

# WORLD GOVERNANCE SURVEY

## JORDAN

### I. Steps Taken in Carrying Out the Survey

Though English is widely spoken in Jordan, the questionnaire was translated into Arabic in order to avoid any misunderstandings.

Fifty-five copies of the questionnaire were handed out. The selection of experts tried to follow a balanced distribution among the different groups identified in the project (certain experts could fit under more than one category). The number of selected experts in each group was the following:

	Sent	Returned
Lawyers & Judges	8	6
Editors & Media	6	5
High Ranking Civil Servants	9	6
Parliamentarians	7	4
Entrepreneurs	10	7
Local NGOs	10	7
Academics & Consultants	5	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>40</b>

The selection of experts kept a balance between senior people with long experience and caring for governance, women experts, and some representatives of the relatively young generation.

Some of the experts selected initially had to travel abroad, so they were replaced by others from the same category. Many hesitated to fill the questionnaire and have not returned it. The process took time and a lot of follow up efforts. Hence, a total of 40 copies were completed as indicated above

The questionnaires were sent to the experts together with a letter explaining the WGS Project. Upon completion and return, the questionnaires were checked to make sure that all questions were answered and marked clearly. Not all experts provided comments. Yet, the available comments prove to be very useful for the analysis.

### II. Data Processing

The results of the 40 questionnaires are available in the attached Excel spreadsheet. The average score for each dimension is also available.

The most significant expert comments are the following:

While there are many political parties in Jordan (22), they remain fragmented and ineffective. The tribal system continues to dominate representation. Individuals are free to join parties. The survey did not include any question about political parties.

<b>Dimension</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>5 years ago</b>	<b>Now</b>	<b>Change</b>
Socializing	Civil Society	3.04	3.21	.17
Aggregating	Political Society	2.53	2.60	.07
Executive	Government	3.54	3.66	.12
Managerial	Bureaucracy	2.83	3.00	.17
Regulatory	Economic Society	3.24	3.59	.35
Adjudicatory	Judicial System	3.27	3.45	.18
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>3.07</b>	<b>3.25</b>	<b>.18</b>

There is a good degree of democracy in Jordan. However, the Election law should be amended to give due consideration to all segments of the population. Women participation in the political process is still weak. There is a quota for minorities in the Parliament. Quota for women in the Parliament ought to be introduced, especially because female enrolment at all levels of education is very high.

The Government gives top priority to solve the problems of poverty, unemployment and economic slowdown. Jordan has been implementing the Economic Adjustment Programs since 1989.

Employment in the public sector needs improvement, giving priority to qualification. Government agencies are overstaffed.

The infrastructure is very well developed all over the country, including rural areas (water, electricity, roads, telecommunication, education, health...).

In the 1990s, the government adopted a more liberal economic policy and took measures to for Jordan to be integrated into the world economy. Jordan joined the WTO and established free trade areas with Arab countries, the European Union and the United States. It introduced all laws and regulations required.

The judiciary system needs to be reformed; judges need to be upgraded and their condition improved. There is currently a Royal Commission to look into this issue. It is independent and supports human rights.

In general, there is a need for reforms in the administrative, education, judiciary and political systems. The civil society must become more active. Lately, there has been advance towards modernization in all fields.

The Survey Questionnaire should have covered political parties and local government.

### III. Preliminary Analysis

Some experts asked certain clarifications while others did not want to respond, probably concerned that their responses would not be kept confidential. This was definitely the trend among members of the Parliament. However, the findings are accurate and well-balanced in representing the situation now and five years ago. Criticism of the political and other systems were provided together with suggestions for improvements.

The lowest score of the six dimensions is for the aggregating dimension. This can be explained by the need for improvement in the Election law, by the weak political parties and the tribal influences. On the other hand, the highest score is for the executive dimension. The government pays special attention to public safety and security of the citizens. It also implements special assistance programs for the poor.

The total score for all dimensions of the Survey show an improvement over the last five years. The highest improvement was in the regulatory dimension. The government had to review all economic laws and regulations in order to be in line with the membership of WTO and other free trade agreements. Laws dealing with companies, securities, patents and trademarks, anti-trust, insurance, banking, foreign investment competition and many others were reviewed from a liberal perspective. Over the last five years, a peace treaty was signed with Israel creating high hopes for economic prosperity. However, this was short-lived and Jordan economy experienced an economic slowdown. The passing away of late King Hussein and his long illness created some uncertainty. But the coming of King Abdulla II in February 1999 encouraged the civil society, enhanced liberalization and underlined the economic problem as top priority for the country.

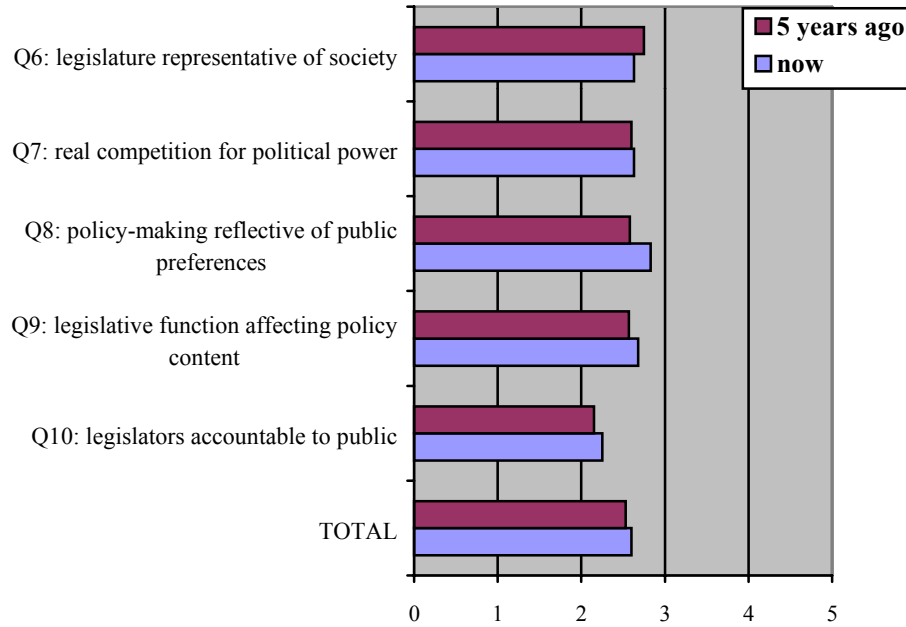
Since its establishment as a state in 1921, Jordan has been a liberal country with a well-established political system based on constitutional monarchy. It never adopted socialism, although the role of the government strengthened till the early 1990s when the Economic Adjustment Program started being implemented. There is a need for more reliance on the private sector in economic activities and for privatization. Economically, Jordan is a middle-income country. According to the UNDP Human Development Report of 2000, Jordan ranked 92 among the 174 countries with a human development indicator (HDI) of 0.721. This was lower than few years ago (1997) when Jordan ranked 83 with an HDI of 0.730. This drop was due to the economic slowdown that started in 1996.

Politically, Jordan has experienced good progress in protecting human rights, establishing democratic institutions (including the parliament), allowing parties and respecting civil society institutions. However, due to the impact of serious developments in the region (Palestinian-Israeli conflict to the west and Iraq to the east), the need for important changes in the Election law and current imbalanced representation continue to limit a higher ranking for the level of governance in Jordan.

Many experts thought that the questionnaire was very well researched and well-presented. The following areas could be covered more extensively in the future: political parties and local government.

#### IV. Charts: Aggregating and Regulatory Dimensions

**Figure 1: Aggregating Dimension**



**Figure 2: Regulatory Dimension**

