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UNFPA – Country programmes and related matters

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

Draft country programme document for Jordan

Proposed UNFPA assistance: \$5.5 million: \$3 million from regular resources and \$2.5 million through co-financing modalities and/or other, including regular, resources

Programme period: Five years (2008-2012)

Cycle of assistance: Seventh

Category per decision 2005/13: B

Proposed assistance by core programme area (in millions of \$):

	Regular resources	Other	Total
Reproductive health	1.70	1.8	3.50
Population and development	0.70	0.5	1.20
Gender	0.35	0.2	0.55
Programme coordination and assistance	0.25	-	0.25
Total	3.00	2.5	5.50

I. Situation analysis

1. The population of Jordan reached 5.5 million in 2005. Life expectancy at birth is 70.6 years for males and 72.4 years for females. Eighty-two per cent of the population is urban, and 34 per cent is 10-24 years of age. The total fertility rate is high, at 3.2 children per woman, and is higher in rural areas (3.5) than in urban ones (3.1). The annual population growth rate, at 2.3 per cent, is not in balance with available natural resources, particularly water resources. Poverty and employment are key challenges: 14.2 per cent of the population is poor, and 15 per cent is unemployed. The unemployment rate is higher among women (26 per cent) and youth (54 per cent). Furthermore, the country is situated in a volatile region and has experienced a number of sudden population increases, the latest being an increasing number of Iraqi refugees.

2. Despite these challenges, Jordan is undertaking economic and social reforms, the most important being the national development agenda and the "We are all Jordan" initiatives. These reform efforts have established the basis for national development strategies that are aligned with the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals. Strengthening national capacity to monitor national plans and the Millennium Development Goals is a priority. The national population strategy established the basis for a reproductive health action plan. A national population council (the Higher Population Council) coordinates the mainstreaming of population issues into sectoral plans.

3. Data disaggregated by sex and age are updated regularly and are available at the national level. However, better data at the subnational level, especially migration- and gender-related data and indicators, are required.

4. Almost 99 per cent of married women receive antenatal care, and nearly 100 per cent of births are attended by a health professional.

The maternal mortality ratio is 41 deaths per 100,000 live births. The contraceptive prevalence rate is 55.8 per cent, of which 41.2 per cent is for modern methods. The Government is strengthening health systems and services with support from donors. Following the phase-out of assistance from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), scheduled to occur in 2009, the Government will assume responsibility for reproductive health commodity security. Government priorities include: (a) addressing regional disparities; (b) increasing post-natal care; (c) strengthening demand for health services; and (d) enhancing the role of the health system in protecting women.

5. The Government developed a national AIDS strategy for 2005-2009. Cumulative reported AIDS cases reached 422 by the end of 2005. Over half of those infected are non-Jordanian citizens, and 44 per cent are younger than 30 years of age. Limited data are available on sexually transmitted infections.

6. Studies demonstrate a need for comprehensive information and services to promote healthy lifestyles among youth. The national youth strategy (2005-2009) addresses this and other priorities related to youth.

7. Jordan encourages the participation of women in development. However, legal, cultural and economic barriers persist. There is a need to address the status of women and to implement United Nations human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Jordanian National Commission for Women has updated the national strategy for women, and the National Council for Family Affairs has developed a national framework for family protection to address some of these issues.

II. Past cooperation and lessons learned

8. The achievements of the sixth country programme include: (a) strengthening the role of parliamentarians and the media in addressing population issues; (b) providing technical assistance for the 2004 census; and (c) improving the quality of vital statistics. The programme also trained female health care providers in order to increase the percentage of women receiving reproductive health services in rural areas. In addition, the programme integrated population, reproductive health and gender into non-formal education activities. Community-based organizations increased awareness of reproductive health and women's rights in selected communities.

