Hakouz: $20 million to lighten Zaatari from solar power
Published on 1 November 2016 in Al Ghad Newspaper in Arabic: http://bit.ly/2e92RBE

The beginning of next year, Zaatari camp will witness the start of a new project which will produce electricity from solar power through a station which sizes up to 12 megawatts, according to the camp director, Colonel Nawraz Hakouz.

Hakouz indicated that the project will be implemented in the southern area of the camp near the treatment plant and through a German company with funding from the German Development Bank, noting that the estimated cost of the project for the solar power plant is approximately $20 million.

He indicated that the purpose of the project in the camp is to reduce the monthly electricity cost which has reached very high levels, pointing out that the produced energy will achieve this goal. He pointed out that the official owner of this project is the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, and the project will be continuously monitored by engineers in the Ministry. He indicated that currently the final touches are underway for the development of the infrastructure which includes warehouses, opening of roads, etc. and that the needed time to complete the project will be one year.

He also noted that UNHCR will continue purchasing electricity for the night period, indicating that this will lead to the availability of electricity for the refugees for approximately 8 to 10 hours a day.

Irbid: UNRWA school gates are rickety and threatens student’s safety
Published on 1 November 2016 in Al Ghad Newspaper in Arabic: http://bit.ly/2fzJ9UP

Partners of students in the UNRWA school in Irbid called for the urgent maintenance of the iron school gates which seems to be rickety and could instantly fall, posing a threat to the safety of students. Parents indicated that all of the school gates must be maintained, stressing that they had filled several complaints to the school administrator, calling for the urgent replacement of the gates in fear of threat posed to their children.

In turn, the Deputy Director of UNRWA schools in Irbid said that the school board addressed UNRWA, and the gate was immediately sent for maintenance which was completed, and the gate was returned to the school. UNRWA added that they perform maintenance in all their schools in the coming days.
Counter extremism should be a multifaceted approach - experts

Jordan has been at the forefront of efforts to push interfaith dialogue forward and implement initiatives to counter extremism, a senior UNDP official said Tuesday.

UNDP Country Director Zena Ali Ahmad told The Jordan Times at the opening session of the Interreligious Dialogue on Diversity, Tolerance and Social Cohesion in the Arab Region conference in Amman that such topics are but “one segment of what we are trying to do”.

Ahmad said that in addition to security issues, the agency is working to address issues related to marginalisation, education, health and the rule of law.

She said that the UNDP is working with the government of Jordan on the inclusion of marginalised groups, and is collaborating with the Awqaf Ministry on the training of imams and women preachers.

In her speech at the conference, the UNDP director called for rejecting extremist narratives around the region, but stressed the need to first understand the causes and factors which led the Arab region into where it stands today.

Also speaking at the conference, Awqaf Minister Wael Arabiyat said pluralism is a universal norm and that humans cannot live alone.

To survive, humans need material wealth, spiritual welfare and security, Arabiyat added, stressing that these factors are the basis for positive dialogue.

He said that the civil state has existed since the beginning of Islam, citing Medina as an example of accepting the different components of society regardless of religion, race or colour.

The two-day event is organised by the UNDP and the King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICIID) and attended by Muslim and Christian religious experts and media professionals from 25 Middle Eastern countries.

Mohammad Abu Nimer, KAICIID senior adviser, told The Jordan Times on the sidelines of the event that it is a mistake to place the burden of fighting radicalism and extremism on one agency, adding that it is a multi faceted effort.

“In any effective response on the national or regional level, there needs to be collaboration among the different agencies... all have active roles in... responding to the problem,” he explained. Abu Nimer added that another wrong approach is blaming Islam and its institutions for extremism.

“From my experience, Christian and Muslim religious agencies are still subject to political considerations and pressures in terms of what they say and do, and what they do not say and do not do. This is a structural issue,” he said.

“The absence of women engagement in religious institutions is another big challenge we need to face and tackle.”
UNDP holds workshop on drought management

UNDP, in partnership with the ministries of water and environment, held its second consultative technical session on “Drought Institutional Set-up and Early Warning System in Jordan”. The workshop aimed to discuss three basic pillars, which are: the main objectives of the national drought management strategy, the indicators for the drought’s early warning system, and the proposed institutional set-up and governance for drought management in Jordan, a UNDP statement said on Wednesday.

Representatives from relevant institutions and a number of national experts attended the workshop, the statement said. An integrated system for drought management in Jordan is being implemented with technical and financial support from UNDP and the (GoALWaSH) programme, funded by the Stockholm International Water Institute.

Jordanian diplomat elected as member of UN committee

Jordanian diplomat Mahmoud Hmoud on Thursday was elected by the UN General Assembly as member of a UN-affiliated committee on international law.

Hmoud received 146 votes out of 193, after competing for the Asia and Pacific regions, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported on Friday.

His term in the 34-member committee, tasked with the gradual development of the international law, will last for five years as of the beginning of 2017.

PM briefs World Bank executive on refugee burden
Published on 6 November 2016 in the Jordan Times: http://bit.ly/2fCnfxP

Prime Minister Hani Mulki on Sunday met with World Bank Executive Director and Dean of the Board of Executive Directors Merza Hasan, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

During the meeting, attended by Planning Minister Imad Fakhoury, discussions covered the economic challenges that face Jordan in light of the Syrian refugee crisis and its repercussions.

Mulki stressed that the burdens, resulting from several regional crises, have exceeded the Kingdom's capacity, noting the need to support the government to continue hosting and serving the refugees.

Assistance to Jordan could not only be grants or loans, but also include measures that would boost economy and attract investments. Hasan commended Jordan's role in hosting Syrian refugees on the behalf of the world.
Talks with World Bank over $250m loan concluded
Published on 7 November 2016 in the Jordan Times: http://bit.ly/2fZgV6l

The government on Sunday concluded official discussions with the World Bank Group (WBG) regarding a $250 million loan to support the budget, according to the Planning and International Cooperation Ministry.

Planning and International Cooperation Minister Imad Fakhoury on Monday met with a WBG delegation, headed by the group's Executive Director Merza Hassan, with talks focusing on the second development policy loan that aims at supporting the water and energy sectors.

