



Right to left: Mayor of Ramtha, Hussein Abu Al-Sheih Al-Zoubi with Khaled Al-Khazaleh from Ramtha Municipality and Ibrahim Abuljazar, Electrician discussing the installation of a dust control water kit

Supporting Municipalities to Deliver Effective Solid Waste Management Services to Residents

Keeping cities clean is a service of Jordan's municipalities provide to safeguard the public health and livability of their communities. During an assessment to prioritize municipal needs, the USAID Cities Implementing Transparent, Innovative and Effective Solutions (CITIES) Project identified solid waste collection and public cleanliness as a top concern of municipalities. However, they have faced increasing challenges from rapid population growth, a large influx of Syrian refugees, and the impact of the coronavirus on revenues and expenditures.

Responding to this pressing need, the USAID CITIES Project has cooperated closely with the Ministry of Local Administration and 27 partner municipalities to develop solid waste management improvement plans. These plans have included reviews of waste collection routes, frequency of collection, street sweeping, and community practices. In addition, some municipalities identified the need for new machinery to help with cleaning and management of solid waste.

During 2020 the USAID CITIES Project provided technical support to partner municipalities and delivered 15 solid waste "collection" compactors and "skid steer" street sweeping equipment, which were prioritized by 12 municipalities at an approximate cost of \$870,000. As noted by the mayor of New Ramtha Municipality, Mr. Hussein Abu Al-Sheih Al-Zoubi, *"The new skid steers delivered by USAID helped us address a shortage in municipal workers and replaced work done by hand brooms with equipment to improve our city's waste collection operations... The new equipment also improved the safety of our municipal workers, who were exposed to higher risks of accidents on highways and main streets."*

According to Eng. Hussain Mhaidat, incoming Secretary General of the Ministry of Local Administration, improvements in solid waste collection also contributed to achieving the ministry's goals. *"Developing local solid waste improvement plans had the greatest impact on strengthening municipal staff capacities ... and they effectively contributed to helping the ministry meet its development indicators."*

Supporting solid waste management operations is another way that USAID is partnering with municipalities and the Ministry of Local Administration to help municipalities better serve their communities.