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Hikaya Center
for Civil Society Development



JORDAN'S YOUTH POLICY STATEMENT 2025

TOWARD CLIMATE JUSTICE: THE YOUTH IN THE HEART OF THE NDCS

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Preamble

As the youth of Jordan, we stand united in the face of an escalating climate crisis that threatens our future, our communities, and our shared resources. We recognize that bold, inclusive, and coordinated action is urgently needed to safeguard livelihoods, protect ecosystems, and ensure a resilient, just, and climate-ready nation. Our generation is not only bearing the brunt of climate impacts but also holds the vision, innovation, and determination to lead transformational change.

This policy statement represents the collective voice of young people from all governorates across the Kingdom. It reflects our shared experiences, regional realities, and united aspirations for a more sustainable and equitable Jordan. It was developed through inclusive consultations and collaborative efforts led by youth active in climate action at the local and national levels.

The statement will be officially submitted to the Ministry of Environment as a youth contribution to national climate policy discourse. It will also serve as a foundation for dialogue and deeper engagement during the Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) Jordan 2025, where it will be presented, discussed, and refined in collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

We urge decision-makers to act on our recommendations and recognize young people as essential partners in climate governance and implementation.

Overarching Demands

1. Youth, Peace, Security, and Climate Nexus

We demand the institutionalization of youth inclusion in climate and peace policy-making through transparent mechanisms within the Ministry of Youth. We call for economic empowerment of young farmers, legal protection for small-scale farmers, and the integration of climate-conflict analysis into national security strategies.

We demand the establishment of a national climate risk observatory, the incorporation of climate justice in education and training, and equitable access to green jobs and climate resources for marginalized communities.

We urge the promotion of regional water diplomacy by meaningfully engaging youth in cross-border dialogues, policy forums, and negotiations.

We support youth-led community initiatives in food security, water management, and environmental peacebuilding, and demand that youth and municipal councils be empowered to monitor the implementation of climate and peace plans.

2. NDC Governance

We demand the institutionalization of climate governance through a legally binding inter-ministerial council, youth engagement in NDC processes, and integrated cross-sectoral climate action plans. We call for climate-smart budgeting, digital data-sharing platforms, and national forums for coordination and accountability.

We demand assigning climate focal points in all ministries, establishing a national climate finance unit, and unlocking diverse funding sources including green bonds, diaspora investments, and green banking products.

We urge support for municipalities through technical training, capacity building, and localized funding for adaptation. We demand the creation of climate innovation hubs, e-learning platforms, mobile support teams, and integration of climate modules in academic curricula.

We call for a transparent national climate fund with civil society and youth in governance, implementation of carbon pricing, and promotion of open data and community-led verification.

We demand a unified climate data system with standardized methodologies, trained MRV officers, legal data-sharing frameworks, and annual multi-stakeholder data reviews to ensure transparency, comparability, and accountability.

3. Agriculture Sector and Food Security

We demand a transformative shift in agricultural policy that prioritizes water-smart, climate-resilient, and inclusive practices. This includes: a digital crop database ranking

virtual water consumption linked to subsidies and licenses; rooftop and vertical farming support; expansion of hydroponics and drought-resistant crops; a national plastic waste scheme for agriculture

We demand amendments to Agriculture Law No. 13 to include climate-smart measures; strict pesticide regulation and enforcement; greywater reuse frameworks; awareness campaigns like “Grow Smart, Save Your Water”; performance-based farmer support tied to a Water Productivity Index; incentives for water-saving irrigation; training, certification, and innovation hubs for youth and women; digital tools for farmer knowledge-sharing; and protection systems for seasonal workers and rural women.

We further call for the promotion of native seeds, community seed banks, food system localization, rainwater harvesting, shared mapping systems, and the integration of just transition and gender equity principles in all climate adaptation strategies.

4. Water Security

We demand the modernization of water infrastructure, smart regulation of groundwater, and a national monitoring system using satellite and GIS technologies, call for enforceable reuse targets, mandatory rainwater harvesting, and incentives for reclaimed water use in agriculture and industry, investment in youth-led water diplomacy and regional cooperation to secure fair and sustainable transboundary water agreements.

We urge transparent access to water data, empowered local councils, and decentralized water solutions supported by climate finance support nature-based and solar-powered water treatment, safe greywater reuse, and clear national standards to ensure water quality.

We demand the creation of a Jordanian Youth Water Council, a Youth Innovation Fund, and training pathways in the water sector call for water and climate education, equity-focused investment in underserved areas, and inclusive decision-making processes.

5. Energy Security

We demand the removal or revision of “Take-or-Pay” clauses in power purchase agreements to ensure fair risk-sharing with investors, call for fair grid tariffs, targeted subsidies for vulnerable groups, and incentives for energy efficiency and alternative sources and data-driven, long-term energy planning that prioritizes local resources and moves beyond reactive decision-making.

We support inclusive policy-making by involving energy associations, the public, and parliament in shaping and overseeing major energy deals, full transparency in energy contracts, the prioritization of public interest, and a youth-informed financial recovery plan for NEPCO.

We call for investment in battery storage, public-private partnerships, and youth-led innovation labs for clean energy solutions, youth participation in electricity sector reform, and increased investment in grid infrastructure like the Green Corridor and support mandatory energy audits and the use of AI for renewable forecasting to enhance efficiency and integration.

6. WEFE nexus

We demand the integration of renewable energy into water infrastructure, especially solar-powered systems for rural and agricultural use, promotion of sustainable agriculture practices to secure food and conserve water and urge ecosystem protection and valuation in all project planning, with mandatory environmental and social assessments for large-scale cross-sectoral initiatives.

We demand cross-ministerial coordination through designated WEFE focal points, with clear accountability measures, call for the inclusion of WEFE principles in NAPs and NDCs, and dedicated financing for nexus projects in vulnerable regions.

We support national awareness campaigns to build public understanding and ownership of integrated water-energy-food-ecosystem solutions.

7. Biodiversity

We demand a national biodiversity master plan with measurable targets, integrated into climate and development strategies, call for allocating at least 10% of climate finance to locally co-designed biodiversity programs and integrating biodiversity into all planning and assessment processes.

We urge urban reforestation, ecological corridors, and biodiversity indicators in national adaptation systems, support community-led conservation, reforestation, and invasive species control efforts, backed by strong public awareness.