9. The midterm review of the programme acknowledged UNFPA contributions in population and development and in reproductive health. It also highlighted the need to increase the focus on gender and to establish mechanisms to ensure programme synergy and effective coordination and monitoring. The review recommended that the programme be more focused, taking into account both human and financial resources.

10. The proposed programme focuses on: (a) building capacity in key partner institutions; (b) increasing the demand for high-quality reproductive health services, including information; (c) youth programming; and (d) addressing gender gaps, especially as they relate to access to reproductive health and the protection of women. UNFPA has a comparative advantage in supporting the following areas: (a) the production and utilization of vital statistics and data at the subnational level for policy-related decision-making; (b) policy-oriented research; and (c) advocacy efforts, especially on emerging population concerns such as migration and women's rights.

III. Proposed programme

11. The proposed programme reflects the analysis contained in the common country assessment and the national priorities identified in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for 2008-2012. It will help the Government achieve the development priorities identified in national plans, including the national development agenda and the "We are all Jordan" initiatives.

12. At the national level, the programme will strengthen capacity by establishing and updating protocols, norms and guidelines, and by supporting research, evidence-based advocacy and policy dialogue. At the community level, the programme will support advocacy, social mobilization, capacity-building and empowerment. Communities will be selected based on established criteria and consultations with the Government. UNFPA will coordinate the programme with other United Nations agencies, particularly the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), to ensure a joint presence in these communities.

13. The programme will also support joint programme initiatives with other United Nations agencies: with UNDP and UNICEF in data systems and monitoring; with the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF in working with young people and family protection; and with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and UNICEF in promoting women's rights. UNFPA will ensure coordination with other development agencies, especially USAID and the Japan International Cooperation Agency, which are supporting programmes in reproductive health and population. The proposed programme consists of three components: reproductive health; population and development; and gender.

Reproductive health component

14. The outcome of the reproductive health component is: improved quality of and access to equitable maternal and reproductive health

information and services, with a focus on promoting maternal health and healthy lifestyles and preventing HIV/AIDS. Two outputs will contribute to this outcome.

15. Output 1: Increased awareness of, demand for and access to high-quality health services, with a focus on post-natal care and family planning services and with special attention given to vulnerable groups. At the national level, the programme will enhance the national capacity to develop, update and monitor guidelines and protocols that seek to integrate the prevention and detection of gender-based violence into health services. At the community level, the programme will focus on increasing the demand for reproductive health by: (a) raising awareness among young men and women of their reproductive rights; (b) building the capacity of local community-based organizations and empowering community members to claim their reproductive rights; and (c) providing reproductive health services to bridge service gaps in selected communities, including by applying protocols and guidelines developed at the national level.

16. Output 2: Greater access to integrated health services and gender-sensitive information and skills, with a focus on maternal and reproductive health, promoting healthy lifestyles, and preventing HIV/AIDS and substance abuse. At the national level, this will be accomplished by: (a) raising awareness and undertaking advocacy with decision makers on the reproductive needs and rights of young people; and (b) strengthening the national capacity to provide youth-friendly information and services. At the community level, the programme will: (a) raise awareness among service providers and community leaders of the need to provide culturally appropriate reproductive health information to young people; (b) provide youth-friendly health services in at least five facilities; (c) strengthen the capacity of local community-based organizations and youth organizations to work with young people; and (d) empower young

people to improve their knowledge and skills through peer networks and other youth-led initiatives.

17. Activities under this output will also help the Government and community-based organizations to prevent, respond to, and mitigate the effects of natural and man-made disasters. This will be achieved by strengthening the national capacity to integrate reproductive health and gender into national disaster response plans.

Population and development component

18. The outcomes of this component are: (a) improved government capacity to design and implement consultative, evidence-based and gender-sensitive poverty alleviation policies and plans; and (b) strengthened national capacity to protect, promote, monitor and report on human rights. Two outputs will contribute to this outcome.

