

SUCCESS STORY

Data-Driven Planning for Equitable Access to Education in Jordan

Data is a valuable enabler for proper planning and resource allocation.



Royal Hashemite Court's published photo of the meeting with His Majesty King Abdullah II.



Snapshots from USAID's meeting with the Minister of Education and Technical Directors

USAID's Enhancing Schools Management and Planning (ESMP) Activity is aimed at improving Jordan's school infrastructure scene by leveraging data and modern technologies. One of the Activity's goals is to align the planning process for school infrastructure projects with real needs, utilizing data-driven resource allocation and prioritization.

To facilitate this goal, ESMP worked with the Ministry of Education's technical staff on a supply-demand analysis across the Kingdom, focusing on overcrowding, double shifts, and facility ownership status. This resulted in the production of a first-of-its-kind School Infrastructure Operational Plan 2023 – 2024, prioritizing a list of 219 projects for the Ministry of Education to focus on. Seeking more information, the Ministry's Planning Administration requested ESMP to examine potential intersections between the operational plan's list of nominated projects and the projects that are suspended due to the lack of funds.

The plan caught the attention of the Minister of Education, who, on February 28, attended a meeting called by His Majesty King Abdullah II to be briefed on the government's plan to implement the Economic Modernisation Vision in education. At this meeting, and the follow-on interview by AlMamlaka TV, the Minister of Education relied on the data generated by the School Infrastructure Operational Plan 2023 – 2024 to emphasize the Ministry's priorities. ESMP has also been informed that the Minister presented the list of suspended projects intersecting with the operational plan to advocate for funds through The Royal Hashemite Court.

Furthermore, the Planning Administration started referring to the list of projects nominated by the operational plan as the ministry's needed projects, and has directed all donor funds towards them. Additionally, it is confirmed that some of the operational's plans projects are being considered for the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) projects.

The Minister's use of the data as a source for the educational sector's situation, and for advocacy purposes proves the level of trust in the data and process of producing the operational plan.

In a meeting with USAID's Education and Youth Office Director, the Minister of Education agreed to initiate the process of issuing a policy that mandates the operational plan. His Excellency thanked USAID for the fruitful partnership saying, *"The ESMP Activity is a valuable source of data for the Ministry; they enable us to make informed decisions."*

USAID will continue to support the Ministry of Education fulfill its obligation towards the children and youth of Jordan in providing inclusive and equitable access to a safe and positive learning environment.