

Family Planning and Women in Development

Project Site

Southern Ghor District (Karak Governorate)



1. Background of Project

In Jordan, women marry young and have many children in keeping with the culture and religion, so the annual average population growth is high at 3.4 percent. At the same time, the economy had been stagnant during and shortly after the Gulf crisis in 1990, as a result of the repatriation of overseas migrant workers and decreased assistance from the other oil-producing Middle-East countries. The high population growth also hinders economic restoration. With this situation, the Government of Jordan considered that population growth was an important national problem, and formulated a comprehensive family planning policy that included health, gender and education issues. Family planning and the full participation of women in society were promoted, but due to the lack of technical experience and human resources in this area, the Government of Jordan requested the Government of Japan to provide technical cooperation.

2. Project Overview

(1) Period of Cooperation

1 July 1997-30 June 2000

(2) Type of Cooperation

Project-type Technical Cooperation

(3) Partner Country's Implementing Organizations

National Population Commission (NPC)
Ministry of Health
Jordan Hashemite Fund for Human Development (JOHUD)

(4) Narrative Summary

- 1) Overall Goal
Population growth is reduced in Southern Ghor District, Karak Governorate.
- 2) Project Purpose
Family Planning Practice is promoted in Southern Ghor District, Karak Governorate.
- 3) Outputs

- a) Information on demographic, health and socio-economic conditions is collected and used for project activities.
- b) People's awareness on health and socioeconomic issues in the project area is enhanced.
- c) Family planning and reproductive health services in the project area are strengthened.
- d) Women in the project area participate in economic activities.

4) Inputs

Japanese Side

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Long-term experts | 6 |
| Short-term experts | 10 |
| Trainees received | 9 |
| Equipment | 103 million yen |
| Local cost | 28 million yen |

Jordan Side

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Counterparts | 6 |
| Land and facilities | |
| Local cost | |

3. Members of Evaluation Team

Leader:

Makoto ATOH, Deputy Director General, National Institute of Population and Social Security Research

Obstetrics:

Shigeki MINOURA, Director, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, International Medical Center of Japan

Reproductive Health:

Aiko IJIMA, Director, Human Resource Development Division, Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning

WID:

Azumi TSUGE, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, Meiji Gakuin University

Cooperation Planning:

Tsutomu NAKANO, Deputy Director, Second Medical

Cooperation Division, Medical Cooperation Department,
Japan International Cooperation Agency

Evaluation Analysis:

Kimiko ABE, International Development Center of
Japan

4. Period of Evaluation

19 October 1999-31 October 1999

5. Results of Evaluation

(1) Efficiency

The inputs from the Japanese side were generally appropriate in quality, quantity and timing, and operation and maintenance of equipment were satisfactory. However, the experts for income generation were dispatched only in the final year of the cooperation (May 1999), so the output that women participate in economic activities could not be achieved.

(2) Effectiveness

Regarding reproductive health, as a result of functional expansion in the Maternal and Child Health Center, and education and dissemination activities in cooperation with community development promoters selected from men and women in the communities and Moslem leaders, the number of outpatients seeking a first medical examination for contraception increased from 107 (1996) to 224 (1998).

Meanwhile, regarding women's participation in economic activities, as mentioned above, the activity was started late, so at the time of the evaluation the work plans for apiculture and goat rearing were being formulated, and the training for women was just starting.

Although the project objective of promoting family planning cannot be achieved in a short time, considering the outputs achieved, as mentioned above, and the 50 percent contraceptive prevalence rate estimated by the experts, it is perceived that the project purpose would be achieved by the end of the cooperation period.

(3) Impact

By employing young women in their 20s as community development promoters, this project provided the opportunity to participate in health and social activities, and enabled them to gain new experience. Also, by inviting traditional Moslem leaders who have strong influence in Islamic society to the lectures and seminars, the project succeeded in sensitizing rural men and Moslem leaders to family planning.

(4) Relevance

The overall goal and the project purpose are consistent with the policies of Jordan which promote the reduction of population growth and family planning, and



A community development promoter reporting on the results of their survey at a monthly meeting

therefore the project has high relevancy.

(5) Sustainability

As family planning and reproductive health are important policies of the Government of Jordan, it was expected that the government of Jordan would continuously support the NPC.

6. Lessons Learned and Recommendations

(1) Lessons Learned

When various types of activities are implemented to achieve a certain purpose as was the case in this project, it is necessary to have a common understanding of each activity among stakeholders and to make efforts to link and coordinate activities in order to integrate outputs from each activity into the project purpose so that they contribute to achieving the overall goal.

(2) Recommendations

The project achieved the outputs satisfactorily in terms of raising the people's awareness, improvement of health services and empowerment through women's participation in economic activities. However, as mentioned above, it is necessary to recognize that these activities are all measures to reduce population growth. For this, it is necessary to confirm the changes in people's ideas about delivery and child rearing, awareness of family planning, contraceptive prevalence rate and continuous user rate.

7. Follow-up Situation

After the completion of the cooperation period, the target area was expanded to the whole of Karak Governorate, and Phase II cooperation is now being implemented (from July 1 2000 to June 30, 2003).