

JORDAN



Jordan The United States-Jordan relationship is a critical alliance that continues to further a myriad of U.S. global, regional, and bilateral objectives. For example, Jordan plays a key role in counter-terrorism efforts; provides political and logistical support for U.S. Government goals in Iraq; promotes regional peacemaking; contributes to the struggle against violent extremism; and maintains stability through increasing economic and political reforms. The Government of Jordan (GOJ) hosts a significant number of Iraqi refugees and has led regional outreach efforts to Iraqi Sunnis. An important driver of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, Jordan has closely coordinated with the U.S. to stimulate serious movement toward resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and is a close ally that consistently supports U.S. foreign policy goals in a region where many governments are reluctant to publicly support the United States. Jordan's leaders seek to show Jordan's people that partnership with the U.S. brings relevant benefits to Jordanians, especially during a time of economic hardship. Jordan also remains a major proponent of religious reconciliation by promoting worldwide the "Amman Message" that seeks to counter terrorist ideology, and advocates moderation and tolerance within Islam. The 2010 request level meets U.S. commitments under a new five year assistance agreement with the GOJ.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

Jordan has consistently followed a pro-Western foreign policy and traditionally has had close relations with the United States. These relations were damaged by support in Jordan for Iraq during the first Gulf war (1991). Although the Government of Jordan stated its opposition to the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, popular support for Iraq was driven by Jordan's Palestinian community, which favored Saddam as a champion against Western supporters of Israel.

Following the first Gulf war, Jordan largely restored its relations with Western countries through its participation in the Middle East peace process and enforcement of UN sanctions against Iraq. Relations between Jordan and the Gulf countries improved substantially after King Hussein's death. Since the 2003 fall of the Iraqi regime, Jordan has played a pivotal role in supporting the restoration of stability and security to Iraq. The Government of Jordan has facilitated the training of over 50,000 Iraqi police cadets and corrections officers at a Jordanian facility near Amman. Jordan also plays host to several hundred thousand Iraqi refugees and has worked closely with donor agencies and the international community to address their humanitarian needs. In 2008, Jordan appointed and sent an ambassador to Iraq in an effort to strengthen bilateral ties.

Jordan signed a nonbelligerency agreement with Israel (the Washington Declaration) in Washington, DC, on July 25, 1994. Jordan and Israel signed a historic peace treaty on October 26, 1994, witnessed by President Clinton. The U.S. has participated with Jordan and Israel in trilateral development discussions in which key issues have been water-sharing and security; cooperation on Jordan Rift Valley development; infrastructure projects; and trade, finance, and banking issues. Jordan also participates in multilateral peace talks. Jordan belongs to the UN and several of its specialized and related agencies, including the World Trade Organization (WTO), the International Meteorological Organization (IMO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and World Health Organization (WHO). Jordan also is a member of the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), Nonaligned Movement, and Arab League.

Since the outbreak of the second Intifada in September 2000, Jordan has worked to maintain lines of communication between the Israelis and the Palestinians to counsel moderation and to return the parties to negotiations of outstanding permanent status issues. These efforts bore fruit with the resumption of Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations at the November 2007 Annapolis conference.

U.S.-JORDANIAN RELATIONS

Relations between the U.S. and Jordan have been close for six decades, with 2009 marking the 60th anniversary of U.S.-Jordan ties. A primary objective of U.S. policy has been the achievement of a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in the Middle East.

U.S. policy seeks to reinforce Jordan's commitment to peace, stability, and moderation. The peace process and Jordan's opposition to terrorism parallel and indirectly assist wider U.S. interests. Accordingly, through economic and military assistance and through close political cooperation, the United States has helped Jordan maintain its stability and prosperity.

Since 1952 the United States has worked closely with Jordan to improve the lives of Jordanian citizens. Total development assistance exceeds \$5 billion and has funded a range of projects: health care, education, construction to increase water availability, and support for microeconomic policy shifts toward a more completely free market system. Additionally, the U.S. has provided both grants and loans for the acquisition of U.S. agriculture commodities. These programs have been successful and have contributed to Jordanian stability while strengthening the bilateral relationship. A strong U.S. military assistance program is designed to meet Jordan's legitimate defense needs, including preservation of border integrity and regional stability through the provision of materiel and training. Jordan signed a Threshold Agreement with the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) in October 2006, and was subsequently deemed by the MCC to be eligible for a Compact Agreement in recognition of the country's progress on economic, social, and political reform indicators. In 2008, the U.S. and Jordan signed a non-binding memorandum of understanding (MOU) to provide assistance to Jordan over a five-year period, subject to the appropriation and availability of funds for this purpose. The MOU also reinforces the commitment to broaden cooperation and dialogue in a variety of areas.

