

Chapter 13

Procedures and Steps

How the Family Justice Center Model Came to Life in Jordan



In the summer of 2006, the Vital Voices Global Partnership (VVGP) team visited Jordan to plan a project that involves the private sector in issues related to family protection. VV contracted Mahara Professional Consultancies in Development to be their local consultants and advisors to assist in planning and executing the initial stages of this new project according to Jordanian needs. After the American (VV) and Jordanian (Mahara) teams met with various members from the public, NGO, and private sectors in Jordan, they created the idea of a yearlong project to encourage public-private partnerships.

February 2007



The first activity of this project was a symposium entitled “Building Public-Private Partnerships to Enhance Social and Economic Progress in Jordan and Beyond,” which was held from February 6-8, 2007, under the patronage of HRH Queen Rania Al-Abdullah. It was designed to inform, encourage, and inspire cross-sector collaborations -- public-private partnerships -- by highlighting successful local, regional and international models that address social and economic issues. Jordanian business leaders, along with their counterparts from the USA, UK and the region, and key community and government representatives discussed effective practices and showcased successful campaigns that have benefited business, while simultaneously advancing social progress.

Approximately 45-50 participants, 30 of whom were Jordanians, attended the symposium. Most representatives came from the business community, joined by others from the NGO and government sectors.

Among the panelists was Mr. Casey Gwinn, CEO of the Family Justice Center Foundation. He discussed the success story of the San Diego Family Justice Center in the United States, highlighting the ways in which the public, private and government sectors can collaborate to benefit the society.

“The San Diego Family Justice Center is the co-location of a multi-disciplinary team of professionals who work together, under one roof, to provide coordinated services to victims of family violence. While a Family Justice Center may house many partners, the basic partners include police officers, prosecutors, and community-based advocates. The core concept is to provide one place where victims can go to talk to an advocate, plan for their safety, interview with a police officer, meet with a prosecutor, receive medical assistance, receive information on shelter, and get help with transportation.

The Family Justice Center approach is based on the San Diego model (www.familyjusticecenter.org) which opened in 2002. The Family Justice Center model has been identified as a best practice in the field of domestic violence intervention and prevention services by the United States Department of Justice. The documented and published outcomes in the Family Justice Center model have included: reduced homicides; increased victim safety; increased autonomy and empowerment for victims; reduced fear and anxiety for victims and their children; increased efficiency and coordination among service providers; and reduced recantation and minimization by victims when wrapped in services and support. (See Casey Gwinn, Gael Strack, *Hope for Hurting Families: Creating Family Justice Centers Across America* (Volcano Press 2006)).”

Jordanian participants were blown away by the San Diego Family Justice Center model. They were eager to meet Mr. Gwinn and learn from his experience.

April 2007

As an outcome of the symposium, in April 2007 the formation of the Jordanian Forum for Public Private Partnerships launched the second phase of this project. Approximately fifty six representatives from the public, non-governmental and private sectors joined the Forum.

Members met regularly to hold capacity-building workshops and meetings to discuss issues and topics pertinent to the three sectors in order to bridge the gap among them and enhance future partnerships. Additionally, the Forum included site visits at various NGOs that allowed participants to receive hands on experience with a variety of projects occurring in Jordan.

June 2007

In order for the symposium participants and Forum members to learn more about the Family Justice Center model, the first activities of the Forum included:

- An interactive workshop training on “*Partnering with the Private Sector*” that took place in June 2007 at the Radisson SAS hotel. Mr. Timothy Campen, deputy district attorney and member of the Family Justice Center team in San Diego, led the training and provided practical skills as well as examples on building cross sector partnerships.
- Mr. Campen offered free consultation and information about the FJC model with the National Council for Family Affairs, the Noor Hussein Foundation, and the Jordan River Foundation.

During his visit to Jordan, Mr. Campen kindly shared two books by Gael Strack and Casey Gwinn with Mahara Professional Consultancies in Development: *Hope for Hurting Families - Creating Family Justice Centers across America* and *How to Start a Family Justice Center in Your Community*.

November 2007

During the third phase of this project, a regional conference entitled “Leveraging Corporate-Community Partnerships to Support Women’s Progress” was held from November 3-4, 2007 in Amman, Jordan, under the patronage of her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah. Many managers who are responsible for designing and implementing corporate-community partnerships attended.

