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USAID CITIES Supports MOPPA in Regulating Functions of its Governorate Councils



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Dr. Ali Al-Khawaldeh, Assistant for MOPPA Secretary General

The introduction of the new Governorate Councils under decentralization has given rise to a new wave of roles and responsibilities assigned to its elected members. The monitoring of service delivery and capital projects included within the governorate budgets is one such role. While this is considered pivotal in the successful implementation of decentralization, the Laws governing decentralization provided no thorough by-law instructions on the functions related to budget formulation and other council functions.

Following USAID CITIES’ effort to support the four councils—Governorate, Executive, Municipal, and Local—in the preparation of the needs lists constituting the governorate budgets, the Ministry of Parliamentary and Political Affairs (MOPPA) has expressed its trust in USAID CITIES’ approach by requesting its Advisory Unit to further support to the governorate councils—this time by drafting instructions for the governorate councils on how to exercise their monitoring functions on budgeting.

Having a stipulated oversight role in the budget preparation process among other councils, governorate council members have expressed the need to activate their role—urging for clear instructions on how to monitor, amend, and approve budgets prior to being implemented as development projects. This monitoring function on project implementation will expedite the progress of these projects, while avoiding any duplication in proposed projects, whether favored by the people or by governorate officials.

Responding to MOPPA’s request, and with the aim to close the support circle for the successful delivery of the governorate budgets to include and, ultimately, implement capital development projects chosen based on the needs of the people, USAID CITIES’ Advisory Unit had produced a draft that is currently being circulated among members of concerned ministries for review and refining. The draft, which comprises instructions that will be expanded to include citations to the controlling law, will provide commentary as to how the principal instructions themselves should be interpreted and exercised.

The significance of these instructions comes from explicitly providing governorate councils with a platform to coordinate between municipalities within any given governorate on how and where selected projects should be implemented to benefit the governorate by and large. Moreover, the quality of these councils, as being elected by the people, will be reinforced by the councils’ authority to ensure popular control over government’s institutions. Once the recent changes to the new government stagnate, these instructions will be submitted to the new Head of MOPPA for approval, serving as a procedural reference for the members of governorate councils across the county.