The Road to Democracy: Assessing NDI’s Programs in Jordan

American University Practicum Presentation
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• Methodology

• NDI Jordan Programming
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  + Working with Women
  + Working with Youth
  + Election Observation and Monitoring
  + Strengthening Civil Society within NDI’s other programs

• General Recommendations
Political Influences

- Monarchy
- Security Apparatus
- ‘East Bankers’
- Palestinians
- Iraqi & Syrian Refugees
- Arab Spring
- U.S. Security Interests
Methodology

- Literature review and published program materials
- Informational and targeted interviews in Amman and Washington
Legislative Strengthening
Strengths

• Training and support to Members of Parliament

• Encouraging formation of issue-based blocs

• Partnering with relevant civil society groups
Recommendations

- Address need to bolster political parties
- Professionalize Parliamentary Fellows program
- Establish a page program
Working with Women
Strengths

• Supporting formation and activities of the Women’s Caucus
• Providing campaign and legislative assistance
• Training research fellows
Recommendations

• Address economic barriers to gender equality

• Increase outreach to men
Working with Youth
Strengths

• Usharek programs reaching 4,500+ students

• Educating students on democratic principles

• Empowering students through advocacy tools and trainings

• Expansion through the First-Time Voters Project
Recommendations

• Build capacity of school administrators and Usharek+ participants

• Work with the MoE to develop primary and secondary school civic-based curricula
Election Monitoring and Observation
Strengths

• Fostering excellent network of election observers

• Providing ready assistance for partners

• Playing an advisory, supportive role
Recommendations

- Continue to build a relationship with the IEC
- Monitor and evaluate organizational partnerships more closely
General Evaluation and Recommendations
Organizational Strengths

• Culturally-aware staff
• Nonpartisan agenda
• Focus on sustainable development
• A partner, not just a donor
General Recommendations

• Partner with interfaith organizations

• Enhance overall advocacy capacity for partners

• Expand Usharek programs to the broader community

• Outreach to those not yet engaged with NDI Jordan

• Incorporate in-person and/or virtual exchanges
Conclusion

Thank you to both NDI Washington & NDI Jordan for allowing us to learn more about your programs and for hosting us in Jordan.

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