The conference highlighted the work of the Jordanian Forum for Public-Private Partnerships. It featured effective public-private partnership models from the MENA region, including Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates. Plenary discussions consisted of speeches and case studies about corporate social responsibility (CSR) from leaders in the region. Practical, hands-on training and opportunities for networking and sharing experiences across sectors augmented the discussions.

Training focused on areas such as working with governments for social change, creating strategic CSR plans, communicating your CSR work, and measuring social impact. Leaders in the field from the United States and Jordan led these trainings.

Again, due to the high demand and request from Forum members to learn more about the success story of the FJC model, Mr. Campen and Ms. Gael Strack, Executive Director, National/International Family Justice Center Alliance, directed a training to explain the process of creating workable partnerships. They answered several questions crucial to this process, such as: What does an agreement between government, business, and/or NGOs look like? What are the steps to reach this agreement? What are the ways that a partnership can be managed on a daily basis? And, finally, what will work for you?

At this conference, Mr. Campen and Ms. Strack, along with Ms. Melanne Verveer, Chair and Co-CEO of Vital Voices Global Partnership, met with Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah and discussed the FJC model and how to replicate it in Jordan. Her Majesty conveyed great interest and expressed the urgency to work on this project to bring together all the service providers.

With the support of Her Majesty, Mahara Professional Consultancies in Development, Vital Voices and the Family Justice Center team prepared to initiate this project. It was important for the FJC team to meet with various representatives in Jordan to acquire background knowledge of which services are provided and how they are handled. In order that the USA team (VV and FJC) may observe these services, Mahara Professional Consultancies in Development arranged for them to meet with various personnel from the NGO and government sectors that work in the family protection domain.

The team met with the following individuals:

Judge Mohammed Tarawneh from the Ministry of Justice,
Colonel Fadel Hmoud of the Family Protection Department at the Public Security,
Mr. Mohammed Meqdady of the National Council for Family Affairs,
Ms. Amal Azzam of the Dar Al-Wefaq Women Shelter,
Ms. Eva Halaweh from The Mizan Law Firm,
Ms. Asma Khader, Director of the Jordan National Commission on Women,
Dr. Momen Hadidi and Dr. Isra'a Tawalbeh from the National Institute for Forensic Medicine,
Ms. Hana Shahin from the Nour Hussein Foundation, and
Ms Huda Hakki from Jordanian Hasehemite Fund for Human Development (JOHUD).

After these meetings in November, the Family Justice team and VVGP left with a better understanding of the current situation in Jordan, and returned to the States equipped with feedback and suggestions for the next steps towards the establishment of a Center in Jordan.

January 2008

Upon returning to the US, the FJC team developed a “Technical Assistance” Proposal with their recommendations on how to proceed with this project and sent it to the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) to acquire additional funding.

Through the assistance of Vital Voices Global Partnership, additional funding was acquired from MEPI to support the project. The overall objective of the “Family Justice Center Technical Assistance Project” was to facilitate and support the planning and establishment of a Center in Jordan with technical assistance for the Jordanian Stakeholders.

Specific objectives of this proposal included:

- Transfer knowledge and expertise from the US Partners to the Jordanian Stakeholders.
- Provide feedback and recommendations during the course of the agreement.
- Develop tools to guide the planning process and the establishment of the Center in Jordan.
- Pilot this strategic planning process for opening a Center in Jordan as a model for the entire Middle East.

Proposed activities of the “FJC Technical Assistant Project” included:

- An on-site two-day strategic planning in February 2008. The February 2008 Strategic Planning event would focus on: establishing an operational Steering Committee to guide the planning and implementation process for a Center; developing a clear vision for Jordan, with an awareness of the appropriate components of and barriers against the vision; creating a critical path to open the Center; setting up work groups to focus on service delivery areas in the Center; and organizing the financial process to fund and operate the Center.
- The identification of three to five representatives from the Jordanian Steering Committee to participate in a US study tour in April 2008 (costs would be covered by Vital Voices-MEPI). Other representatives from the Jordanian Stakeholders could join the US study tour at their own expense.
- This study tour of selected members from the Jordanian Steering committee would include attendance of the International FJC conference in San Diego from April 22-24, 2008 as well as site visits to similar co-located service delivery models in the U.S (subject to funding).
- Identification of training needs during the February planning session in Jordan and the development of a joint training proposal for additional training (subject to funding and scheduling as determined by the partners and stakeholders).
- The National Family Justice Center Alliance (NFJCA) team was proposed to return to Jordan in June/July 2008 to provide additional strategic planning, consulting and/or training as determined by this partnership.

