

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Project ID:	10528
Project Name:	Achieving land degradation neutrality targets through restoration and sustainable management of degraded land in Northern Jordan
Countr(ies):	Jordan
Implementing Agency:	FAO

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I. Overview

A. Description

Project name

Achieving land degradation neutrality targets through restoration and sustainable management of degraded land in Northern Jordan

Country

Jordan

GEF ID

10528

Implementing Agency

FAO

Executing Entity

Royal Scientific Society (RSS)

Trust Fund

GET

Project Type

FSP

PIR Submission

9/8/2025

Fiscal Year , PIR Number

FY 2025 , 2nd PIR

Objective

Achieving land degradation neutrality targets through restoration and sustainable management of degraded land in Northern Jordan

B. Ratings and Disbursements

Implementation Progress

Moderately Satisfactory

Development Objective

Moderately Satisfactory

Overall risk

Low Risk

Project Financing

4,380,000.00

Cumulative Disbursement

1,928,999.72

C. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval

4/7/2022

Agency Approval

5/19/2022

Implementation Start 1/19/2023	First Disbursement 5/31/2023
Expected MTR 4/18/2025	Actual MTR
Expected Completion 1/18/2027	Actual Completion

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

A. Progress: Information on progress and outcomes of project implementation activities

Under Component 1 of the project—Enabling Environment for LDN Planning and Monitoring—the recruitment of key consultants to support implementation remains incomplete, resulting in delays across several activities. Recruitment is expected to be finalized by September 2025. Likewise, the baseline assessment, although initially planned following consultations in October 2024, has not yet been initiated and is now scheduled to begin in August 2025.

Despite these delays, important progress has been made. The OP (RSS), with support from FAO international consultants, has updated the Land Degradation Neutrality Decision Support System (LDN-DSS), incorporating new open-source geospatial data and improving its interface. A three-day training workshop in November 2024 engaged 43 participants from various sectors, significantly strengthening their technical capacity in spatial analysis, scenario planning, and data-driven decision-making. This has helped foster intersectoral collaboration and improve long-term land management planning.

Field assessments at 57 intervention sites informed the launch of DLDD mitigation and restoration activities across eight pilot sites in Irbid, Mafraq, and Ajloun. DLDD interventions focus on forest restoration (terracing, contour lines, native seed planting) and rangeland rehabilitation (including *Atriplex halimus* planting) started across 8 pilot sites located within three governorates. Joint technical field visits with the Ministry of Agriculture are ongoing to finalize implementation modalities. A no-cost extension is under consideration to ensure full delivery of expected outcomes.

Under Outcome 1.2, a national consultant was recruited to conduct a gap analysis of policies related to land, forestry, and agriculture. The study, however, has faced significant delays and remains incomplete. In parallel, the project began reviving the National Committee to Combat Desertification under the Ministry of Environment. A draft Terms of Reference (ToR), developed in June 2025, outlines the committee’s mandate and will serve as a basis for strengthening national coordination under the UNCCD framework.

A documentary video highlighting restoration efforts with the Ministry of Agriculture was also produced and shared on social media and official platforms to raise public awareness.

Under Component 2, between late 2024 and early 2025, four awareness workshops and five FFS were implemented in Ajloun, Mafraq, and Irbid. These activities engaged over 220 participants and focused on Sustainable Land Management and practical agricultural training. In addition, the rehabilitation of a Ministry nursery is underway to support the multiplication of native plant species using seeds collected through FFS activities.

B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

The project has encountered critical delays in implementation, largely due to the novelty of the LDN concept in the country. As a result, there is a limited pool of qualified consultants with the necessary expertise to support the technical and institutional demands of the project. Additionally, constraints related to subcontracting have restricted the implementing partner's ability to establish new partnerships with specialized institutions that could otherwise enhance delivery capacity.

To address this, the project team has developed detailed ToRs for the recruitment of individual consultants to fulfill the required technical roles. A formal agreement has also been signed with the Ministry of Agriculture to support coordination and implementation. Despite these measures, the recruitment process remains ongoing, and delays persist. In response, FAO is currently considering a project revision to allow for the engagement of new specialized partners with the capacity to support effective implementation of key components.

Furthermore, improved coordination with other stakeholders and initiatives—particularly those identified as co-financing partners—is needed to ensure alignment, avoid duplication, and optimize the project's potential impact. Strengthening these partnerships will be essential to ensure the project meets its intended objectives and reaches the targeted beneficiaries in a timely and effective manner.

