



2021-2022 United Nations Multi-Year Appeal for Counter-Terrorism



Support Border Management and Security at Jordan’s South and North East Borders

Border Management and Security at Jordan's South and North East Borders: Improving infrastructure, technical and human capacity of the Jordanian Border Authorities

Description of the Project

The project will support the Government of Jordan in their efforts **to strengthen border security at border crossing points** in Aqaba Governorate bordering with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Israel, and the Al-Karamah Border Crossing Point in Mafraq Governorate bordering with Iraq. Specifically, IOM will support the Jordanian Border Authorities, by providing technical equipment for enhanced border security and upgrading infrastructure, while building the capacity of border personnel to implement border management and border security protocols in line with human rights and international standards, drawing from best practices in combatting transnational organized crime and terrorism. This would improve national security while also ensuring the continuity of cross-border traffic for commercial goods and travellers.

The overall objective of the project is to support the Government of Jordan in mitigating security risks posed by organized transnational crime and terrorist organizations in cross border movements of goods and people at Al-Kamarah BCP and the land border crossing points and seaport in Aqaba. This will be achieved, firstly, by supporting the Jordanian Border Authorities in strengthening skills and technical expertise in border management and security procedures, such as risk analysis, screening and profiling, and forged identify documentation, in line with human rights, applying gender-sensitive and rights-based approaches. Secondly, the project will support Jordanian Border Authorities to assess current gaps and needs pertaining to border security equipment, technical solutions and tools.

Rationale

Due to its geographic location within a region marred by conflict, Jordan has been facing a multitude of security and terrorism risks. While conflicts in neighbouring Syria and Iraq have contributed to instability at border areas, Jordan has also been subject to direct external threats and attacks by terrorist non-State actors. Conflicts in Syria and Iraq, including the territorial progression of Da’esh/ISIL in Iraq in 2014 increased pressures on Jordan’s security agencies, and led to the closure of the Al-Karamah border crossing between Jordan and Iraq. Its reopening in 2017, shed light on needs, in particular where fighters of non-state groups using fraudulent documents to either enter or transit the country and potential trafficking in weapons, explosives, and drugs remain potential threats to national security. In the South of Jordan, Aqaba Port, represents a major trafficking point along a regional route spanning from South-east Europe to the Gulf which sees regular seizures of drugs and other illicit goods. In 2020, the COVID-19 crisis further complicated the work carried out by the Jordanian Border Authorities, as new measures to limit the spread of the virus were hastily rolled out compromising border security routines and practices, increasing risks of international organized crime and terrorist organizations exploiting the crisis’ far-reaching disruption.

The Government of Jordan launched a comprehensive Counterterrorism and Countering Violent Extremism campaign involving all levels of government in 2014, resulting in the country’s first National Strategy for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, and the formation of a counter-extremism committee, responsible for the coordination of its implementation. In 2015, His Majesty King Abdullah II launched the Aqaba Process, which is a multi-national forum aiming to enhance security and military coordination and cooperation to counter terrorism. The most recent round of Aqaba Process meetings was held in early September 2020, focusing on security challenges emerging from the COVID-19 crisis and how to address them, while maintaining international coordination and cooperation.

The project responds to the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) Global survey of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) by Member States. A. Terrorist and threat environment - Priority issues/recommendations: *“Continue to strengthen investment in tools and equipment for monitoring and surveying borders, preventing forgery of travel and identity documents, and consider issuing biometric travel documents.*

Outcomes

The project seeks to achieve the following outcomes:

Outcome 1: Jordanian Border Authorities identifies and addresses technical equipment gaps for enhanced border security.

Outcome 2: Jordanian Border Authorities implement border security protocols in a gender-sensitive and human-rights compliant manner.

Outputs/Indicative Activities

The project seeks to implement the following indicative activities:

- Border Crossing Points are assessed, and technical equipment gaps required for strengthened border security are identified;
- Guided by Border Management Specialists and based on assessments, needs are prioritized and a workplan is prepared in coordination with Border Authorities as well as other border management/security actors and programmes, such as the Border Security and Management Programme (UNOCT) and the Integrated Border Management Programme (UNODC);
- Guided by Border Management Specialists and in coordination with Jordanian Border Authorities, procurement plan and technical specifications are prepared, tenders carried out with border security equipment procured and installed;
- Border Authority officials are trained on the usage of the equipment and, if needed, supported through on-the-job training
- Training modules and material are developed mainstreaming gender, protection and rights-based approaches into border management and border security procedures, such as assessment and detection of fraudulent documentation, profiling, screening and inspection procedures, and cross-border cooperation and information sharing;
- Subject Matter Experts deployed, and training delivered to Border Authority officials on detection and interception of cross-border crimes, fraudulent documentation, risk analysis, gender-sensitive approaches and gender-biases in profiling.

Human Rights Mainstreaming

Rights based approaches will be integrated throughout the project/programme cycle, guided by IOM’s rights-based approach (RBA) to programming. More concretely, throughout project implementation, human rights considerations and obligations under international law, as highlighted in the UNGCT Strategy, will be emphasized in any capacity building activity that relates to the counterterrorism measures at BCPs, in particular refugee and humanitarian law.

Capacity building activities will further be carefully designed to promote human rights and protection-centered approaches ensuring that key human rights principles applicable to profiling and screening are being strictly adhered to. This includes ensuring that officials are trained to minimize risks of stigmatization of migrant, refugees, victims of trafficking and travellers that can fuel xenophobic sentiments and the perception of migrants and refugees as a security threat, and the inclusion of mechanisms to safeguard that human rights and age-sensitive treatment of children is applied in contexts when children are subject to or accompanying persons suspected or associated with transnational criminal or terrorist organizations.

IOM will also promote proportional, responsible and ethical management of any personal information and biometric data, including for counterterrorism purposes, in strict adherence to data protection principles and human rights.

Gender Mainstreaming

Considerations pertaining to gender equality will be made to ensure that interventions are gender mainstreamed based on a solid gender-analysis. Concretely, the provision and improvement of border infrastructure, such as the set-up of isolation facilities will consider needs for gender-separated facilities for women and children, while training on inspection procedures for officials will include gender-sensitive approaches in interactions with female and male travellers, migrants and cargo handlers.

Depending on needs and prioritization, focus could be on gender- and child-sensitive and victim-centered approaches to interviewing and/or gender stereotypes, unconscious bias and the effect of such biases can have on risk analyses, profiling, discriminatory treatment, and in the implementation of border management practices. The participation of female staff and officers in meetings, training, and capacity building activities, who are under-represented within the Border Authorities, will also be encouraged to promote equal opportunities for career development and a more balanced gender representation.

Budget

\$3,000,000.00

Pillar

Pillar II -Measures to prevent and Combat Terrorism, Pillar IV - Ensuring Human Rights and the Rule of Law

Project Status

Concept

Implementation Period

2021-2023

UN Org

IOM

UN Global CT Compact Partners

Countries

Jordan

Current Donors

This project is currently unfunded.