

A Guideline for a Comprehensive
Planning of the Programs and
Administration of Regional
Community Development Centers
of Jordan Valley

by

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Abstract

Jordan has gone far in the Kingdom's development process since it was established as the Trans-Jordan Imarate in 1928. During the last two decades, the Jordan Valley region has been a focus of the economic development interests and efforts of the government. This is attributed to two main reasons; its strategic importance due to the political situation in the area, and its being the most potential and rich irrigated agricultural area in Jordan.

Of special significance in the overall development of the valley has been the approach to development carried out first by the Jordan Valley Commission (JVC), and later by Jordan Valley Authority (JVA). The JVC was formed in 1973, and the JVA replaced it in 1977 with an expanded program, staff, and powers. The approach to development of these two public agencies has been comprehensive and integrates agriculture and economic development along with broad social development components which include provision for many public services.

Although the JVC and JVA development process has been comprehensive and, for the most part, effective, one important element which was overlooked has been citizen participation. Citizen participation is taken to mean the direct involvement of the local citizens in the planning and development efforts of the local communities and the overall region. A correction of this oversight occurred in the development plan of 1981-1985 when the JVA included a program for building community development centers in the valley. The 1981-1985 development plan provided for funding, design, and construction of these centers; the planning for programs and activities

that would take place in the centers was left for later implementation.

This report provides a model and guidelines for the design of a comprehensive plan, including the process of planning for the different programs, activities and administration of these centers, for maximum possible participation and thus, improvement in the quality of life in the local communities.

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