19. Output 1: Strengthened national capacity to formulate, coordinate and monitor gender-sensitive strategies and plans on population, poverty alleviation, and food security. This will be achieved by: (a) enhancing the capacities of key national partners in networking, coordinating and monitoring the national population strategy and related sectoral plans; (b) advocating the inclusion of gender and population concerns in operational plans; and (c) strengthening the national capacity to monitor the operationalization of the Millennium Development Goals, particularly those related to achieving gender equality, improving maternal health and combating HIV/AIDS.

20. Output 2: Disaggregated and gender-sensitive data and information on women, youth, vulnerable groups and the environment are collected, analysed and disseminated. This will be achieved by: (a) enhancing the national capacity to produce, analyse and use disaggregated population, reproductive health

and gender data through existing national systems such as surveys, vital statistics and administrative records, including data related to emerging priorities such as migration, protection of women, women's status and young people; (b) supporting qualitative and quantitative research in vulnerable communities to identify unmet needs; and (c) enhancing the national capacity to monitor the national development agenda, development plans and the Millennium Development Goals.

Gender component

21. This component has one outcome: strengthened national capacity to protect, promote, monitor and report on human rights. It will be achieved through one output.

22. Output 1: Strengthened capacity to monitor progress towards the national development agenda and the Millennium Development Goals, aligned with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and other human rights conventions. This will be achieved by: (a) strengthening the national capacity to establish monitoring mechanisms to follow up on the recommendations of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; (b) advocacy, policy dialogue and networking to improve the legislative environment to ensure the rights of women and girls; and (c) strengthening national capacity to ensure an effective operational framework to protect women and girls within the overall national family protection framework.

IV. Programme management, monitoring and evaluation

23. The country programme will use the national execution modality and will implement, with other United Nations agencies, the harmonized approach to cash transfers.

24. UNFPA and the Government will conduct annual programme reviews, as well as midterm and end-of-programme reviews and evaluations within the overall UNDAF joint monitoring and evaluation plan. The UNFPA country office will use tracking tools and annual monitoring and evaluation plans to monitor progress under each output. The results of the 2007 demographic and health survey and other surveys will be used for the baseline indicators. The next demographic and health survey, scheduled for 2012, will provide indicators to measure programme impact.

25. The UNFPA country office in Jordan consists of a non-resident country director based in Jerusalem, an assistant representative, a national programme associate, and administrative and support staff. Programme funds will be earmarked for three national programme posts within the framework of the approved country office typology. UNFPA will hire national project personnel to strengthen programme implementation. The UNFPA country technical services team in Amman, Jordan; the Division for Arab States, Europe and Central Asia at UNFPA headquarters; and national and international consultants will provide technical support and backstopping.

RESULTS AND RESOURCES FRAMEWORK FOR JORDAN

National priority or goal: to substantially reduce poverty and improve social services UNDAF outcome: quality of and equitable access to social services and income-generating opportunities are enhanced, with a focus on the poor and the vulnerable UNDAF outcome: good governance mechanisms and practices established to reduce poverty, protect human rights and promote gender equality in accordance with the Millennium Declaration				
Programme component	Country programme outcomes, indicators, baselines and targets	Country programme outputs, indicators, baselines and targets	Partners	Indicative resources by programme component
Reproductive health	<p>Outcome: Improved quality of and access to equitable maternal and reproductive health information and services, with a focus on promoting maternal health and healthy lifestyles and preventing HIV/AIDS</p> <p>Outcome indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel by governorate • Baseline: 98.6 per cent at the national level • Percentage of women receiving post-natal care by governorate • Percentage of health facilities certified as providing high-quality health services • Contraceptive prevalence rate by age group and governorate increased • Percentage of population aged 15-24 with comprehensive knowledge of healthy lifestyles and HIV/AIDS • 	<p>Output 1: Increased awareness of, demand for and access to high-quality health services, with a focus on post-natal care and family planning services and with special attention given to vulnerable groups</p> <p>Output indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of married women receiving post-natal care in five communities (according to Ministry of Health criteria for post-natal care) • Number of communities empowered to take initiatives related to reproductive health and gender issues • Ministry of Health endorses national protocols for the detection, counselling and referral of cases of gender-based violence • Percentage of targeted maternal and child health centres providing proper management of cases of gender-based violence <p>Output 2: Greater access to integrated health services and gender-sensitive information and skills, with a focus on maternal and reproductive health, promoting healthy lifestyles, and preventing HIV/AIDS and substance abuse</p> <p>Output indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criteria and protocols for providing youth-friendly health services are developed and endorsed at the national level • Number of functioning youth-friendly health facilities • Percentage of youth aged 15-24 in selected communities aware of at least five healthy lifestyle issues is increased to 50 per cent • Number of youth initiatives implemented in each selected community • Existence of a functioning youth peer education network 	<p>Ministry of Health; Partners of the National Family Protection Team; Higher Council for Youth</p> <p>Women's non-governmental and community-based organizations</p> <p>UNICEF; WHO</p>	<p>\$3.5 million (\$1.7 million from regular resources and \$1.8 million from other resources)</p>

