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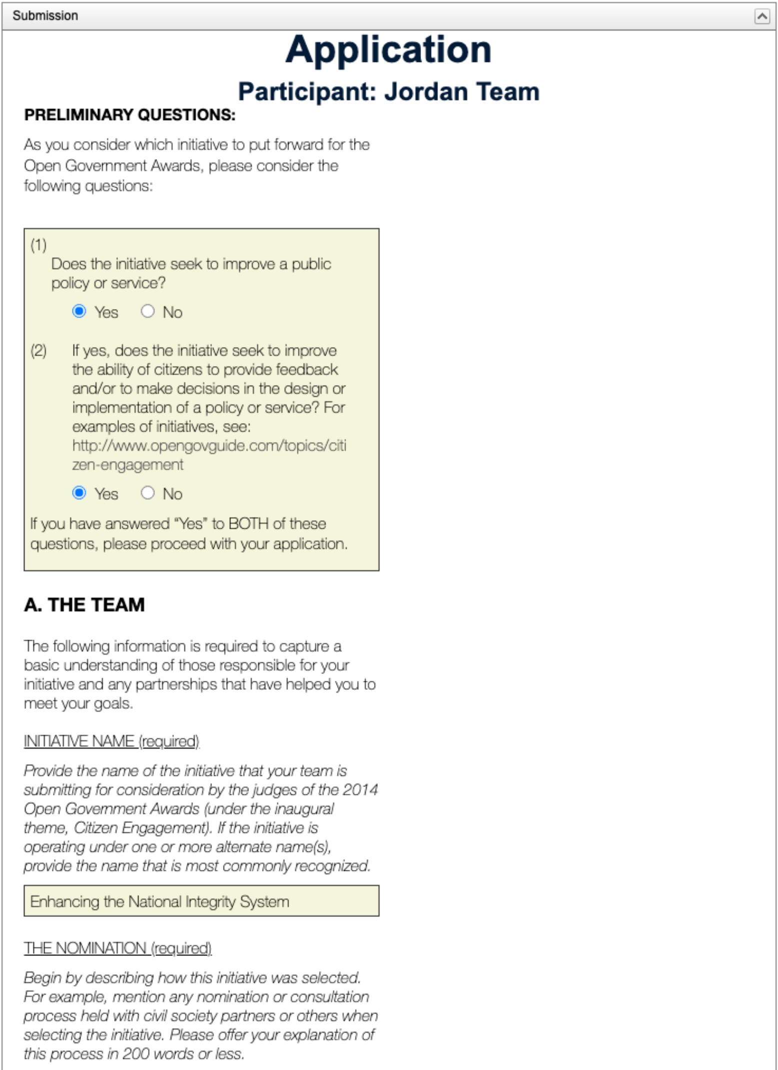

Application

Participant: Jordan Team

PRELIMINARY QUESTIONS:

As you consider which initiative to put forward for the Open Government Awards, please consider the following questions:

(1) Does the initiative seek to improve a public policy or service?

● Yes ○ No

(2) If yes, does the initiative seek to improve the ability of citizens to provide feedback and/or to make decisions in the design or implementation of a policy or service? For examples of initiatives, see: http://www.opengovguide.com/topics/citizen-engagement

● Yes ○ No

If you have answered "Yes" to BOTH of these questions, please proceed with your application.

A. THE TEAM

The following information is required to capture a basic understanding of those responsible for your initiative and any partnerships that have helped you to meet your goals.

INITIATIVE NAME (required)

Provide the name of the initiative that your team is submitting for consideration by the judges of the 2014 Open Government Awards (under the inaugural theme, Citizen Engagement). If the initiative is operating under one or more alternate name(s), provide the name that is most commonly recognized.

Enhancing the National Integrity System

THE NOMINATION (required)

Begin by describing how this initiative was selected. For example, mention any nomination or consultation process held with civil society partners or others when selecting the initiative. Please offer your explanation of this process in 200 words or less.

The Ministry of Public Sector Development (MOPSD) was asked by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC) to suggest a number of initiatives for nomination to the Open Government Awards. Accordingly, MOPSD assessed a number of initiatives (such as the national integrity system, the e-complaint system and the government restructuring law, ...). MOPSD thoroughly reviewed the suggested initiatives in close consultation with a number of civil society organizations (including Jordan National Commission for Women, All Jordan Youth Commission, Rasheed Integrity for Development, Jordanian Democratic People's party). The majority of the selection team members particularly supported "Enhancing the National Integrity System" initiative, which is considered most applicable to the award's criteria, given the award's focus on citizen engagement as well as institutionalization of the initiative. MOPSD hence further consulted Jordan's Prime Minister and received full support for the nomination. Accordingly, "Enhancing the National Integrity System" was selected for nomination.