C. Stakeholder Engagement

Profile	Stakeholder name	Type of partnership	Progress, results & Challenges on Stakeholder's Engagement
Government Institutions	Ministry of Agriculture	Co-financing partner Chair of PSC	MoA is a member of the PSC. An agreement was signed for project implementation with RSS. They nominated a focal point in Amman. Delays on signing the subcontracting agreement with MoA. The agreement was supposed to be signed during the last quarter of 2023, but it was signed in March 2024.
Government Institutions	Ministry of Environment	Co-financing partner PSC	Member of the PSC. They participated in the main project events. They nominated a project focal point in Amman.
Government Institutions	Dept. Lands & Irrigation	Co-financing partner	participated in the Inception Workshops
Government Institutions	Dept. of Forestry + Rangeland	Co-financing partner	Member of the PSC, Joint Planning Meetings of the agreement between MoA and RSS
Government Institutions	NARC	Co-financing partner	
Government Institutions	Ministry of Water and Irrigation	Co-financing partner	Member of the PSC
Government Institutions	MOPIC	Co-financing partner	Member of the PSC
Government Institutions	Ministry of Municipal Affairs	Co-financing partner	Member of the PSC
Government Institutions	Agricultural Credit Corporation	Co-financing partner	Member of the PSC
Government Institutions	Regional Agricultural Dep. at Governorate	Co-financing partner	Joint Planning Meetings of the agreement between MoA and RSS field implementation of the activities
Government Institutions	Municipalities	Co-financing partner	participate in meetings and workshops
NGOs	NGOs	indirect beneficiaries	participate in meetings and workshops
Others	National Committee to Combat Desertification (NCCD)	indirect beneficiaries	the project is working to reactivate the committee

D. Gender Equality

Category	Yes/No	Briefly describe progress and results achieved during this reporting period.
a. Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources	Yes	Women are involved and encouraged to participate to at local and national level in access to and control over natural resources
b. Improving women's participation and decision making	Yes	Women are selected and encouraged during the project implementation stage to actively participate during decision making fora
c. generating socio-economic benefits or services for women	Yes	Women directly benefiting from the value chain component of the project
M&E system with gender-disaggregated data	Yes	Gender disaggregated data are included in the M&E tools
Any other good practices on gender		

E. Knowledge Management

Knowledge management and Learning (KML): Does the project have a KML strategy?	Yes
If YES, what is the implementation progress? In your answer, please describe how the project is fostering knowledge sharing and learning among stakeholders at national and sub-national level.	the project has design an LDN DSS system that allow the sharing of informaiton and knowledge. Furthermore, the project is actively participating to regional and national knowledge and learning sessions. The project is also promoting TSP and an LDN/Desertification working group in Jordan for coordination and knowledge sharing
If NO, how does the project identify, collect and document good practices?	
Please list good practices, including key-technical and/or institutional innovations, from the project thus far.	
Communication strategy: Does the project have a communication strategy?	No
Please provide a brief overview of the communications successes and challenges this fiscal year.	the project has succesfully published a video on the project
Human-interest story: Please share a human-interest story from your project, focusing on how the project has helped to improve people's livelihoods while contributing to achieving the expected Global Environmental Benefits. Please indicate any Socio-economic Co-benefits that were generated by the project. Include at least one beneficiary quote and perspective, and please also include related photos and photo credits.	The community engagement is at its preliminary stages. The target communities will start benefiting from the project during the year 2025. Human-interest stories and Socio-economic co-benefits generated by the project will be collected and disseminated.
Please provide links to related website, social media account	linkedin facebook page instagram page https://x.com/FAOJordan/status/1935670540297032116
Please provide a list of publications, leaflets, video materials, newsletters, or other communications assets publised on the web, if any.	DSS : https://projectgef.fao.users.earthengine.app/view/jordan-ldn FERM : https://ferm.fao.org/search/initiatives/OqYqpsbGGZKVOFQGm7ZB =Package 'C:\Users\3752\OneDrive\Documents\Jordan ALDNT project restoration activities 262025.mp4!'"
Please indicate the Communication and/or knowledge management focal point's name and contact details.	FAO: Alkhayat Dima Email: dima.alkhayat@fao.org RSS: public relation department

III: Minor Amendments

CONTEXT	
Result Framework	
Components and Cost	
Institutional And Implementation Arrangements	
Financial Management	
Implementation Schedule	
Executing Entity	
Executing Entity Category	
Minor Project Objective Change	
Safeguards	
Risk Analysis	
Increase of GEF Financing up to 5%	
Co-Financing	
Location of Project Activity	
others	

IV: Geographic Coordinates of Project Activities

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Irbid Governate /	32.55000	35.85000	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Aljoun Governate /	32.33250	35.75167	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Mafraq Governate	32.39939	36.	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

V. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category	Title
M and E Document	GEFID10528_2025PIR_FAO_Jordan