater treatment to sustainable development, USTDA renewed its support for the sector in Jordan. Specifically, USTDA awarded a \$335,000 grant to the Jordanian Ministry of Environment (MoE) and provided an additional \$27,000 to expand the scope of a study being conducted under a grant awarded earlier this year to the Aqaba Water Company (AWC). The funding brings total USTDA support for the water sector in Jordan to more than \$1.1 million in 2007.

A signing ceremony was held yesterday at the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation to confer the grant funding. The Honorable David Hale, American Ambassador to Jordan, and Her Excellency Suhair Al-Ali, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, signed both agreements on behalf of the U.S. and Jordanian governments, respectively.

Jordan is one of the ten most water-deprived countries in the world, with less than 200 cubic meters per year of fresh water available to the average Jordanian. The Zarqa River is the third largest river in Jordan and the Zarqa River Basin is the most densely populated area in Jordan, comprising approximately 65 percent of the country's population and more than 85 percent of its industries. Population growth and industrial expansion have led to rising levels of untreated domestic and industrial wastewater and solid wastes in the Zarqa River.

To address this issue, the USTDA grant awarded yesterday to the MoE will fund a study that will recommend a solution to reduce the current level of pollution in the river and protect biodiversity and public health. The study will include a strategic examination of the existing wastewater treatment system in the Zarqa River Basin, as well as a thorough demand analysis and assessment of the treatment needs posed by increased infrastructure development in the area.

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The additional funds provided yesterday to AWC will support an expansion of a study funded by USTDA earlier this year to improve the management and efficiency of Jordan's scarce water resources. The grant will be used to create a comprehensive hydraulic analysis of the Disi aquifer well field, which serves as the main source of drinking water for the city of Aqaba. The analysis will also determine the feasibility of implementing a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system to monitor and operate the entire well network. The funds awarded today will support the inclusion of additional information in the study that will enable AWC to bring the project to completion.

Yesterday's awards follow another USTDA grant in the water sector in Jordan. Earlier this year, USTDA awarded a \$450,000 grant to the Water Authority of Jordan to be used to determine the most appropriate technical solution for a wastewater collection and treatment system in unserved communities west of Salt City.

The opportunities to provide assistance to the MoE, AWC and Water Authority of Jordan under the USTDA grants will be competed on the Federal Business Opportunities website at www.fbo.gov. Interested US firms should submit proposals following the instructions in the Federal Business Opportunities announcements. The MoE, AWC and Water Authority of Jordan will each select a U.S. firm to provide the USTDA-funded assistance associated with their respective grant.

The U.S. Trade and Development Agency advances economic development and U.S. commercial interests in developing and middle-income countries. The agency funds various forms of technical assistance, early investment analysis, training, orientation visits and business workshops that support the development of a modern infrastructure and a fair and open trading environment. USTDA's strategic use of foreign assistance funds to support sound investment policy and decision-making in host countries creates an enabling environment for trade, investment and sustainable economic development. In carrying out its mission, USTDA gives emphasis to economic sectors that may benefit from U.S. exports of goods and services.