



---

---

## U.S. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 15, 2007

### **MEDIA INQUIRIES:**

Donna Thiessen  
(703) 875-4357

### **USTDA GRANTS PROMOTE OPTIMAL USE OF WATER RESOURCES IN JORDAN**

AMMAN, JORDAN – Improving the management and efficiency of Jordan’s scarce water resources is the goal of two USTDA grants awarded today to the Jordanian Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, on behalf of the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) and the Aqaba Water Company (AWC). The grants will be used to fund early investment analysis on the construction of a wastewater treatment plant to serve towns west of Salt City, in the Balqa’a governorate, and to create a comprehensive hydraulic analysis of the Disi aquifer well field, which serves as the main source of drinking water to the city of Aqaba.

The grants were conferred in a signing ceremony held at the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation. The Honorable David Hale, American Ambassador to Jordan, and Her Excellency Suhair Al-Ali, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, signed the grant 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 of fresh water available per year to the average citizen. Since 1980, the country has carried out significant and comprehensive plans to enhance the nation’s wastewater management capabilities, primarily related to the improvement of sanitation. Although substantial strides have been made in providing a larger percentage of the population with access to wastewater collection and treatment systems, several clusters of small villages and communities in Jordan remain un-served.

Some of these communities lie to the west of Salt City, where the population relies on cesspits and septic tanks to dispose of their wastewater. Seepage from these tanks has led to major health risks and environmental pollution in the region. To address these issues, the \$450,000 grant awarded today to the WAJ will be used to determine the most appropriate technical solution for a wastewater collection and treatment system in un-served communities west of Salt City.

The second grant awarded today, in the amount of \$292,000, will support the AWC’s efforts to implement a more efficient pump scheme to greatly increase water supply to the city of Aqaba. The new system will not only alleviate immediate consumption concerns, but will also provide for increased growth in Aqaba as a tourist and business center.

(More)

The USTDA-funded analysis will also determine the feasibility of implementing a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system to monitor and operate the entire well network.

The opportunity to provide assistance pursuant to the USTDA grants awarded today will be competed on the Federal Business Opportunities website at [www.fbo.gov](http://www.fbo.gov). Interested U.S. firms should submit proposals following the instructions in each Federal Business Opportunities announcement. The Water Authority of Jordan and the AWC will each select the U.S. firm that will 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.

-30-

Visit USTDA's Website at [www.ustda.gov](http://www.ustda.gov)