



Sanitation for Millions - Jordan

A PARTICIPATORY APPROACH TO SAFE SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Background

Sanitation for Millions is a global programme improving access to safe sanitation and hygiene with a focus on vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. More than two million people have already benefitted directly from the project's measures. *Sanitation for Millions* builds female-friendly and inclusive sanitary facilities at schools, healthcare facilities, and faith-based institutions, trains local professionals to operate and maintain them, and promotes safe hygiene practices through targeted campaigns and knowledge transfer.

Sanitation for Millions was commissioned by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in 2016. With the BMZ as the lead donor, *Sanitation for Millions* has received additional funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Water Unite, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary, the Inter-American Development Bank, and share GmbH. The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH executes the global programme in close cooperation with local partners in Colombia, Jordan, Pakistan, and Uganda.



Plumbing Trainings

Sanitation Challenges in Jordan

According to official sources, more than 1.3 million refugees have fled to Jordan since the beginning of the Syrian civil war in March 2011. High population growth, the depletion of groundwater reserves, and the impacts of climate change are likely to aggravate the situation in the future. More than 80 percent of the refugees residing in Jordan live in host communities, which exacerbates existing challenges and further increases the pressure on an already strained infrastructure. Access to functional and hygienically managed public sanitary facilities is very limited. People with disabili-



Sanitary facilities constructed by Sanitation for Millions

ties, elderly persons, women, girls, and children are particularly affected by the lack of access to adequate sanitation, as the existing infrastructure does not meet their special needs.

Activities in Jordan

Sanitation for Millions initiated its intervention in Jordan in 2017 in the capital city of Amman, as well as in Irbid and Mafrq, the regions bordering Syria. The local political partners of the project in Jordan are the Ministry of Awqaf, Islamic Affairs and Holy Places and the Ministry of Water and Irrigation. Implementation partners include the Jordanian Association of Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, the General Fatwa Department, Jordanian Universities, the Bremen Overseas Research and Development Association (BORDA), and the Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development (JOHUD).

The programme aims at improving access to safe sanitation and hygiene along five lines of intervention:

- Construction and rehabilitation of sanitation infrastructure at mosques, paying special attention to the needs of women and disabled persons.
- Installation of innovative on-site greywater treatment and reuse systems in mosques.
- Operation and maintenance of sanitary facilities through the Facility Management & Maintenance (Hausmeister) concept in mosques.

- Raising awareness on sanitation and hygiene through cooperation with religious actors, paying special attention to the topic of Menstrual Hygiene Management.
- Sharing knowledge on sanitation and public health as well as trainings on plumbing skills with a participatory approach.

Sanitation for Millions constructs and rehabilitates sanitary facilities as well as innovative greywater treatment and reuse systems at mosques. The dismissal of water used for ritual washing at holy places into a septic tank or sewage system means a waste of Jordan's scarcest resource. Therefore, greywater treatment and reuse systems using low maintenance sand-filters are constructed and connected to the sanitary facilities to utilize treated greywater for irrigation of adjacent public parks. To ensure long-lasting functionality and safety, *Sanitation for Millions* trains institutional staff such as Muezzins and provides them with a toolbox to conduct minor repairs by themselves.

With regard to improved hygiene behaviour, Muslim male and female preachers (Imams and Waithat) work with *Sanitation for Millions* to promote good hygiene practices and cleanliness. Waithat teach women within gender-segregated religious lectures about hygiene practices, including sensitive topics such as menstrual hygiene.



Training of Trainers on Menstrual Hygiene Management

The hygiene guidebook, developed in cooperation with religious leaders and the General Fatwa Department (issuing nonbinding legal opinions on Islamic law), constitutes the first manual on water, sanitation, and hygiene issues from an Islamic perspective. Furthermore, the General Fatwa Department partnered up with the project to discuss hygiene from an Islamic perspective on TV and social media.

Highlights 2017-2023

- 17,500 people served with access to safe sanitation through construction measures in 3 schools and 11 mosques
- 133 awareness measures on safe hygiene practices and behaviour change
- 1000 professionals trained for the provision of sanitation services

Outlook

In the long-run, *Sanitation for Millions* aims to create opportunities for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups by providing access to sanitary facilities and ensuring hygiene and safety in public sanitary infrastructure for all users. Technicians will continue to be trained in the field of advanced plumbing to be able to conduct heavy maintenance and repairs at mosques and to supervise the construction of new sanitary units at mosques.

Waithat will be trained to become so-called Hygiene Ambassadors who will teach safe hand and general hygiene in local communities as well as safe Menstrual Hygiene Management practices.

Being the first sanitation programme to work with religious leaders in Jordan, *Sanitation for Millions* intends to expand interventions to include further institutions and innovative actors.



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