February 2008

The first activity under this proposal was a “Strategic Planning Workshop.” It was held at the Sheraton Hotel from February 24-25, 2008.

The aim of this workshop was to set forth the strategic plan for Jordan to establish a Family Justice Center similar to the San Diego Family Justice Center model in the United States to support victims of violence. The preparations for this event were carried out by both Mahara Professional Consultancies in Development and the National Council for Family Affairs (NCFA).

From the start, the NCFA was engaged in planning and arranging this project. It was important to include the NCFA, as it is the umbrella organization in Jordan for all NGOs and institutions that work in this field.

Ms. Judith Adams, professional Strategic Planner for the Family Justice Center, facilitated the workshop by asking participants to answer questions and consider issues such as: Jordan- Community Assessment to identify the uniqueness of Jordan’s experience, resources and accomplishments to date, and how they relate to their readiness to create their own Center; to collaboratively imagine it is the year 2013 and envision what the center looks like and what stands in the way of that vision; and to explore different options for a Center.

A few private sector companies participated in this workshop. From the beginning, the private sector was included in all initiatives to highlight the need for their support and commitment in establishing and running such a Center. Indeed, it is the partnerships among all sectors in society that make the FJC unique.

Upon completion, the FJC Team compiled the outcomes of this training workshop into a report. From the participating parties in this workshop, the following was agreed upon:

Planned Accomplishments for Year One:

1. Form a Steering Committee
2. Conduct focus groups with victims
3. Identify services/partners that can be added to a Community Center, for example a health clinic-based model
4. Identify services/partners that can be added to the FPD-based model
5. Identify key steps, policies, and procedures and create a time-line for implementation
6. Conduct follow up interviews with clients receiving services in each location
7. Assess findings and make recommendations for future Center model

During the workshop three centers were suggested to start a FJC:

- The Public Security - Family Protection Department
- The Queen Noor Health Clinic
- Community Campus Setting - build a campus and including all services within it

March 2008

To accomplish goals 2 and 6 of February’s “Planned Accomplishments,” Mahara Professional Consultancies in Development arranged to send out a questionnaire to all service providers (NGOs and institutions) to receive feedback from service seekers (clients) on which types of services they would like to see in an all encompassing centers in Jordan.

Mahara Professional Consultancies in Development drafted the questionnaire in addition to a simple template to categorize all the services received from service seekers. At a meeting that was held at the National Council for Family Affairs, the questions were discussed and agreed upon by NGOs that work in this field.

Through mid-April, organizations conducted internal focus groups to learn from clients what services they would prefer at a comprehensive center.

April and May 2008

During the month of April, organizations and NGOs continued to conduct the focus groups. Upon collecting all the feedback, Mahara Professional Consultancies in Development summarized all results in a comprehensive report. This report was shared with all stakeholders of the FJC project in Jordan in the form of a Power Point presentation during the June workshop.

In addition, in April, a delegation of key stakeholders from Jordan participated in a study tour to the United States. The participants in this trip were decision makers from various NGOs and Ministries in Jordan. Participants included:

- Ms. Samar Haj-Hasan from Mahara Professional Consultancies in Development,
- Mr. Mohammed Meqdady, Director of Family Protection and Empowerment Programs Unit at the National Council for Family Affairs,
- Mr. Ahmad Muhaisen from the Ministry of Social Development,
- Col. Mohammed Zu'ibi, Director of the Public Security-Family Protection Department,
- Ms. Nadia Bushnaq, Director of the Family Guidance and Awareness Center in Zarqa, and
- Ms. Samia Bishara, Director of the Queen Rania Family and Child Center.