GOVERNMENT POINT OF CONTACT (required)

Provide the name and title of a single point of contact for the purposes of communicating with your team. The person should be the most senior individual responsible for overseeing the application submission. Provide the phone number(s), email address(es), and physical address of your designated point of contact. You may provide alternate contact information, if it is a direct means for reaching the designated point of contact.

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Note: for more information about the initiative kindly visit the link bellow:
http://mopsd.gov.jo/en/PDF%20Files/NIC%20Booklet%20English%20Published.pdf

CIVIL SOCIETY POINT OF CONTACT (strongly recommended)

We strongly encourage applicants to submit a joint application from a government agency and a civil society partner. If submitting a joint application, please provide the name and title of a single point of contact at the partner organization. If not, please be sure to focus on the "validation of claims" in Section B (see pg. A-3).

The Government of Jordan is not submitting a joint application given that the chosen initiative included various civil society partners as a nationwide initiative that included all state institutions. However, a few relevant Jordanian civil society organizations were consulted in the nomination process. Additionally, civil society organizations were represented in the Royal committee for Enhancing the National Integrity System as well as the Royal follow up committee and were active participations throughout the yearlong consultation process.

OTHER PARTNERSHIPS (optional)

If you are partnering with one or more other government agencies, private sector entities, media, or other organizations, please list each partner. In 250 words or less, provide a brief narrative of the partnership, including the roles that each partner assumes in the initiative.

A Royal Committee, headed by Jordan's Prime Minister, was mandated with advancing the national integrity system in Jordan across governmental and non-governmental institutions. The Royal Committee for enhancing the National Integrity System, included eleven members representing the executive, legislative and judicial branches, human rights and civil society organizations, media, political parties, academics and private sector leaders. The Committee worked with governmental and non-governmental partners on first identifying the challenges Jordan faces in transparency, accountability and addressing graft and hence prescribing recommendations on how to set national integrity standards and institutionalize values and ethics in the public and private sectors based on justice, equity, rule of law, transparency and accountability. These partners include the regulatory bodies (such as the Audit Bureau, Anti-Corruption Commission, Ombudsman Bureau and sector specific regulatory commissions), which presented their challenges and offered recommendations on how to strengthen their institutional capacity. Other partners included political parties, municipal councils, women and youth activists, tribal and business leaders, and professional associations and unions, representing Jordan's twelve governorates. Academic institutions, both

public and private, professional associations, political parties, members of parliament, and civil society organizations were also actively engaged in presenting the challenges Jordan faces from their standpoint and prescribing recommendations on how best to enroot integrity nationally. The media played a key role in reporting on the participatory process of building the national integrity system and highlighting the diverse positions represented by the participating entities. Further, active Jordanian citizens expressed their concerns and suggestions (by email, fax, or phone).

B. THE INITIATIVE

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) is prepared to celebrate a range of successful applicants to the Open Government Awards. This year's theme is "citizen engagement." To qualify for recognition, we need to understand the various elements of success for your initiative and its sustainability over time.

PROBLEM DEFINITION (required)

In 200 words or less, please identify the specific problem your initiative intended to solve. Why was this problem important to solve at a particular time and for the particular context in which you are working?

Given its geostrategic position, resource-scarce Jordan was impacted (economically & socio-politically) by the wave of Arab spring protests in 2011 and the ensuing cycle of violence in the region. Public expectations for improved services and calls by citizens and civil society organizations for more transparency and accountability increased at a critical time when Jordan's economy and security were constrained by regional developments. The adoption of constitutional amendments in 2011 and the need to review and strengthen legislation and improve Jordan's international transparency rankings required a stronger integrity system. It was imperative to consolidate national efforts to fight corruption, reform financial and administrative systems, strengthen good governance and instill ethics, professionalism and respect for the rule of law. His Majesty King Abdullah II formed the Royal Committee for Enhancing the National Integrity System to put in place a Charter and an executive action plan that aim to build trust and confidence of

Jordanians in state institutions, combat corruption, enhance transparency and accountability, guarantee equal opportunity for all Jordanians in the public and private sectors and ensure justice for all. Enhancing the National Integrity System represents an integral component of Jordan's comprehensive reform process towards a more democratic, prosperous and secure Jordan.

TARGET POPULATION (required)

In 100 words or less, please identify the target population who may benefit from this initiative. Highlight your understanding of the needs or demands of the target population that were addressed by your initiative.

A strong and institutionalized national integrity system involves all state institutions (executive, legislative and judicial) in order to benefit all Jordanian citizens, equally. It ensures that Jordanians; men and women, children, youth, adults and the elderly have access to information, have the right to equality, justice and integrity from state institutions and are provided with public services in a fair and equitable manner. a national integrity system reinforces the collaboration between the public and private sector especially in implementing open and transparent procurement procedures. Its essence is maintaining Jordanian citizens' trust in the state and all its institutions that impact the daily lives of Jordanians.