Peace and Security: Jordan remains a strong, responsible and reliable partner in the struggle against extremism. U.S. assistance to Jordan addresses a broad array of issues including counter-terrorism, border security, counter-proliferation, promoting stability in Iraq, advancing Israeli-Palestinian talks, countering the financing of terrorism, and supporting democracy and stability. Jordan plays an important role in efforts to bolster Palestinian Authority President Abbas and to strengthen, reform and train the legitimate security forces of the Palestinian Authority. Funds allow the United States to provide key training and equipment that enhance Jordanian capability to strengthen security and stability at home and throughout the region. The robust U.S. military assistance program pays invaluable dividends in the form of interoperability, access, provision of time-sensitive support to regional allies, coordination, and mutual understanding. Foreign assistance programs strengthen Jordan's counter-terrorism, border and internal security capabilities. U.S. funded programs provide training and equipment grants to improve border security with a focus on non-proliferation and strengthening Jordan's export control regime. Military assistance supports the modernization, readiness, and enhanced interoperability of the Jordanian Armed Forces (JAF) with U.S. and NATO forces. These capabilities are increasingly important as Jordan is a partner in the struggle against extremism, participates in international peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance operations, and maintains close operational and logistical ties to the U.S. military, including continued provision of field hospitals and other support for coalition forces in Afghanistan and Iraq. Military financing programs also enhance the JAF's capability to secure its borders with Iraq and Syria, thereby reducing the flow of foreign fighters across borders and increasingly preventing attacks in Israel. These and other Jordanian contributions to international efforts allow economy of force for U.S. forces. Further, the JAF supports U.S. efforts throughout the region by training national forces (Iraq, Lebanon,

Afghanistan, and Yemen), and providing logistical support upon request. Jordan is currently the single largest provider of civilian police personnel and the fourth-largest provider of military personnel to UN peacekeeping operations. Assistance also improves the professionalism of the JAF and reinforces among the Jordanian officer corps the importance of a strong, cooperative political/military relationship with the United States.

Governing Justly and Democratically: The King and the GOJ are committed to political reform and to continuing to work to transform Jordan's tribal-based politics into a modern political system. The National Agenda, a ten-year roadmap for economic and political reform commissioned by the King in 2005, and the "We are All Jordan" convention, which met in July 2006, have opened up new areas of dialogue among elites. Legislative measures, such as the municipal elections law of April 2007, the press and publication law of May 2007, and the anti-corruption law of November 2006 and the March 2009 law against trafficking in persons are examples of legislation which constitute steps toward greater political reform. The Legislature is working on a number of important reform issues in 2009, which include an amendment to the Associations Law, increased penalties for honor crimes, and provisions to implement the new Decentralization Policy. While the GOJ has made important progress in some areas, progress in other areas has been constrained by multiple internal and external factors, including the global financial crisis. Economic assistance supports U.S. programs that strengthen GOJ reform efforts through increasing public participation and engagement in democratic processes. Programs implemented through local organizations focus on building civil society; empowering women; promoting political party development; strengthening the technical capacity of local and national government and the judiciary; and providing journalist training and independent media programs.

Investing in People: With no oil and few natural resources to trade, Jordan is rightly focused on developing a knowledge-based economy, investing more than 25 percent of GDP in education, health, pensions, and welfare. U.S. assistance supports these Jordanian efforts, with a focus on education, building schools, training teachers, and helping to transition students from the classroom to the workplace with a strong emphasis on introducing technology into schools. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) programming also strives to improve access to and quality of healthcare, particularly with respect to enhancing maternal and neonatal health. Significant water and sanitation programs have and will increase the ability of the GOJ to improve the standard of living to its people. In a cooperative United States-Jordanian effort, Jordan's Royal Water Committee, helped shape a new water strategy that will be launched in 2009 and will focus on infrastructure development, while also emphasizing water conservation and water-use efficiency. In FY 2010, assistance through USAID will continue to support improvements in basic education, health, youth and water, and sanitation services in Jordan communities. These programs complement broader U.S. humanitarian assistance efforts by enabling key Jordanian institutions to cope with increased demand for vital services, addressing both refugee needs and domestic socio-political concerns stemming from regional population movements. U.S. assistance will improve the employability skills of youth, providing them with concrete employment and educational opportunities. Recognizing that Jordan faces intense social, economic, and political pressures arising from a youth demographic bulge, the U.S. will continue to support a cross-sectoral program that addresses the needs of youth and their communities in underprivileged, poor, and overcrowded geographic areas, as these populations are the most vulnerable to extremist recruitment and rhetoric.

Focus on Performance: Jordan is a close ally of the U.S. in counter-terrorism efforts in the region, with Jordan providing a base of operations for the U.S. to carry out a number of counter-terrorism training programs for regional partners. Jordan itself faces a serious threat from terrorist organizations, and the Government of Jordan has responded with a plan to boost its capabilities to meet that challenge. U.S. assistance for FY2010 in the form of Anti-Terrorism Assistance will address critical needs as defined in the June 2006 assessment of Jordan's counter-terrorism capabilities as well as in Jordan's 2006 Strategic Defense Review. An FY2009 budget shortfall for continued work on the Jordan Call Center project will

be addressed with FY10 funding, and the U.S. will continue to provide assistance and training to security services for national police projects and counter-terrorism training. Jordan has recently established a separate 14,000-person Special Operations unit, which will require additional tactical training. To this end, the U.S. intends to provide 17 courses in relevant disciplines, training 360 students.

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Linkages with the Millennium Challenge Corporation

The Government of Jordan and the Millennium Challenge Corporation have moved ahead with a proposed program which, depending on MCC funding levels and progress in negotiations, should lead to a Compact signing during FY 2010. The program will focus on four main activities in the water sector all in and around the city of Zarqa. Activities include the expansion of the USAID-supported As Samra wastewater treatment plant, renovation of Zarqa's sewer network, and rehabilitation of Zarqa's distribution network to reduce water losses and a transmission pipeline for treated effluent use in the northern Jordan Valley.