The loan deal is expected to be presented to WBG's council of executive directors for endorsement in December, according to a ministry statement, which anticipated the full amount to be transferred into the Treasury before yearend.

At the meeting with Hassan, Fakhoury reviewed the latest political and economic developments in Jordan in light of the repercussions of the Syrian crisis and the mounting pressure on the Kingdom as a result.

Jordan has reached the "saturation level" in terms of its ability to bear the burdens of hosting Syrian refugees on behalf of the world, Fakhoury said, adding that only adequate support from the international community can enable the Kingdom to continue providing services to refugees.

He also highlighted the importance of increasing grants aimed at supporting the budget and the Jordan Response Plan, in addition to soft loans to support important development projects.

For his part, Hassan underlined the world’s respect for and appreciation of the Jordanian role in hosting refugees and shouldering this burden on behalf of the international community, calling on international donors to increase support for Jordan, the statement added.

At COP22, Jordan to seek funding for climate change response

Jordan’s delegation at the ongoing 22nd session of the Conference of the Parties (COP22) in Marrakech, Morocco, will push for funding projects that tackle the impact of climate change on the Kingdom.

Minister of Environment Yaseen Khayyat is heading the delegation, which comprises representatives of ministries and government agencies, civil society institutions and the private sector, according to Environment Ministry Spokesperson Isa Shboul.

“Jordan will present during COP22 its national strategy to combat climate change, which features projects, programmes and plans to cut down the emission of greenhouse gases,” Shboul noted.

In addition, the delegation will meet with representatives of donor countries and international aid funds to negotiate the funding of projects that assist the country in its mitigation and adaptation efforts to climate change, the spokesperson said.

At a recent meeting with private sector representatives, Khayyat noted that a documentary tracking down Jordan’s achievements and success stories in the renewable energy sector as well as cooling via solar power will be viewed during the event. French Environment Minister Segolene Royal announced at the opening ceremony of the UN talks that 100 countries have ratified the Paris Agreement, which entered into force last Friday, a record time for an international treaty, according to Agence France-Presse.

Parties began on Monday preparations for the entry into force of the Paris Agreement, which was approved last December. A total of 15,000 negotiators, CEOs and activists are participating in the 12-day talks.
Paris Agreement pushes world nations to reach zero greenhouse gas emissions by the second half of this century and provides a path forward to limiting the global temperature rise to well below 2°C, and to 1.5°C if possible.
Jordan, UN modify partnership framework to respond to domestic priorities


Both Jordan and the UN agreed on modifying the next UN strategic development partnership framework (UNSDPF) in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals and the priorities of the Jordanian government.

“The government of Jordan, in May, officially requested the UN to adopt what is known as the ‘Delivering as One approach’, where we would like to take the preparation of this 2018-2022 UNSDPF as an opportunity to start implementing this approach,” Imad Fakhoury, minister of planning and International cooperation, said at the opening of the UN strategic prioritisation retreat on Thursday.

He added that Jordan is looking forward to “operationalising” this approach through adopting collective outcomes across the humanitarian and development sectors, where “we would like to see the integration of humanitarian planning under the strategic framework of the UNSDPF”.

“We believe that the ‘Delivering as One approach’ will be an opportunity to further strengthen the effectiveness and coherence of the UN assistance in Jordan and ensure a better donor coordination process,” Fakhoury added.

Addressing representatives of UN agencies in the Kingdom, the minister called for following certain priorities while drafting the UNSDPF.

These priorities include drafting a strategy that is aligned with Jordan Vision 2025, addressing structural weakness in the economy and building more responsive and accountable public institutions.

Jordan’s priority goals also include tackling the country’s gender gap through promoting increased political and economic participation of women, and improving Jordan’s human resources development system in line with the recently launched National Strategy for Human Resources Development 2016-2025.

Jordan, in addition, seeks to alleviate poverty and unemployment with a focus on “implementation rather than just policies and strategies”, according to the minister.

The UN and the government have already formulated “thematic consultation groups” in line with the key elements of Agenda 2030. The emergent themes are: “People and Dignity”, “Prosperity”, “Planet” and “Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions”.

According to Edward Kallon, the UN resident and humanitarian coordinator to Jordan, the UNSDPF will guide UN agencies’ work and their “interventions” in Jordan for five years.

He added that since the first meeting of the steering committee which kicked off the UNSDPF in August, the UN country team in Jordan has embarked on its common country assessment to examine the challenges confronting Jordan and their root causes with a view to begin crafting an appropriate and responsive vision for change.
UNDP, Jordan to devise selection criteria for rangeland reserves

The UNDP, in partnership with the ministries of environment and agriculture, has held a consultative national workshop to evaluate the current institutional and regulatory framework of rangeland reserves in Jordan and propose suitable means for the development of a natural grazing system in line with sustainability requirements, according to a UNDP statement released on Sunday.

Jordan polio-free despite rising number of cases in neighbouring countries
Published on 13 November 2016 in the Jordan Times: http://bit.ly/2g5HQOH

Despite the registration of polio cases in some neighbouring countries and the refugee influx from these countries into Jordan, the Kingdom managed to stay a polio-free country in 2015, said a Ministry of Health report released Sunday. The annual report covered services provided by the ministry last year and the number of health facilities across the Kingdom.

Ministry Spokesperson Hatem Azruie told The Jordan Times that maintaining Jordan as a polio-free country was due to the intensive vaccination campaigns launched in 2014 and 2015, when several cases were reported in neighbouring Syria.

A 2014 UNICEF report estimated that only 52 per cent of Syrian children were fully vaccinated against polio, down from a pre-war high of 99 per cent.

In 2013, 14 years after the last case of polio in Syria, 35 new cases were confirmed in that country, with an additional two cases identified in neighbouring Iraq. In Jordan, the last polio case was registered in 1992, according to the ministry’s report.

A study released last week by the Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network (EMPHNET) also confirmed that. The vigilance that Jordan has displayed in locating and vaccinating high-risk populations against poliovirus has been successful in maintaining high levels of vaccination coverage, the EMPHNET study concluded.

“This fact has maintained high population immunity and averted polio outbreaks despite the influx of Syrian refugees into the country,” EMPHNET said in a statement announcing the results of the study, titled “Estimating Population Immunity to Poliovirus in Jordan’s High Risk Areas”. “The use of IPV [inactivated polio vaccine] in the routine immunisation programme and the availability of this immunisation schedule free of charge for all children in Jordan, including Syrian refugees and any other nationality, have also contributed to the high immunity levels against polio viruses,” the statement added.

