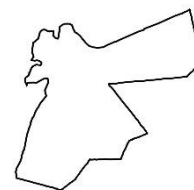


The VNR in a Nutshell – National Strategies for SDGs.

JORDAN

Capital	Amman
Population	6,249 Million
Area (in sq. km)	89,342
Area (in sq. mi)	35,637
Language(s)	Arabic
Poverty rate	14.4%
Per capita income	3,275.8 JOD
Human Development Index	0.700
International	
Tourist Arrivals (2015) (thousand)	2057



The recognition of the role of tourism in sustainable development and the emphasis placed in the SDGs on the development of public policies for sustainable tourism is a landmark breakthrough that provides a unique opportunity for all governments to create a sound and favourable policy foundation.

The first two years of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda have shown that countries are making headway in aligning national strategies, adapting institutional frameworks and adjusting policies to realize the SDGs.

The countries' efforts have been reported in the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), presented by UN Member States during the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in 2016 and 2017

Title of VNR: Jordan's Way to Sustainable Development First National Voluntary review on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

Presenter for VNR: Imad Fakhoury, Minister of Planning and international Cooperation

National Thematic Focus:

National priorities categorised in People, planet, peace, prosperity. For the upcoming years Jordan sets out to:

1. Strengthening the link between education and the labour market, and supporting entrepreneurship
2. to reduce unemployment and ensure decent work;
3. Combating stereotypes to achieve gender equality and decrease geographical disparities; reducing poverty and ensuring equal access to social services;
4. Enhancing accountability, respecting human rights and contributing to regional stability;
5. Enhancing awareness on environmental issues, promoting renewable energy and addressing water scarcity

Institutional Arrangement:

Strategic Planning:

- The Higher Steering Committee endorses long-term development plans such as Jordan 2025 and all associated documents, such as the EDPs. It is headed by the Prime Minister and includes representatives from relevant Ministries, civil society organizations, and the private sector.

- The National Higher Committee for Sustainable Development, created in 2002, manages the integration of the SDGs within government initiatives and strategies. It is headed by the Minister of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC), and is composed of members from relevant Ministries, civil society organizations, the private sector, both houses of Parliament, and local communities.

- The Coordination Committee oversees the preparation of the EDPs, supervises the working groups, and reviews progress on implementation. It is headed by the Secretary General of MOPIC, and includes members from Government, Ministries, and other relevant stakeholders.

Implementation:

- The 18 Working Groups define short- and long-term objectives based on the EDP and the SDGs, and identify funding needs and monitoring indicators.

The Coordinating Secretariat supports the Coordination Committee and the Working Groups.

SDG Incorporation to National Framework:

The SDGs are integrated into the following key Jordanian Government frameworks:

- Jordan 2025 is the national 10-year vision and strategic plan established in 2015, which takes into consideration the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. Its four priorities are citizens, society, business, and government.
- Executive Development Programmes (EPDs) operationalize Jordan 2025 through concrete three- or four-year development programmes. The current EPD for 2016-2019 incorporates the 2030 Agenda, covering 26 development sectors.
- The Roadmap for SDG Implementation defines how the SDGs are to be incorporated into national and sub-national strategic planning, budgets, monitoring processes, and institutional frameworks.
- The SDGs are also incorporated in thematic strategies and legislation, such as the Economic Growth Plan (2018-2022).

Tourism Ministry /NTA portfolio:

[Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities](#)

Tourism and SDG in Jordan:

Opportunities

- Partnerships



- Tourism is part of the government's Working group The Working Groups define objectives and actions based on the EDP and in alignment with the SDGs, targets and indicators. To ensure better resonance between the national priorities and the SDGs, the composition of the groups was adjusted and two new working groups focused on "Gender Equality" and "Human Rights and Freedom of Expression" were established. Members of these two new groups will also be embedded within the other groups to ensure inter-connectedness and complementarity. All committees have members from the private sector and the CSOs. Tourism is one of the working groups

- **Waste Resource Management**
- **Sustainable Consumption and production**



Water Resource Management. The “Water for Life: Water Strategy in Jordan” for (2016-2025) has captured national efforts to manage the water sector and ensure optimal service levels. The strategy focuses on the limited freshwater resources and on the responsibility of all citizens, government and civil society as partners in responsible water management, protection and sustainable use. The strategy is based on the integrated water resource management approach and includes policies and strategic directions in water and sanitation, and working mechanisms with the agriculture, energy, industry, tourism and environment sectors.

- **Energy use and efficiency**
- **Partnerships**



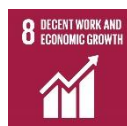
In terms of electricity, all areas in Jordan have been covered by an electricity network that meets international standards, with 99.9% of the homes receiving electricity at suitable and sustainable prices. All the electricity needs of the commercial, industrial, and tourism sectors are met on a regular and affordable basis. Jordan has worked closely with neighboring countries to strengthen regional electrical connections through linking with the Syrian Arab Republic and the Arab Republic of Egypt.

- **Partnerships**
- **Finance and Investment**
- **Green Economy**
- **Employment creation**



Public and Private Investment in priority areas like tourism: For the medium and long-term, the Government has adopted green economy principles and applied them at all levels. Several important steps have been taken in this regard, the most recent of which is the completion of the National Plan for Green Growth (2017-2025). This is a roadmap to encourage the public and private sector to invest in priority areas like: energy, water, transport, agriculture, tourism, and waste management, for the benefit of local communities through providing jobs and reducing unemployment.

- **Rural development**



Unexploited Tourism Potential: Jordan hosts a vast number of archaeological sites that serve as important cultural heritage resources for the country. Aside from the renowned tourist attractions and World Heritage Sites, there are numerous, lesser-known locations that hold unexploited tourism potential if developed sustainably. Many such locations are situated within underserved areas and poverty pockets away from Amman, presenting unique opportunities for development of these local communities. *Culture as a Driver of Socio-Economic Growth (Page 55)*

Challenges

- **Water Resource Management**
- **Food security and agriculture**



In Jordan, there has always been **competition for the limited amount of available water between the municipal, agriculture, industrial and tourism sectors**. Adequate water is a fundamental element in food production. Consequently, water is a vital issue in food security from the perspective of providing safe and adequate food supplies in the short and long-term.

Threats

- **Security and peace**



The 2008 global financial crisis and the rise in oil and food prices, generalized instability throughout the region and **the spill over effects on investment, trade and tourism**, and finally, the tremendous impact of the Syria crisis and resulting population growth, which have impacted upon overall development gains in Jordan.

- **Security and peace**



The report stated that regional and global geopolitical and security developments are expected to continue to impinge on **investor confidence, tourism**, exports, investment, and public finances. Overall, this is impacting the country's path to sustainable development and posing serious risks to social cohesion.

Resources and Useful Links

[Jordan VNR 2017](#)