The delegation had the opportunity to visit US government and non-governmental organizations in Washington, DC, New York, and San Diego, giving them firsthand knowledge of and experience with US best practices in this field. The delegation also attended and participated in the 8th Annual San Diego International Family Justice Center Conference.

June and July 2008

In June, a workshop was organized to map the procedures that victims of family violence and abuse go through in order to reach adequate services in Jordan.

This workshop was coordinated in collaboration with the Jordan River Foundation and was held at the Greater Amman Municipality. The workshop aimed to map the services that victims of family violence go through to receive assistance. It highlighted both the strong and weak points in the Jordanian organizations and system. The weak points helped the discussion of ways to initiate improvements and techniques for filling the gaps and problems in the national system.

During this workshop, the results from the “service seekers” questionnaire and the US study tour trip were shared with all participants. The workshop ended with a compilation of its outcomes, including those from the workshop itself, the questionnaire, and the insight from the Jordanian delegation that participated in the April US study tour. These were agreed upon by all stakeholders involved:

- There is a need for two separate Centers, one that focuses on the needs of women and the other on children.
- The NCFA will act as the umbrella organization that will coordinate and facilitate the work among all parties involved. In addition it will form the steering committee and coordinate the work of all the members.
- A pilot project will be started after a location and site is decided upon based on the victims' needs and priorities. It will begin in Jordan and then expand to other municipalities.

During the month of July, Mahara Professional Consultancies in Development shared all the reports and findings from the beginning of the year with involved stakeholders in this project in order to keep them in the loop and engaged in developments.

August 2008

In August, a meeting was arranged by the NCFA. Members from the following institutions participated:

- Ministry of Social Development,
- Public Security- Family Protection Department,
- Jordan River Foundation, and
- Mahara Professional Consultancies in Development.

The aim of this meeting was to agree on the ways to advance this project and to begin planning where the new pilot center will be located or hosted.

Two decisions were unanimously agreed upon by all:

- That NCFA will be in charge of forming a *technical committee* to identify the best location for the FJC pilot project.
- The MOSD will be in charge of establishing and heading a *steering committee* that will consist of decision makers of the main stakeholders.

The difference between the technical and steering committee is that the former will deal with the day to day issues regarding the center and organizations work to bring all the services together under one roof. The steering committee will be more of a 'decision making' committee comprised of top officials from various institutions and ministries in Jordan that are in charge of deciding on major issues, in addition to easing the work and paving the way for the technical committee to do its work.

It was also agreed that the location for the pilot project will be in one of three options:

- Queen Rania Family and Child Center (JRF)
- Public Security – Family Protection Department (FPD)
- A center run by the Ministry of Social Development (MOSD)

In August, the first meeting of the technical committee was held. The technical committee is comprised of representatives from each:

- National Council for Family Affairs,
- Jordan River Foundation,
- Public Security- Family Protection Unit,
- Ministry of Health,
- Ministry of Social Development,
- Ministry of Justice, and
- Mahara Professional Consultancies in Development

During this meeting, it was agreed that JRF, FPD, and MOSD will put together the types of services they already deliver in addition to the ones they would need in order to have a comprehensive center in order to gauge which center would be the best to start a pilot project.

In addition, Mahara Professional Consultancies in Development formed a questionnaire to complement the questionnaire distributed by the NCFA but instead focuses on the location and space needed to establish a pilot center.

In mid-August, all responses were gathered and a meeting to discuss all findings was held. The aim of the meeting was to objectively decide on the best location to start a pilot project by taking into consideration all the criteria listed in both questionnaires (regarding the services provided and location and space).

September 2008

During the second meeting of the technical committee representatives, they agreed that the future pilot center should either be focused on women or children. The decision was made to focus on children, since Jordan has moved forward in this issue and has experience. Furthermore, both women's and children's issues are interconnected and cannot be separated; what affects the child indirectly affects women and vice versa.

Representatives from the three organizations have filled out both questionnaires. The results from the questionnaires, in addition to the decision described above, will be discussed and shared with the steering committee in mid –September.

October 2008

In October, the FJC team will work with all stakeholders and the staff and employees of the final pilot center to add on services and to understand how to facilitate the referral system with other centers and organizations. This training will be dedicated to an initial assessment meeting with the team in charge in the selected location. It will discuss in detail both the available services and the existing gaps. Additionally, it will introduce the management team to the concept and the necessity of volunteerism.