Meanwhile, the ministry's annual report said the school health programme was one of its priorities in 2015, with field visits conducted to 3,863 schools and more than 413,000 underwent medical check-ups. Currently, there are 31 hospitals affiliated with the Health Ministry across the Kingdom, in addition to 675 healthcare centres, which include 99 comprehensive centres.
Former president of East Timor visits Zaatari camp

HRH Prince Ali, president of the Jordan Football Association and chairman of the Asian Football Development Project (AFDP), welcomed to Jordan on Monday Jose Ramos-Horta, the Nobel laureate and former president of East Timor.

The prince also accompanied Ramos-Horta to the Zaatari Refugee Camp in northern Jordan, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

In Zaatari, Prince Ali and Ramos-Horta attended part of ongoing football training workshops organised by AFDP, and toured the facilities of the newly inaugurated Zaatari House of Sports, which AFDP and the UEFA Foundation for Children established as a joint sports venue benefitting boys and girls of all age groups inside the camp.

Prince Ali and Ramos-Horta also discussed the role of sports in peace building and conflict resolution.

US-funded UNRWA school inaugurated

US State Department’s Assistant Secretary of Population, Refugees, and Migration Anne C. Richard, and UNRWA Commissioner General Pierre Krähenbühl inaugurated on Monday the newly constructed US-funded UNRWA school in Jabal Taj in Amman.

The new school will replace three rented school buildings that used to accommodate five administrative UNRWA schools, according to an UNRWA statement.

The building is accessible to people with disabilities and equipped with specialised facilities, including science labs, libraries, a learning resource centre and energy-saving devices.

UNRWA says fatigue over issue of Palestinian refugees is unacceptable

It is high time for the international community to address the unresolved political issue between Israel and Palestine, to bring an end to the occupation and to the blockade of Gaza, UNRWA Commissioner General Pierre Krähenbühl said on Monday.

Krähenbühl added that somebody has to take this issue up “because if we do not, we will see generation after generation growing up with this denial of justice and of rights, and this cannot be a future”. At a press conference on the sidelines of UNRWA’s advisory committee’s meeting in Amman, the UN official stressed that the Palestinian-Israeli issue should be resolved politically.

“In the meantime, UNRWA’s mandate is not for sale and will be there on the front lines defending rights of Palestine refugees, advocating for their dignity and addressing needs and services,” he said.
According to the UNRWA commissioner, last year’s financial shortfall in the fund provided to UNRWA was a wake-up call for the donor community, which prompted taking several measures to ensure funds are maintained. “A year ago in [the] summer of 2015, we had one of our largest financial shortfalls in history of UNRWA, which almost led to the postponement of the school year. This created very strong reactions in the refugee community, among UNRWA staff and host governments,” Krähenbühl said.

Thus, the agency, he noted, took a number of measures in that regard. “We managed last year, as a result of extraordinary mobilisation, to get the needed funds to open the schools on time, and the good news this year [is that] we opened the school year again on time and this is very strong message about UNRWA’s attachment to education,” the official added. “We will do our utmost to ensure there is stable and continued access to services that UNRWA provides to Palestine refugees,” Krähenbühl stressed. Although he noted that such a shortfall in funds is not new to UNRWA, he said that what is needed now is a change in the mechanism. “We need new ways for supporting UNRWA financially, and this is the thing that we are working on right now... the new UN secretary general [Antonio Guterres] will lead an exercise in the coming months to explore options and make recommendations,” Krähenbühl told reporters. The UN official also noted that in a number of places around the world there is an impression that the Palestinian refugee issue is an old one and that the world is focusing on other things that are more pressing. “Nobody can be fatigued more than the Palestinian refugees themselves,” Krähenbühl said, adding that the international community cannot be fatigued by the issue and nobody should be allowed to close their eyes to the situation.

According to figures he presented, UNRWA is providing 500,000 boys and girls in 700 schools throughout the Middle East with education. Up to 3 million patients are being treated annually in UNRWA’s 130 clinics. In addition, the agency serves 1.5 million people as part of its emergency response in Palestine and Syria. Recently, the agency lost its 20th staff member in Syria since the beginning of the Syrian crisis and 11 staff members died in the 2014 Israeli aggression on Gaza.

**Jordan highlights challenges, opportunities in confronting climate change**


Jordan, alongside 195 countries, is taking part in the Conference of the Parties (COP22) on climate change being held in Marrakesh, Morocco, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported on Monday.

Jordan is represented at the conference by an official delegation headed by Environment Minister Yaseen Khayyat and includes representatives of the water, energy and transport ministries, in addition to the Jordan Meteorological Department, the National Centre for Human Rights, civil society institutions and the private sector.

Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs Salaheddine Mezouar inaugurated COP22, which continues through November 18, commending the member states’ speed in working to implement the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

The high-level meetings for COP22 are scheduled to begin on Tuesday, Petra reported citing an Environment Ministry statement, during which Khayyat is going to deliver the Kingdom’s speech. On the sidelines of COP 22, the Jordanian delegates took part in the Arab group meetings. During the sessions, Ahmad Qatarneh, secretary general of the Environment Ministry, presented research papers on challenges and opportunities to reach sustainable development and the role of local funds in contributing to the mitigation of climate change effects and integrating the concepts of green growth into strategies and national plans.
At the Paris meeting last year, Jordan indicated that it can reduce its greenhouse emissions by 14 per cent, if international funding is provided to enable the Kingdom to reduce 12.5 per cent of that total percentage. Jordan will commit to covering the cost of reducing emissions by 1.5 per cent.

The Kingdom will cut its greenhouse gas emissions by 12.5 per cent by implementing 70 projects, mainly in the energy and transportation sectors, if the required funds are available.

Already a victim to climate change, Jordan is expected to witness a 15-60 per cent decrease in precipitation and a 1-4°C increase in temperatures, which will in turn have serious potential impacts on its natural ecosystems, river basins, watersheds and biodiversity, according to the 2013-2020 Jordan Climate Change Policy.

