USAID-CITIES Supports Al Khalidiyah's 20th Nabataean Poetry Festival

Around 1,200 people attended the three-day Nabataean Poetry Festival.

Two out of eleven volunteers from the local communities helping organize the Poetry Festival.

Every year, Al-Khalidiyah Municipality brings together poets from Jordanian cities and neighboring countries for the Nabataean Poetry Festival. The annual event promotes knowledge and literature, both intertwined with a sense of cohesion, and this year the USAID Cities Implementing Transparent, Innovative and Effective Solutions (CITIES) Project supported the 20th chapter of the festival.

Held in coordination with the Ministry of Culture, Al Khalidiyah Municipality and Hussein Cultural Forum, the festival revives a traditional style of poetry and creates an interactive cultural avenue for all community members and guests. "Support from the municipality and the USAID-CITIES provided us with a solid ground for an event that fosters community cohesion, giving everyone an opportunity to meet, interact, and network," said Mohammed Al Onizi, Head of Al-Hussein Cultural Forum.

Under the umbrella of Al Khalidiyah Municipality, USAID's CITIES supported the event by engaging the Youth Service Providers Network to help organize the Festival, providing them with a cultural exposure and engaging them with the different segments of the community. "We are greatly touched by seeing a small community like Al Khalidiyah host local and regional visitors every year," says Anas Mohammed Al-Shaaban, a sophomore nursing student. "As a Syrian refugee, I feel as a part of the community and that my role is as important as anyone else in this great event." He added.

The three-day festival, held on September 21st, featured poets from Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Bahrain, and Saudi. "The attendance this year was the highest." Said Nahar Al-Khaldy, a local poet. "Every year we look forward to participate and meet regional poets, gain more experience, and share ours as well." The ceremony included different cultural displays, and was concluded with certificate awarding to the USAID-CITIES team as well as the participants as a recognition of their achievements.

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