

## National Multi-stakeholder Dialogue Minutes of the Meeting

<b>Meeting Name:</b>	Obstacles to Achieving Sustainable Development and the Implementation of 2030 Agenda in Jordan		
<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday 15 September 2020	<b>Time:</b>	01:00pm – 02:30pm
<b>Facilitator Name:</b>	Duaa Ajarmeh	<b>Location:</b>	Virtual Session Zoom Link : <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81437263155?pwd=R2c2dYt5ZDJ1cExidDRiSFF0Y2tCQT09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81437263155?pwd=R2c2dYt5ZDJ1cExidDRiSFF0Y2tCQT09</a> Meeting ID: 814 3726 3155

### 1. Meeting Objectives

Discuss the obstacles and barriers to achieving sustainable development and the implementation of 2030 agenda in Jordan. In addition, provide a platform for civil society organizations in Jordan to present their best practices in implementation of Agenda 2030.

### 2. Attendees

The meeting was attended by 25 participant(attached)

### 3. Meeting Agenda

Topic	Speaker
Welcoming Remarks	Duaa Ajarmeh
Webinar Objectives	Duaa Ajarmeh
The Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 in Jordan Where we stand?	Ms. Rasha Dabbouri Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation
Sustainable Development Goals Indicators and Statistics	Mr. Sudki Hamdan Department of Statistics
Presentation on best-practices towards implementation of Agenda 2030 at national level by civil society organization	Mr. Ahmad Awad Phenix Center
Presentation on best-practices towards implementation of Agenda 2030 at national level by civil society organization	Ms. Hadeel Abdelaziz Justice Center for Legal Aid
Challenges and Barriers towards achieving the SDGs in Jordan Open discussion and Recommendations	All Participants

### 4. Meeting Notes

- National multi-stakeholder dialogue was convened virtually by the Phenix Center for Economic Studies and Arab NGO Network for Development on September 15 2020, and attended by 25 participants (Annex 1) representing a wide spectrum of government ministries & institutions, as well several NGOs, Academia, human rights national committee members, and other related stakeholders.
- Facilitator of the session welcomed the participants to the session and explained the objectives of the session.
- Discussions started with Rasha Hammori, head of Sustainable Development section at the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC). It was indicated by her speech the following issues:
  - ✓ There are challenges related to linking Civil Society Organizations and MOPIC with regard to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 in Jordan.
  - ✓ Jordan has committed to implementing the SDGs, and presented its first Voluntary National Review Report (VNR) at the high-level political forum. Jordan VNR was one of the best reports and showed the achievements of Jordan in the field of Sustainable Development.
  - ✓ A roadmap has been developed that includes 11 axes to raise awareness of the Sustainable Development goals, clarify their goals and indicators, and mainstream them with the national programs, priorities, and plans.
  - ✓ The high-level national committee for Sustainable Development has been re-developed and re-structured to be the main supervisor of the process of implementing SDGs in Jordan. This committee comprised of representatives from governmental sector, private sector, CSOs, NGOs, and INGOs.
  - ✓ The importance of implementing Jordan's Vision and Strategy 2025 was realized, and Jordan worked through MOPIC with all concerned parties and 17 sectoral teams to translate this strategy into operational action plans.
  - ✓ A development program has been prepared to be renewed every 3 years, in which SDGs indicators were integrated with the national indicators. One of the successful examples is integrating SDGs indicators in the National Agricultural Strategy indicators.
  - ✓ A partnership has been established with the United Nations to support the implementation of SDGs.
  - ✓ The Jordanian government will explore the possibility of submitting Jordan's second VNR in 2021 or postponing it to the year 2022 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, which was one of the challenges that impeded the implementation of the SDGs in Jordan.
  - ✓ In collaboration with Department of Statistics (DoS), the National Statistics Strategy and an indicators platform were launched, consisting of 110 indicators out of 232 indicators.

