

Supporting civil society organisations at local and national level to monitor public policies in key sectors in Jordan

East Amman and Karak - September 2020 to August 2022



In the face of growing economic, social and environmental issues, creating the space for **participatory governance** and **civic engagement** in Jordan has become crucial. Inhabitants must have access to channels through which they can **hold their government accountable**.

Although the number of CSOs in Jordan has increased over the past few years, **very few** have claimed an **active role in civil society** nor become **legitimate stakeholders advocating for change**.

Main constraints in CSOs' involvement in the policymaking process in Jordan



Absence of sufficient **local capacity** to lead the policymaking and monitoring processes



Lack of **institutionalised** policy consultation **processes** and ambiguous **legal frameworks**



Absence of a platform that facilitates **joint action and coordination** at local or national level

Objective

Supporting **14 CSOs**, 152 staffs, to become **active agents of governance and sustainable development**, through developed capacities, institutionalised coordination and participation mechanisms to allow approximately **1,1 million Jordanians access to improved public services**

Environmental and educational sectors chosen as the project primary focus



The **rapid increase in Jordan's population**, coupled with **climate change** and the **influx of refugees**, has exacerbated existing challenges affecting the country's ecosystem. Despite the existence of policies, gaps in monitoring remain and the process of environmental policymaking requires an acceleration in order to **cope with the wide range of environmental issues in Jordan**.



Similarly, despite recent investments in education and an overall broadening of access to schooling across Jordan, **many children are still underprepared to participate in an increasingly competitive knowledge-based economy**. Gaps are particularly evident between Amman and its neighboring municipalities. For instance, in Karak, educational facilities suffer from overcrowding, moldy buildings and poor infrastructure and sanitation facilities.



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Planned activities under this project



Assessment

An external consultant conducted a **comprehensive assessment** by examining the landscape, constraints and processes of public policy making and monitoring within the **environment and education sectors**. The findings will be **disseminated among the 14 CSOs** to establish a common understanding about public policies, and **relevant authorities**.



Capacity trainings

Technical trainings are led by local partners, **Phenix** and **Jordan Environment Union**, while **ACTED** will conduct **institutional capacity building** sessions. Trainings encompass: information on regulatory bodies, data collection and analysis of policy papers, report writing and establishing horizontal monitoring and evaluation tools.



Advocacy and joint actions

The advocacy and networking capacity of CSOs will be developed through the creation of **two thematic working groups** (one in East Amman and one in Karak), aimed at discussing sectors' policies at local and national level. ACTED will also support one **advocacy project** and cover its **implementation costs** up to 15,000 EUR. Moreover, building on Phenix's existing **online platform**, ACTED will further promote **networking and coordination** among CSOs by providing updated information on CSOs activities and funding opportunities.



Photo: On August 5th 2021, ACTED conducted a capacity building training on financial reporting for its local partner, the Jordan Environment Union.



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ACTED's expertise in building civil society engagement

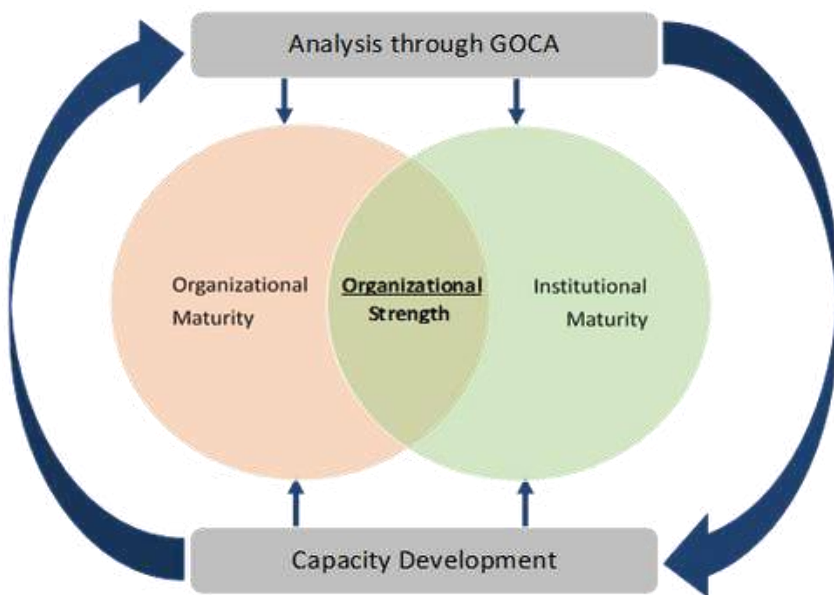


Civil Society Engagement

As part of one of its **three programmatic pillars**, ACTED has been working on **building the capacity of CSOs** in Jordan **since 2013**, with a network of over 400 CSOs now.

Our objective is to **empower civil society actors** to become autonomous and impactful stakeholders who shape the design, planning and implementation of **development interventions** within their communities; **advocate** for the rights of the communities they represent; and provide social **accountability** to local stakeholders.

ACTED's tailored need-based approach to address organizations' specific challenges



ACTED's Grassroots Organisational Capacity Assessment (GOCA)

Under this project, ACTED relied on its signature **civil society organizational capacity assessment and development toolkit (GOCA)**.

This tool allows to identify capacity building needs of individual organizations, plan technical support interventions, and monitor and evaluate the organizations' development. The **comprehensive set of tools and guidance** focuses primarily on organizational, financial and project management, leadership and participation as well as external relations.

In Jordan, ACTED adopted and tailored the GOCA **since 2013** and has worked with **over 30 CSOs** in Northern and Central Governorates.

ACTED's close partnership with relevant local authorities

The project is in line with the **Ministry of Social Development** strategic planning for capacity building of CSOs. ACTED has been requested to be the Ministry's partner in supporting its efforts to strengthen CSOs in Jordan. This strategically positions ACTED to **enhance two-way communication between the government and civil society organizations**, and positively impact the enabling environment for civil society in Jordan in the long-term.

ACTED has also been involving the **Ministry of Education** as well as the **Ministry of Environment** to ensure effective **coordination and cooperation** throughout the project implementation.