Contributors

Casey Gwinn

Casey Gwinn, J.D. serves as the President of the National Family Justice Center Alliance. Casey has been recognized by *The American Lawyer* magazine as one of the top 45 public lawyers in America.

Casey served for eight years as the elected City Attorney of San Diego from 1996 to 2004. Prior to entering elected office, Casey founded City Attorney's Child Abuse and Domestic Violence Unit, leading the Unit from 1986 to 1996 – prosecuting both misdemeanor and felony cases. In 1993, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges recognized his Child Abuse/Domestic Violence Unit as the model domestic violence prosecution unit in the nation. During Casey's tenure, the Unit's work was honored for playing a major role in the 90 percent drop in domestic violence homicides in the City of San Diego over the last twenty years. San Diego now has the lowest domestic violence homicide rate of any major city in the nation. In 1986, Casey co-founded the San Diego Task Force on Domestic Violence. In 1991, he founded the San Diego Domestic Violence Council. The Task Force and the Council worked closely in partnership with the YWCA of San Diego County and the YWCA hosted the task force in its earliest years of development.

In 2002, Casey saw his vision of a comprehensive, “one stop shop” for services to victims of family violence become a reality in San Diego. In partnership with former San Diego Police Chief David Bejarano and current Chief Bill Lansdowne, he led the effort to open the nationally acclaimed San Diego Family Justice Center. The Family Justice Center opened its doors in downtown San Diego on October 10, 2002. In January, 2003, Casey and the San Diego Family Justice Center were profiled on the Oprah Winfrey Show as leading the way for other communities in its coordinated approach to co-locating services for victims of domestic violence, child abuse, elder abuse, and sexual assault. In October, 2003, President George W. Bush announced a national initiative to begin creating Family Justice Centers across the country and asked Casey to provide leadership to the effort. Casey currently oversees a national technical assistance team that supports all existing and developing Family Justice Centers in the United States and around the world, speaks in communities across America, and provides leadership to the YWCA of San Diego County.

Casey has received many local and national awards, including the Stephen L. Lewis Lecturer of Merit Award from the National College of District Attorneys, the San Diego Domestic Violence Council's Lifetime Achievement Award, the Women's International Living Legacy Award, the Men's Leadership Forum Hometown Hero Award, Sharp Healthcare's Excellence in Education Award, the San Diego Press Club's Diogenes Award, the San Diego Mediation Center's Peacemaker Award, the San Diego Ecumenical Council's Christian Unity Award, Lifetime Television's Times Square Salute Award, Advocate of the Year Award presented on Disability Independence Day from the disabled community in San Diego, and most recently, in 2007, the California Peace Prize from the California Wellness Foundation.

Casey is an honors graduate of Stanford University and UCLA School of Law.

Gael Strack

Gael B. Strack is the Chief Executive Officer of the National Family Justice Center Alliance which provides technical assistance to over 30 existing and pending Family Justice Centers across the world. Prior to this position, Gael served as the Director of the San Diego Family Justice Center from October 2002 through May 2007. In that capacity, she worked closely with 25 on-site agencies (government and non-profit) who came together in 2002 to provide services to victims of domestic violence and their children from one location. The San Diego Family Justice Center was recognized as a model program by President Bush in October 2003 and was the inspiration for the President's Family Justice Center Initiative which launched 15 Centers across the nation.

Prior to her work at the Family Justice Center, Gael was a domestic violence prosecutor for 17 years at the San Diego City Attorney's Office. She joined the office in 1987 and served in many capacities including an Assistant City

Attorney for former City Attorney Casey Gwinn and Head Deputy City Attorney responsible for the Child Abuse and Domestic Violence Unit. Gael has also worked as a deputy public defender and a deputy county counsel for the San Diego County Counsel's office handling juvenile dependency matters. She graduated from Western State College of Law in December 1985.

Gael is a former board member of the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence, past President of the San Diego Domestic Violence Council and former commissioner of the ABA's Commission on Domestic Violence. In her spare time, Gael is an adjunct law professor for California Western School of Law teaching "Domestic Violence and the Law." Gael has been honored with numerous awards, including San Diego Attorney of the Year for 2006. She is an internationally recognized trainer on domestic violence and strangulation.

