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# Jordan Moves Toward FP Self-sufficiency

**Kingdom of Jordan to assume full responsibility for contraceptive procurement by 2009**



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*Jordan's Ministry of Health and USAID sign the Memorandum of Understanding that outlines the "Contraceptive Phase-over Plan."*

AMMAN | On December 18, 2006, the Kingdom of Jordan and USAID signed an agreement pledging ongoing cooperation to ensure access to modern contraceptive methods in Jordan. The "Contraceptive Phase-over Plan" lays the groundwork for a complete transfer of responsibility for contraceptive procurement to the Jordanian government by 2009.

Since 2005, Jordan has gradually taken on increasing responsibility for procuring contraceptive supplies. This plan is designed to foster Jordan's self-sufficiency in meeting the family planning needs of its citizens, while also ensuring long-term contraceptive security.

"The impact of not meeting family planning needs, as discussed in the Reproductive Health Action Plan (RHAP), was a big concern for the government. This concern, along with the early engagement of multisectoral partners in developing the RHAP and contraceptive security plan, was instrumental in getting government support of the phase-over plan," observed Basma Ishaqat, Country Director for the USAID | Health Policy Initiative, Task Order I, in Jordan.

Ishaqat serves on the Technical Committee for Contraceptive Security, which was formed in July 2003. The committee also includes representatives from the Higher Population Council, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance, USAID, and others. The committee will monitor progress of the phase-over plan and provide recommendations to resolve any challenges that arise during implementation.

"It was quite a unique experience for me to work with the Reproductive Health/Family Planning (RH/FP) Task Force as a member of the Financial Sustainability Component, for this component is of great importance for the sustainability of RH/FP programs," explained Mr. Hazem Khasawna, advisor to the Minister of Finance. "Carrying out the RHAP after the phase-out of international agency support requires continuous funding and the national government's provision of funding will have a positive effect at the national level, especially given that population and comprehensive development are strongly related."

USAID | Health Policy Initiative, Task Order I  
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The USAID | Health Policy Initiative, Task Order I, and its predecessor—the USAID-funded POLICY Project (1995–2006)—have played an active role in strengthening political commitment and building in-country capacity to manage FP/RH programs in Jordan. These projects spearheaded efforts to form the Technical Committee, facilitated design of the 2003–2007 RHAP, and provided technical assistance in costing and designing the contraceptive phase-over plan. The costing exercise helped show stakeholders that the phase-over plan was feasible and increased in-country support for the plan.

The contraceptive security strategy will form a key component of Jordan's new RHAP (2008–2012), which is also being formulated with technical assistance from the Health Policy Initiative.