Climate change over the past two decades has also caused a drastic drop in rainfall and prolonged dry spells in the Kingdom, according to a study by the Water Ministry.

Jordan reiterates call for resumption of Mideast peace talks
Published on 15 November 2016 in the Jordan Times: http://bit.ly/2f3Bn44

Jordan on Tuesday reaffirmed the need to create a suitable environment to re-launch “serious and effective peace talks” between the Palestinians and the Israelis.

Speaking at a meeting with UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Nickolay Mladenov in Amman, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and Expatriate Affairs Nasser Judeh said the peace talks should be held within a clearly specified time frame and result in achieving the two-state solution and establishing an independent Palestinian state within the pre-1967 lines, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

For his part, Mladenov praised Jordan’s efforts to achieve peace and stability in the region, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

Also on Tuesday, Judeh met with New Zealand’s Foreign Minister Murray McCully and discussed bilateral ties as well as the latest regional developments and challenges.

Judeh expressed the Kingdom’s solidarity with and condolences for the government and people of New Zealand after the recent earthquake that hit the country.

The magnitude-7.8 quake that struck New Zealand’s South Island left two people dead and triggered a small tsunami. It also brought down rocks and mud that swept across highways and cracked apart roads, The Associated Press reported.

McCully voiced his appreciation for Amman’s support to Wellington, according to Petra.

Both sides stressed the need to develop cooperation in the economic, commercial and cultural fields, in addition to expertise exchange.

Judeh and McCully went over the situation in Syria and efforts to find a solution to the crisis, highlighting the role New Zealand can play through its membership in the UN Security Council to reach a peaceful solution.
‘Germany second largest bilateral donor to Jordan after US’

Published on 17 November 2016 in the Jordan Times: http://bit.ly/2gj3Y7z

Germany granted Jordan this year 425.7 million euros (JD323 million) in support of its development and humanitarian projects, reaching the highest volume of aid since cooperation between the two countries started over 60 years ago, German officials said on Wednesday.

A total of 153 million euros has been allocated for humanitarian aid this year, while 272.7 million euros has been designated for development cooperation, according to German embassy officials, who noted that Germany is the second largest bilateral donor to Jordan after the US.

“This year’s increase in financial support for Jordan is connected to the London Conference… as well as the signing of the ‘Jordan Compact’ in February 2016,” the German embassy said in a statement distributed to the media during a press briefing at its premises.

The Jordan Compact was adopted at the London donor conference last February. It details donors’ pledges to Jordan and the Kingdom’s commitments towards the Syrian refugees.

Germany’s financial contributions to development projects are dispersed across several sectors, including water, waste management, education, employment promotion, energy and environment, according to the statement. Supporting Jordan in overcoming the refugee crisis has been a crucial part of Germany’s funding of projects in the Kingdom, the statement said, indicating that Berlin has supported Amman with more than 1.12 billion euros since the beginning of the Syrian refugee crisis in 2012. Recognising that Jordan is one of the most water-scarce countries in the world, and that the refugee crisis and the resulting influx of more than 1 million Syrians into Jordan has aggravated the situation, the embassy said that sufficiently supplying people with water is a major challenge.

“For decades, the water sector has been the key aspect of the German Development Cooperation in the Hashemite Kingdom. On top of projects already in progress, an additional 134 million euros has been granted for this purpose in 2016,” the embassy said in the statement. Indicating that Germany will continue to support Jordan in the water and wastewater sector, the embassy said the development and improvement of the infrastructure, such as of drinking water pipelines and wastewater treatment plants, are central to cooperation. “Ever since the beginning of the Syrian refugee crisis, the improvement of the drinking water supply and wastewater disposal at municipalities taking in refugees in the north of the country has been an essential aspect,” the embassy said in the statement.

Meanwhile, in the education sector, the embassy said that Germany supports the construction of new schools, the renovation of existing ones, informal education programmes via UNICEF as well as a college scholarship programme, with allocated funds reaching 33 million euros this year. Regarding employment promotion, the statement indicated that by the end of this year, some 13,000 new jobs will have been created under an employment initiative launched during the London conference with the aim of creating 50,000 workplaces across the region.

The statement said Germany is funding the salaries of 4,700 Jordanian teachers and 900 employees in 200 double-shift schools.

In addition, Germany, in cooperation with the EU, the UK, the US and Norway, is supporting the Education Ministry’s initiative to provide education for 195,000 Syrian children.

“By doing so, Jordan is taking a big step towards the Jordan Compact goal ‘education for everyone’,” the embassy said in the statement.
Jordan seeks role in int’l efforts on climate change - minister

Deputising for His Majesty King Abdullah, Environment Minister Yaseen Khayyat is participating in the Conference of the Parties (COP22) on climate change in Marrakesh, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported on Wednesday.

Khayyat delivered a speech in which he highlighted the Kingdom's keenness to play a role in the international efforts to address climate change. He stressed that Jordan is working on achieving sustainable development and diversifying its energy resources.

UN resumes aid delivery to displaced Syrians in berm

The United Nations’ humanitarian coordinator in Jordan announced the resumption of humanitarian assistance to thousands of Syrians trapped across the border with Syria, the UN said.

According to a statement released on Tuesday by the office of the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Jordan, the life-saving measure will allow an estimated 85,000 stranded Syrians to receive aid after a months-long hiatus due to a terrorist attack against Jordanian troops in June, which resulted in Jordan sealing off the border area near Rukban. Since then, humanitarian agencies were unable to deliver relief except for water.

The resumption of assistance, coming at the start of the coldest period of the year, will consist of winter clothes and items to fight the chill, besides basic necessities and food rations, the statement said.

The assistance delivery will be conducted through a newly constructed distribution point and a new facility under construction, comprising a health clinic, water tanks and a pumping station. The clinic will provide primary healthcare, maternal and neonatal services, according to the coordinator’s office.

The aid operations will be conducted in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organisation for Migration, UNICEF and the World Food Programme.

The UN agencies commended the Kingdom and the Jordan Armed Forces–Arab Army for making the resumption of the services possible.

Syrians’ reluctant to work in industrial sector threatens future of ‘rules-of-origin’ deal with EU
Published on 22 November 2016 in the Jordan Times: http://bit.ly/2fQgUkc

Salem, 39, is a Syrian refugee who works in general maintenance in Jordan without an official work permit.

