

**The Dilemma of Meeting The Ambitions of a
Young Population & Coping with the
Continuous Influence of the Regional Events:**

The Case of Jordan

By

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Development Scene

- Small country by size
- Located in a conflict Zone
- Youthful population
- limited natural resources
- Shortage of water
- Relay on loans
- Small scale industry
- Relay on import
- Relay heavily on Human Resources
- Good Infrastructure and Services

Effect of the Regional Conflicts on the Socio-Economic Development

- Waves of Refugees
- Demand on infrastructure services
- Changes in the demographic structure
- Return of 300 thousands of Jordanian working abroad
- Increase the number of entries to labor force
- Economic restructure program (privatization & freeze employment in public sector)
- Exacerbated two major development problems (poverty and unemployment)
- Foreign labor

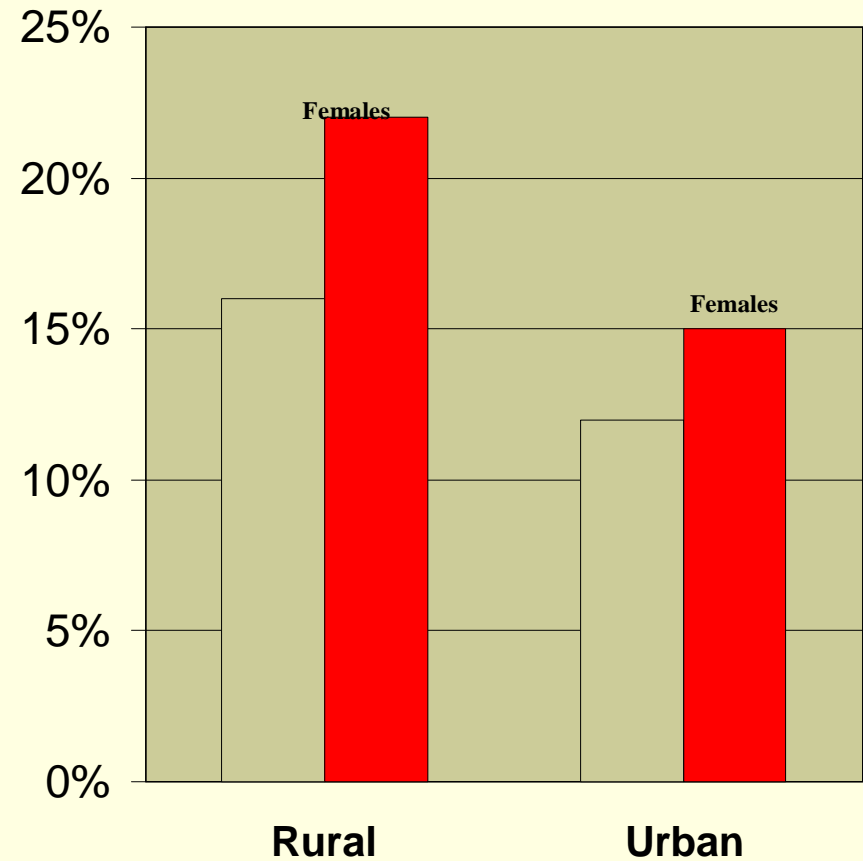
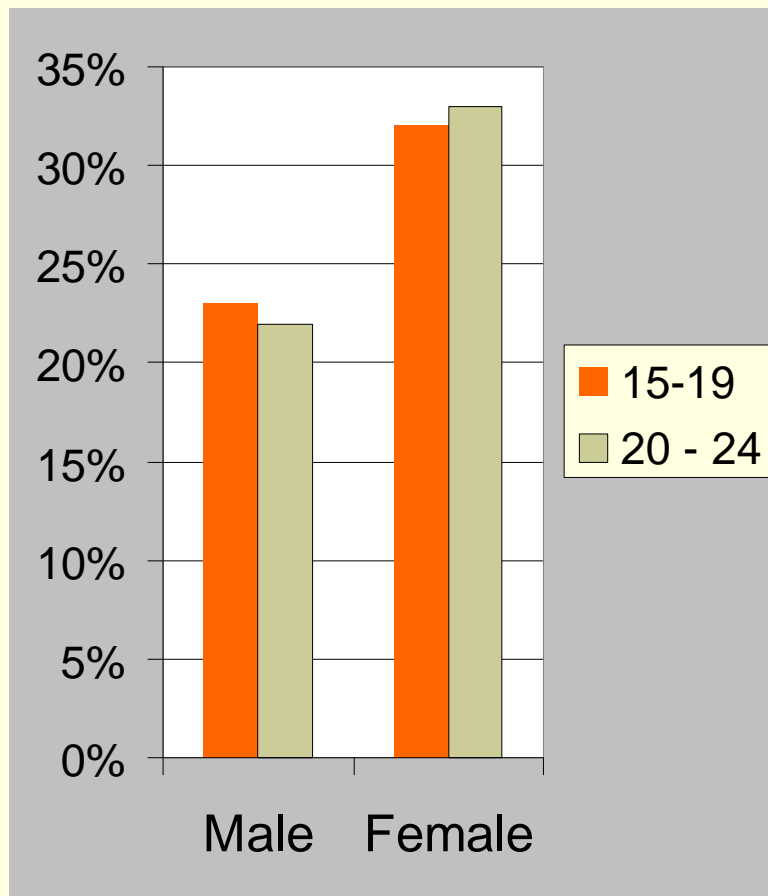
Poverty

