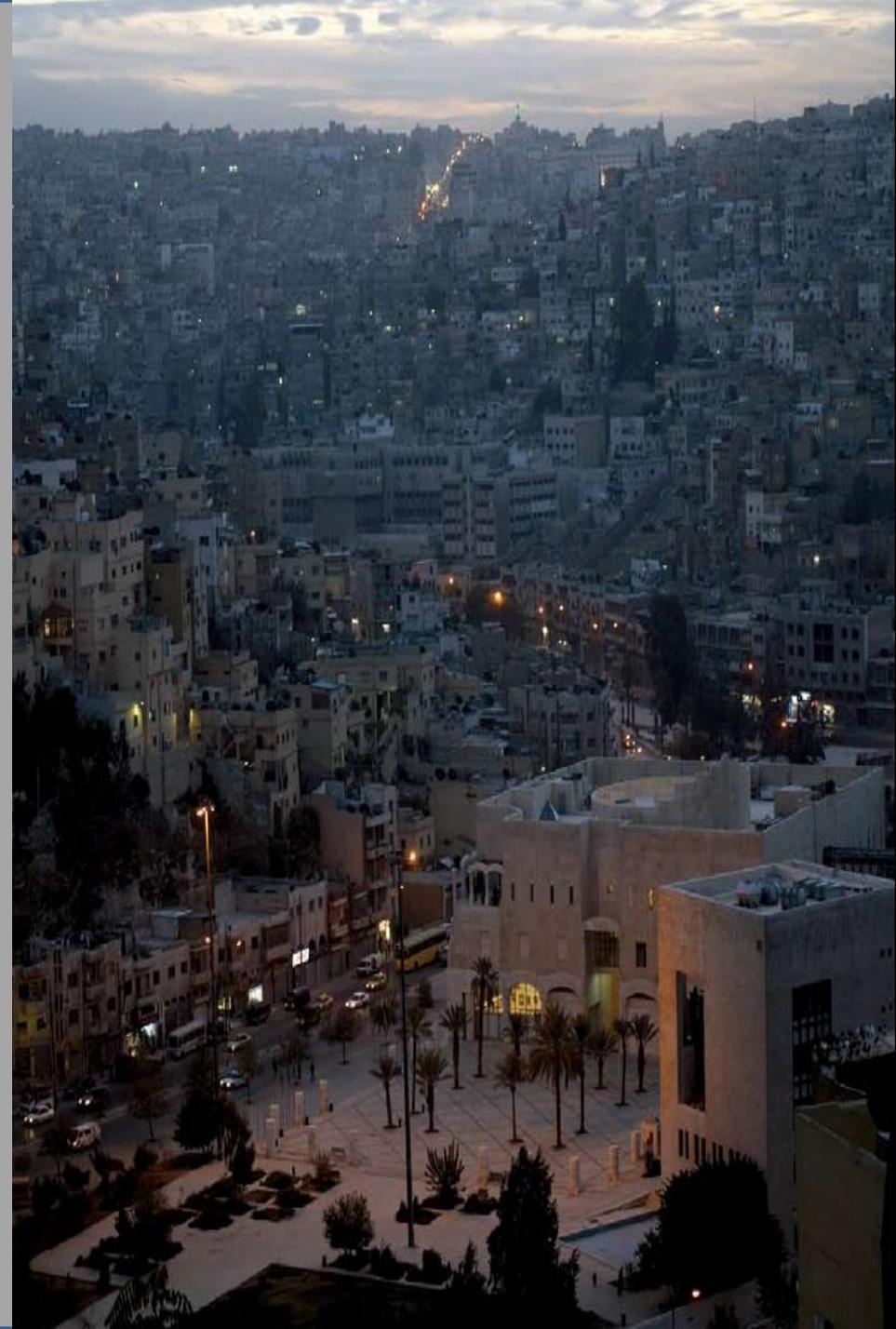


Amman Safe City for Women



Introduction:

Recent decades in Jordan have seen increasing interest in working to advance women's empowerment and participation in public life and decision making process, this interest has been reflected in the achievements relating to women's rights and raising women's status in society.



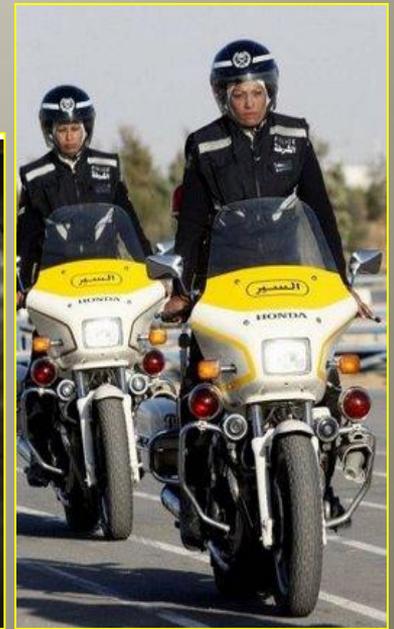
Achievements

- The tangible progress achieved whether in the area of policies, legislation or measures adopted to achieve gender equality and advancing the status of women throughout the Kingdom as stipulated in the Jordanian constitution.
- Continuous narrowing has been observed in the qualitative gap in many areas where women have been able to accede some leading positions in the Legislative Authority, as senators or deputies, as well as the Executive Branch as ministers, secretaries general, ambassadors, governors and directors general. Also Quota's helped in increasing the number of women in municipalities' councils.
- Women have also contributed to undertakings by regional and international organizations and held positions in the international and national judiciaries.

- Several national initiatives on advancing the status of citizens in general, and women in particular.
- Improvements have been significant regarding women's ability to ascertain education and medical care, with their shares in terms of life expectancy and educational achievement where women now outnumber men. No position is closed to Jordanian women any more.
- The enacting of protection from domestic violence law, which considered to be the first of its kind in the Arab region.