Registered as a refugee with the UNHCR, he earns JD400 to JD600 a month and visits whenever he can Western embassies to apply for immigration, seeking a better future for his family of four kids and his wife.

Salem, who preferred not to go by his real name, is not a Syrian refugee that Jordanian industries can benefit from to increase their exports to Europe and boost revenues, after Jordan signed a decision with the EU on “relaxed” rules of origin.

Salem does not want to get a work permit because his application to emigrate to the US is currently being processed.
He said he also applied to many European embassies, encouraged by the fact that some of his relatives are already in Germany and the Netherlands.

The government hopes that the decision with the EU to relax the rules of origin will boost the country’s economy through promoting investments, creating more jobs for Jordanians and increasing the performance of the industrial sector, which contributes about 25 per cent of the GDP. However, Ziad Homsi, president of the Amman Chamber of Industry, believes that Syrian refugees’ turning down jobs in factories is hampering the implementation of the decision and is actually putting the deal in danger if no serious and feasible measures are taken to encourage Syrians to work in the designated industrial estates that benefit from the eased trade restrictions. For Jordanian industries to be able to benefit from the simplified rules of origin by the EU, each factory needs to have Syrian employees constituting no less than 15 per cent of its manpower. The rate will be increased to 25 per cent in the third year of the agreement, Homsi noted at a gathering by the Jordan Strategy Forum on Tuesday.

“One of the major problems that we face is that our factories are unable to find skilled Syrians who are willing to work in the development zones, so we can harvest benefits from the new rules,” said Homsi at the event. “Syrians who work in the industrial sector can receive high salaries based on their experience… but many have concerns that they will lose their refugee status and aid that they get from international agencies,” he said. Besides, “many Syrians do not think of staying in Jordan and aspire to leave to Europe”, he added. Salem said he had worked in several factories in Syria for more than 19 years, but his priority is to “secure a better life in a Western country”. That is why freelancing is so convenient and “priceless” to him. Under the decision, Europeans have allowed made-in-Jordan products to utilise more than 70 per cent of production inputs from non-local materials.

A total of 18 industrial and developmental zones are included in this move, while the relaxed rules will also be applied to other industries across the Kingdom once 200,000 jobs for Syrian refugees are created and when those Syrians are issued work permits. The problem is that only 33,000 Syrian refugees have obtained work permits, out of the eligible hundreds of thousands, according to Yousef Shammali, secretary general of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply, in his remarks at Tuesday event. Aware of the problem, the government announced Tuesday plans and incentives for Syrians to join the industrial sector. The EU decision goes into effect as of January and “one company has so far filed an application to export and benefit from the new rules”, Shammali said. “Syrians are afraid that if they obtain work permits, they would lose the refugee status and other cash aid they receive… there is a need for clear reassurances and guarantees from the government, the UNHCR and the EU that those refugees will not face any change in their status, the official said. Jordan is planning to grant work permits for Syrian refugees to work in the industrial sector for 3-5 years, as the permit to work in this sector is currently valid for one year only, Shammali added. Jordan is also “seriously” considering the establishment of satellite factories closer to areas and camps where the refugees live, to encourage them to work and to make it easier to transport them from their areas of residence to work and vice versa, the official said. Unofficial estimates indicate that around 250,000 Syrian refugees work in the shadow economy.

“The EU does not count those among the 200,000 jobs that need to be created for Syrians so the relaxed rules apply to all Jordan,” said Homsi. UNHCR’s deputy representative to Jordan, Paul Stromberg, said there is a need for more efforts to educate Syrians on the available opportunities. “Getting a work permit is not a dissuasion here. We did a survey and only 2 per cent of Syrian refugees had fears that they might lose their refugee status and entitlements if they get work permits,” Stromberg said at the event. Only 33,000 of the Syrian refugees registered with the agency are considered most vulnerable and thus receive cash assistance, he noted.

“One issue is that it is hard to retain Syrians at low pay,” he said, adding that some families are supported by women who prefer to work from home. He added that more awareness is needed. Jordan Strategy Forum’s president, Omar Razzaz, called for using the ID cards issued by UN agencies or the Interior Ministry as a work permit to simplify the process and increase the number of those Syrians who have work permits, as many are unable to work in development zones.
It is also important to develop an export house that will help Jordanian industries by connecting them with partners in Europe, exploring potential and acquainting them with all needed information to benefit from the EU decision. EU representatives at the event said the EU decision is favourable to Jordan and that it took an effort to convince member states to agree to it, as such decisions are usually given to low-income countries and Jordan is a medium-income state. The EU is planning to hold a business-to-business meeting in Brussels in January to highlight opportunities for Jordanian industries and meet with potential buyers, Ibrahim Laafia, head of cooperation at the EU delegation to Jordan, said at the meeting.

He added that the EU will also work on attracting investors to Jordan, adding that the EU has plans to provide technical support to Jordanian businesses to develop their products.

French Ambassador to Jordan David Bertolotti said the “EU deal is very favourable to Jordan. There are problems but there are opportunities”. “I know the unwillingness of the Syrian refugees is an issue but there are examples of success... It is doable and we have to help Jordan engage in aggressive marketing,” said the French diplomat.

He added that since Jordan is seen as a player in the service sector, there is a need for more efforts to highlight what Jordanian industries can offer and their products. “The capacity of the Jordanian textile sector is not clear to European companies…There is a need to further know what Jordan can deliver in many sectors,” he added.

Speaking at the event, Dutch Ambassador to Amman Paul van den IJssel said there is a need to make the deal work. He stressed on the key role the private sector can play in engaging with partners in Europe. “We also need to make the existing investments work as one bad story is more dangerous than all the strategies you have,” said the Dutch diplomat.

16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence to call for end to murders of women, girls


“Stop the killing of women and girls” will be the theme of an ongoing campaign that will kick-start the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence in Jordan, which officially start on November 25th.

“We have witnessed a rise in the number of murders against women and that is why this year’s campaign is calling for the right to life for women in Jordan,” said Jordanian National Commission for Women (JNCW) Secretary General Salma Nims.

