

Minutes of Meeting

Stakeholders Committee for the Millennium Challenge Account – Jordan (MCA-Jordan)

7th Meeting

Day: Wednesday

Date: 17 February 2016

- The Meeting started with welcoming the participants by the Communication and Outreach Officer at MCA-Jordan Ghada Malouf and reviewing the meeting agenda before she asked the participants to introduce themselves and the entities they represented.
- With some new members attending the meeting, the CEO of MCA-Jordan Eng. Kamal Zoubi briefed the committee about the evaluation criteria for getting an MCC grant. He also spoke about the water sector in Jordan and especially in Zarqa Governorate, highlighting the challenges that MCA-Jordan are facing in implementing its projects. Zoubi took time to praise the cooperation with Zarqa Governorate and the municipalities as they made implementation easier.
- On the other hand, the MCC Resident Country Director Alex Russin thanked the citizens of Zarqa Governorate for their support for the MCC funded projects, pointing out that the decision to allocate all funds to serve Zarqa was the decision of the government of Jordan and its people. The Compact is not only about infrastructure, he said, but also about the social aspect, pointing out that he came from a school awareness session that MCA-Jordan are implementing within the “By Water We Live” campaign to teach the students on how to maintain the quantity and quality of water. Russin concluded with asking the citizens of Zarqa Governorate to keep up their patience since the projects are about to finish of which will lead to significant difference in their lives.



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- Zoubi added that all the projects are about to finish, explaining that the company is meeting regularly with the contractors to urge them to finish on time. He said that MCA-Jordan had no choice but to have multiple sites open at once in order to finish implementing them all before the due date which is 13 December 2016. Zoubi apologized from the citizens of these areas for the inconvenience caused from these projects' works, which are one of the largest water projects works in the history of the Kingdom. He also said that due to the savings achieved by the company, it was agreed with the Ministry of Water and Irrigation and the Municipality of Rusaifa to allocate a portion of those savings to expand the scope of the water systems to include Jabal Faisal area. Zoubi pointed out that the company from the beginnings was committed to applying the highest standards of health and public safety, but the reality enforced some changes as many of the contractors were subject to theft and misuse of their health and safety equipment.
He said the company is committed to supporting women's activities and to integrating gender aspects as an essential requirement from MCC.
- The Director of Communications and Outreach at MCA-Jordan Sofian Qurashi explained as part of the presentation how the company is communicating with the local communities through awareness meetings and sessions being arranged to brief the local community of any projects before the implementation takes place and to provide them with the company's contact details in case they have any complaints.
- Moreover, the Director of the Wastewater Network Project at MCA-Jordan Eng. Mohammad Ababneh said that the project was expanded to cover the area of Princess Haya due to the savings achieved by the company. He also tackled the participants' questions regarding some complaints.



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- Officer Jawad al Salahat from Amen FM, Inaam Judeh from Environment Directorate, Mohammad Bourini from the local community and Sami Al Khalaileh from Rusiefeh Municipality shared some of the citizens' complaints regarding the current works. MCA-Jordan replied by promising to attend to these issues.
- Abdelrahman Al Zghoul from All Jordan Youth Commission mentioned the importance of awareness campaigns in changing behaviors and securing sustainability of the projects. MCA-Jordan asked for his contact details to communicate and discuss potential cooperation.
- Sultan Hassan representative of Zarqa Governorate said that the citizens of Zarqa are affected from the excavations asking the company for their stance on the matter in order to communicate back to the citizens. Zoubi answered him that all the projects are almost done and the contractors are reinstating sites as part of their contracts.