We demand stricter enforcement against overgrazing, illegal hunting, and wood trafficking through surveillance, legal reforms, and inter-agency coordination and call for

dedicated funding for forest protection and greater institutional cooperation on land and ecosystem management at national and regional levels.

8. Waste Management Sector

We demand a 21st century national waste-management system with measurable targets, instituted on a regular basis in climate, health, and growth plans. We also urge greater investment in sanitary landfills, rural sorting facilities for rural wastes, composting facilities, and advanced GPS-monitored collection infrastructure.

We urge for the institutionalization of the extended producer responsibility (EPR), recycling fees, and waste valorization in the country's economic and environmental planning strategy, concurrently with compulsory household, institutional, and industry source-sorting with clear legislation, color-coded dumpsters, and performance-linked penalties and bonuses.

We demand for government reform and digitization, with a centralized national database to monitor waste flows, rationalize logistics, and enhance accountability, and a definition of municipalities, the Ministry of the Environment, and private operators in one national framework.

We call for more public-private partnerships (PPPs) for investment in recycling, composting, and waste-to-energy projects, especially in underserved communities and rural areas. We also support initiatives by communities and youths, such as biogas digesters, upcycling projects, and rural collection networks for plastics, for green jobs availability and people's engagement promotion.

9. Industrial and Private Sector

We demand an inclusive industrial green transition through fair electricity pricing, youth-led innovation funding, and strategic academia-industry cooperation. We call for a clear renewable energy roadmap, a joint NEPCO-industry task force, and compulsory emissions audits.

We urge the integration of circular economy practices, green certification systems, and a national database of sustainable suppliers. Economic policies must incentivize high-value, low-carbon sectors, simplify procedures, and support export

competitiveness. We advocate for investment in clean technologies, decentralized water treatment, and workforce upskilling to future-proof Jordan's industrial economy.

10. Green Technologies

We demand strong support for green innovation through updated environmental laws, tax incentives, and a national green innovation fund. We call for investment in youth- and women-led climate solutions, digital certification platforms, and applied research partnerships.

We urge expanding infrastructure for recycling, waste-to-energy, and smart grids must be prioritized, along with adopting green public procurement standards. We support national awareness campaigns to embed sustainability in public and private sectors and drive a thriving green economy.

11. Engage people with disabilities in climate action

We demand a firm political commitment to integrate persons with disabilities into climate action at all levels from policymaking to implementation. This includes their representation in decision-making bodies, comprehensive vulnerability assessments, accessible early warning systems, and inclusive adaptation plans.

We call for tailored education, regular dialogue platforms with policymakers, dedicated funding, and disability-responsive planning and budgeting. Emergency communication must be fully accessible, ensuring no one is left behind.

12. Climate Justice

We demand the integration of climate justice into national policies through inclusive governance, equitable funding, and community-centered solutions. This includes a dedicated chapter in the National Adaptation Plan, social impact assessments in EIA guidelines, and the creation of Community Adaptation Funds.

We call for formal representation of youth, women, and rural communities, a Climate Justice Index linked to municipal performance, and accessible renewable technologies. Training for green jobs, expanded climate-health services, community-led monitoring, localized awareness campaigns, and just transition frameworks with legal and social safeguards must be prioritized to ensure no one is left behind.

13. Health and Education

We demand a resilient climate-health system through nationwide early warning mechanisms, resilient infrastructure audits, and dedicated funding for rural healthcare. We call for the integration of climate modules in medical training, and the full implementation of the National Adaptation Strategy for Health.

We demand a climate-smart education system with green innovation hubs in schools, mandatory teacher training, and climate literacy as a core curriculum. We urge strategic partnerships and digital access reforms to equip students as future climate leaders.

Demands Divided by Tracks

- **Youth, Peace, Security, and Climate Nexus**

Climate challenges in Jordan are deeply intertwined with issues of peace and security, especially amid weak social protection systems and the economic vulnerability of those most affected by climate change, such as smallholder farmers and daily-wage agricultural workers. Nationally, the increasing risks of drought and declining rainfall threaten the resilience of the agricultural sector, directly impacting the livelihoods of small-scale farmers who cannot afford the losses caused by extreme climate events. This often forces families to withdraw their children from school to work in agriculture or rely on unpaid family labor to reduce costs, perpetuating poverty cycles, threatening sustainable development and decreasing civil society satisfaction about the government performance which may cause internal instability.

Moreover, the recurrence of droughts, reduced rainfall, and rising temperatures exacerbate Jordan's water insecurity, especially as the country struggles to obtain its

fair share of shared water resources under bilateral agreements. This adds pressure on regional water diplomacy efforts and may compromise national and regional stability. Urban planning also plays a crucial role in this context, and the lack of climate risk-informed planning, such as flood risk maps, has led to urban expansion in high-risk areas, endangering lives and infrastructure.

Despite Jordan experiencing a demographic dividend with a high youth population, the absence of integrated planning between climate, development, and peace, combined with rising youth unemployment, poses growing challenges. If unaddressed, these can fuel social grievances and weaken social cohesion, particularly under the pressures of climate change. Therefore, empowering youth to be part of the solution is vital.

We Call For:

1. Institutionalize youth inclusion within the Ministry of Youth in climate and peace policy-making bodies through sustainable and transparent mechanisms that insure representation of youth from poverty pockets areas and youth with disabilities.
2. Launch economic empowerment programs for young farmers in climate-affected areas and provide incentives for climate-smart agriculture.
3. Establish legal frameworks to protect small-scale farmers from climate-related losses, including agricultural insurance schemes.
4. Integrate climate-conflict analysis into national peace and security strategies that consider internal and regional threats of climate impacts, adopting preventive and justice-based approaches.
5. Create a national climate risk observatory to provide municipalities and ministries with data for integrated urban planning.
6. Incorporate climate change and environmental security into educational curricula and vocational training, with a focus on climate justice.
7. Promote regional cooperation on water diplomacy by engaging youth in cross-border dialogue and policy forums after building their capacity.

