ERfKE Support Project (ESP)

Background
In July 2003, the Government of Jordan launched the Education Reform for the Knowledge Economy (ERfKE) initiative. This five-year, $380 million program is one of the most ambitious education reform programs in the Middle East. The goal of Jordan’s education reform program is to re-orient education policy, restructure education programs and practices, improve physical learning environments, and provide improved and more accessible early childhood education. USAID will provide approximately $31.5 million between 2004 and 2008 through its ERfKE Support Project (ESP).

Purpose of ESP
The overarching goal of ESP is to improve the access, quality, and relevance of education for children and youth. ESP is providing support to the Jordanian Ministry of Education’s Reform Program through three major components: Early Childhood Education (ECE) and Youth, Technology, and Careers (YTC) and the Shorouq initiative supporting South Jordan which began in May 2006.

Interventions
Component 1: Improve and Expand Early Childhood Education (ECE) in Jordan by helping the Ministry of Education:
- Improve the physical quality of public school ECE facilities, refurbishing 170 kindergarten classrooms in underprivileged areas throughout Jordan.
- Modernize and update Jordan’s national ECE curriculum.
- Strengthen skills of ECE professionals, kindergarten teachers, principals, trainers, and supervisors.
- Enable greater parental participation in kindergarten classrooms
- Provide Ministry of Education with an accreditation framework
- Promote high quality and accessible ECE in public schools across Jordan.

Component 2: YTC is helping the Ministry of Education enhance the Management of Information (MI) Stream, and improve business and IT education in public secondary schools:
- Enhance the MI Stream curriculum for grades 11 and 12 to better prepare youth for the workplace.
- Develop e-Learning curriculum elements to support MI Stream teaching and learning.
- Introduce the use of information and communication technologies (ICT’s) into teaching and learning.
- Strengthen Ministry teacher training capacity for MI Stream teachers.
- Develop and implement a pilot school-to-career (STC) transition program in grades nine to eleven.

Component 3: Shorouq supports the MoE’s efforts to bring the South of Jordan into line with the principles of ERfKE:
- Expanding ECE through the provision of approximately 50 refurbished kindergartens.
- Provide training to Aqaba teachers in the use of technology in the classroom
- Enhancing the learning environment of MIS and ICT labs.
- Providing connectivity to all schools in Aqaba.
- Promoting the integration of the private sector and community in the life of schools.

Major Accomplishments as of September 30, 2006
Component 1: ECE
- Renovated and equipped 102 public kindergarten classrooms in underprivileged areas in Jordan.
- Trained 29 Ministry ECE trainers in using Jordan’s first national ECE curriculum.
- Trained 400 MI Stream teachers across Jordan in content knowledge and pedagogy for the six MI Stream subjects.
- MoE kindergarten supervisors received several trainings; Training of Trainers, classroom observations, capacity building through technical committee involvement.
- Assessed the national ECE curriculum with the Ministry of Education's Curriculum Department.
- Assisted curriculum department in modifying the national curriculum.
- Kindergarten school principals received two awareness seminars.
- MoE, ESP, and local organization worked on parental involvement initiative.
- Designed accreditation framework draft.
- Completed several field studies; EYE assessment, classroom materials, licensing I.

Component 2: YTC Management Information Stream
- Completed a (ToT) activity for 75 MI Stream trainers in the six newly introduced subjects (2004).
- Trained 400 MI Stream teachers across Jordan in content knowledge and pedagogy for the six MI Stream subjects (2004).
- Initiated the development of an integrated, project-based MIS program (6 of 70 MIS-Online learning modules currently produced, reviewed and tested).
Designed and delivered subject-specific training program using instructional design principles (40 instructional designers trained). Two hundred and thirty teachers currently enrolled in trainings.

- New teacher orientation program in 2006 was provided to some 270 new MIS teachers.
- Project-based learning training provided to 28 teachers working on MIS-Online, School-to-Career and MIS Communities of Practice with ESP.
- Designed MIS community of practice as means for delivering professional development, approved by Ministry.

### Technology Innovation

- Established Hashem Data Centre with MoE and other donors as the focal point for all e-learning and education management information, providing both technical assistance and equipment.
- Designed and developed Dokkanhe, an open source e-commerce learning tool and web application, adopted by the Ministry of Education for the MIS program and deployed on 22 servers around the Kingdom.
- Initiated a four-school Computers-On-Wheels pilot with Intel as an alternative to computer labs, and experimented with two wireless classrooms in one Jordan Education Initiative pilot schools.
- Developed an in-school professional development program for assisting teachers to use and integrate technology in teaching and learning (80 teachers).
- Developed both MIS learning environment and professional development center standards which have been approved by the Ministry.

### School-to-Career

- Initiated the School-to-Careers pilot program for grades nine to 11 in 12 Jordanian public schools through local company internships for 31 teachers.
- Launched the creation of a School-to-Career office within the Ministry, with regional (4) and local working groups (12) at the directorate and school levels.
- Mapped school-to-career community assets through the training of 120 youth mappers as part of STC's Community Youth Mapping Program
- Provided counseling workshops/career pathways and labor market information to pilot school counselors.

### Shorouq Activity

- Purchased 60 cabinets to secure and protect ICT equipment in MoE schools in South Jordan.
- Purchased and distributed 35 servers to Aqaba schools.
- Purchase and build out of additional servers of MIS schools in the South.
- Shorouq purchased wireless equipment for networking in Aqaba Schools.
- Wireless solutions were designed and tested for Aqaba Schools.
- BoQ’s were finalized for majority of Aqaba school renovations.
- Shorouq staff has undertaken surveys, interviews and focus groups with teachers, supervisors and administrators in the governorate of Aqaba to assess the needs and skills of teachers using ICT in the classroom.
- Meetings with Directorate of Supervision and Training have been held to discuss the first regionally based trainings for the MoE.
- Shorouq received sponsorship from Aqba Development Corporation for the expanded STC program in Aqaba City (Oct 2006).

**Start Date** July 1, 2004  
**Completion Date** July 1, 2008  
**Funding Level** $31,500,000

### Geographic Coverage

The ECE component covers 170 public schools throughout Jordan. The YTC component covers over 200 public schools across Jordan. The Shorouq component covers 77 schools in Ma'an, Tafila and Aqaba.

### Number of Beneficiaries

By 2008, the project beneficiaries will include:

- 10,600 kindergarten children;
- 1,000 ECE professionals;
- 65,000 students, 16 to 18 years old, studying in the MI Stream; and
- 2,000 youth participating in the STC pilot.

1000+ Teachers will receive training through YTC  
1200 teachers will receive training through Shorouq  
28,000 students will benefit from Shorouq improvements to schools.

To learn more, please contact:  
ERfKE Support Project (ESP)  
Phone: + (962) 6 552-7169  
Fax: + (962) 6 552-7568  
info@esp-jordan.org  
http://www.esp-jordan.org