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SUCCESS STORY

USAID CITIES Partners with the Ministry of Interior to Advance Opportunities for Women



Ms. Rand Hindawi (right), USAID CITIES' Senior Gender and Youth Advisor, and Ms. Ruba Al Hujran (left) at the certificate award ceremony of the USAID-CITIES Governorate Community Outreach/Equal Opportunity Departments Training.



During the USAID-CITIES Training for heads and staff of the Governorate Community Outreach/Equal Opportunity Departments.

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Meet Dr. Ruba Al Hujran, a native of Al Karak Governorate with a PhD in Criminology. Ruba grew up with a deep sense of responsibility for the people in her hometown of Al Karak. Ruba is committed to learning more about when, where, and how she can turn her sense of responsibility into something positive for her community. "I knew I had to take up a career in the governmental field to be able to convey the needs of my people and address issues that I grew up with," Ruba recalls.

Ruba's goal was to reach a place that brings her closer to the local community. Her opportunity came when she was appointed as the head of the Community Outreach/Equal Opportunities Departments within the Al Karak Governorate and the Secretary General of Al Karak Governorate Council.

USAID CITIES works with the Ministry of Interior to develop and strengthen the capacities of Governorate Community Outreach/Equal Opportunities Departments across the Kingdom. Through a series of intensive workshops on how to prepare the Governorates' Needs Manual, members of these departments, like Ruba, received comprehensive training and guidance on identifying data related to those community needs in order to prepare development plans that will contribute to a unified governorate needs list. These workshops also empowered and provided opportunities for proactive female governorate employees like Ruba to leverage this newly acquired knowledge and skills by conducting needs identification sessions with civil society organizations.

After completing the training workshops, Ruba worked for months with the communities to prioritize their needs, delivering a thorough needs list that covered all official and community sectors in the districts of Karak Governorate. "My new expertise as the head of the Community Outreach/Equal Opportunity Department gave me more credibility and increased people's confidence that allowed them to talk about their needs with the right person - me," says Ruba. "With my knowledge and my vital position, I was able to bring the local community in contact with Al Karak Governor through periodic meetings, making every voice matter," she adds.

Today, Ruba and her Community Outreach/Equal Opportunities Departments' colleagues are achieving their goals with support from the USAID CITIES. Formulation of the Needs Manual is considered a crucial first step towards working within the Law on Decentralization, and one that Ruba and her peers work hard to translate into development plans that begin and end with the community.