8. Ensure fair distribution of green jobs and climate resources to include peripheral and marginalized communities, and support climate resilience livelihoods.
9. Support community-led initiatives by youth focusing on food security, water management, and environmental peacebuilding.
10. Empower youth and municipal councils to monitor the implementation of climate and peace plans, build their capacity ensuring transparency and accountability.
11. Strengthen regional and transboundary water diplomacy through the meaningful inclusion of youth in negotiations, joint research initiatives, and monitoring mechanisms.

Relevant Stakeholders:

Ministry of Youth (MoY), Ministry of Environment (MoEnv), Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Ministry of Water and Irrigation (MWI), Ministry of Interior (MoI), Environmental NGOs and Associations, Youth-led organizations and innovation hubs, Ministry of Social Development (MoSD), National Centre for Security and Crisis Management (NCSCM) and Greater Amman Municipality and Local Governorates

● NDC Governance

Effective governance of Jordan's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) is the cornerstone for developing and implementing realistic, inclusive, and socially accepted policies by integrating civil society in the process.

Achieving the goals of emission reduction and climate adaptation under the NDC framework requires a comprehensive and participatory approach that engages all segments of society, including youth, civil society organizations, relevant ministries, and the private sector.

In Jordan, this process is further hindered by structural constraints, including water scarcity, high dependency on energy imports, limited access to updated data on greenhouse gas emissions, and restricted technical and financial capacities. These barriers make the need for coordinated governance even more urgent.

Furthermore, access to reliable and transparent information on key sectors, including energy efficiency, transport electrification, adaptation initiatives, and sector-specific emissions, is critical for effective planning, monitoring, and evaluation.

We Call For:

1. Establish a legally binding inter-ministerial climate council to ensure coordination and commitment across ministries especially for data distribution within different entities that are working on the NDC or other different policies.
2. Establish clear youth engagement in the NDC process through clear and concrete methodology determined after youth consultations sessions.
3. Assign dedicated climate change focal points in every ministry with regular coordination meetings to ensure effective implementation of the policies that required joint ministerial work.
4. Establish a clear national definition of climate-smart budgeting with clear KPIs and timeline , define the opportunities and challenges to mainstream it in the updated ministerial budget and engage the Environment and Climate Committee in the House of Representatives and youth experts in the process.
5. Create a centralized digital climate information platform for ministries, academia, media and researchers to share and co-create climate data.
6. Launch a national climate forum for ongoing dialogue, simulation exercises for COPs, and alignment on climate action goals with national priorities.
7. Forge partnerships with the private sector and impact investors to unlock green bonds and blended finance.
8. Engage local financial institutions to develop Green Banking products for community-level projects.
9. Support capacity-building programs for municipalities and local actors to write bankable climate proposals.
10. Implement carbon pricing or green taxation schemes to generate domestic revenue for climate action.

11. Engage diaspora investment networks to attract funding for climate-resilient infrastructure.
12. Create a transparent national climate fund with civil society and youth representation in governance structures.
13. Launch national training programs on adaptation, DRR, and green technologies, targeting youth, engineers, and planners.
14. Institutionalizing an elected youth council within the Jordanian Ministry of Environment that represents the needs and opinions of youth regarding the nationally determined contributions, the national adaptation plan, the national climate action plan, or the national climate document.
15. Establish local climate innovation hubs to encourage community-led solutions and peer learning.
16. Integrate climate modules into university and vocational curricula to build a climate-ready workforce.
17. Deploy mobile technical teams to assist rural communities in water, agriculture, and renewable energy sectors.
18. Develop e-learning platforms and online courses for broad, low-cost capacity building.
19. Provide technical grants and micro-funding to support pilot initiatives led by local organizations.
20. Facilitate international knowledge exchange programs with countries in MENA and the Global South.
21. Create a national climate data catalogue accessible to all ministries and stakeholders.
22. Standardize data collection methodologies to ensure comparability across sectors.

23. Develop legal frameworks and data-sharing protocols to ensure inter-agency cooperation.
24. Train dedicated data officers in each ministry on MRV (Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification) and data integration systems.
25. Invest in interoperable digital infrastructure, including GIS and real-time monitoring systems.
26. Conduct annual national data reviews with participation from academia and civil society.
27. Promote open data practices and community-based verification to foster transparency and trust.

Relevant Stakeholders: Ministry of Environment (MoEnv), Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC), Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (MEMR), Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Water and Irrigation (MWI), Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship, Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Royal Scientific Society (RSS), Department of Statistics (DoS), Environmental NGOs and Associations, Youth-led organizations and innovation hubs, National Center for Security and Crisis Management (NCSCM), Central Bank of Jordan and Ministry of Municipal Affairs

● **Agriculture Sector and Food Security**

Jordan's agricultural sector faces increasing climate pressures, particularly from water scarcity, unpredictable rainfall, soil degradation, and rising temperatures. Despite being a key livelihood source for rural communities, farming in Jordan struggles with outdated practices, weak enforcement of sustainable policies, and limited support for smallholders and women farmers.

Current gaps include the misuse of water resources, poor agricultural waste management, and low adoption of climate-smart technologies. Existing laws do not fully reflect sustainability principles, and many farmers lack access to technical training, markets, or legal protection. Meanwhile, innovative local solutions like rooftop farming, composting, agroforestry, and youth-led initiatives remain under-supported.

We Call For:

1. Establishing a digital crop database ranking virtual water consumption, linked to a licensing and subsidy system favoring low-footprint crops.
2. Launching rooftop, balcony, and vertical farming programs with technical support and financial incentives.
3. Scaling hydroponics and smart agriculture hangars across climate zones to optimize land and water use.
4. Limiting the spread of unreliable agricultural information, especially regarding adaptive mechanisms and the cultivation of drought-resistant crops to avoid maladaptation, and enhancing access to information for farmers through agricultural research centers.
5. Introducing a national plastic waste management scheme for the agriculture sector.
6. Amending Agriculture Law No. (13) of 2015 to include climate-smart practices, water reuse, and pollution control.
7. Enforce the pre-harvest pesticide interval and activate joint inspections to ensure food safety.
8. Integrate natural pest control methods into farmer training programs to reduce chemical pesticide use and protect soil and crop health
9. Strict compliance with the pre-harvest interval and regulating pesticide use through integrated policies is a national priority to achieve sustainable agriculture and protect human health and the environment.
10. Launching a national awareness campaign: “Grow Smart, Save Your Water”, with local dialect materials and community engagement.
11. Establishing Farmer-to-Farmer mentorship programs and Youth Agro Labs for testing sustainable practices.
12. Expanding biological pest control and companion planting through extension services and input support.
13. Creating a regulatory framework within the Ministry of Water for the safe use of treated greywater in non-leafy crops.

