

USAID CITIES Empowers Its Employees to Blaze Their Own Trail in Decentralization

The decentralization elections of 2017 brought elected mayors and municipal councils to power for the first time in over six years and gave them legitimacy in the eyes of the people. To help facilitate this, the USAID Cities Implementing Transparent, Innovative and Effective Solutions (USAID CITIES) Program seeks to increase the effectiveness of municipal governance and support decentralization in Jordan through improved service delivery, increased sustainability of municipal and decentralized government operations, increased responsiveness to citizen priorities, and promoting community cohesion and resilience.



And as the USAID CITIES Program proceeds further in the realization of decentralization, a miniature of decentralization is meanwhile blooming under its wing, Ms. Moyasser Awabdeh, USAID CITIES' Grants Officer. After months of hard work and campaigning, Moyasser won the Jordanian Engineers Union Elections, becoming part of a few elite representing her fellow engineers from around Jordan, and her hometown in specific, Al Tafilah Governorate.

A devoted member of the USAID CITIES family, Moyasser has been not only a close observant of the project's holistic approach towards decentralization, but she also contributed to the successful implementation of its activities—helping local governments improve their services and better serve their communities by processing In-kind grant agreements with her grants team. From conducting pre-award risk assessments, to preparing and issuing grant agreements, Moyasser always believed in being the voice of the people.

And so she was. “Now I get to do the job of elected people, people that represent their local communities, but I will live it on the engineer community level. Being an employee of the USAID CITIES Project, I know the significance of this challenge and responsibility, which any elected representative must carry. I have also learned, through my work with USAID CITIES, how to deal with one's own constituents,” says Moyasser. “And thanks in no small part to my USAID CITIES family's support pre- and post the elections,” she adds.

Amongst the many roles assigned to her at the Engineers Union in Amman, Moyasser will be responsible for reviewing, developing, and planning past and future activities and financial plans within her council.

Being the youngest candidate, Moyasser hopes to be able to make a difference with her new role and realize the vision she was elected for.