

Promoting Quality in Inclusive Education in Jordan (PROMISE)

Strengthening diverse and inclusive education in Jordan

Context

Children with disabilities are severely disadvantaged in Jordan. The Jordanian Ministry of Education estimates that more than two thirds of them have no access to education. Children from families with a refugee background are particularly at risk.

The Jordanian government wants to improve this situation. To this aim the Jordanian Ministry of Education, together with the Jordanian Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (HCD), has published the Ten-Year Strategy for Inclusive Education (2020-2030, IES). The strategy aims to provide quality education for all children, with a particular focus on promoting access to education for children with disabilities. In 2022, another major step was taken towards more inclusive education in Jordan. In the Jordan Declaration on Inclusion and Diversity in Education, the Ministry of Education and its partners agreed for the first time on what 'inclusion' means to them.

While considerable progress is being made at a political level, schools are struggling to put inclusive education into practice. There are various reasons for this. Many teachers, but also principals, know too little about barriers for vulnerable children and especially for children with disabilities. This is hardly taught in their training and further education. In addition, many classrooms are overcrowded, as many refugee children have come to Jordan because of the war in Syria. This makes it difficult to meet the needs of all children and to create a learning environment that is inclusive of children with disabilities.

Our Approach

On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is supporting the Jordanian government in achieving its goals. The project "Promoting Quality in Inclusive Education in Jordan (PROMISE)" is working together with the Jordanian Ministry of Education on two tasks. On the one hand, education for all children in public schools is being improved. On the other hand, it specifically promotes the inclusion of children with disabilities.

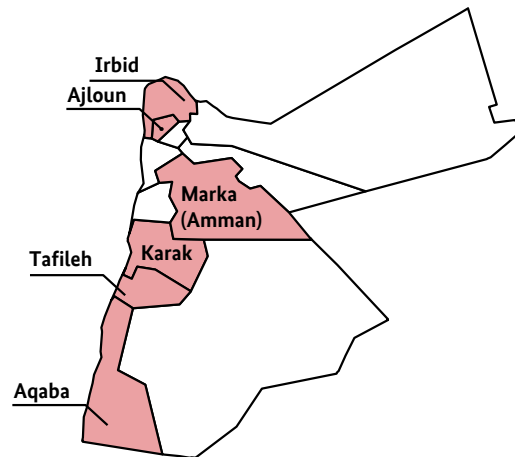
The work of PROMISE focuses on four different areas:

1. **Education policy:** The project strengthens the planning and coordination of the Jordanian Ministry of Education so that children with disabilities are included throughout education policy. In Jordan, boys and girls are taught separately. Therefore, the different challenges in boys' and girls' schools must also be considered. For example, boys often perform worse at school because their male teachers are often less well trained.

Title	Promoting Quality in Inclusive Education in Jordan (PROMISE)
Commissioned by	Federal German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Region	Marka (Amman), Karak, Ajloun, Aqaba, Irbid, and Tafileh
Political partner	Jordanian Ministry of Education (MoE)
Duration	06.2023-05.2026

2. **Cooperation with schools:** PROMISE works with the Ministry of Education to support a total of 60 schools in living inclusion on a day-to-day basis. To this end, schools are supported in developing plans with activities and implementing them over the course of the school year. Activities include, for example, promoting the improvement of teaching methods, offering creative project weeks or organizing events for parents on the topic of inclusion.

Overview of PROMISE school cooperations



3. **Teacher training:** The Jordanian Ministry of Education offers seminars and training courses for its administrative staff and for teachers. PROMISE supports the Ministry to ensure that teachers learn what they need in the classroom. This includes, for example, the ability to teach large classes. It is also important for teachers to know and practise how to design lessons so that children learn in the way that best suits them. This is particularly important for children with disabilities.



Children who previously had no access to pre-school education take part in START program activities at a school in Marka. Through START, children learn numeracy and literacy skills at pre-school level to ensure a smooth transition to Year 1.

4. Awareness of inclusive education: In most countries around the world, there are still strong prejudices against people with disabilities. Jordan is no exception. To change this, PROMISE supports the organisation of events at school, community and national level that promote knowledge about inclusion and help break down prejudices. At the schools, a non-governmental organisation works with PROMISE to carry out art projects on the topic of belonging. Media campaigns are launched with the message that children with disabilities - just like all other children - have a right to education. This raises awareness of inclusion in society. Researchers accompany these activities and make the results available to the Jordanian Ministry of Education and its partners.

Impact

124
Activities for an inclusive school culture implemented

32.925
Students reached

20
Schools ran a campaign on 'Belonging'

290
Teachers and ministerial staff trained



'In our neighbourhood project, I saw my dreams take shape. It's more than just buildings; it's about expressing our hopes, fears, and aspirations.' (Student in Aqaba)



'The project provided a platform for students to express their ideas and contribute to their community in a meaningful way.' (Teacher in Aqaba)

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