



HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



April 2022



HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

NEW URBAN AGENDA

April 2022

NEW URBAN AGENDA 2022



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Jordan adopted the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Sendai Framework for Disaster Reduction, the Paris Climate Agreement, and the New Urban Agenda (NUA), as part of its commitment to achieve sustainable urban prosperity. Several initiatives were launched to promote sustainable urban development, to improve housing planning, infrastructure and public utilities, open spaces, transportation and communication, energy consumption, clean energy production, waste recycling, and to stimulate the green economy, and smart cities. These initiatives were in line with Jordan 2025, which aimed at developing a general policies and interventions framework to maximize the benefits from sustainable urban development to boost economic growth, improve citizens' life standards, increase the efficiency of resources for the benefit of current and future generations as well, and raise the resilience of different cities to climate change.

The long-term strategy focused on the legislative and institutional reforms, and on a more efficient coordination mechanism between different stakeholders, to support sustainable urban development. The strategy also emphasized the important role of human capital development, digital transformation, technological development, and the applications of the fourth industrial revolution. The strategy confirmed the continuous efforts of economic diversification of competitive and labor-intensive sectors, that provide decent jobs for citizens. The strategy focused on governance, decentralization, local economic development, participation, transparency, and accountability.


The strategic vision put on its priority list the development of the social protection system for low-income groups and marginalized groups. The government launched the "Social Protection Strategy" (2015-2025), to promote decent work and develop the social security system, increasing resilience to shocks, providing job opportunities, and raising the efficiency of the social insurance system, with a focus on marginalized and poor groups, including women, children, the elderly and disabled people, and providing them with social protection, housing and education programs, and health and basic services. The government developed the "National Strategy for Women (2020-2025)", which aims

to empower women in all fields (economically, socially, and politically), and to close the gender gap in the education and health sectors. The “National Youth Strategy (2019-2025)” was launched, with the aim to build a generation capable of creativity and innovation, with high productivity, through the upbringing and development of youth who are aware of themselves and their capabilities, who belong to their country and participate in its development and development, with real and effective participation. The youth strategy focused on 7 main pillars, including education and technology, active citizenship, active participation and leadership, leadership and economic empowerment, good governance and rule of law, security and community peace, health, and physical activity. The strategy also included a set of projects that contribute to achieving the nine strategic objectives of the vision, several smart performance measurement indicators, and digital targets that help follow up the implementation of the strategy and achieve its objectives.

The government has also strengthened the protection of the elderly, and this was reflected in two important documents, including the “Jordan 2025 Strategy” and the “Comprehensive National Human Rights Plan” for the years (2016-2025). It includes the most important efforts made to provide health care for the elderly in their guesthouses, as well as extending social protection networks, facilitating their access to public services, and continuing the development of public facilities to suit their needs.

The government focused on ensuring access to affordable housing equipped with facilities and services in all governorates of the Kingdom. Several housing programs were implemented, noting that the construction and construction process is carried out in accordance with strict building rules and standards in accordance with an appropriate legislative system. The National Program for Housing and the development of housing policies were launched to ensure the sustainability by enabling the private sector to implement housing projects directed at middle and low-income people. Developing unplanned and informal areas was another area of focus to improve the quality of life for its residents, by rehabilitating many poor neighborhoods, providing them with basic services, and building adequate housing, with funding from the state's general budget. Marginalized groups and refugees benefited from the development of these neighborhoods. The government has also developed a plan to curb the phenomenon of unplanned and informal areas, in the next few years. Several projects have been implemented, raising the percentage of houses connected to water networks (95.3%), and sewage networks to 63%. The percentage of the population with access to safely managed drinking water reached 94.8%, and the percentage of the population with access to safely managed sanitation services to 88.5% in 2018.