“What distinguishes the ‘16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence’ campaign this year is the beginning of a long-term and sustained campaigning throughout the year to stop the murder of women and girls,” Nims said at an event to announce the launch of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence under the slogan “Stop murders committed against women and girls”. The activities are held by the JNCW and Shama’a Network — in collaboration with the UN in Jordan, the Dutch embassy and Al Ghad Arabic daily.

HRH Princess Basma, who attended part of the launch event, told the gathering that she was “adding her voice to the many who are fighting violence against women”. She also urged the media to be proactive and become the “true catalysts of change in our society”. “We want your full support day and night to raise awareness and to make our voices heard for the fight of this just cause, which will hopefully work to decrease the reported cases of domestic violence,” Princess Basma told the gathering.
Dutch Ambassador Paul van den IJseel stressed his country’s commitment towards supporting Jordanian civil society organisations and their programmes that address gender violence in Jordan.

“Gender equality is essential to creating a successful and democratic society…and I believe men should join the fight to end violence against women and ensure justice for women,” the ambassador said.

Ziad Sheikh, UN Women’s representative to Jordan, said the UN family in Jordan has one message to deliver: “Women’s and girls’ lives matter, and only by working together can we bring lasting change, only by joining forces can we end violence against women”. It is estimated that 35 per cent of women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner or sexual violence by a non-partner, the UN official said. However, Sheikh added, some national studies show that up to 70 per cent of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence. Sheikh stressed the need to constantly address violence against women to try and capture the immense personal struggle and suffering of victims of violence and discrimination, saying: “Our greater challenge is to embrace this cause every day”. “The UN secretary general, Ban Ki-moon, reminded us of the responsibility we all have — to leave no one behind, when it comes to gender-based violence. His message couldn’t be more relevant, and I quote: ‘Break the silence. When you witness violence against women and girls, do not sit back. Act’,” Sheikh told the gathering.

The campaign will include a range of over 300 activities, as well as awareness-raising material targeting civil society such as a short video that will be broadcast 112 times as a TV spot on Jordan Television and Ro’ya TV Channel during the campaign period, as well as radio spots to be broadcast on local radio stations. Activities will also include an interactive awareness-raising play and a song that have been produced to raise awareness on the need to end murders of women and girls.

The campaign will further raise awareness and advocacy in all governorates of the Kingdom with over 50 street billboards citing texts from the Koran and the Bible that forbid murder, as well as messages demanding the increase of protection mechanisms for women who are victims of violence.

Also during the two-hour event, the JNCW launched a petition to collect signatures demanding the amendment of laws that discriminate against women, and calling for improving services for abused women and children, and limiting the jurisdiction of the administrative governors in ordering the detention of women for their own safety because their lives are in danger for reasons related to family honour.

The petition will be available throughout 2017 and will be promoted in all governorates. It can be signed electronically on the following link http://bit.ly/2eVBony.

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an international campaign originating from the first Women’s Global Leadership Institute and sponsored by the Centre for Women’s Global Leadership in 1991.

Participants chose the dates November 25 — the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women — and December 10 — International Human Rights Day — to symbolically link violence against women and human rights and to emphasise that such violence is a violation of human rights.

This 16-day period also highlights other significant dates, including International Women Human Rights Defenders Day on November 29, World AIDS Day on December 1, and the anniversary of the Montreal Massacre on December 6.
Jordan celebrates 10th anniversary of UN accord on disability

Further international cooperation is needed for advancing state parties’ commitment to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), according to a senior UN official.

Maria Soledad, the chairperson of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, said the panel’s recommendations consider the countries’ resources, but they also ensure any restrictive economic measures “cannot affect the rights of persons with disabilities”.

Meanwhile, she said more international cooperation and further integration of civil society organisations worldwide are necessary for a better implementation of the CRPD provisions. Soledad cited a “strong connection” between the UN Sustainable Development Goals for 2030 and the CRPD, including articles on inclusion and education, adding that persons with disabilities comprise around 15 per cent of the world’s population.

In an interview with The Jordan Times during her visit to the Kingdom on the occasion of the convention’s 10th anniversary, the UN official said Jordan’s ratification of the CRPD encourages regional ratification of the convention. “To celebrate the 10th anniversary in Jordan is a special moment to invite other parties for the universal ratification,” she added, noting that celebrations of the anniversary around the world stress the global significance of advancing the rights of people with disabilities.

Speaking on Monday at an event marking the CRPD’s 10th anniversary, organised by the Higher Council for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities (HCD), HH Prince Mired, president of the HCD, said the convention is a reminder to the world that people with disabilities are key to the overall realisation of development and progress. He highlighted national efforts in advancing disability rights so that people with disabilities can lead dignified lives based on equality, non-discrimination and equal opportunities.

“Jordan was one of the first countries to ratify the convention in 2008,” the prince said, adding that a legal committee was recently formed to develop a new draft law on the rights of persons with disabilities, to realise the envisioned results.

Mohammad Tarawneh, a member of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, said the panel’s task is to deliberate with state parties over their national reports, compare them with other shadow reports and draw up the needed recommendations that enable states to advance the rights of people with disabilities.

“The purpose of the CRPD is to promote, protect and ensure full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all people with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity,” he said.

During her visit to Jordan, Soledad toured a number of institutions that are concerned with persons with disabilities and advancing their rights.
‘Jordanian wins UN award’
Published on 22 November 2016 in the Jordan Times: http://bit.ly/2fQf96w

Jordanian Waad Khozai won the first prize in the UN Industrial Development Organisation creative youth award, which witnessed the participation of 2,500 young people from around the world.

Khozai competed for the award by submitting an article and a video on the UN Sustainable Development Goals for 2030, addressing challenges that may hinder realising these targets, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported on Tuesday.

The winner is scheduled to deliver a speech and receive the award on Friday at an official ceremony at the UN headquarters in Vienna, before she returns to the Kingdom on Sunday.

‘In Jordan Valley, women turn culture into a source of resilience’
Published on 26 November 2016 in the Jordan Times: http://bit.ly/2g5FwFA

A project that utilises the colourful soil and natural plants of Jordan to produce hand-dyed textiles in the Jordan Valley is testament to the ambition of the Kingdom to place culture and creative economy on its development agenda, according to a UN official.

