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Sustainable Cultural Heritage Through Engagement of Local Communities Project (SCHEP) FACT SHEET

## BACKGROUND

Jordan hosts a vast number of archaeological sites that are important cultural heritage resources for the country. Besides the well-known tourist and World Heritage sites, these include numerous other locations that could have substantial tourism appeal if properly developed using a sustainable preservation model that ensures their viability as long-term resources for Jordan. Jordan also abounds with living cultural heritage traditions within its diverse range of different types of communities. The USAID Sustainable Cultural Heritage through Engagement of Local Communities Project (SCHEP), implemented by the American Center of Research (ACOR), has provided a model for the connection of cultural preservation, community engagement, and tourism development. In the past decade, SCHEP worked to expand community engagement in heritage and tourism activities in Jordan, supporting and growing the number and quality of partners in this effort, and training and supporting the governmental entities ultimately responsible. Through the years, SCHEP focused on further embedding the SCHEP approach into Jordan’s heritage community and providing greater access to tourism/heritage information so the field might grow, by supporting the government in its efforts to advance.

## PRIORITIES

**GOAL ONE**

Support the enabling environment and government efforts by fostering collaboration among specialists from academia, the government, and the tourism sector, with the aim of promoting effective and sustainable preservation and maintenance practices.

**GOAL TWO**

Enhance site development by collaborating with stakeholders, including government entities, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, the private sector, and micro and small enterprises (MSEs) to manage restoration, interpretation, and community collaboration.

**GOAL THREE**

Support the heritage community of practice in Jordan by fostering self-sustaining activities and developing Jordan’s Cultural Heritage Portal (JoCHP) to serve as a comprehensive resource hub for cultural heritage related information and knowledge in Jordan. JoCHP will enhance knowledge sharing by including international resources and multilingual content.

## KEY RESULTS

* Awarded financial support totaling $2.4 million to 46 local and foreign institutions. This support resulted in the restoration of 8 archaeological sites, the creation of 444 jobs, 670 better employment opportunities, and the establishment of five MSEs contributing to the sustainable development and promotion of cultural heritage in Jordan.
* Connected 1427 beneficiaries from 100 entities in 8 different countries to exchange knowledge and skills for better management of Jordan’s cultural heritage. The results of these efforts were covered in 68 press releases, 54 articles, 21 publications, 20 blogs, 20 presentations, 13 lectures, 8 TV shows and 13 academic papers.
* Increased local awareness and appreciation of archaeology by involving more than 5,500 school children in hands-on activities covering 12 governorates reaching 41 municipalities with a focus on vulnerable and marginalized communities.