

# Jordan: Taking Action for Sustainable Development



Ms Nadia Shiyab, fact-checker and researcher, speaking about online tools and journalism training needs. © UNESCO

## What are the bold actions being taken by the Government to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in Jordan?

A free, independent and professional media environment is conducive to a democratic society and to achieving sustainable development.

When journalists can express themselves and access information freely, operate independently of political forces without fear of being censored, and adhere to existing professional standards, democracy can be fostered in a sustainable way.

The “[Support to Media in Jordan](#)” project, a three year project (2014-2017) funded by the European Union (EU) and

implemented by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization ([UNESCO](#)) in close collaboration with the Ministry of State for Media Affairs and the media community in Jordan, aims to drive efforts to further increase the freedom, independence and professionalism of media in Jordan.

The project focuses on building the capacity of local and community radios; strengthening journalism education and training institutions; enriching media and information literacy at the elementary and university levels; supporting an enabling

“

*The Ministry of Health in Jordan is keen to implement the Access to Information Law by adopting the best international mechanisms. [The training course organized by the UNESCO Amman Office] will help the Ministry to better understand and implement the law. In fact, the ATI Law plays a major role in raising health awareness in society and enhancing citizens’ trust in the Ministry.*

”

**Mr. Hatem Al Azraie**  
**Spokesperson**  
**Ministry of Health, Jordan**

legal environment, including alignment of the Audio-Visual Law (AVL), Press and Publication Law (PPL), and Access to Information Law (ATI) with international standards as well as the broadcast licensing system; facilitating training on the ATI for public servants; and organizing an international study tour for capacity-building in self-regulation.



**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**  
**17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD**

[un.org/sustainabledevelopment](http://un.org/sustainabledevelopment)

GlobalGoalsUN

GlobalGoalsUN

# Jordan: Taking Action for Sustainable Development

## **Why do the above actions matter to the people in Jordan?**

While Jordan is a relatively small country in the Middle East and North Africa region, it has a significant role to play in fostering regional stability and peace. Democratic reform has been on the Jordan's agenda for decades and media reform has naturally been an important part of that debate.

The "Support to Media in Jordan" project is part of a broader EU initiative to support civil society and media in Jordan, in order to enhance democracy and public participation. Its primary objective is to strengthen an enabling regulatory and institutional environment and build the capacity for an independent, quality based media sector in Jordan that serves the entire population. In terms of access to information, Jordan was a regional leader in adopting the right to information law in 2007. However, the implementation of the law has limited the ability of citizens to access information and to participate in informed decision making.

As a result, the project chose to focus on analysing the ATI Law, making recommendations on how to bring it more in line with international standards, as well as facilitating substantial training for all 60 information officers in Jordan, a remarkable achievement that had not been attempted before.

## **What SDGs have been particularly advanced?**

This project broadly focuses on freedom of expression and media development. It specifically addresses SDG 16, Target 10, which is to ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.



A group of information officials after the training on the access to information law at the National Library in Amman, February 2017. © UNESCO

“

*When media outlets receive well documented information, we can offer the readers an article that really helps to increase their knowledge. And, when we increase the knowledge of readers, we consequently increase public discourse around important issues. Therefore, citizens are encouraged to participate in discussing issues and laws that really matter to society and to the country.*

”

**Ms. Lina Ejeilat**  
Executive Editor of 7iber



[un.org/sustainabledevelopment](https://un.org/sustainabledevelopment)

GlobalGoalsUN

GlobalGoalsUN