Speaking at the opening ceremony on Thursday of an exhibition that showcased handcrafted and naturally dyed fabrics created by rural women from the Jordan Valley as part of an empowerment programme, UNESCO Representative to Jordan Costanza Farina said “no society can flourish without culture.” “No development can be sustainable without it,” she added.

According to Farina, the UNESCO project opens new horizons for women’s ambitions and creates opportunities to support their communities.

Funded by Drosos Foundation, the project aims to empower rural women in Ghor Al Safi by helping them make their handicraft activities sustainable and provide them with income-generating opportunities.

The bazaar, which concluded on Saturday, presented the second phase of the Indigo Collection of “Safi Crafts”, an eco-friendly handcraft brand made by Ghor El Safi’s Women’s Association.

The exhibition came as part of a three-day event organised in celebration of the achievements of the project “Empowering Rural Women and Increasing Resilience in the Jordan Valley” in partnership with the Ghor El Safi Women’s Association.

The women of Ghor Al Safi, a small village south of the Dead Sea, have been producing hand dyed textiles using natural items such as tea leaves, pomegranate and mushroom, according to Nofeh Nawasrah, the president of the Ghor El Safi Women’s Association.

“All our products are natural and are extracted from plants by us. We are very happy that our products are being sold in numerous places, and I believe that the name of our brand is slowly but surely expanding,” she told The Jordan Times. The colourful, vibrant and natural handcrafts “represent a genuine interpretation of culture and a telling example that culture has become already these women’s source of resilience”, Farina told The Jordan Times.
The initiative researched traditional natural dyeing techniques and re-introduced the cultivation of the indigo colour, for which the Jordan Valley used to be renowned in the past, according to Farina. “The blue textiles displayed today are coloured using natural indigo processed for the first time since the ancient Zohara, which is the Byzantine name of Ghor Al Safi, where indigo used to be sold as a very precious good,” the UN official explained.

Nawasrah highlighted how the project has helped empower the members of the association and improve their lives. “The ladies we work with have more self-confidence to speak up their minds and to speak publicly now,” she said.

Tourism Ministry Secretary General Issa Gammoh attended the event, representing Tourism Minister Lina Annab, and underlined the importance of similar projects in promoting tourism in the country.

“This programme comes in line with the Jordanian government’s strategy to introduce and encourage local economic development as well as create better engagement with local communities,” he said.

“We strongly believe that tourism is the best agent for economic growth and for helping Jordanians’ welfare and their standards of living,” Gammoh added.

The event included a display of “Safi Crafts” products as well as entertainment for children, lectures on the colour indigo and workshops on natural dyes, and the preparation of typical home-made food from the Southern Jordan Valley.

UNDP launches ‘partnership’ initiative in Zarqa and Mafraq

UNDP launched a partnership initiative entitled “Economic system and collaboration opportunities with community based organizations”, in the presence of donor representatives, representatives from the economic system, 65 participants and 15 community based organizations in Zarqa and Marfraq.

The initiative aims for partnerships and collaboration between community based organizations and the social and economic systems, through well informed community based organizations about the provided services by the systems. Moreover, it aims to discuss cooperation frameworks with those organizations to achieve advancements in their services, enhance social cohesion and build programmes to better serve these areas and communities.

The initiative is a continuation of the “Building the capacity of community organizations” programme which was implemented by the Business Development Centre and funded by UNDP, which aims at the development of community organizations’ capacities which had been chosen by the programme to receive a fund to implement programmes responsibly, effectively, with high transparency and in an interactive manner with the communities in the area.
Joint workshop to enhance youth awareness on Sustainable Development Goals


In partnership with the Ministry of Youth, UNDP organized three workshops in their districts of Al Badia to raise the youth’s awareness on the Sustainable Development Goals (2015-2030).

According to a press release issued by UNDP on Saturday, the workshop was attended by 100 participants including managers, supervisors, youth centers of the Ministry of Youth from the northern, center and southern Badia.

The workshop which was supported by UNESCO aimed at introducing youth and increasing their awareness on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in general and specifically on the goals pertaining Jordan. The goals were also linked to the joint project between UNDP and the Ministry of Youth, which is in support of implementing a national strategy for youth.

During the interactive sessions, participants identified main priorities which achieves support for youth through the SDGs in the youth centers reaching a promising vision towards innovation and excellence.

Agreement signature for “Restoration of Sustainable Livelihoods Creation and Natural Resources Management in Badia Communities”


The Minister of Environment H.E. Dr. Yaseen Khayyat and the Country Director of the United Nations Development Programme in Jordan Dr. Zena Ali-Ahmad signed today an agreement of cooperation for the implementation of "Restoration of Sustainable Livelihoods Creation and Natural Resource Management in Badia Communities" project. This project aims to improve livelihoods of livestock herders in the Jordanian Badia through sustainable development of production and marketing of dairy products in the Jordanian Badia. This will be achieved in collaboration with the local cooperatives for livestock breeders and as a part of the government's continuing efforts to increase the standard of living of local communities in the Jordanian Badia and the best use of animal products level.

H.E. Dr. Khayyat pointed out that this project lies within the Badia Restoration Program/ Environmental Compensation Unit’s projects. Within this project, a thorough analysis of the value chain for dairy products in the desert will be conducted in order identify better ways and procedures to improve and raise their value through raising the technical and management capacity of the selected cooperative corporations in the area of dairy products manufacturing.
In addition, the project will also provide technical assistance and needed supplies and will also provide branding support according to the highest standards.

H.E. Dr. Khayyat also stressed on the importance of this agreement within the environmental compensation unit program, which lies within the context of the cooperation between the Ministry of Environment and the international organizations working in Jordan. He also pointed out that the project is being implemented within the framework of the Community Action Plan (CAP) funded by the United Nation Compensation Committee (UNCC) as a result of the Gulf war in 1990/1991 for the rehabilitation of terrestrial ecosystems in the Jordanian Badia through the rehabilitation of rangelands, water resources and wildlife in the Jordanian Badia with the participation of local communities to reach sustainable development.

Dr. Zena Ali-Ahmad the Country Director of United Nations Development Programme in Jordan has indicated that the agreement signed today with the Ministry of Environment for the implementation of the project is in line with the UNDP’s direction in contributing to implement projects serving the Badia communities especially those where environmental, economic and social intersections are available. Dr. Zena also pointed that this project also complements many of the activities initiated by UNDP in response to the effects of the refugees’ influx on a number of host communities in number of governorates of the Kingdom including the Badia region.

