

Master Class on Climate Change and Poverty Study Case

Organization name: Emergency Architecture & Human Rights

Project title: Environmental village training model for economical development

Country: Jordan

Project Description

The project evolves around the need for sustainable and self-reliant livelihood opportunities for Syrian refugees and low-income Jordanians in the area of Irbid, through sustainable development activities.

This proposal outlines the benefits of strengthening the capacities of the local CBO in facilitating participatory methods to involve the civil society in the identification of local environmental problems and solutions. Likewise, the intervention aims to enhance the participation of Irbid's civil society in the local sustainable development for a sustainable and resilient economy. The intervention is focusing on long-term recovery and capacity strengthening activities.

Through the engagement in human-capacity building activities with a focus on sustainable usage of environmental resources (in common area such as: food, energy, water and waste), the civil society will be provided with a better understanding and knowledge for a sustainable present and future. An environment-based approach aims to work towards the provision of a dignified and sustainable environment where the community is involved in the decision-making process to ensure stability, health and security. The civil society will be introduced and will implement practical applications of environment-friendly and climate-resilient elements in an income generating training framework.

Initial problems and background (connection with climate change)

Today, Syrian refugees in Jordan are in need of support and education to overcome the trauma of war, conflicts and displacement as well as to develop social, economic and environmental knowledge and skills to re-build in a sustainable manner their communities and society.

Additionally, the climate change effects in combination with the growing population in Jordan (including migration flows) is anticipated to put more pressure on the already limited land and water resources and to increase the challenge of sustainable development in the country

The water scarcity impacts every aspect of Jordanian life representing a big barrier to economic growth and development. The negative effects of global warming in Jordan include e.g. an increase in temperature, expansion in areas affected by drought, loss of some natural ecosystems, decrease in the amount of water available (groundwater and surface) as a result of the decline in water flows, which in turn impact the food security in the country. The water demand has been increasing with the arrival of hundred thousand of refugees challenging the already over-stretched resources of the country. The scientists urge the need for climate adaptation solutions and recommend the use of new technologies to help the rehabilitation of the areas in Arab countries, which have been devastated by the war.

Goal and objectives of the intervention

Overall Project Goal: Improving the livelihood opportunities of Syrian refugees and low-income Jordanians in the area of Irbid through sustainable environmental and economic development activities.

Immediate Objective 1: Enhancing local CBO capabilities and experiences in facilitating participatory processes and project management competences.

Immediate Objective 2: Enhancing the Irbid's civil society capacity and means to participate in the local sustainable development resulting in a sustainable and resilient economy.

Potential risks and challenges

Main possible risks and challenges are:

- political imbalance
- lack of community interest and long-term community commitment
- weak partnership
- insufficient partner capability

Target groups

1. **20 AISamat Charity employees** - Enhancing their capabilities and experiences in facilitating participatory processes and project management competences.
2. **20 Syrian and 20 low-income Jordanian** will be trained in identifying local environmental problems (common areas such as water, waste, energy, food) and in contextually relevant skills as to environmentally sustainable construction techniques.
3. **20 Syrian and 20 low-income Jordanian** will be trained in identifying local environmental problems (common areas such as water, waste, energy, food) and in contextually relevant skills as to sustainable farming production.

Partnership

In May 2019, **Rahma Relief Foundation – Jordan (RRF)** contacted **Emergency Architecture & Human Rights (EAHR)** suggesting the starting of a new project describing the scope for support. In order to find common ground, in August 2019, EAHR sent one representative to Jordan on a fact finding mission for a period of 5 days.

The mission spent much time discussing the scale of the project and both organisations decided to include approximately 100 direct beneficiaries in Irbid. At the end of the mission, both partners agreed on a location, the number of beneficiaries, the target groups and a preliminary project document and an LFA Matrix. The partners have been focusing on involving the target-groups in the analysis and the planning of the project.

The joint planning is evolving around a knowledge-sharing table where RRF has been the resource as to local knowledge, traditional culture and local networking; while EAHR has been resourceful on systematic planning and international network. Together, with the involvement of the local CBO, **AISamat Charity** we are developing the *Environmental Village Training Concept* thriving towards contextually-relevant tools to meet development challenges and foster local economic development in line with the local dynamism, complexity and available resources. Taking the point of departure as to the environment, the partnership has identified for this first phase three areas of relevant intervention: usage of resources, environmentally sustainable construction techniques and sustainable farming.

Strategy and expected results of the intervention

Upon the identified needs, the project is carried out within a socially and environmentally sustainable development framework for the area of Irbid by promoting environment-friendly methods of implementation as to usage of natural resources (water, waste, energy and food), construction techniques and sustainable farming. The partnership aims to puzzle out relevant solutions to the principal environment-related challenges through the engagement of the civil society for a sustainable economic development.

We aim to support the civil society by working on a bottom-up approach with strong foundation within the local communities. We develop the project upon the principles of equity and inclusion ensuring and promoting the participation of the target group in all phases, aspects and implementation. The project aims to foster the capacity-building and professionalization of all participants so to ensure the active participation of the communities, the feasibility of the interventions and a feeling of ownership of the project. The beneficiaries and the community will be involved in the implementation of the project as well as its evaluation. EAHR will guide the strategy and progress, ensure effective operations by creating a learning environment and establishing solid information gathering and management mechanisms.

Photos