14. Providing targeted incentives (subsidies, tax breaks, soft loans) for farmers switching to water-saving irrigation.
15. Building a national Water Productivity Index and linking farmer support to performance metrics.
16. Supporting traditional farmers in the transition to modern irrigation through phased programs and risk insurance.
17. Introducing a simplified registration and social protection system for seasonal agricultural workers, especially rural women.
18. Linking institutional food procurement (schools, hospitals) to small-scale and climate-smart farmers.
19. Enhance farmer support through targeted training and technology transfer, by organizing educational workshops, issuing certifications, and implementing performance evaluation systems for who complete the training programs.
20. Establishing community seed banks and policies that promote seed sovereignty and native crop varieties.
21. Promoting mobile advisory tools and farmer WhatsApp groups for real-time knowledge exchange.
22. Setting up agricultural innovation hubs for youth and women to test and scale regenerative practices.
23. Encouraging food system localization to reduce import dependency and enhance water resilience.
24. Investing in rainwater harvesting and small farm reservoirs
25. Creating a shared farmer mapping system for cooperative planning and collective water resource management.

26. Empowering rural women within the Ministry of Agriculture through training, mobile childcare units, legal protections, and fair pay standards.
27. Launching a confidential agricultural labor complaints mechanism through a hotline or app.
28. Linking access to subsidies with completion of certified sustainable agriculture training programs.
29. Supporting agroecology field schools and biodiversity-friendly product certification schemes.
30. Identify traditional farmers dependent on flood irrigation as a priority group for gradual transition to water-saving systems.
31. Developing climate adaptation strategies with gender equity and just transition principles at their core.

Relevant Stakeholders: Ministry of Environment (MoEnv), Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Water and Irrigation (MWI), Ministry of Labor (MoL), Ministry of Social Development (MoSD), Jordan Agricultural Credit Corporation (JACC), National Center for Agricultural Research (NARC), Environmental NGOs and Associations, Youth-led organizations and innovation hubs, Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST), Jordan Cooperative Corporation (JCC) and The Royal Scientific Society (RSS)

- **Water Security**

Jordan's water sector is under severe and growing stress, ranking among the most water-scarce in the world, with an annual per capita share of less than 61 cubic meters¹ far below the global water poverty threshold. The country faces chronic shortages in homes and farms, especially in rural and marginalized areas, compounded by the over-extraction of groundwater where pumping exceeds natural recharge by over 200% and massive losses in the distribution network², with 52% of water lost due to leaks, illegal connections, and faulty meters³. Despite the availability of treated wastewater, it remains underutilized in agriculture and industry, while rainwater harvesting, a low-cost, nature-based solution, is still not widely adopted.

¹ National Water Strategy 2023-2040, page 25

² Al-Mamlaka, Jordan Groundwater Study, 2019.

³ UNICEF Jordan, Water and Sanitation Report, 2023

Weak policy enforcement, limited public awareness, and minimal community involvement further hinder progress, as climate change continues to reduce rainfall and intensify droughts. Though youth are deeply affected by these realities, they remain largely excluded from decision-making processes, despite their potential to drive innovation.

We Call For:

1. Modernize aging water networks to reduce leaks and losses.
2. Install smart meters on agricultural wells to track and regulate groundwater usage.
3. Launch a national monitoring plan using satellite data and GIS to track aquifer health and water losses
4. Set enforceable national targets for treated wastewater reuse in agriculture and industry.
5. Mandate rainwater harvesting systems in all new developments and incentivize retrofitting older buildings.
6. Providing tax incentives for industries that transition to reclaimed water, with compliance monitoring frameworks.
7. Ensure Transparent and Accessible Water Data for Youth and researchers.
8. Support greywater reuse in urban gardening and public landscaping, with updated technical standards.
9. Activate Water Basin Management Councils with local representatives to prioritize, monitor, and regulate water use.
10. Empower municipalities and local councils with tools and funding to lead water harvesting and greywater initiatives.
11. Link international climate financing to decentralized water projects, especially in vulnerable communities.

12. Scale up small-scale solar-powered desalination in remote, East and southern areas.
13. Support constructed wetlands and other nature-based solutions for decentralized water treatment.
14. Launch a mobile app for citizens to report leaks, illegal connections, and pollution.
15. Establish a Jordanian Youth Water Council (JYWC) to advise on policy, lead campaigns, and represent youth in national and international water dialogues.
16. Create a National Youth Water Innovation Fund offering microgrants, mentorship, and resources for local water solutions.
17. Develop internship and training pathways in water utilities, NGOs, and government bodies for students and early-career youth.
18. Integrate water and climate literacy into school curricula as cross-cutting themes and life skills.
19. Ensure water justice and equity by mapping water-poor zones and prioritizing investments in underserved rural, refugee-hosting, and low-income communities.
20. Develop national campaigns using local dialects and visual tools, like “Your Water, Your Future”, to promote conservation behavior.
21. Create water maps to guide equitable distribution and target underserved areas.
22. Ensure participation of women, youth, and marginalized communities in water decision-making.
23. Monitor the quality of treated waste water and verify its compliance with national standards before reintroducing it into dams, in order to prevent increased salinity levels and protect the long-term usability of these vital water sources.

24. Accelerate safe greywater reuse through clear national standards, support for household and community-scale decentralized treatment units, and quality monitoring, especially before injecting into dams to avoid rising salinity.
25. Invest in water diplomacy, build youth capacity in this field, and youth engagement in regional cooperation. Young professionals must be empowered with tools in hydro-diplomacy, negotiation, and science-policy dialogue to contribute to peaceful, equitable water-sharing agreements and climate resilience across borders. This also includes investing in renewed diplomatic engagement with the Syrian government to renegotiate Jordan's water rights in the Yarmouk Basin, ensuring fair and sustainable access based on updated hydrological and climatic realities and mutual benefit.

