



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

ALLIANCES IN ACTION

JORDAN EDUCATION INITIATIVE

DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE

Despite a 90% literacy rate and an education system better than most in the region, Jordan's challenge centers on relevant content and high quality education for a young population. With 38% of Jordanians under the age of 15, the country needs to equip its youth with a cutting-edge education and complimentary labor market skills needed to effectively compete for domestic, regional and international employment.

BUSINESS CHALLENGE

Both local and multinational technology firms seeking to grow markets and develop new products look to Jordan as a stable, innovative country with a young, capable workforce. However, because of regional disparities in the quality of education and reliance on older teaching methodologies, students are not sufficiently prepared to participate and succeed in today's technology-driven economy.

APPROACH

The Jordan Education Initiative (JEI) is a model partnership for international cooperation among governments, donors, and multinational and local companies. The program builds on the Ministry of Education's own Education Reform for the Knowledge Economy initiative and its commitment to develop and set in place a national education strategy for students in pre-primary through secondary school. The goal of JEI is to develop the e-curriculum content and broadband information technology (IT) infrastructure for up to 100 model "Discovery Schools" that will serve as drivers for education reform. To date, 17 global corporations, 17 Jordanian entities, and 11 governmental and non-governmental organizations are working with the Government of Jordan to bring IT in the classroom to improve learning.

PARTNERS

USAID, Cisco Systems, Fastlink, France Telecom (through its subsidiary Jordan Telecom), Microsoft, Computer Associates, Hewlett Packard, the Krach Family Foundation, Corning Cable Systems, Dell, Intel, the U.S. Department of State, UNIFEM, PACT, Inc., Arab Civitas, and Netcorps.



RESULTS

- 100 "Discovery Schools" are fully equipped with the latest computer equipment and have access to broadband Internet connectivity.
- Partners developed and are rolling out e-curricula in six core subjects, including Arabic, English, Math, and Science, for Grades 1-12 in the 100 "Discovery Schools".
- The partnership is providing in-school technical support to teachers, principals, and students in their use of information technology.

FAST FACTS

START: 2003 END: ONGOING

PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS:

\$25,000,000