- 17% of the population was pushed to poverty cycle
- 29% of the poor will remain poor
- Poverty pockets:
 - 13 districts out of 73
 - 34% of its population is poor
- Poverty is higher in rural areas (19%) than urban areas (13%)
- Children & Youth most affected by poverty
 - Pushed to labor market
 - Drop out of the educational system

Unemployment

- Rate is higher among females than males
 - 17% for females & 12% for males
 - Unemployment rate among educated females is higher than males
- Job seekers higher in urban areas
 - Amman 28%
 - Irbid 23%

Unemployment



■ Unemployment ■ Females

Programs Prior to the Development Challenges

Programs attempts to develop different skills for Youth

- Al-Hassan Youth Award
- Sport programs and activities
- Youth Camps
- Youth Clubs
- Arts and Music

Programs to meet the Development Challenges

Programs to solve unemployment and social problems

- Community Level
- University Level
- National Level
- Cooperation with International Organizations



National Youth Strategy

Strategy Themes

- Youth & Participation
- Youth & Civil Rights
- Youth & Leisure Entertainment
- Youth & Culture & Media
- Youth & Technology and Globalization
- Youth & Education and Training
- Youth & Employment
- Youth & Health
- Youth & Environment

Assets in Youth's view

- Stable and Protective environment
- Good Health and Educational Services
- Better choices in life than previous generation
- Equal opportunities for males and females in education

Challenges in Youth's Perspectives

- Limited economic choices for females
- Education and training do not meet the requirement and the demands of the local and global market

Aims of the Strategy

- Upgrade the qualification of the Youth
- Improve Youth's knowledge
- Improve Youth's technical skills
- Unify the efforts of the organizations
- Identify priorities
- Develop a working framework
- Upgrade the Organizations' working capacities
- Targeting three groups: youth, parents and organizations

Strategy's strengths

- Participatory approach
- Identified needs by youth
- Identified challenges and obstacles by youth
- Strategic Objectives for each theme
- Comprehensive coverage (themes)
- Kingdom coverage
- Comprehensive in including actions for different stakeholders
- Targeted youth in age group: 12-30

Remain Challenges

- Matching the educational outputs with the labor market requirement
- Attracting private sector in assessing needs and planning
- Capability of Labor local market to absorb the numbers of new entrees
- Replacement of expatriate labor and its consequences
- The consequences of the continuous of the political conflicts in the region

Recommendations

- Invest in the regional assets
- Unify in meeting challenges
- Protection for the development cooperation and agreements from the consequences of the political crisis and events