

## **Responses to be annexed as part of Jordan's Results Transitional Report (2018-2021)**

**Page 3/Paragraph 2: “Jordan’s fourth OGP action plan (2018-2021) achieved strong levels of completion; however, the IRM did not find evidence of notable early results during the period under review”**

Response:

Several commitments have shown notable early results, such as:

- Commitment (1) led to simplifying the process of granting foreign funding approvals,
- Commitment (2) enhanced the enforcement of open data policy,
- Commitment (4) resulted in launching a platform for human rights complaints,
- Commitment (5) resulted in developing two protocols and institutionalizing the enforcement of the right to information law,

In addition, achieving open government is a continuous process, not a one-time event and the commitments will continue to show results and positive impact in the near future.

**Page 3/Paragraph 5: “Incremental changes envisioned by the commitments did not sufficiently engage with an increasingly restrictive environment for access to information and civic space”**

Response:

Jordan enacted Access to Information Law in 2007, as it stems from its belief that obtaining information is a fundamental right. The Fourth National Action plan (2018-2021) included two commitments related to open data policy and access to information, and both were substantially completed by the end of plan cycle, and led

for instance to the publishing of (645) open datasets by (74) government bodies within (15) sectors in year 2021 through the Open Government Data Platform (<https://data.jordan.gov.jo>). Therefore, there is no restriction whatsoever on access to information, citizens, civil society organizations, private sectors and all stakeholders exercise this right, obtained and shall continue to easily obtain any government information they request.

Jordan also attained a high ranking of “Collaborate” in the level of public influence in the last assessment of the fourth National Action Plan. Open Government is a top priority for the successive governments and the current one in particular has already taken significant steps to further realize open government values outside the OGP through expanding civic space and adopting a transparent and participatory approach which involve engagement of various stakeholders in developing national strategies and major programs.

**Page 3/Paragraph 5: “As of August 2021, Jordan fell short of the OGP values check in two key measures, repression of civil society organizations and control over their entry into and exit from public life”**

Response:

We believe that this statement is of general nature as the civil society in Jordan is not repressed, but on the contrary, CSOs are highly valued and regarded as key partners for development to the Government and they operate freely in accordance with the regulating rules without any control on entry or exit from public life. We strongly believe that the cited sources in the report were limited, and didn't represent the real situation on ground and the broad spectrum of the concerned stakeholders.

**Page 4/Paragraph 3: “Jordan mobilized the Defense Act of 1992 in March 2020. Since then, Freedom House reports that freedom of assembly and speech have faced limitations, including reporting on COVID-19”**

When the cabinet proclaimed the activation of the Defense Law in 17 March 2020, this was amid an unprecedented and exceptional global health situation. His Majesty King Abdullah II directed the government to ensure that the implementation of the Defense Law and the orders issued by virtue will be within the most limited scope possible without infringing on Jordanians’ political and civil rights, but, rather, safeguarding them and protecting public liberties and the right to self-expression enshrined in the Constitution.

At the onset of the pandemic, the nature of virus spread was unknown. Thus, there have been limitations only on freedom of assembly for a short period of time - (and so elsewhere in most countries) - to curb the spread of the virus, while freedom of speech has not been restricted in anyway. Back then, the government has assigned specific health officials to report on COVID-19 updates in order to unify the source of health news, and provide the public with accurate information substantiated by facts and figures.

**Page 8/Paragraph 2: “Completion of Commitment 4 (National Human Rights Violations Complaint Mechanism)”**

This commitment has been substantially completed before the end of 2021; launching a platform and dedicating a hotline for human rights complaints were accomplished on Sep 2021.