Jordanian women participated
in all aspect of life



Challenges

- Female participation rate in the labor force in Jordan is only 15%. Overall, the unemployment rate in Jordan of women is 25.4% while it is 9.6% for men. Women with degrees have an unemployment rate that is almost three times as high as that of men with degrees.
- Jordanian women make 52% of voters, yet their political participation still depends on quota, for example since the women had the right of participation in parliament, only 6 women were able to win seats in parliamentary throw election .
- Along with the previous challenges, women in Jordan facing the same problems that women around the world face, such as **Violence**, **Gender Discrimination**, **Harassment**, and **Abuse**.

Amman in Statistics

- Amman city Area = 700Km²
- Population= 2 million or 39% of Jordan's total population.
- 48.58% of the population are women.
- Amman city divided into= 27 region
- The last City council comprises= 68 members including the Mayor, 15 of them were women.

Vision “Amman, an Organized, Attractive, Safe, Livable city of heritage and authenticity; Amman is a city with a soul.”

Mission: “To provide high quality municipal services of excellence and to focus on urban development that brings balance between modernity and authenticity. To adopt initiatives which improve the quality of lives for local community focusing on the humanization aspects. This mission will be achieved through good planning, optimal investment of resources, and building partnership with stakeholders.”



As a result to the global financial crisis and then the political uprising that hit the Middle East region, Jordan was affected by more unemployment, tougher financial situations, and greater poverty, all of this was translated into an increase in crime. Data revealed that the number of committed crimes increased from 26878 crimes in 2010 to 31475 in 2011 and that the highest rates observed according to governorates is for the city of Amman, the country's capital and major city.

As more and more Jordan opens up its borders to refugees from the neighbor's countries that faces conflict and civil war such as Iraq and Syria and with the markets and cities become the frontiers of growth, there is increasing violence and crime in cities. And women are at risk of violence and harassment, risk is influenced by public places design choices and the organization of public services including transportation and energy, amongst other things being under a higher degree of insecurity women participation and use of city services might be more restricted. In order to overcome these restricts Greater Amman Municipality (GAM) handle its responsibility as the major provider of the services in Amman out of tow point:

- ❖ GAM's responsibility toward its citizen.
- ❖ GAM's role as a partner and facilitator with privet sector.

Polices & Action

- Achieving number of social responsibility initiative in partner with private sector and NGO's.
- Increase infrastructure for social activity.
- Increase programs and initiatives in Amman as friendly city for women, elder, children, and disabled.
- Gender dimensions in Infrastructure and transportation facilities (for the first time in Amman).
- Improve opportunities and access to jobs for disadvantaged community by enhancing employment areas.
- As part of its social responsibility GAM gives aid to local association and NGO's by providing them with tools, furniture and sometimes even employee.
- Establishing a women section in GAM to cooperate with women NGO's and association.
- **Hosting Amman forum of Metropolis International Women Network, and enhance women's engagement through its activities.**

Our forum activities that dealt with the issue of safe city

- Addressing the issue of Women Friendly City with Jordanian municipality's councilors and administration.
- Seminars in cooperation with public security directorate to address the issue of violence against women, trafficking, harassment, and the places that offer help and support for women who faces any form of abuse.
- Sharing good practices in the issue of safe city with municipality councilors and employees such as Soul Women Friendly City Project.
- Legal empowerment program which includes seminars to explain laws that deal with women's issues and giving legal consultation, in cooperation with several institution and NGOs.
- Arrange meeting between decision makers in municipality and working women to give them the opportunity to speak out their issues and problems.



- Involving women in municipality in national initiatives and policies through meeting and seminars such as the Jordanian National Strategy for women, to include the issues that faces women in city in these policies.
- One of our network initiatives “Involved” aiming to engage youth girls in municipality work by giving them knowledge about the different aspect of good governance and the chance to meet decision makers and municipality councilor members.
- Evaluate some of municipality services through the lens of women and providing the result to the responsible administration in municipality. Women perspective in transportation system was taking in consideration as a result of one of these meetings where for the first time a gender dimension was adopted in Amman newest transportation system the BRT.
- Legal consultant program, in cooperation with the Jordanian committee for women and the legal department in GAM, our office receives complaint from women employees in GAM and provide them with legal advice whether in issues related to their work or in privet issues.



“If City is Safe for Women then
it’s Safe for **Everyone**”



Recommendation:

- ❖ Safety can't be separated from municipal function. Achieving safety demand greater decentralization of city management and expanding roles of cities in national politics and economic activities and responding to opposite demands of different factions of society.
- ❖ Identify the issues, concerns and challenges facing women in cities, share and learn about programming, strategies and future plans, and articulate a variety of practices that have worked well to helped us come to better understand the complexity of issues facing women and a way to overcome these issues.
- ❖ Providing resources and data on how much women benefit from the municipality services and comparing the number with different variables such as class, place, marital status, education etc... in order to balance a diversity of women's realities from region to region, while also fostering the strengths and abilities of their access to services.

- ❖ Engaging girls and youth in the discussion and debate on creating healthy, safe, and sustainable cities. Community activism and Girl-specific programs are an important element in increasing girls' engagement and representation. Also it helps girls to build capacity to take action in their communities as well as at policy level.
- ❖ Participation of women in all facets of the community is key to the health development of that community, yet governance is not a very accessible tool for women. Increasing women participation in local governing bodies will generate awareness of the disadvantaged situations of women among policy makers.
- ❖ Violence against girls and young women needs to be recognized and identified by local authorities, individuals and policy-makers. In order to break the silence around gender-based violence and to validate girls' concerns and voices.

Thanks