Relevant Stakeholders:

Ministry of Water and Irrigation (MWI), Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ), Jordan Valley Authority (JVA), Ministry of Environment (MoEnv), Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (MEMR), Environmental NGOs and Associations, Youth-led organizations and innovation hubs, National Center for Security and Crisis Management (NCSCM) and Jordan Investment Commission (JIC)

- **WEFE nexus**

Jordan continues to face interlinked challenges across its water, energy, food, and ecosystem sectors, driven by climate change, population pressures, and regional instability.

Yet current planning remains fragmented, with sectoral strategies lacking synergy and failing to reflect the complex interdependencies of the WEFE nexus. Addressing water scarcity without accounting for energy demand, or expanding food production without considering environmental impacts, undermines sustainability efforts.

We Call For:

1. Mainstreaming renewable energy in water infrastructure, particularly solar-powered pumping and treatment systems for agriculture and rural areas, to cut operational costs and emissions.

2. Promoting sustainable agriculture practices, including drip irrigation, crop diversification, and water reuse to enhance food security while conserving water.
3. Institutionalizing ecosystem valuation in project assessments and protecting natural ecosystems such as wetlands and forests that support the entire nexus.
4. Ensuring strategic environmental and social assessments (SEA/ESIA) for all cross-sectoral mega projects to evaluate cumulative impacts and avoid trade-offs.
5. Requiring each ministry to nominate a focal point for WEF E cross-ministerial coordination, with clear timelines and performance indicators.
6. Including WEF E integration in NAPs and NDCs to anchor resilience into national climate frameworks.
7. Allocating finance, such as green bonds and climate funds, to cross-sectoral nexus projects in vulnerable regions.
8. Developing public awareness campaigns to explain WEF E benefits and build community support for integrated solutions.

Relevant Stakeholders: Ministry of Water and Irrigation (MWI), Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ), Jordan Valley Authority (JVA), Ministry of Environment (MoEnv), Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (MEMR), Environmental NGOs and Associations, Youth-led organizations and innovation hubs, National Center for Security and Crisis Management (NCSCM), Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC), Ministry of Finance, and Jordan Investment Commission (JIC)

- **Waste Management Sector**

Jordan's waste management sector faces deep structural, regulatory, financial, and behavioral challenges that undermine its environmental and economic sustainability. With over 2.7 million tons of waste generated annually⁴, particularly around Amman, while rural and industrial areas remain underserved.

⁴ <https://www.giz.de/en/downloads/giz2024-en-factsheet-SoWas.pdf>

Fragmented institutional roles, outdated infrastructure, and weak enforcement of regulations have prevented the sector from transitioning to a circular economy. The lack of source separation, composting, and digital tracking systems further limits recovery and reuse, leading to lost economic value, rising public health risks, and mounting municipal costs.

We Call For:

1. Developing modern and geographically distributed infrastructure, including sanitary landfills, rural waste-sorting stations, and composting facilities, supported by smart collection systems using GPS and tracking technologies.
2. Institutionalizing the circular economy by embedding waste valorization, recycling incentives, and extended producer responsibility (EPR) into national economic and environmental strategies.
3. Mandating source-sorting at household, institutional, and industrial levels, supported by clear legislation, color-coded bins, and performance-based fines or rewards.
4. Strengthening local capacity and governance by clarifying the roles of the Ministry of Environment, local governments, and private operators under a unified national waste framework.
5. Digitizing the sector through a centralized national database and smart platforms to monitor waste flows, optimize logistics, and support transparency.
6. Expanding public-private partnerships (PPPs) to attract investment in recycling, composting, and waste-to-energy solutions especially in high-waste and underserved areas.
7. Supporting youth- and community-led innovations, such as biogas digesters, upcycling projects, and rural plastic recovery systems, to create green jobs and enhance participation.
8. Launching sustained education and outreach programs in schools, universities, and public campaigns to instill long-term behavior change and a culture of zero waste.

9. Ensuring safe handling of special waste streams, including medical, electronic, and agricultural waste, through dedicated treatment and recycling programs.

Relevant Stakeholders: Ministry of Environment (MoEnv), Ministry of Local Administration (MoLA), Greater Amman Municipality (GAM), Ministry of Health, Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship, Environmental NGOs and Associations, Youth-led organizations and innovation hubs, Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply, Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization (JSMO) and Environmental Rangers / Public Security Directorate

- **Energy Security**

Jordan seeks to achieve energy security by diversifying its sources of electricity generation, resulting in a mixed energy portfolio that includes natural gas, oil shale, and renewable energy. Despite the notable progress, particularly in renewable energy, the country's energy trajectory has faced many technical, political, and economic challenges.

Natural gas, for instance, remains a controversial source. After nearly full dependence on Egyptian gas following the 2003 agreement⁵, supply started to decline in 2008 and collapsed entirely due to repeated sabotage of the pipeline. This crisis prompted the government in 2015 to adopt liquefied natural gas (LNG) through a floating terminal in Aqaba⁶. Subsequently, the National Electric Power Company (NEPCO) signed a gas import deal with Israel, which triggered public and political backlash, especially due to the government's lack of transparency surrounding the agreement. According to the Economic and Social Council⁷, the deal poses significant legal, financial, and political risks, particularly as it includes a minimum purchase obligation and leaves Jordan vulnerable in case of supply disruption.

In parallel, oil shale was introduced as a promising domestic alternative. The Attarat project, officially launched in 2017 and completed in 2021⁸, faced heavy criticism for its high costs. The tariff per kilowatt-hour reached around 102, fills 41% higher than other

⁵ www.memr.gov.jo

⁶ <https://jordantimes.com/news/local/king-opens-aqaba-gas-termi>

⁷ www.tni.org/en/article/the-energy-sector-in-jordan

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<https://www.7iber.com/%d9%85%d9%86-%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%ba%d8%a7%d8%b2-%d8%a5%d9%84%d9%89-%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%b5%d8%ae%d8%b1-%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%b2%d9%8a%d8%aa%d9%8a/>

energy sources⁹. Reviews by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) highlighted the project's burden on NEPCO's finances, and the government has since pursued international arbitration against Attarat Power Company, citing "excessive unfairness" in the contract terms.