INITIATIVE DESIGN (required)

In 350 words or less, describe your initiative's goals and objectives. Focus specifically on how the initiative was designed to meet those objectives. For example, identify stage(s) of the policy/service design or implementation when you solicited citizen participation. What kind of participation did you seek from citizens (e.g., feedback, consultation, joint decision-making, monitoring of activities, etc.)? Explain why this particular approach was best suited to achieve the initiative's goals. How did you encourage citizens to participate? Describe any innovations in the design of the initiative.

The objective of "Enhancing the National Integrity System" is to serve Jordanians, protect their dignity and safeguard their rights and assets. The initiative kicked off by His Majesty King Abduallah II's letter to the Prime Minister on December 8th 2012, entrusting him with heading a Royal committee to review the laws, diagnose points of weakness and prescribe recommendations on how to strengthen the national integrity system in accordance with international standards. The committee, comprised of eleven Jordanians representing the legislative, executive and judicial branches, the media, private sector, political parties, human rights and civil society organizations, conducted internal meetings to develop a mechanism to guide the process. Adopting an inclusive and participatory approach, the committee held more than forty meetings twenty with the main monitoring and regulatory bodies to identify their challenges and offered recommendations to strengthen their institutional capacity, followed by a series of consultative meetings with various public and private institutions and individuals in Jordan's twelve governorates, including professional associations and unions, youth, women activists, universities, political parties, chambers of trade and commerce, and parliamentarians. The consultation process with various segments of Jordanian society provided the committee with recommendations and suggestions on how best to move ahead in strengthening the national integrity system. Feedback was thoroughly reviewed and included the draft national integrity documents.

The first draft of the National Integrity Charter was posted on the Prime Ministry's website to engage Jordanian citizens innovatively. A nationwide awareness campaign through TV, radio, daily newspapers and online media invited all Jordanians to share their feedback. More than 1000 Jordanians shared ideas that were then discussed and reviewed openly with more 1000 representatives from civil society, the media, parliament, government, the judiciary, the private sector, youth and women activists at a one day retreat on the shores of the Dead Sea. All ideas were discussed in 14 groups and decided on through a democratic vote by all participants and hence included in the draft Charter and Executive Plan. Both documents were finalized 9 December 2013, marking International Anti-Corruption day, and presented to HM King Abdullah II at a ceremony including participants.

INITIATIVE OUTCOMES (required)

In 250 words or less, describe the intended outcomes and the actual outcomes that the initiative achieved. Who were the ultimate beneficiaries, and what benefits did they experience? For example, list any concrete improvements in policy, services, behaviors, or power relations between the government and citizens. Try to present your case from the perspective of the various stakeholders involved (e.g., your agency, citizens, Civil Society Organizations, media, et al.). If there are any baseline indicators or standards to measure the outcomes of the initiative, such as the breadth of depth of *engagement, please describe them in detail.*

The intended outcome of the Enhancing the National Integrity System initiative in Jordan included the completion of two key guiding documents: the National Integrity Charter and the Executive Plan. The Charter outlines the principles and pillars of integrity in the executive, judicial, legislative branches, private sector, Non-governmental bodies, civil society, political parties, and the media. The Executive Plan presents measurable actions, projects and clear mechanisms that determine the responsibilities and timeframes. It includes several components to improve services and promote a participatory approach in policymaking.
The yearlong initiative's success also lies in its inclusive consultation process that engaged an average of 250 Jordanian citizens in each of the 12 governorates, 29 universities, 24 political parties, 130 government entities and 100 civil society organizations. Both documents were successfully completed, published, and adopted by 48 different implementing governmental and non-governmental institutions. This is the first step towards cultivating the integrity culture and defining a clear vision forward for institutionalizing integrity nationwide.
Implementation of the various steps outlined in the action plan began in 2014 and is expected to conclude by 2018, in accordance with the timeframe set by the plan. A number of governmental and non-governmental initiatives are already underway to strengthen budgetary and auditing processes, reorient government work towards achieving results, reinforce monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, and restructure government agencies amongst others.
Moreover, the Government's successful experience in adopting a participatory consultative process led it to embrace the same approach in its work such as creating a participatory government manual and the local development program.

INITIATIVE SUSTAINABILITY (required)

In 200 words or less, please describe any plans for scaling up and/or sustaining the initiative in the future. Base your description of the strategy on information provided in the previous sections, such as how you intend to leverage your current success and increase your reach or capacity. Address any threats or operational challenges to your initiative and describe how you intend to manage those risks on a regular basis.

to ensure full implementation of the National Integrity Charter and the Executive Plan and their long-term sustainability across consecutive governments, two committees were set up.