- ✓ There is a program issued by the government for monitoring indicators, includes 600 indicators, 90 of them are mainstreamed in the SDGs.
- ✓ COVID-19 pandemic has affected the implementation of the SDGs on the national level and all of the economic and political sectors. Therefore, national priorities must be re-considered and focus on goals related to health, social protection, security networks, and reducing inequality. Poverty incidence is expected to increase which will affect the goals that were supposed to be achieved in 2020. Therefore, there is a critical need to re-prioritise the national plans and strategies to avoid being one of the least implemented countries in the indicators.
- Sudki Hamdan, Sustainable Development national expert at DoS presented PPT clarifying the following sections related to the SDGs indicators:
  - ✓ SDGs dimensions and implementation criteria.
  - ✓ Goals of the national Sustainable Development technical committee.
  - ✓ Indicators available based on the SDGs.
  - ✓ Challenges and barriers facing the SDGs indicators on the national level.
  - ✓ Recommendations.
- Ahmad Awad, Phenix Center General Director, presented a PPT on the best-practices towards implementation of Agenda 2030 at national level as a Civil Society Organization. In his presentation, he covered the following parts:
  - ✓ Introduction on Phenix Center vision, and the linkages between this vision and the implementation of SDGs such as SDG1, SDG2, SDG5, SDG8, and SDG 10.
  - ✓ How Phenix Center mainstream SDGs in its work plans and policies.
  - ✓ Examples of reports, researches, policy papers, and positions papers through which the center works to achieve Sustainable Development Agenda 2030.
  - ✓ Conferences, capacity development training, and awareness campaigns through which the center works to achieve targeted SDGs.
  - ✓ Challenges and barriers toward achieving effective implementation of SDGs, such as, the lack of freedom for civil society work, weak participation for civil society in the decision-making process, lacking of an updated information platform on a large number of SDGs indicators, weak role for some governmental institutions in organizing SDGs path, and the imbalance of power relations within society which control the economic and social decision-making process.
- Ahmad Awad point out the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation of SDGs in Jordan, and how all parties should collaborate with each other to find alternative solutions to reduce the impacts of this pandemic, which affected the national economic growth negatively.
- Hadeel Abdelaziz, presented Justice Center for Legal Aid (JCLA) experience in implementing and achieving SDGs, in particular, SDG16 as follows :

- ✓ JCLA was established in 2008, as a non-profit and non-governmental organization registered with the Jordanian Societies Registry. Since 2008, JCLA has grown from one legal aid clinic in Amman to become the largest legal aid provider in Jordan, providing legal aid services at 21 clinics located across all 12 governorates. Each month, JCLA assists approximately 375 beneficiaries through legal consultations, provides legal representation to approximately 150 beneficiaries across 200 cases, and reaches approximately 3600 vulnerable people through its awareness sessions.
- ✓ Legal aid is the most important tool in achieving the human rights, such as the right to work in just and favorable conditions, the right to social protection, the right to education and the enjoyment of benefits of cultural freedom and scientific progress, and the right to good health.
- ✓ JCLA contributed to the development of the first VNR, where justice was one of the first national priorities in this report. The report contained several indicators that are directly related to the work of JCLA.
- ✓ There are many challenges facing JCLA during its work in the field of Sustainable Development, such as, many of JCLA achievements are represented in the legislative amendment body, which is not necessarily reflected in achieving the targeted SDG. In addition, there are many intersections between the SDGs indicators and there is no coordination between CSOs to achieve these goals.
- ✓ The absence of civil society role in the policy-making process, the lack of required data related to SDGs and its indicators, and the lack of necessary financial resources are the main barriers toward achieving SDG agenda 2030.

## **5. Meeting Recommendations**

Recommendations were made by all participants as per the following:

- ✓ Bring together all efforts of national institutions in order to strengthen the partnership between them, to achieve Sustainable Development Agenda 2030.
- ✓ Adopting effective national action plans that integrate Sustainable Development indicators into its indicators.
- ✓ The need for a national committee to develop the Sustainable Development reports on time.
- ✓ Support and promote the development of a national information platform on Sustainable Development indicators includes the mechanism for monitoring these indicators.
- ✓ Assign DoS as official institute regarding SDGs indicators to avoid duplication in efforts.
- ✓ Avoid using regulations that were followed before the COVID-19 pandemic as they proved their insubstantiality.
- ✓ Ensure the effectiveness of SDGs awareness programs.
- ✓ Enhancing the role of CSOs in decision-making process.