BASELINE STUDY

"PROMOTING THE PRINCIPLES OF OPEN GOVERNMENT IN JORDAN"

30th of September 2021

I. INTRODUCTION

The primary objective of this report is to analyze the perception among CSOs in Jordan about open government reforms. The baseline data collected will demonstrate current perceptions and assist in monitoring changes in perception among CSOs about the benefit of open government reforms in Jordan. The report will detail CSOs perceptions of stakeholder engagement, participation mechanisms, the implementation of reforms in expanding transparency and accountability, and the right to access to information.

II. METHODOLOGY

This study employs primary research tools: three quantitative surveys that target CSOs across the country. The quantitative studies aimed at identifying current perceptions of open government reforms in Jordan. The surveys identified the CSOs' perceptions of the role of public participation in open government reforms, including CSO and stakeholder contribution to these reforms, the use of participation mechanisms, and the role of public participation and the media in opening dialogue between the Government and the public. In addition, the surveys demonstrated the CSOs' perception of the benefits of open government reforms in increasing transparency and accountability. Finally, these surveys address the need for Access to Information Law but a lack of community awareness regarding this law.

The first quantitative study was conducted among 103 participants from Tafila, Aqaba, Aljoun, Madaba, Mafraq, Ma'an, and Jerash governates. The second survey was conducted in Salt and Karak governates and included 26 participants. The third survey was conducted in Irbid, Zarqa, and Amman governates among 55 participants.
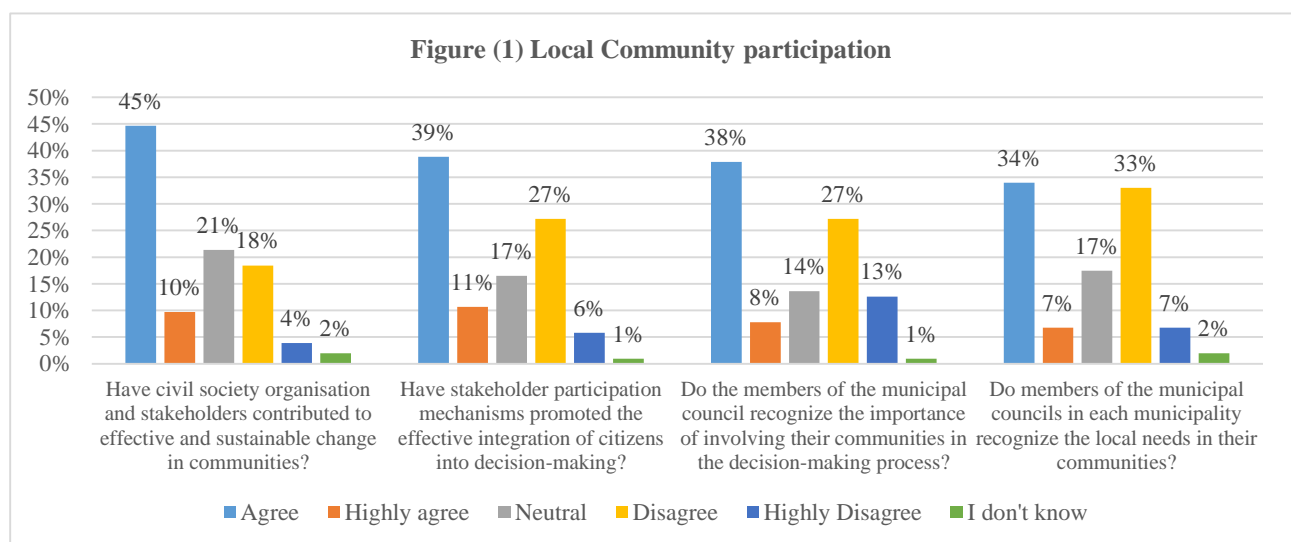
III. KEY FINDINGS

1.1 Public Participation
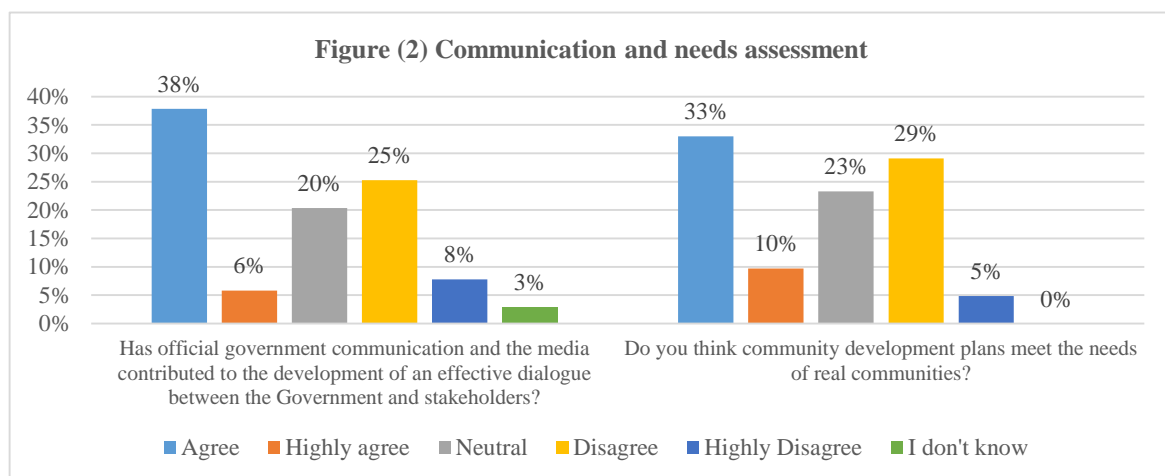### 1.1.1 Public Participation respondents' geographical distribution:

