



King Hussein Foundation e-newsletter - Issue 6, October – December 2009

In this Issue:

- Her Majesty Queen Noor commends Tamweelcom's outstanding performance
- IRC trains Arab researchers on child welfare
- IFH exports its expertise to Syria
- A platform for lessons learnt in community development
- A viable community-private sector partnership
- Paving the way for young researchers in the Middle East
- Music therapy helps heal traumatized Iraqis in Jordan
- Women councilors better equipped to serve their communities
- Jubilee Center for Excellence produces Robotics Training Package
- 14th Souk Ayyadi hosts Lebanese artisans
- The stage is set at the Jubilee Theater

Our mission is to build upon King Hussein's lifelong dedication to human security and peace in the Middle East and beyond through programs that promote education and leadership, sustainable development, participatory decision making and cross-cultural understanding.

www.kinghusseinfoundation.org

*FEEL FREE TO FORWARD THIS E-NEWSLETTER TO A FRIEND OR COLLEAGUE, WHO MIGHT ALSO BE INTERESTED

*IF YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS OR OTHER DETAILS HAVE CHANGED, PLEASE [LET US KNOW HERE](#). TO BE REMOVED FROM OUR MAILING LIST, PLEASE [UNSUBSCRIBE HERE](#)

Her Majesty Queen Noor commends Tamweelcom's outstanding performance

Her Majesty Queen Noor commended the Jordan Microcredit Company (Tamweelcom) for its outstanding performance over the past decade, and especially during the past year, having been ranked by the Microfinance Information Exchange (MIX) Global as the top performing company in the MENA region for 2009.



Her Majesty Queen Noor attends Tamweelcom's annual strategy meeting

"Tamweelcom is translating the late King Hussein's vision for Jordan as a center of innovation, a model for best international practices in the region and exporter of expertise," said Queen Noor at the company's annual strategy meeting on 19th December, convened to discuss the company's future role and policy.

Board members reviewed strategic options and legal framework enabling Tamweelcom to expand its portfolio and transfer its expertise to neighboring countries.

During the past year, Tamweelcom received three new awards; the Middle East Regional Social Entrepreneurship Award from Schwab Foundation, the King Abdullah Award for Excellence, and the Performance Award from Sanabel Microfinance Network of Arab countries. Since it was established in 1999, Tamweelcom has disbursed over 139,285 loans to the value of about JD65 million, 95% of which benefited women in various sectors.

During the meeting, Queen Noor also honored former Tamweelcom Chairman, His Highness Al Sharif Shaker Bin Zaid, and former board members, Mr. Amer al-Salti and H.E. Rateb Al-Wazani for their distinguished efforts and continued support to the company over the past years. The board had earlier elected Mr. Imad Ayoub as the new chairman.

IRC trains Arab researchers on child welfare

The Information and Research Center (IRC) of the King Hussein Foundation conducted a regional workshop for young Arab researchers, during December 2009, on research methodologies related to child welfare and rights in the Middle East Region.

The workshop, sponsored by Childwatch and the British Council in Amman, brought together 18 researchers from Jordan, Palestine, Yemen, Lebanon, Syria, Dubai and Oman. Practical training was conducted on qualitative research methodologies covering focus groups, in depth interviews, observational analysis and report writing as well as quantitative methodologies including introduction of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) data entry.

The researchers visited the KHF's Jubilee school to conduct focus group sessions with the students as well as hold interviews with their teachers. The young researchers were also briefed on the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) as the framework for conducting rights-based research.

IRC is a key institution of the Oslo-based Childwatch Research Network International.



Young researchers at IRC training session during a group discussion

Institute for Family Health exports its expertise to Syria



Director of IFH, Dr. Manal Tahtamouni sharing experiences on domestic violence with the Syrian delegation

Recognizing the Institute for Family Health (IFH) as a regional center of expertise on the issue of domestic violence, particularly Gender Based Violence, a delegation from the Health Counseling Center for Adolescents in Syria visited the institute for a study tour of methodologies and services provided in this field.

