

MEDIA RELEASE



Australian Government



Australia and Jordan Sign Funding Agreement to Improve Access to Education

AMMAN 26 August 2018 – Australia will provide AUD 10 million (JOD 5.2 million) over the next two years to support the Government of Jordan’s commitment of having all children in education. Australia will join Canada, the European Union, Germany, Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States in contributing to the Jordanian Ministry of Education’s Accelerating Access Initiative.

Jordan hosts more than 666,000 Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR. However, despite the tremendous support provided by the Government of Jordan and the international community to improve education opportunities, 38 per cent of Syrian refugee children in Jordan remain out of school.

“Every child has a right to a quality education in a safe and inclusive environment,” said **H.E. Miles Armitage, Australian Ambassador to Jordan**. “As the crisis in Syria continues, we need to increase our efforts to expand access to schooling and allow children to reach their full potential. Australia is pleased to be working directly with the Government of Jordan and the other donors to strengthen Jordan’s school system. This will benefit all children in the Kingdom, regardless of nationality.”

H.E. Dr Azmi Mahafzah, the Minister of Education, stressed the need to continue coordination between Australia, Jordan and all partners in education in light of the increasing burdens of the crisis, and as the Ministry of Education works at integrating Syrian students into its systems and planning efforts. His Excellency stated: “Australia and Jordan have always had very close relations, and this funding agreement comes to further solidify our mutual understanding and cooperation, especially in support of the Syrian refugee crisis. The Accelerating Access Initiative has been providing education for all Syrians in the Kingdom, and this support will allow the Ministry of Education to further its efforts under this initiative.”

The Accelerating Access Initiative focuses on improving the quality of public schools operating in double-shifts, certain single-shift schools that host Syrian students, and refugee camp schools. It includes support for teacher salaries and training, tuition fees for students, kindergarten classes, textbooks, school operational costs, and a catch-up program for out-of-school children.

This funding is part of Australia’s three-year AUD 220 million (JOD 115 million) humanitarian response in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria to meet both the short and long-term needs of vulnerable populations. In Jordan, Australian aid is helping to increase access to education and livelihood opportunities for refugees and vulnerable Jordanians, and providing emergency assistance to meet basic needs.

*** END ***