Regarding renewable energy, despite rapid growth since 2012¹⁰, unregulated expansion has led to substantial revenue losses for the state. Major consumers benefited from net-metering and wheeling systems to reduce their electricity bills, shifting from being contributors to recipients of subsidies, while vulnerable populations continued to lack support. Infrastructure development failed to keep pace, limiting the grid's capacity to absorb the generated power. Storage solutions such as the Green Corridor project and battery technologies have seen little progress due to weak financing.

A 2023 study by the Jordan University of Science and Technology revealed that the current grid capacity can only handle up to 30% of renewable energy integration without risking stability, far short of the infrastructure needed to achieve the national target of 35% renewable energy by 2035¹¹

Jordan's energy experience reveals a lack of a comprehensive strategic vision. While the country has successfully diversified its sources, poor contract management, inflated costs, and inefficient spending have hindered the achievement of true energy security.

We Call For:

1. Change the "Take-or-Pay" clause in all Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) for new projects and those to be renewed, and consider removing it from the renewed agreements, so that investors bear a portion of the risk calculated when establishing a project.

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<https://www.hala.jo/2019/12/23/%D8%B2%D9%88%D8%A7%D8%AA%D9%8A-200-%D9%85%D9%84%D9%8A%D9%88%D9%86-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%AE%D8%B3%D8%A7%D8%A6%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%83%D9%87%D8%B1%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%A1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%88/>

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<https://www.7iber.com/%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%b7%d8%a7%d9%82%d8%a9-%d8%a7%d9%84%d9%85%d8%aa%d8%ac%d8%af%d8%af%d8%a9-%d9%84%d9%84%d8%a7%d8%b3%d8%aa%d9%87%d9%84%d8%a7%d9%83-%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%b0%d8%a7%d8%aa%d9%8a/>

¹¹ Jordan University of Science and Technology, Network Capacity Analysis, 2023.

2. Imposing fair tariffs for the use of the electricity grid, taking into account (capacity, storage, reliability), while maintaining targeted subsidies for vulnerable groups and introducing incentives for reduced consumption and alternative energy use.
3. Strategic planning to support decision-making based on results, rely more on local energy resources, and shift away from reactive or ad-hoc approaches, by adopting long-term, data-driven planning.
4. Enhancing transparency in policymaking by involving local energy associations in the decision-making process, in order to reflect the needs of end consumers from all sectors in various policies and strategies.
5. Prioritizing public interest when developing policies and placing greater emphasis on serving citizens' needs in all decisions made.
6. Include parliamentary and public oversight in major energy deals to restore public trust and ensure national interest, and make energy contracts publicly available with no obscured or undisclosed clauses.
7. Develop a financial recovery plan for NEPCO, with the participation of youth.
8. Launch public-private partnerships for battery storage technologies, supported by climate finance mechanisms.
9. Establish innovation labs for youth to pilot solutions in energy efficiency, storage, and decentralized generation.
10. Include young professionals and researchers in policy consultations related to electricity sector reform, especially in tariff modeling, contract evaluation, and sustainable project development.
11. Prioritize investments in grid infrastructure, such as the Green Corridor project, to allow higher renewable integration
12. Enforce mandatory, periodic energy audits for industrial, commercial, and public buildings that consume above a defined energy threshold.
13. Integrate Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Renewable Forecasting by embedding AI and machine learning tools in national grid operations to forecast solar and wind generation
14. Establish a national open database for the energy and transport sectors that provides accessible information to all stakeholders government, civil society, researchers, and the private sector to serve as a reference for evidence-based decision-making and enhanced transparency.
15. Launch a national dialogue on the future of the energy and transport sectors, engaging youth, civil society, the private sector, and parliament, to develop a shared national vision aligned with climate objectives.

16. Develop smart infrastructure for the energy and transport sectors, and link them with sustainable city projects in line with the National Climate Adaptation Plan.
17. Initiate joint programs between the Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship and the Ministry of Energy to develop smart digital solutions for startups working in energy efficiency and green transport.
18. Implement capacity-building programs for members of the Jordanian Parliament on energy, climate, and sustainable transport policies, linking them with the Economic Modernization Vision to ensure legislative decisions are consistent with national goals for emission reduction and green economic growth.

Relevant Stakeholders: Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (MEMR), National Electric Power Company (NEPCO), Electricity Distribution Companies (EDCO, JEPCO, IDECO), Regulatory Commission (EMRC - Energy and Minerals Regulatory Commission), Ministry of Finance / Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, MODE, Parliamentary Energy and Environment Committee, Energy and Environmental NGOs and Associations, Youth-led organizations and innovation hubs, Academia and Research Institutions and Large energy consumers (Industrial & Commercial)

- **Industrial and Private Sector**

Jordan's industrial sector is heavily impacted by deep-rooted structural and regulatory challenges chief among them are high energy costs driven by NEPCO's financial burdens, bureaucratic red tape, and limited access to clean technology. These factors undermine the sector's regional competitiveness and weaken its readiness for green transition.

Factories remain burdened by elevated electricity and fuel prices, worsened by outdated tariff structures and slow renewable energy adoption. Also the lack of clear, stable policies and insufficient environmental oversight discourages investment and delays innovation. Moreover, infrastructure gaps from poor logistics to limited access to treated wastewater hinder efficient production and export potential.

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) face the added challenge of limited financing, inadequate technical training, and weak integration into national climate strategies. This is particularly critical as Jordan's exports risk exclusion from markets enforcing strict environmental standards, such as the EU.

We call for:

1. Revisit industrial electricity pricing via participatory platforms, including youth, industry experts, and economists, to ensure cost fairness and sustainability.

2. Establish strategic cooperation between universities and industrial facilities by directing graduation projects and academic research toward solving real-world challenges such as waste management, enhancing energy efficiency, and improving the productivity of Jordanian factories
3. Establish funding programs dedicated to youth-led projects, industrial decarbonization, energy efficiency solutions, and climate-smart innovations.
4. A structured and transparent roadmap for renewable energy deployment in the industrial sector that takes into account NEPCO's financial obligations and grid limitations. This includes integrating renewable solutions that do not destabilize the grid or undermine NEPCO's revenue base, while enabling industries to gradually shift toward cleaner and more cost-effective energy sources
5. Establishment of a joint industrial-NEPCO task force to co-design solutions that support the industrial sector's green transition while strengthening NEPCO's financial resilience and ensuring national energy security.
6. Mandate Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) in all industrial zones and integrate treated wastewater into planning with subsidies and technical support.
7. Introduce compulsory audits for large industries with a digital platform to track emissions and publish major violations.
8. Launch national programs for industrial internships and technical upskilling, focusing on clean production and the circular economy.
9. Stable and clear economic policies, with targeted investment incentives for high-value-added industrial sectors.
10. Creating an industrial green transition strategy that includes sector-specific reuse and emissions reduction targets.
11. Establishing a national database of certified green suppliers, contractors, and technology providers.