The delegates, who are members of Syrian Family Planning Association, are setting up a pilot project at the Halbuni Clinic in Damascus to provide counseling services to adolescents who are victims of violence, in cooperation with the European Union.

The week-long visit included briefings on screening processes and assessment forms used at IFH, as well as presentations on violence related case models that are either detected by IFH's counselors or referred by other partner institutions in Jordan. The delegation was also oriented on collaboration with other NGO's and medical institutions involved in the rehabilitation and protection of victims of violence.

The chief of the Syrian delegation commended the sustainability of services provided by IFH, and citing similarities in the cultures of both countries, said they valued the lessons learnt in dealing with social impediments related to domestic violence.

Technical assistance missions by IFH director and specialized teams will continue over the coming months to build the capacities of Syrian health workers.

A platform for lessons learnt in community development

The Local Development Program for Less Privileged Areas brought together all central development council members from four areas of Jordan -served by the program- at a workshop to compare experiences and exchange knowledge on the impact of ongoing projects on their respective communities .

Implemented by the Noor Al-Hussein Foundation in collaboration with the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC), the program began in 2005 as part of MOPIC's national poverty alleviation effort. Out of ten identified poverty areas across Jordan, NHF currently serves four communities: North Ghor, North Mazar, Giza and Mwaggar .

With the aim of empowering local community members to become active and effective members in the development of their communities and improve their living standards, the program works through four main activities: capacity building and training, establishing revolving funds, developing the infrastructure and setting up income generating projects.

Participants in the workshop, including elected members of the local development committees and the central development councils, said the event "was an excellent platform to review lessons learnt -evaluate operating projects and examine the prospects of replicating successful ones in other areas.



Participants in the workshop

The program has successfully established four revolving funds – one for each geographical area – with a startup capital of JD20,000 and has disbursed 79 loans to the value of JD98,000 for the establishment of industrial, commercial, agricultural and service projects. The program has also established a number of big scale commercial centers and multi-purpose halls, and executed infrastructural works such as school playgrounds, bus stations and sidewalks.

A viable community-private sector partnership

In a pioneering model partnership between community based organizations and the private sector, a stone and marble factory in Azraq, East of Jordan, is providing the community with work opportunities, business links with regional and international markets, and prospects for a better future.

Established through the Local Development Program for Less Privileged Areas, in cooperation with the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, the plant began operations in early December 2009 and is expected to start exporting 50% of its stone and marble production in the coming months.

The plant is co-owned by Al-Zai Corporation for Industrial Development, a private sector company, and the Azraq Cooperative Society, which comprises 250 members from the local community. The factory is a model for a win-win partnership between the investor and the local community, where both parties share the capital asset and revenue.

The factory is one of the biggest stone and marble cutting plants in Jordan and is in compliance with environmental regulations.

Paving the way for young researchers in the Middle East

The Information and Research Center (IRC) has signed a partnership agreement with the British Council to further the objectives of its Global Change Makers Project which includes a regional mentoring program for young Arab Researchers through its Young Arab Research Network (YARN). The three year program supports research projects by country-based teams chosen through a competitive process and provides mentoring as well as best practice advice from international and regional research centers involved in the program.

This year's research project investigates the concept of identity and youth within its country context. The IRC participated in its Beirut meeting held at the American University of Beirut's Issam Faris Institute, which is also partnering in mentoring the YARN initiative.

The IRC's involvement with the two networks responds to the center's objectives of capacity building of Arab researchers by addressing their research needs and providing an opportunity to practice their learned skill in a real environment. According to IRC Director, Nermeen Murad, "it is also important to build a regional network of researchers and research centres for public policy and action research in the Middle East

Music therapy helps heal traumatized Iraqis in Jordan

Salam is a five year old girl who fled Iraq with her family more than two years ago when violence was intense, and suicide bombings were a daily hazard on the streets of Baghdad.

Since then, Salam could not speak or express herself in any verbal form. Several medical tests could not detect any physical disability and her mother gave in to the notion that Salam has speech impairment. Only recently did the mother realize what Salam's ailment was: trauma.

Through a clinical music therapy program, as part of psychosocial services by the Noor Hussein Foundation in cooperation with UNHCR, Salam regained the ability to speak.