Jordan is distinguished by its high-quality road network, the availability of infrastructure and services, which contribute to increasing connectivity, facilitating the movement of citizens, access to markets, and so on. The state also pays great attention to developing the mass transit system, public transport, smart transport, railways, and all kinds of ports, in a way that increases the trans-



port sector's contribution to economic activity, helps improve Jordan's ranking according to global competitiveness indicators, and improves the lives of citizens who rely heavily on the transportation system to facilitate access to work, and to obtain other public services. It is also characterized by a high-quality electricity network that covers all parts of the country at a rate of (99.9%). The National Energy Strategy (2020-2030) highlights the main measures, in the short and medium term, that can provide the appropriate and necessary conditions for the development of renewable energy, with the aim of diversifying energy sources. The use of clean and renewable energy is expected to lead to the provision of low-cost, safe, and environmentally sustainable energy to stimulate sustainable economic growth through energy-intensive sectors, particularly manufacturing, transportation, construction, and agriculture. The renewable energy sector is one of the most promising economic sectors that attract local and foreign private investment.

Climate change repercussions are considered one of the most important challenges facing Jordan, because of its negative effects on all the various development sectors, including water scarcity, drought and dangerous changes in the life of plants and human societies. In this regard, the government has taken the necessary measures to reduce these repercussions through prevention and adaptation measures and protecting the most vulnerable groups.

In the field of digital economy and entrepreneurship, the government approved the policy of "cloud platforms and services 2020", which played a fundamental role in the process of digital transformation and integrating and integrating future technologies to enter into force as of the date of its approval. The government aims to benefit from the applications of the fourth industrial revolution in the fields of education, health, energy, and transportation, and to develop industry, agriculture, transport, and logistics.

These reforms strengthened Jordan's capacity to face the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic, as the government prepared plans to respond to these repercussions, aiming at strengthening social cohesion, reducing the economic burdens on the most affected groups, and supporting the health sector to respond to the epidemic and its consequences. Efforts to achieve the sustainable development goals also continued through plans and programs that were developed and implemented by all ministries and institutions in the public sector with the support of the private sector and civil society.

Efforts to follow up on the implementation of the "New Urban Agenda" have resulted in a set of results, perhaps the most important of which is the need for continuous coordination and follow-up to the implementation of various initiatives and programs, and the importance of stimulating the participation of the private sector, civil society, youth, women, and other different groups in planning, financing, implementation, follow-up, and evaluation of results. Effective implementation also requires the development of a plan to define the importance of integrated and sustainable urban development,

to raise awareness and gain support for efforts to achieve Goal No. 11, which is considered a spatial representation of all other sustainable development goals. The National Renaissance Project for the years 2019-2020 was also launched, with the aim of expanding the scope of social protection in accordance with the social solidarity pillar and striving to develop the outcomes of public education, in addition to improving the level of health care and developing the public transport system, and in the field of housing and within the axis of affordable housing. Launching the National Housing Program, and the government has sought to improve Jordan's performance in the Environmental Performance Index.

The economic reforms adopted by Jordan aimed at supporting entrepreneurship and encouraging small and medium enterprises, integrating informal activities into the formal economy, providing decent productive job opportunities, especially for youth, facilitating the procedures for establishing companies, and facilitating doing business, by reducing bureaucracy and strengthening good governance, and emphasizing the rule of law, to enhance the ability of the Jordanian economy to deal effectively with the COVID-19 pandemic and its repercussions at all levels, to overcome the health and economic crisis and directly enter the stage of adaptation , adapting, and preparing for and entering the stage of recovery and immunity.

The trend towards decentralization and enabling local units to provide services directly to citizens, especially public services that affect the daily lives of citizens, stimulating the local economy, and strengthening participatory and local democracy, have contributed to the effective implementation of the urban agenda with its various axes. There is no doubt that the legislative development that took place in this regard has played a positive role in increasing the active role played by local units in settling the goals of the new urban agenda as well as sustainable development goals at the local level.

The government aimed at providing sources of funding to implement the new urban agenda, and the development of new financing mechanisms, the most important of which is partnership with the private sector, as well as creating an attractive environment to stimulate the public-private partnership to move forward towards implementing various projects that contribute to achieving sustainable urban development. It must also be emphasized that the effective implementation of the new urban agenda required the development of extensive programs for capacity development. The monitoring and evaluation system plays an important role in identifying challenges facing implementation and developing effective mechanisms to deal with them. This is done by adopting a set of smart key performance indicators and relying on an institutional framework that supports the monitoring and evaluation system. Despite all achievements, as well as the efficient management of the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic, and other challenges facing Jordan, more reforms are needed to meet citizens' expectations for a better future.