

Project Brief:

HIV/AIDS in Jordan

December 2014

Context

In April 2013, Jordan became the first Arab country to adopt a National Policy Tripartite Policy on HIV and AIDS and the World of Work¹, targeting HIV/AIDS in the workplace. The move followed the introduction of an international labour standard on HIV/AIDS and the world of work, which was adopted at the 99th Session of the International Labour Conference in 2010.²

Jordan's policy spells out workplace issues, protects against employment discrimination, prevents the occupational risk of HIV transmission and ensures the participation of people living with HIV in the policymaking process. The ILO has worked with the Government of Jordan as well as workers' and employers' organizations since 2010 to promote such a policy that can effectively tackle HIV and AIDS in the workplace.

With the support of the ILO, a Technical Committee on HIV and AIDS and the World of Work housed in the Ministry of Labour's Department of Inspection was set up to work with the National AIDS Programme at the Ministry of Health to monitor the implementation of the national policy. The committee includes representatives from government bodies, civil society, other UN and international agencies as well as workers' and employers' organizations.

Action on the ground

Since the adoption of a national policy, the ILO has been working with its partners to develop their capacity to effectively implement the policy. Accordingly, the tourism sector was selected by the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Health to pilot the policy on HIV and AIDS and World of Work.

In collaboration with the Jordanian government and the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions (GFJTU), in 2014 the ILO held a number of training workshops for employers and workers in Jordan's hotel sector.³ The workshops focused on methods to raise awareness on HIV/AIDS in the workplace as well as disseminate the national policy amongst stakeholders.

The training workshops took place in the prime tourist destinations of the Dead Sea and Aqaba. Both workshops increased participants' knowledge of Jordan's national policy on HIV/AIDS and provided employers as well as workers with tools to implement educational programmes on HIV/AIDS in the workplace.

Areas covered

- ✓ HIV and AIDS basics covering definitions, routes of HIV transmission, treatment, care, support and essentials for HIV prevention, as well as highlights on the regional and national situation;
- ✓ HIV testing and counselling covering the benefits of HIV testing and counselling, typical HIV testing procedures, types of HIV testing, mandatory versus voluntary testing and relevant international standards; and
- ✓ Emphasis on the importance of a work environment that addresses HIV and AIDS in terms of both prevention and effective response.



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¹ See: ILO. 2013. *National Tripartite Policy on HIV and AIDS and the World of Work: Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan*. Available at: http://www.ilo.org/beirut/publications/WCMS_210510/lang--en/index.htm

² For more information see: http://ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/media-centre/press-releases/WCMS_141928/lang--en/index.htm

³ For more information see: http://www.ilo.org/beirut/events/WCMS_241767/lang--en/index.htm