12. Stimulating economic diversification by supporting new sectors, such as technology industries, modern agriculture, and advanced manufacturing.
13. Simplify licensing, unify procedures across agencies, and ensure clear long-term economic and industrial strategies.
14. Support green certification, enforce the use of safe materials, and improve customs procedures to boost exports and meet global environmental regulations.
15. Invest in incubators and R&D centers to modernize industrial processes and expand into high-value sectors beyond traditional manufacturing
16. Develop an investment map for opportunities to establish decentralized industrial and domestic water treatment plants through the private sector and reuse treated water, then present these as feasible investment opportunities.

Relevant Stakeholders: Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (MEMR), Environmental NGOs and Associations, Youth-led organizations and innovation hubs, Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply, NEPCO (National Electric Power Company), Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization (JSMO), Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC), Jordan and Amman Chambers of Industry (JCI), Private investors & banks and GIZ Jordan

- **Engage people with disabilities in climate action**

People with disabilities are among the most climate-vulnerable populations in Jordan, facing disproportionate risks from both current and projected climate impacts. Despite commendable efforts by UN agencies to promote their inclusion in climate action, national strategies and plans still fall short in conducting comprehensive assessments of their specific vulnerabilities. For instance, the National Adaptation Plan does not mention any vulnerable categories, and the 2021 NDC only briefly references people with disabilities under "Targeting vulnerable groups in NDC implementation,"¹² without providing a proper assessment of their situation or a concrete action plan for their engagement.

Moreover, there remains a critical gap in the development and implementation of targeted adaptation measures that strengthen the resilience of persons with disabilities. These recommendations **are informed by people with mobility, hearing, and visual**

¹² Jordanian National Determined Contribution 2021 page 22

impairments, following a series of participatory workshops designed to ensure their voices and lived experiences are reflected in inclusive climate action frameworks.

We Call For:

1. A serious political decision to begin integrating persons with disabilities into climate action, starting with policies, and ensuring the representation of committees and organizations concerned with the rights of persons with disabilities in the bodies that develop these policies, all the way through to implementation.
2. Work to analyze the needs of persons with disabilities and assess their vulnerability to climate change by conducting comprehensive statistics in cooperation with the Jordanian Department of Statistics, in order to identify their locations in areas exposed to floods or other climate hazards. Efforts should also be made to develop early warning systems and prepare response plans and capabilities for rescue teams to evacuate them during floods.
3. Work to develop adaptation plans for persons with disabilities as a priority in national policies and strategies, such as the National Adaptation Plan, and hold periodic meetings between decision-makers and representatives of organizations for persons with disabilities.
4. Work to enhance the capacity of persons with disabilities regarding climate change and adaptation methods, while developing specialized educational materials tailored to their needs based on the type of disability.
5. Work to establish monitoring and evaluation teams to track progress in implementing the recommendations presented, while identifying clear performance indicators and creating mechanisms for submitting specialized reports from independent bodies to evaluate the measures taken.
6. Establish a dedicated, periodic forum that brings together persons with disabilities and decision-makers to discuss challenges and opportunities in climate action.

7. Work to provide funding for projects that focus on the integration of persons with disabilities into climate action.
8. Work to analyze plans, programs, and budgets allocated to climate action and evaluate their responsiveness to the rights of persons with disabilities, in order to identify potential entry points.
9. Ensure that evacuation and emergency procedures for environmental disasters are communicated in formats accessible to persons with hearing disabilities.

Relevant Stakeholders: Ministry of Environment, Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (HCD), Jordanian Department of Statistics (DoS), Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), UN Agencies and International Organizations and Civil Society & Youth-Led Initiatives

- **Green Technologies**

Green technology is a cornerstone of Jordan’s sustainable development plans, yet its growth is hindered by major structural and systemic challenges. These include weak infrastructure, limited access to financing for startups and SMEs, a lack of incentives in existing environmental legislation, and minimal integration of green technology into national education and training systems.

Additionally, unclear regulations, poor coordination between academia and industry, and the absence of green public procurement practices contribute to a fragmented ecosystem. Public awareness and social cultural acceptance of green technologies also remain low, slowing their adoption in both rural and urban settings.

We Call For:

1. Updating environmental legislation to include tax exemptions and clear protections for clean technology innovators.
2. Establishing a national green innovation fund and supporting incubators for youth- and women-led climate initiatives.

3. Launching a digital platform to certify and promote local climate-smart tools and solutions.
4. Stimulate partnerships between academia and industry by supporting applied research projects, technology incubators, and co-innovation programs focused on implementable environmental solutions.
5. Expand supporting infrastructure by investing in recycling plants, waste-to-energy facilities, and smart energy grids, and integrate them with urban planning.
6. Promoting green public procurement standards to create a market for eco-friendly products by regulators.
7. Launch national awareness campaigns to promote a culture of sustainability and the green economy among individuals and businesses, and highlight the economic and environmental viability of green technologies.

Relevant Stakeholders:

Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (MEMR) , Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship, Clean tech startups and SMEs and Banks and Microfinance Institutions

- **Biodiversity**

Jordan's rich ecosystems are increasingly threatened by uncontrolled urban expansion, overgrazing, unsustainable hunting, invasive species, water scarcity, and weak institutional coordination. Despite the biodiversity risks outlined in the National Climate Change Policy (2022–2050), the policy lacks concrete targets and funding mechanisms to halt nature loss. Climate change, pollution, and fragmented habitats continue to drive species decline and ecosystem degradation, while financial and technical gaps undermine the protection of nature reserves and community-led conservation.

An alarming rise in wildfires deliberately ignited by illegal wood trafficking gangs has further accelerated forest degradation, highlighting the urgent need to toughen

penalties and enforcement against environmental crimes. These pressures demand urgent, integrated action that embeds biodiversity into climate, agricultural, and urban planning.