The program offers music therapy to young Iraqis and their families traumatized by their experiences of war and violence in Iraq. It helps them overcome their psychological and emotional problems, lead healthy family life and integrate into society.

At a recital in November hosted by the National Music Conservatory, Salam was one of 44 participants, aged between two and 21 years who attend the clinical music therapy program. They engaged in individual and group performances, featuring music and song as effective tools of communication.



Children attending clinical music therapy perform to an audience

Initiated in 2007, the program had 20 participants at the early stage, but has since expanded to benefit more than 200 people in various age groups. During the therapy, patients improvise music, recreate music, listen, or compose their own pieces and engage in group activity.

Music therapy is an established health service used to treat patients with psychiatric disorders, developmental disabilities, communication disorders, and interpersonal problems. It is also used to improve learning, build self-esteem, reduce stress and support physical exercise.

Women councilors better equipped to serve their communities

The Capacity Building and Business Development Unit of the Noor Al-Hussein Foundation celebrated on 2nd November 2009 the completion of the Capacity Building Female Councilors Program.

The program is part of NHF's ongoing activities aimed at empowering women and enhancing their capabilities to take part in the decision making process and lead social and economic initiatives.

A ceremony marking the conclusion of the program along with the graduation of 21 trainees took place in Mafraq under the patronage of Jordan's Minister of Municipal Affairs.

2009 was the second consecutive year for NHF to implement the program in cooperation with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung in Amman.



Council members receiving end-of-training certificates

The program was initiated in 2007 after conducting a study that identified the training needs and priorities of council members in various governorates across the Kingdom. The program has benefited a total of 235 council members, 169 of whom were women councilors.

Jubilee Center for Excellence produces Robotics Training Package



Robotics Training Package

The Jubilee Center for Excellence in Education has launched a Robotics Training Package, which provides teachers with all needed resources to deliver the science of robotics to students aged 6-18 years.

Available in printed material and notebook form, the package is the first comprehensive training material in the Arabic language on the regional level. It enables teachers and other interested individuals to become specialized trainers on educational robotics, while providing a unified methodology of best practices used to teach robotics in the Arab World.

The package also provides Arab robotic experts with networking opportunities and will facilitate an effort to standardize Arabic terminology on robotics and enable teachers to exchange available references.

Since 2004, the Jubilee Center for Excellence in Education has been promoting Robotics science and culture in Jordan and the Arab region. The National Robotics Competition for school students (FIRST LEGO League) was introduced for the first time in Jordan by the Jubilee Center for Excellence in 2005. The competition has since become an annual event, where thousands of school students and teachers from Jordan and Arab countries take part. The Second Regional Open Robotics Competition is scheduled for 13-14 March 2010.

14th Souk Ayyadi hosts Lebanese artisans

The 14th annual Souk Ayyadi Bazaar by the Jordan Microcredit Company (Tamweelcom) was a special event this year. It brought together for the first time Lebanese and Jordanian women artisans to display their products and exchange experiences and work techniques during a forum, organized jointly by Tamweelcom and the Lebanese Society for Development (Al-Majmoa).

Souk Ayyadi is one of several marketing channels provided by Tamweelcom as part of non-financial services through which the company seeks to promote the products of small enterprise owners and increase their sales.

A total of 24 Lebanese and 20 Jordanian women artisans attended training workshops on micro business management and marketing, and discussed ideas on improving the living standards of their families through microcredit.



The stage is set at the Jubilee Theater



Work on the Jubilee school theater has been completed, with a grand opening slated for spring.

A new addition to Jordan's modern multipurpose venues, the Jubilee School Theater is a state of art complex, complete with 500-seat auditorium, a spacious foyer, advanced audio and video systems, dressing rooms and backstage facilities.

Apart from providing a venue to showcase the school student's talents and host lecturers and guest speakers, the new facility will be made available for public events, such as cultural weeks, film festivals, theatrical performances, as well as meetings and conferences.

Located within the Jubilee Institute campus, the theater was built through a grant from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development in Kuwait in cooperation with the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation of Jordan.