The Royal Committee oversees the work of government and non-government institutions.

The Higher Steering committee follows up on progress with all government institutions and prepares quarterly reports. Both committees help address challenges in implementation including resistance to change due to a conflict of interest, change of leadership of government agencies, the magnitude of the workload on implementing agencies, and time constraints in relation to passing needed legislation. Also, both committees are entrusted with mitigating risks in order to harmonize national efforts and avoid overlaps and duplication. The committees ensure that the needed laws are in place to enroot integrity.

To enhance transparency and accountability and maintain engagement with Jordanians, the follow up committee led awareness campaigns and publish progress reports in the media. This helps ensure public ownership of institutionalizing integrity and puts public pressure on state institutions to implement the plan.

VALIDATION OF CLAIMS (required)

While it is strongly encouraged that each initiative includes partners, such as Civil Society Organizations, private sector agencies, media entities, etc., it is not a requirement. However, you are required to secure and upload documents from one or more credible nongovernmental actors who can attest to the veracity of any claims made in your application.

You are only allowed to upload one file. If you have multiple documents, please zip them into a single file first. The file types that are allowed to be uploaded have an extension of .ZIP, .PDF, .DOC, .DOCX, .XLS or .XLSX.

letters.zip

C. THE PITCH

The following information allows each applicant to make their strongest (and final) case for consideration.

BEST CASE (required)

In 250 words or less, please present the most compelling facts for why your initiative should be recognized. This is an opportunity to distinguish your initiative, based on any factors that you have not had the opportunity to describe in the previous sections. What is your best argument for why your initiative has achieved a meaningful outcome? What elements of the initiative make it different and better than others, that have been tried and tested? Be creative and concise.

Jordan is committed to advancing its democratic process in spite of the turbulent regional developments. With the onset of the Arab Spring and the ensuing regional conflict, Jordan took the lead to tackle corruption, a highly contentious issue, to ensure the voices of Jordanian citizens are heard and their concerns addressed. Accordingly, Jordan embarked on an inclusive, participatory and democratic process to enhance the National Integrity System. Led by His Majesty King Abdullah II, the initiative sought to build national consensus on the principles and pillars of Jordan's national integrity system. Driven by a national and independent committee spearheaded by Jordan's Prime Minister, this initiative included proactively engaging Jordanian citizens, representing the executive, legislative and judicial branches as well as business and tribal leaders, youth and women activists, the media, political parties and human rights and civil society organizations. Through open dialogue, an inclusive consultation process, and using diverse communications channels (people to people and technology) with minimal resources, the committee successfully prepared a comprehensive National Integrity Charter and a detailed Executive Plan, which were adopted nationwide by 48 governmental and non-governmental institutions. "Enhancing the National Integrity System" in Jordan embodies both open government and citizen engagement as it entails respecting the Jordanian citizens' rights, dignity and safeguarding their assets from corruption by enforcing the law without any discrimination or favoritism. It is an important ingredient in Jordan's democratic reform process, in order for Jordan to continue to be an oasis of stability and progress in a turbulent region.

VIDEO SUBMISSION (recommended*)

OGP does not offer a venue for applicants to meet our judges during the application process. In order to provide the opportunity for making a personal connection, you are encouraged to upload a short video to complement your application. You may also depict an individual participant in your initiative and describe his or her experience. We do not need to know actual names or personal details. Take this opportunity to tell a story, to connect with our panel of experts, so that they might better understand your attention to specific needs.

Video submissions should follow these guidelines:

- Maximum length of 3-4 minutes.
- Please focus on personal presentations; it's not necessary to develop a sophisticated or polished video.

Here are some logistical and technical suggestions:

- Video cameras, digital cameras, and phones are easy ways to record a video.
- Laptop and desktop computers can typically record video through Skype or other software.
- If possible, set to a low resolution to reduce file size. This will enable an easier video uploading process.
- If you are having difficulty uploading the video file, try logging out of the application and logging back in using another Internet browser.

Here are general suggestions for delivering a high-quality video pitch:

- Include the following:
  - Introduce yourself and your initiative.
  - Focus on describing your intended benefits and/or services and how they have been effective.
  - What is unique about your initiative, partners, or technical approach?
- Hone your content:
  - Keep your description and language simple.
  - Demonstrate passion through your words and enthusiasm.

*If the burden of developing a video presentation is either prohibitive or might not reflect the best characterization of your initiative, then you are not required to submit one, and the judges are instructed not to discount your application because it may not include a video. We hope that this option offers a new and inventive way in which you can best express the results of your work.