



**MILLENNIUM**  
CHALLENGE CORPORATION  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

# MCA JORDAN NEWSLETTER

## QUARTERLY BULLETIN



**MILLENNIUM**  
CHALLENGE ACCOUNT - JORDAN  
Partners in Development

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### About MCC

The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), a U.S. Government agency designed to work with developing countries, is based on the principle that aid is most effective when it reinforces sound political, economic, and social policies that promote poverty reduction through economic growth.



For more information, please visit [www.mcc.gov](http://www.mcc.gov).

### About MCA-Jordan

The Millennium Challenge Account - Jordan (MCA-Jordan) is a limited liability Company owned by the Government of Jordan. MCA-Jordan has been established in June 2010 to manage and implement the program funded by MCC in accordance with the Compact Agreement. The program consists of several water and wastewater projects, which will be implemented in Zarqa Governorate over 5 years (2011-2016). For more information, please visit [www.mca-jordan.gov.jo](http://www.mca-jordan.gov.jo)

### MCA-Jordan's Board of Directors

MCA-Jordan is governed by a Board of Directors that has full authority and management over the company. The Board is comprised of the following seven members:

1. Eng. Fayez Bataineh (the Board Chairman), Secretary General, Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ)
2. Dr. Saleh Al-Kharabsheh (Board Member), Secretary General, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC)
3. Ahmad Qatarneh (Board Member), Secretary General, Ministry of Environment (MoE)
4. Walid Al-Otoom (Board Member), Secretary General, Ministry of Municipal Affairs (MMA)
5. Mrs. Nuha Ma'ayta (Board Member), President, General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFJW)
6. Eng. Thabet Elwir (Board Member), Board Member, Zarqa Chamber of Industry (ZCI)
7. Eng. Muttasim Al-Hayari (Board Member), NRMP Director, Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development (JOHUD)

### Dear Readers,

I am very pleased to share with you the first MCA-Jordan quarterly newsletter where we highlight recent milestones and happenings of this interesting Compact program .

The \$275 million, five-year Compact was signed between the Government of Jordan and the US Government through the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) on October 25, 2010 with the aim to reduce poverty through economic growth.

The Millennium Challenge Account-Jordan (MCA-Jordan) was established soon later by the Government of Jordan to manage and implement the Compact funds to be utilized to restructure, rehabilitate water and wastewater infrastructure projects in Zarqa Governorate, one of the poorest and most urbanized areas in Jordan.

As you will read in this newsletter, MCA-Jordan has made huge strides since its Compact entered into force on December 13, 2011, marking the countdown of the five-year Compact. The newsletter features significant milestones such as the signing of As-Samra Expansion Project agreements, and the awarding of the contracts of the wastewater network project, among other interesting stories. It also zooms in on the first visit of MCC CEO Mr. Daniel Yohannes to Jordan where he met different officials and potential

We hope that you enjoy this first issue and look forward to your feedback.

Sincerely,

*Eng. Kamal Zoubi*  
MCA-Jordan CEO



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**EVENTS**



MCC CEO Mr. Daniel Yohannes greeting a beneficiary of National Aid Fund whose house suffers from water infrastructure problems



MCA-Jordan CEO Eng. Kamal Zoubi greets MCC CEO Mr. Daniel Yohannes



MCC CEO during his meeting with MCA-Jordan's staff and management



Part of the meeting with MCA-Jordan's staff and management



MCC CEO and his Vice President Sheila Herrling listening to Hassan Abdullah, plant manager, on plans to expand As-Samra Wastewater Treatment Plant



From left to right: MCC Resident Country Director Mr. Alex Russin, MCC CEO Mr. Daniel Yohannes, Governor of Zarqa Mr. Sameh Majali, MCC Vice President Ms. Sheila Herrling, Zarqa Mayor Mr. Falah Omoush, MCA-Jordan CEO Eng. Kamal Zoubi

**Mr. Daniel W. Yohannes, Chief Executive Officer of the Millennium Challenge Corporation, visits Jordan.**

Chief Executive Officer of the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), Mr. Daniel W. Yohannes paid Jordan a two day visit on 6 & 7 June, 2012 to review progress of the five-year, \$275 million, U.S.-funded MCA-Jordan Compact. He was accompanied by MCC Vice President, Ms. Sheila Herrling.

During his visit he met with senior officials in the Jordanian Government; the Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, Dr. Jaafar Hassan, and the Minister of Water and Irrigation, Eng. Mohammad Najjar. Mr. Yohannes also met with Zarqa Governor Mr. Sameh Majali and the heads of municipalities of Zarqa, Ruseifa, and Hashmeyah Cities where both parties stressed on the importance of the MCC projects for the highly populated and poor Governorate.

Following that, the MCC CEO visited As-Samra Wastewater Treatment Plant which MCC is contributing around \$93 million to expand the facility

The CEO made time to meet potential beneficiaries in Zarqa City who reside in homes that harbor leaking water pipes and lack improper water storage facilities.

The MCC funded program is designed to reach out to many poor households who suffer similar conditions in order to rectify their situations .

