



## Briefing: sustainable livelihoods The report, the partners and the process

### NATIONAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORTS

This report: Building Sustainable Livelihoods is the second Human Development Report for Jordan. It builds on the achievements of Jordan's first National Human Development Report, which was launched in 2001, and which focused on "youth".

This report focuses on the poor of Jordan and provides updates on key data. It is targeted at all people with an interest in development - whether from government, NGOs, universities or the private sector. The report discusses issues related to policy, programmes and practice - but the overall focus is on identifying ways to alleviate poverty and to ensure the long-term sustainable well-being of all Jordanians.

A Human Development Report is not simply a document, it is part of an on-going process of reflection and action. The information contained within this report is there to ensure that decision-makers at all levels, from grass roots to government, have access to a wide range of data in order to make more informed choices to the benefit of the poor.

### THE KEY PARTNERS

The National Human Development report reflects the work of a wide range of individuals and organisations in Jordan, the region and internationally.

#### MoPIC

The Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC) is the Executing Agency for this report. H.E. the Minister of MoPIC is one of the three members of the Higher Level Advisory Board (HLAB), which provided strategic advice and ensured that the focus of the report met national objectives.

The Secretary General of MoPIC chaired the Technical Committee which guided the implementation of the report. Senior staff and advisors from MoPIC provided advice, feedback and key information throughout the production of the report. MoPIC launches this report for Jordan.

#### UNDP

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the overall sponsor of the Human Development Reports (Global, Regional, and

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### Human development is multi-faceted and involves tangible and intangible characteristics The key concepts of human development elaborated in global human development reports

- Human development is people centred; people are both the agents and the beneficiaries of development.
- Economic growth is a necessary, but not sufficient, condition for human development.
- Human development involves the expansion of choice and opportunities for all people.
- Human development involves building people's capabilities and providing opportunities for them to exercise their capabilities.
- Human rights are not the rewards of development, they are essential mechanisms without which human development cannot be achieved.
- Human development involves "intangible" components like freedom, justice, security and dignity.
- Human development is inclusive and promotes equitable development for all people regardless of differences in class, gender, ability, ethnicity or religion.
- All people have the right to participate in the process of the formation and application of the rules, systems, processes and institutions that affect their lives.
- Human development is concerned with the processes as well as with the end product of development.
- Processes of development must respect people's dignity and their right to influence decision-making at the policy and programme level.
- Human development involves good governance: transparency, accountability, and respect for the rule of law.
- Democracy is an essential component of human development because it promotes the rights of people to participate in the governance structures of their country.
- Human development is best achieved by building strong and deep forms of democratic governance at all levels of society, and decentralisation accompanied by genuine engagement by all people is more likely to deliver this than centralised forms of government.
- Technology and knowledge are central to development and must be equally available to all people and to all countries.
- The goals of human development can only be achieved with coordinated effort and political commitment, supported by the allocation of resources.
- The Millennium Goals Compact provides a clear path to be pursued to achieve human development targets.

# National Human Development Report 2004

## Launch briefing: The partners and process

National). UNDP Jordan works in partnership with MoPIC, the Executing Agency for the production of this National Report. The UNDP Resident Representative is a member of the HLAB and helped ensure that the national report reflects best practice in UN human development analysis. Senior staff from UNDP provided feedback and advice to this report.

### JOHUD

The implementing agency for this report is the Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development (JOHUD), Jordan's largest national NGO operating across the country. JOHUD assembled a multi-disciplinary team of staff and associates to write this report. They brought to the task significant expertise as development professionals with skills in policy analysis, programme design, research (qualitative and quantitative), impact assessment and development practice.

HRH Princess Basma bint Talal, chairperson of JOHUD's Board of Trustees is the chair of the Higher Level Advisory Board (HLAB) for this report.

### THE APPROACH

The approach to writing the report was highly participatory. It involved a wide range of stakeholders from government, NGOs, civil society and the international community, who shared their knowledge and helped create the analysis. Many of these stakeholder partners also took part in the process of research for this report: Consultation with the poor (see briefing note).

Background briefing documents on key issues were commissioned from local experts and circulated widely for discussion. JOHUD facilitated over 35 workshop days, with participants from 30 development-oriented institutions to discuss these documents and to review the findings of the consultation process. The participants in these workshops helped identify the key issues to raise in the report and to ensure that the findings and recommendations reflected the realities of their own work with the poor. The outline of the report, the research summary and drafts of the chapters were reviewed by stakeholders, who provided detailed feedback.

### Technical Committee

Eleven senior advisors from government, NGOs and civil society comprised the Technical Committee and provided advice and support throughout the production of the report. The report was reviewed by eminent experts including senators, ex-ministers, UN staff and international experts.

### Statistical data

The HD statistical data and the indices in the Annex were supplied and verified by the Department of Statistics.

### Funding

The NHDR was co-funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Department for International Development (DFID) of the UK Government.

### The chapters of the report

Chapter one: *Towards sustainable human development* provides an update on human development progress since 1997. It then introduces the concept of sustainable livelihoods and the process of consultation for the report.

Chapter two: *The poor and vulnerability* notes that Jordan's vulnerability context is the major factor that defines Jordan's development choices. It examines the shocks that have faced the nation over past decades and identifies the coping and adaptive strategies adopted by the poor.

Chapter three: *Focus on the poor* presents an analysis of poverty through the eyes of the poor. The chapter examines the assets valued by the poor and the obstacles they face in trying to access them.

Chapter four: *Policies for poverty alleviation* analyses GoJ strategies to alleviate poverty and provides detailed recommendations how they could be amended to enhance the positive impact on the poor.

Chapter five: *Promoting enterprise and employment* provides a critical analysis of three major government-supported initiatives to promote employment and income generating opportunities for poor.

Chapter six: *Claiming rights* examines recent initiatives aimed at supporting the poor who wish to exercise their rights and to claim their entitlements in order to improve their livelihoods.

Chapter seven: *Claiming gender rights* records the ways that poor women experience discrimination. It notes that rights that are protected by law are not respected in practice. The chapter identifies gender-based violence as a significant problem that needs to be tackled.

Chapter eight: *Local development, participation and governance* examines the opportunities for the poor to influence decisions at the local level and promotes good governance and enhanced democratisation through reform initiatives.