Programme component	Country programme outcomes, indicators, baselines and targets	Country programme outputs, indicators, baselines and targets	Partners	Indicative resources by programme component
Population and development	<p><u>Outcome 1:</u> Improved government capacity to design and implement consultative, evidence-based and gender-sensitive poverty alleviation policies and plans</p> <p><u>Outcome indicators:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poverty and population linkages explicit in national development policies, plans and strategies Poverty alleviation policies, plans and budgets endorsed <p><u>Outcome 2:</u> Strengthened national capacity to protect, promote, monitor and report on human rights</p> <p><u>Outcome indicators:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of laws and legislation amended in line with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child Periodic reports on human rights conventions submitted 	<p><u>Output 1:</u> Strengthened national capacity to formulate, coordinate and monitor gender-sensitive strategies and plans on population, poverty alleviation, and food security</p> <p><u>Output indicators:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A system to monitor the national population strategy is established in the Higher Population Council Annual sectoral plans of the Higher Population Council subcommittees are developed in a participatory manner Number of sectoral plans incorporating reproductive health, population and development, and gender concerns <p><u>Output 2:</u> Disaggregated and gender-sensitive data and information on women, youth, vulnerable groups and the environment are collected, analysed and disseminated</p> <p><u>Output indicators:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Availability of national and subnational gender-sensitive qualitative and quantitative indicators to monitor population programmes and Millennium Development Goals at the subnational level Population, reproductive health, and gender indicators and variables integrated into national sectoral and selected local plans 	<p>Higher Population Council; Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation; Department of Statistics; Jordanian National Commission for Women; National Council for Family Affairs</p> <p>UNICEF; UNIFEM</p>	<p>\$1.2 million (\$0.7 million from regular resources and \$0.5 million from other resources)</p>
Gender	<p><u>Outcome:</u> Strengthened national capacity to promote, monitor and report on human rights</p> <p><u>Outcome indicators:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application of laws and policies on gender equity and equality Prevalence of gender-based violence Civil society involvement in preventing gender-based violence 	<p><u>Output 1:</u> Strengthened capacity to monitor progress towards the national development agenda and the Millennium Development Goals, aligned with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and other human rights conventions</p> <p><u>Output indicators:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> System established to monitor the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and related human rights instruments in the Jordanian National Commission for Women Plan of action prepared to implement recommendations of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women is operational Proposal for legal reforms prepared and advocated Coalitions strengthened to ensure the national agenda is aligned with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other human rights instruments A model referral system for family protection to monitor the rights of women is developed and tested 	<p>Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation; Department of Statistics; Jordanian National Commission for Women</p>	<p>\$0.55 million (\$0.35 million from regular resources and \$0.2 million from other resources)</p> <hr/> <p>Total for programme coordination and assistance: \$0.25 million from regular resources</p>