## EVENTS



### US green lights \$275 million grant to Jordan to combat poverty and enhance economic growth

Last year in December at a ceremony held at King Abdullah's Cultural Center in Zarqa city, former Minister of Water and Irrigation Mousa Jamani and U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Stuart Jones exchanged official letters announcing the entry into force of the \$275 million grant agreement from the US Government's Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

"As the clock starts ticking for this compact, we will take it upon ourselves to work diligently with our partners to achieve the strategic and sustainable solutions for this significant economic development program. We are very confident that the MCA-Jordan team, which prides itself to be all Jordanian experts, is predetermined to achieve nothing but success," Eng. Kama Zoubi, MCA-Jordan CEO said.

#### During MCC CEO's visit to Jordan

##### **MCA-Jordan assigns construction manager for water and wastewater projects**

Mr. Daniel Yohannes, CEO of the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), witnessed on June 6, 2012 during his visit to Jordan the signing of Program Management Consultant (PMC) agreement between the Millennium Challenge Account-Jordan (MCA-Jordan) and the joint venture of US engineering and consulting firm Hazen and Sawyer and the local consultant Dar Al-Omran who will be tasked to oversee and supervise the construction of the MCC funded water and wastewater projects in Zarqa Governorate.



#### Financed by MCC and held under the patronage of Minister of Public Works

##### **MCA-Jordan holds anti-fraud and anti-corruption training**

Under the patronage of Minister of Public Works and Housing Eng. Yahya Kisbi, the Millennium Challenge Account-Jordan (MCA-Jordan) held a three-day intensive training workshop on anti-fraud and anti-corruption, financed by the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC). Conducted in 10-12 July 2012, the training aimed at educating MCA-Jordan and its counterparts on methods to detect and resist potential fraud and corruption in the projects and contracts undertaken by MCA-Jordan.



## PROJECTS UPDATES



### **MCA-Jordan hires consultant to supervise As-Samra Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion**

As part of the expansion project of As-Samra Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), the Millennium Challenge Account-Jordan (MCA-Jordan) officially announced in June 2012 that German company Fichtner Water and Transportation GmbH in association with the local consulting firm ECO Consult were selected to oversee and monitor the progress of the project

#### With help from US Government's Millennium Challenge Corporation

##### **\$184.3 million PPP Expansion Project of As-Samra Wastewater Plant begins**

The Government of Jordan, represented by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation (MWI), has signed on June 7, 2012 an agreement with the Samra Project Company (SPC) for the implementation of the expansion project for As-Samra Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), which will be under Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) contract for 25 years. The expansion project is funded in part by the US Government's Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) through a grant of \$93 million that come out of a \$275 million Compact grant provided to the Government of Jordan.



#### Due to high bids' prices

##### **MCA-Jordan cancels procurement for water network in Zarqa**

The Millennium Challenge Account-Jordan (MCA-Jordan) has rejected all bids received to restructure and rehabilitate the water network in Zarqa Governorate. The official cancellation of bids through the Government Tenders Department, MCA-Jordan's procurement agent, was a result of bids' prices exceeding the amounts expected. The company will retender the bids beginning next year in traditional construction packages instead of the previous design-build packages, which proved to be unsuitable and demanding for this type of projects.

### To rebuild wastewater system in Zarqa

**The US Government funded MCA-Jordan Program signs \$41.5 M construction contracts**



A group photo with winning contractors during agreement signing

The Millennium Challenge Account-Jordan (MCA-Jordan) has signed contractors' construction agreements with the winning companies to rehabilitate and expand the wastewater network in Zarqa Governorate. MCA-Jordan signed with Bosheh Contracting Establishment, which won two contract packages at around \$28 million, and the joint venture of Haymoor Cousins & Partner Co and Al-Omaria Contracting Co., which won the third contract package at \$13.4 million. Over the past 20 years, Zarqa's population and industrial base have grown so rapidly that until now it has not been possible to construct a properly functioning wastewater system. The current system is expensive to maintain and constantly leaking to the detriment of the local population and industry. The construction works of the wastewater network project are expected to commence following Eid Adha.

## SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENT

When it comes to applying high global standards and best international practices in the area of social and environment, look to MCA-Jordan's upcoming projects in Zarqa Governorate. Throughout the 5 year program, public health and safety will be high on the company's agenda. Residents in areas of construction will experience professional and delicate management; they will be informed at least 24 hours before work commencement, noise levels will be kept within allowable limits, number and lengths of open trenches will be limited while supported with the best safety measures such as covers and backfilling. In addition and for the first time in Jordan, a trafficking in person policy and a gender policy will be applied in projects to ensure gender equity that benefits men and women alike and other vulnerable groups in Zarqa Governorate.

## THE SOCIAL & GENDER INTEGRATION PLAN

As one of the MCC's gender policy requirements, MCA- Jordan developed a Social and Gender Integration Plan (SGIP) to ensure that the gender, age, demographic and social group barriers to effective participation in the Compact Program are reduced, that additional opportunities for effective participation are identified, and that all potential beneficiaries are able to fully benefit. The SGIP will be implemented throughout the Compact through awareness trainings, field visits, town hall meetings, and other outreach activities. The plan is published on MCA-Jordan's website from the MCC-funded Compact activities. (www.mca-jordan.gov.jo)



## M&E

On March 6, 2012, MCA-Jordan released its Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (M&E), a tool to manage the process of monitoring, evaluating, and reporting progress towards Compact results. The plan is used in conjunction with other tools such as work plans, procurement plans, and financial plans. The plan is published on MCA-Jordan's website (www.mca-jordan.gov.jo).

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