We Call For:

1. Develop and implement a national biodiversity master plan with measurable targets, strong governance, and integration into climate and development strategies.
2. Allocate at least 10% of climate finance to biodiversity protection programs co-designed with local communities.
3. Integrate biodiversity considerations into all agricultural, infrastructure, and urban planning assessments.
4. Incorporate urban reforestation and ecological corridors into city master plans and zoning laws to strengthen habitat connectivity.
5. Establish biodiversity indicators within the national climate adaptation monitoring system.
6. Launch community-led conservation projects to restore and protect important ecosystems.
7. Combat invasive species with control plans and public awareness campaigns.
8. Enforce regulations to prevent overgrazing and illegal hunting, and enhance protections for endangered species.
9. Toughen penalties and legal consequences for individuals and networks involved in illegal logging and wood trafficking.
10. Launch a national crackdown on wood trafficking gangs through coordinated efforts between environmental, security, and judicial institutions.
11. Increase surveillance and monitoring of forested and protected areas using drones, satellite technology, and local ranger teams.

12. Allocate dedicated funding and equipment to forest protection units and local environmental enforcement.
13. Integrate biodiversity protection into climate, agricultural, and urban planning frameworks.
14. Support community-led conservation and reforestation programs in high-risk and degraded areas.
15. Strengthen institutional coordination between ministries and municipalities to address overlapping mandates on land and ecosystem management.
16. Promote regional and international cooperation on biodiversity, desertification, and conservation.

Relevant Stakeholders: Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Forestry Directorate (MOA), Local municipalities, and Royal Scientific Society (RSS)

- **Climate Justice**

Despite its growing climate ambition, Jordan's national strategies still fall short in addressing the disproportionate impacts of climate change on marginalized populations, particularly rural communities, low-income families, women, youth, refugees, and persons with disabilities. These groups often face the harshest environmental risks, yet receive the least access to adaptation resources, infrastructure, and participation in decision-making processes. While areas like the Jordan Valley, southern governorates, and the Badia are identified as climate-vulnerable, most adaptation investments remain concentrated in urban centers.

The absence of justice-based frameworks, disaggregated data, and meaningful community engagement mechanisms continues to widen social inequalities and undermine resilience.

We Call For:

1. Integrating climate justice into national policies, including a dedicated chapter in the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) with gap analyses, tailored interventions, and gender-responsive budgeting.

2. Amending Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) guidelines to require social impact analysis and engagement plans for vulnerable groups.
3. Establishing Community Adaptation Funds to support low-income households in acquiring rainwater harvesting systems, clean energy devices, and heat-resilient infrastructure.
4. Institutionalizing inclusive governance, with youth, women, and rural communities formally represented in bodies like the National Climate Change Committee (NCCC) and local municipal plans.
5. Developing a Climate Justice Index to measure equity in adaptation project outcomes and link it to municipal performance evaluations.
6. Facilitating access to low-cost renewable technologies via microfinance, local cooperatives, and private-sector partnerships.
7. Launching training programs for women and youth in green jobs such as solar energy installation, water-efficient farming, and urban agriculture.
8. Expanding climate-health services in pollution-prone and heat-stressed zones like Zarqa and Sahab through mobile health units and early warning systems.
9. Promoting community-led monitoring to track project implementation and ensure fair benefit distribution.
10. Deploying awareness campaigns in local dialects to build knowledge about climate rights and support access pathways.
11. Mainstreaming just transition frameworks into decarbonization efforts, supported by social protection schemes for workers and legal safeguards for communities facing displacement or degradation.

Relevant Stakeholders: Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Social Development, National Climate Change Committee (NCCC), Civil Society Organizations & Local NGOs, Ministry of Local Administration & Municipalities and National Centre for Human Rights (NCHR)

- **Health and Education**

To ensure a truly resilient and future-ready Jordan, it is imperative to integrate climate action across all critical sectors. As youth from across the Kingdom, we emphasize that health and education must no longer be treated as peripheral concerns; they are foundational pillars for national stability, equity, and preparedness in the face of climate challenges because neglecting these sectors threatens lives, deepens inequalities, and undermines long-term climate resilience.

We Call For:

1. Advance national climate-health surveillance systems and heatwave early warning mechanisms.
2. Mandate resilience audits for all public hospitals and health centers to assess climate readiness.
3. Integrate climate adaptation modules into healthcare professional training curricula.
4. Allocate priority funding for climate-resilient primary healthcare facilities, especially in rural and underserved areas.
5. Mainstream these actions into national health plans and climate resilience strategies.
6. Build upon the National Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan to Protect Health from Climate Change launched by the Ministry of Health, ensuring its full integration across existing health programs and services.
7. Establish green innovation hubs in schools to drive youth-led climate solutions and projects.
8. Make teacher training on climate education and digital teaching tools mandatory nationwide.
9. Designate climate change and sustainability education as core curriculum subjects, not optional content.
10. Foster public-private partnerships to strengthen access to climate education technologies and infrastructure.
11. Amend national education strategies to prioritize climate innovation and environmental literacy.

Relevant Stakeholders: Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Education (MoE), Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, National Center for Curriculum Development (NCCD), Jordanian Medical Association & Health Professional Syndicates and Youth-led Organizations and Student Unions

Contributors

1. Suad Talafha
2. Tuqa Nawafleh
3. Jihad Ali
4. Yara saleh
5. Afnan Ali
6. Malak Alamar
7. Sally Alnaim
8. Taef Alhabashneh
9. Rahaf Younes
10. Hamza Ikhmaes
11. Mira Yousef
12. Abdallah M AL-Fakore
13. Lubna Al Bsharat
14. Zeina Shdefat
15. Shrouq Alsaideh
16. Ahmad Haj Ali
17. Maher Almedani
18. Abdelrahman Musallam
19. Baraah Ahmad
20. Modaffar Alhamad
21. Aktham Allouzi

22. Haya Al Sharqawy
23. Saif Al-Qawman
24. Khaled Ali
25. Bishre Mahasneh
26. Naqa Alroh Nedal
27. Hamza Abualhayjaa
28. Sarah Al-Zubaidi
29. Mohammed Fleifel
30. Tala Habashneh
31. Tala Hindi

Designer:

Aymen Al Surri

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