Gael has also co-authored a series of strangulation articles in the Journal of Emergency Medicine, the National College of District Attorney's Practical Prosecutor, and the Journal of the California Dental Association. Gael has co-authored two books with Casey Gwinn, JD, on the Family Justice Center movement in "Hope for Hurting Families: Creating Family Justice Centers across America" and "Hope for Hurting Families II: How to Start a Family Justice Center in your Community." Most recently, she has co-authored a book with Judi Adams, called "The Big Girls Club – Little Girl Rules for the Big Girl Workplace" which describes the ten rules of friendship that can help women thrive and succeed in the changing workplace.

Dana Al-Ebrahim

Dana Al-Ebrahim is the Middle East and North Africa Regional Program Manager responsible for Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates. At Vital Voices she manages two multi-country programs that aim to support women's social, economic and political progress in the region. Through these programs, she is able to foster public-private partnerships and corporate social responsibility initiatives that focus on family violence, women's health and economic empowerment.

Prior to joining Vital Voices, Dana taught Modern Standard Arabic at the University of Arizona, while writing her Master's thesis on women's rights and political participation in Kuwait. Using this research, Dana recently published an article on the history of the Kuwaiti women's movement titled, "Political Rights: A Brief Look at the Kuwaiti Women's Movement."

In 2006-07, she was a student of advanced Arabic at the Center for Arabic Study Abroad (CASA) at the American University in Cairo. Dana also served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Jordan, where, from 2000 to 2002, she taught English at an all girls' school, in addition to implementing a lunch program for needy students and developing a summer camp to enhance and reinforce students' use of English.

Dana holds a M.A. in Near Eastern Studies from the University of Arizona and B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Boston University.

Shireen Zaman

Shireen Zaman is the Executive Director of the Institute for Policy and Social Understanding.

Prior to joining IPSU, Ms. Zaman was the Director for the Middle East and North Africa at Vital Voices Global Partnership. At Vital Voices, she managed a multi-country program focusing on the development of public-private partnerships and corporate responsibility initiatives to support women's progress in the region. She also worked on supporting the MENA Businesswomen's Network, whose goal is to increase the number of women in business, increase the value of their businesses, advance the role of women in society, and promote a regional culture of women's entrepreneurship across the MENA region. Ms. Zaman has also worked on developing programs focusing on women's roles in peace building in Israel/Palestine and a transnational program focusing on women's rights in the region.

She completed her Masters degree at the School of International Service at American University in Washington, DC in 2006. Ms. Zaman has worked with the Office of Iraq Political Affairs at the U.S. Department of State where she

focused on Iraqi women and civil society development. She lived in Egypt, where she attended the Arabic Language Institute at the American University based in Cairo and worked with the Transnational Broadcast Studies journal there. Ms. Zaman holds a B.A. in Human Development from Boston College.

Samar Haj Hassan

Samar Haj Hasan is the co-founder and managing partner of Mahara Professional Consultancies in Development, which is the first consultancy firm in Jordan that provides comprehensive services in the field of social and human development. As a social entrepreneur, Samar established Mahara to contribute to the social sustainability in Jordan by providing professional services to the sector of social development, including research and surveys, data base development, monitoring and evaluation, training, project management and services related to Corporate Social Responsibility where Mahara aims to provide companies with well researched and strategic advice to identify and solve CSR challenges through social responsible business policies and practices.

Mrs. Haj Hasan has an educational background in International Business Administration and Marketing from the American University in Switzerland. Mrs. Haj Hassan participated in several national committees including the national committee for the development of the Youth Strategy, the Social Network Committee of the National Agenda for Jordan, The National Committee for the development of the National Strategy for the Jordanian Family and the Management Team of the National Project for Family Protection. At a regional level Mrs. Haj Hasan has worked closely with the Arab League as a member the regional advisory committee to develop the Arab Strategy for the family.

