

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Jordan
Program Title:	Economic Opportunities for Jordanians
Pillar:	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
Strategic Objective:	278-010
Status:	New in FY 2004
Planned FY 2005 Obligation:	\$42,500,000 ESF
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:	\$42,000,000 ESF
Year of Initial Obligation:	2004
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2009

Summary: The economic opportunities program supports the following objectives: a more transparent, efficient, and responsive public sector; more effective legal and regulatory structures; and an increased level of private sector growth. This program ensures that ongoing reforms reach deep into all parts of Jordanian society and economy. In particular, USAID/Jordan includes the poorest of the poor, entrepreneurs, and rural women among its target beneficiaries. Program benefits that extend to the general population include: development around the city of Aqaba; trade capacity building and customs modernization to facilitate international trade; increased accessibility of Jordan's financial markets; and public sector reform that enhances the efficiency of government services.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2005 Program: Increase Participation in Global Trade and Investment (\$13,000,000 ESF). USAID will support private sector-led and broad-based growth through enhancing competitiveness, increasing trade and investment, supporting legal and institutional reform, and aiding employment generation. USAID will also help Jordanian firms and industries take advantage of the Jordan-U.S. Free Trade Agreement through coalition building, association development, firm-level assistance, policy and institutional reform, and other efforts. In addition, USAID will continue to work in Aqaba to create a southern growth pole as the model for policy changes to be implemented at the national level. Funding from the World Bank continues to allow the Jordanian Government to implement its privatization plan. Principal contractors: Chemonics, International Executive Service Corps (IESC), Nathan Associates, the World Bank, and others to be determined (TBD).

Improve Economic Policy and Governance (\$5,000,000 ESF). Through comprehensive, integrated activities, USAID will remain engaged in almost every economic policy and legal reform initiative ongoing in the Jordanian Government. For example, USAID supports the privatization of major state-owned industries including Jordan Phosphate Mining Corporation, the largest single industrial firm in Jordan. USAID also plans to provide technical assistance and training to the Government of Jordan (GOJ) to support significant parts of its new public sector and fiscal reform initiatives. Principal contractors: Chemonics, Nathan Associates, The World Bank, and others TBD.

Increase Private Sector Growth (\$16,000,000 ESF). USAID will spearhead the transformation of Jordan's investment promotion facilities to streamline investment procedures. Tourism, Jordan's chief foreign currency generator, will also be a major focus. USAID will provide technical assistance and training to help the country attract new tourists and niche tourist markets. In addition, USAID will help Jordanian firms, including small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and whole industries to become more competitive. USAID's work in Aqaba will continue to convert the city to a model for growth that can be duplicated at the national level. Work with the World Bank continues to allow the GOJ to implement its privatization plan. Finally, Development Credit Authority partnerships may appear prominently in the area of municipal bond market development and tourism. Principal contractors: Chemonics, IESC, Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature, Nathan Associates, The World Bank, and others TBD.

Strengthen Financial Sector's Contribution to Economic Growth (\$1,000,000 ESF). USAID continues to assist the GOJ to develop capital markets and facilitate access to financial services. Specific activities include assisting the GOJ to pass an anti-money laundering law and a credit bureau law, and establish a human resources management system for the Central Bank of Jordan. Principal contractor: Chemonics.

Expand and Improve Access to Economic and Social Infrastructure (\$2,000,000 ESF). USAID will continue to work on providing Kingdom-wide access to Information, Communications, and Technology services, including a pilot computer education program in two communities, liberalization of the telecommunications sector, and electronic access to government services. USAID's work in tourism will incorporate rural infrastructure development, and the public sector reform project will focus on allowing greater citizen and business access to public services. Principal contractors: Chemonics, Nathan Associates, and others TBD.

Protect and Increase the Assets and Livelihoods of the Poor During Periods of Stress (\$2,000,000 ESF). USAID will ensure that the most vulnerable members of Jordan's economy are able to participate in this period of economic growth by ensuring that projects related to tourism, SME development, and business financing address the need for training in human resources development. Principal contractors: Chemonics, IESC, Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature, Nathan Associates, The World Bank, Volunteers for Economic Growth Alliance, and others TBD.

Improve Quality of Workforce (\$1,000,000 ESF). USAID's support for entrepreneurship and vocational training ensures that Jordanians develop the skills necessary to obtain private sector employment. Principal contractors: Nathan Associates and Save the Children.

Improve Justice Sector/Legal Framework (\$1,000,000 ESF). Through capacity building and policy reform, USAID enhances Jordanian enforcement of copyright and trademark laws, facilitates transparent government transactions and decisions, promotes reform of public sector institutions that regulate commerce, and encourages transparent policymaking. Principal contractors: Chemonics and others TBD.

Strengthen Civil Society (\$1,000,000 ESF). To increase government accountability, USAID provides technical assistance and training to enhance the advocacy skills of over a dozen business associations. Principal contractors: Chemonics and others TBD.

Promote and Support Anti-Corruption Reforms (\$500,000 ESF). USAID's commercial legal work and public sector reforms encourage transparency in law development and policymaking. Principal contractors: Chemonics and others TBD.

FY 2006 Program: The activities in FY 2006 will be continued and/or expanded. The funding for these activities will be as follows: Increase Participation in Global Trade and Investment (\$13,000,000 ESF); Improve Economic Policy and Governance (\$5,000,000 ESF); Increase Private Sector Growth (\$16,000,000 ESF); Strengthen Financial Sector's Contribution to Economic Growth (\$1,000,000 ESF); Expand and Improve Access to Economic and Social Infrastructure (\$2,000,000 ESF); Protect and Increase the Assets and Livelihoods of the Poor During Periods of Stress (\$2,000,000 ESF); Improve Quality of Workforce (\$1,000,000 ESF); Improve Justice Sector/Legal Framework (\$1,000,000 ESF); and Strengthen Civil Society (\$1,000,000 ESF).

Performance and Results: With USAID's support, Jordan became increasingly integrated into the global trade and investment network in FY 2004. The number of companies registered in the Kingdom increased by 19% over the last year. Furthermore, Jordan experienced an 11% increase in foreign and domestic investment over the past 12 months. The continuing Jordan-U.S. Business Partnership (JUSBP) program exceeded targets set by USAID/Jordan. During FY 2004, JUSBP-assisted Jordanian firms exported over \$21.5 million in goods through 405 transactions. Exports to the U.S. and other markets since October 2002 totaled \$157 million through over 4,500 transactions. Finally, work in updating the investment law allowed the GOJ to implement international investment best practices. Efforts to improve the effectiveness of the Customs Department have already resulted in barriers being removed within one of the institutions most widely recognized as an obstacle to trade. All these results move USAID closer to achieving this strategic objective.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Jordan

278-010 Economic Opportunities for Jordanians	ESF
Through September 30, 2003	
Obligations	0
Expenditures	0
Unliquidated	0
Fiscal Year 2004	
Obligations	37,550
Expenditures	14,027
Through September 30, 2004	
Obligations	37,550
Expenditures	14,027
Unliquidated	23,523
Prior Year Unobligated Funds	
Obligations	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA	
Obligations	42,500
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005	
Obligations	42,500
Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA	
Obligations	42,000
Future Obligations	175,000
Est. Total Cost	297,050