



Climate Change from a Gender Perspective in Jordan

THE PROBLEM The impacts of climate change affect men and women differently. As rising temperatures, drought and weather shocks become the norm in the Middle East and North Africa, millions of people are affected. The poorest—predominantly women—are the most vulnerable. In Jordan, the region’s leader in both climate action and gender mainstreaming, implementing programs and enforcing policies that promote gender equity within climate-adaptive strategies requires greater institutional coordination, public awareness, evidence-based research and informed action.

THE CLIENTS The Takamol Jordan Gender Program funded by USAID and led by IREX (the region’s flagship initiative focusing on mainstreaming gender through policy reform at the national and community levels) and The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan’s Ministry of Environment (the coordinator of all climate policy at the national level)

THE SERVICE To co-lead the Climate Change from a Gender Perspective public conference and technical discussions in Amman, Jordan, Jan. 31–Feb. 2, 2016.

THE SOLUTIONS/CONCLUSIONS The first event of its kind in the region, this conference supported interactive open discourse on various subjects, from mainstreaming gender in policy and economic development to addressing gender gaps in the energy and private sectors, in an effort to raise awareness for the socioeconomic implications of climate change and to develop an action plan to implement gender-equitable solutions for Jordan’s increasing resource scarcity.

THE OUTLOOK The conference and technical sessions demonstrated that all groups, from the government to the private sector, from academia to activists, understand the potential benefit of accounting for gender differences while developing and implementing climate-focused policies and programs. Following the conference, faculty from ASU and the Takamol Program facilitated a policy recommendation strategy session for a multi-sectoral group of officials and experts. Recommendations included ways to cultivate gender equity in existing climate change mitigation and adaptation policies and practices. For example, by assigning oversight of these initiatives to a single governmental entity (to address the current scenario, where some programs are not being supported because they are unable to communicate with the appropriate ministry) or by developing career mentorship programs for women in the renewable energy sector. Efforts are ongoing to (1) integrate gender mainstreaming in Jordan’s existing climate strategies and (2) develop action plans to ensure the subsequent gender equitable policies are implemented and enforced.

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“One of the field’s greatest fears when working with visiting international consultants is that the consultants won’t ‘get it,’ so to speak. There [are] complex and mostly undefined criteria where [the consultants] either very quickly become part of the team—adding value to the work and raising the profile of the whole initiative—or they don’t, and therefore become a burden. The ASU team has been nothing short of amazing. It was a challenge, we understand, [given that the] number of participants was huge, the topics diverse and not always on subject, and the stakeholders from all types of sectors added complexity to an already little understood subject. However, we honestly felt that the Takamol team just miraculously increased by five very capable, very professional, very informed, and very engaged experts. We thank ASU for embracing us and embracing Jordan and its climate change and gender challenges so graciously and so seriously.”

Nermeen Murad, Chief of Party, USAID-Takamol Gender Program, Amman, Jordan

CONFERENCE PHOTOS:

- Photos from Day 1: <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.1536109760016585.1073741880.1387513824876180&type=3>
- Photos from Day 2: <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.1536146016679626.1073741881.1387513824876180&type=3>
- Photos from Day 3: <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.1538591486435079.1073741882.1387513824876180&type=3>

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