She also commended the strategic partnership between the United Nations Development Programme and the Ministry of Environment, which extended for more than twenty years and resulted in implementing several strategic projects and initiatives, especially with regard to international conventions such as climate change, biodiversity and combating desertification. She also pointed to the existing projects that are currently under implementation with the Ministry of Environment such as “Mainstreaming Rio Convention Provisions into National Sectoral Policies” project and the "Mercury Initial Assessment" project in addition to a number of other projects that will be put into effect mid-year 2017.

She concluded by thanking the Ministry of Environment for its confidence in choosing the United Nations Development Program for the implementation of this important project in the Badia region and hoped for constant cooperation at all levels.

**Netherlands to provide 60m euros in funds for projects to cope with refugee crisis**


The Netherlands on Sunday announced support through seven new programmes and projects worth 60 million euros (around JD45 million) in Jordan to alleviate the impact of the Syrian refugee crisis.

At a press conference at his residence in Amman, Dutch Ambassador Paul van den IJssel said these projects will be implemented in cooperation with the UN and international organisations, while more projects will be announced in 2017. The ambassador explained that in response to the Syrian crisis, his country launched in May a special regional fund to support the directly affected countries — Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq — with 260 million euros for three years.

The assistance programme, he noted, will run from 2016 to 2019, and the allocations for Jordan for this period will be 130.1 million euros.

The grants will support Jordan’s efforts in addressing pressing issues that include education, economic development, host communities, social cohesion, human rights and good governance, renewable energy, and humanitarian assistance, van den IJssel explained.
Projects whose implementation will start this year include contributing to the global commitment on education, which entails ensuring that all children have access to quality education through the Ministry of Education’s “Catch Up” programme, in partnership with UNICEF. Through the Netherlands’ support, up to 8,000 children will be able to enrol in the formal education system after the end of level exam.

Robert Jenkins, UNICEF country director, said this programme will help children in Jordan, regardless of their nationality, who have missed more than three years of school to catch up. This programme, he added, will be implemented in regular Jordanian schools, and most of those who will join it are Syrians.

Another programme that the Netherlands will support is providing education to Palestinian refugees who came from Syria.

Speaking at the press conference, Roger Davis, director of UNRWA operations, said that of the Palestine refugees who came from Syria during the crisis, 16,300 are registered with UNRWA and 50 per cent of them are children at school age. The projects announced on Monday also include the hydroponic farming project that will be implemented through a Dutch consortium and ECO Consult in the cities affected by the refugee crisis.

A fourth project will be directed to benefit Jordanian and Syrian entrepreneurship, where the Dutch organisation SPARK will assist, guide and coach Jordanians and Syrians to either start up their business or expand existing initiatives, according to the ambassador. Another project will be implemented through the Norwegian Refugee Council and the Justice Centre for Legal Aid to support improved legal access of Jordanians and Syrians.

Van den IJssel also highlighted a project that seeks to improve community policing in host communities to reduce pressures and address social tensions before they are exacerbated.

This programme will be implemented by the Public Security Department and SIREN. Another project will be implemented by the alliance of Mercy Corps and Stichting Vluchteling to tackle challenges arising from lack of access to legal information and to equip young people with employability skills to enable them to secure jobs.

Meanwhile, the ambassador stressed that his country has been active in supporting Jordan since the beginning of the Syrian crisis.

“At the moment we are trying to help both Syrians and Jordanians to cope with the effects of the crisis which is now in its sixth year,” the ambassador told reporters, adding that the Netherlands welcomed the outcomes of the London conference for donors which took place in February, and since then, efforts have been stepped up to implement the agreements of that conference.

“We particularly work hard towards facilitation of the rules of origin that is one of the results of [the] London Conference,” van den IJssel said, adding that the Netherlands — during its time as president of the EU Council, and as a member state — has worked to bring all EU states on board and to come up with the relaxed rules of origin agreement.

“That we see [as] a success,” he stressed, adding that the agreement came into force in July; however, there is some criticism now that it does not match the Jordanian demand and it is difficult to find Syrian labour.

“I hear all these noises; I discuss all these noises; my view [is that] it is too early to judge…We [will] work towards its implementation,” the ambassador said.
Amman hosting UN meeting on use of technology in population census

Published on 28 November 2016 in the Jordan Times: http://bit.ly/2g0tESD

The United Nations Technical Meeting on the Use of Technology in Population and Housing Census started on Monday in Amman with the aim of reviewing Jordan’s experience in conducting the 2015 census.

The four-day event is organised by the UN Demographic and Social Statistics Division (UNSD) in cooperation with the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics.

Addressing the opening ceremony, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Imad Fakhoury said the international meeting is held at a time after the Jordan Department of Statistics (DoS) successfully conducted the General Population and Housing Census in 2015 using “advanced technologies”.

He added that the gathering presents an opportunity to demonstrate Jordan’s “unique” experience.

“Conducting an electronic census was coupled with many challenges and difficulties due to transition from the traditional censuses using hard copy questionnaires to employing advanced technologies,” said Fakhoury.

However, he noted that the “distinguished efforts of the census team, their will, determination and clarity of vision in addition to the successful public-private partnerships with [the] Jordanian private sector turned these difficulties into opportunities.”

He underlined the important role the census plays in providing accurate figures and indicators that have been utilised in updating the action plans of Jordan’s socio-economic 2025 blueprint.

Keiko Osaki-Tomita, chief of the Demographic and Social Statistics Branch at the UNSD, praised DoS’ efforts to introduce “cutting-edge” technologies in its work, noting that these modern tools have assisted in the “smooth running of [the] Jordan census and yielded high quality outputs”.

The Amman meeting brings together “national statisticians to review national experience in, and document good practices on, the use of electronic data collection technologies in census enumeration”, according to the UNSD website.

The meeting also provides an opportunity to review the business processes for successful implementation of electronic data collection technologies in population and housing censuses, the UNSD said.

“The outcomes of this meeting will serve as input towards the drafting of guidelines on the use of electronic data collection technologies in censuses,” it added.