Mrs. Haj Hasan ran for parliament elections in 2007. Although she did not get the seat, she established a record with the highest number of votes a woman ever got in the Amman Governorate and was the third among the entire woman in Jordan during the 2007 elections. In addition she gained recognition as a professional woman who conducted the most professional election campaign. Mrs. Haj Hasan is strong advocate for women, youth and children issues and the wellbeing of the family in general. In 2008 Mrs. Haj Hasan was elected as a board member at the Young Entrepreneurs Association, and the SOS villages, and she was recently assigned a member of the Social and Economic Council in Jordan.

Yasmine Pharaon

Yasmine holds a BA degree in Human Services from The George Washington University in Washington D.C. (2005).

In October 2006, Yasmine joined Mahara, Professional Consultancies in Development as a Projects Coordinator. Yasmine has gained experience and knowledge in planning and executing projects. She was in charge of handling the day-to-day fiscal, administrative, and operational activities of various programs. Her duties typically include working with internal and external parties to organize the various components needed to initiate, run, complete and report projects. She is responsible for communicating with clients to receive data and feedback on their requirements and to ensure that all their needs are met. She coordinates between all the stake-holders involved to assure project completion. Yasmine has worked on planning and executing the *“Jordanian Forum for Public-Private Partnerships.”*

Since January 2008, Yasmine has been contracted by Vital Voices Global Partnership as their local coordinator. She is in charge of the Planning and coordinating the administrative and operational activities of two projects being implemented in Jordan: the “Making it Our Business” Breast Cancer Employee Awareness Project for Private Sector Companies that is being executed in collaboration with the King Hussein Cancer Foundation/ Jordan Breast Cancer Program, and the “Family Justice Center Technical Assistance” Project. The aim of the Family Justice Center is to provide multidisciplinary services for victims of domestic and family abuse all under one roof in Jordan.

Partners

Vital Voices Global Partnership



Vital Voices Global Partnership (www.vitalvoices.org) is the preeminent non-governmental organization (NGO) that identifies, trains, and empowers emerging women leaders and social entrepreneurs around the globe, enabling them to create a better world for us all. Our international staff and team of over 1,000 partners, pro bono experts and leaders, including senior government, corporate and NGO executives, have trained and mentored more than 5,000 emerging women leaders from over 150 countries in Asia, Africa, Eurasia, Latin America, and the Middle East since 1997. They have equipped these women with management, business development, marketing, and communications skills to expand their enterprises, help to provide for their families, and create jobs in their communities. These women have returned home to train and mentor more than 100,000 additional women and girls in their communities.

The Family Justice Center



The Family Justice Center Alliance (www.familyjusticecenter.org) was launched in 2006 in response to the increasing demand for technical assistance from existing and pending Centers across the world. The Family Justice Center Alliance serves as the official technical assistance provider for the United States Department of Justice for federally funded centers and also works with centers outside the federal initiative and abroad. There are currently 55 operational centers in the United States with three international Centers (Canada, Mexico, and the UK). In addition, there are over 50 Centers currently developing in the United States, Europe, Jordan, Bahrain, Africa, and Central America.

In addition to technical assistance, training and consulting, the Family Justice Center Alliance hosts an annual international conference, provides shared learning opportunities such as staff exchange programs, international internships, web-based education programs, and training in the area of family violence. The Alliance also operates the Family Justice Center Institute sponsored by the Verizon Foundation. The Institute is developing new victim service delivery models, innovative pilot projects in Family Justice Centers, identifying best practices in Centers, and promoting increased victim safety through the use of technology and innovative on-line training, technical assistance, and education.

Mahara Professional Consultancies in Development



Mahara Professional Consultancies in Development (<http://mahara.jo>) is a private sector consultancy firm; it offers exclusive and professional consultancies in the multi-disciplinary fields of “Human and Social Development” in Jordan. Mahara provides technical services under the following main categories:

- Databases and Research
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- National Surveys
- Training
- Corporate Social Responsibility
- Technical Projects Management

The Middle East Partnership Initiative



This project is funded through the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, Office of the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI). MEPI is a unique program designed to engage directly with and invest in the peoples of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). MEPI works to create vibrant partnerships with citizens to foster the development of pluralistic, participatory, and prosperous societies throughout the MENA region. MEPI partners with local, regional and international non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academic institutions, and governments. More information about MEPI can be found at: www.mepi.state.gov.

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