



Aqaba Week

A City Friendly to Women's Work

8 March 2023

Background

In 2021, women's economic participation in Aqaba stood at 12.9% compared to men's rate of 59.1%. Women suffer from multiple challenges at different levels due to several factors including social perception and poor working conditions.

In December 2022, Mekanati Activity signed MOU with Aqaba Specialized Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA). This MoU marks ASEZA's and USAID Mekanati's commitment to work towards Aqaba as a City Friendly to Working Women. This partnership sets the foundation for supporting women dignified and rewarding employment in the private sector and pathways to professional leadership in both the private and public sectors. ASEZA and USAID Mekanati will work together to build an enabling environment around women's economic participation and employment and trigger multiple interventions at different levels to eventually lead to a self-sustaining positive impact.

Through this partnership with ASEZA, dialogue, and initiatives with local decision-makers and stakeholders, Mekanati will work to foster an enabling environment for women's waged employment and leadership opportunities that promote the growth and development of Jordan.

Purpose

Launch of Aqaba as A City Friendly to Women's Work.

Objectives

- Announce Aqaba as A City Friendly to Women's Work.
- Celebrate International Women's Day

Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2023

Location: Intercontinental Aqaba

Agenda:

Time	Subject	Speaker/ Facilitator
9:30–10:30	Welcome and Registration	Mekanati Team
10:30– 11:00	Opening Remarks	- Nermeen Murad Garlick Chief of Party, USAID
	Celebrating International Women's Day	Mekanati



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rebecca Acuna EDE Deputy Director, USAID Mission Representative - H.E Nayef Hmeidi Al-Fayez Chief Commissioner, ASEZA
11:00- 11:30	Gender Indices: Women in Jordan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nermeen Murad Garlick Chief of Party, USAID Makanati
11:30 -13:30	<p>Session 1</p> <p>Economic Reform Agenda: Unleashing Jordan's Full Economic Potential</p>	<p>Facilitator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - H.E Abla Amawi Senator, Jordan Upper House of Parliament (Senate) <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sahl Dudin Executive Director, Ayla - H.E. Hamza Al-Haj Hassan Deputy Chief Commissioner Commissioner for Economy, ASEZA - H.E Farouq Al-Hadidi Secretary General, Ministry of Labor - H.E Musa Shteivi Chairman, Economic and Social Council of Jordan (ESCJ)
13:30-14:30	Lunch	
14:30-16:00	<p>Session 2</p> <p>Key Economic Sectors in Aqaba: Women's Employment in the Private Sector</p>	<p>Facilitator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - H.E Nassima Al-Fakheri Former Commissioner, Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority



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		<p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Tariq Hijazi Director General, Jordan Businessmen Association- Peter Marji Director of Tourism, ASEZA- Mamoun Al Qsouss General Manager, PBI- Khawla Hamdieh HR Manager- Nafith
16:00 -17:00	<p>Session 3</p> <p>Economic Engagement of Women and Youth: A Challenge and Opportunity</p>	<p>Facilitator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Hanan Kafaween Journalist, Jordan News Agency (Petra) <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Thanaa Al Khasawneh Executive Director and Founding Member, Business and Professional Women Association (BPWA)- Dr. Wafaa Al Khadra Associate Professor, American University of Madaba (AUM)- Rula Bawaleez HR and Training Supervisor, ACT- Rania Al-Nasa'a Founder, Beit Al-Ward CBO
Dinner		