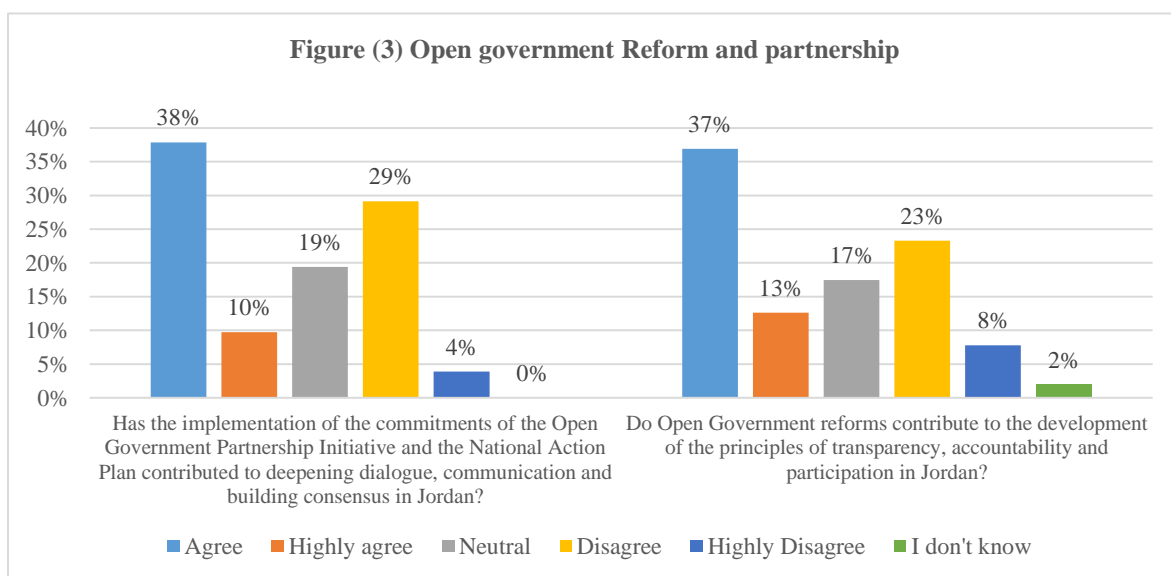| Governorate	Number of Participants
Tafila	21
Aqaba	15
Ajloun	14
Madaba	12
Mafraq	13
Ma'an	14
Jerash	14
Total	103

1.1.2 Public Participation responses results:

▪ The results demonstrate that most CSOs in these governorates agreed that the CSOs and stakeholders have contributed to bringing about effective and sustainable change in local communities (45% agreed and 10% largely agreed to a certain extent), which indicate the major role between public and national administrations.

▪ Likewise, most CSOs agreed that the participation mechanisms for stakeholders encourage the efficient engagement of citizens in the decision-making process (39% agreed and 11% largely agreed to a certain extent), which increase the deliberate and participatory democracy.

▪ The majority of CSOs agreed that the implementation of the OGP NAP commitments have contributed to deepening dialogue, communication, and building consensus among stakeholders in Jordan (38% agreed and 10% largely agreed to a certain extent) and this has taken place through meetings, activities, and programmes with governmental agencies.

▪ Most CSOs agreed that the municipal council members are aware of the importance of engaging their local communities in the decision-making process, (38% agreed and 8% largely agreed to a certain extent). In addition, most CSOs agreed that the municipal councils' members in each municipality are aware of the local needs in their communities (34% agreed and 7% largely agreed to a certain extent), as seen in figure 1.

Figure (1) Local Community participation

- Most CSOs agreed that public communication and the media have contributed to developing an effective dialogue between the Government and stakeholders (38% agreed and 6% largely agreed to a certain extent). Also, most CSOs agreed that the development plans for local communities meet the real needs of communities (33% agreed and 10% largely agreed to a certain extent), which means that it has played a key role in the continuity of political reform and awareness-raising work, as seen in figure 2.

Figure (2) Communication and needs assessment

- Most CSOs agreed that it is beneficial to implement open government reforms to promote the principles of transparency, accountability, and participation in Jordan (37% agreed and 13% largely agreed to a certain extent), which emphasises the importance of the main values of OGP, as seen in figure 3.
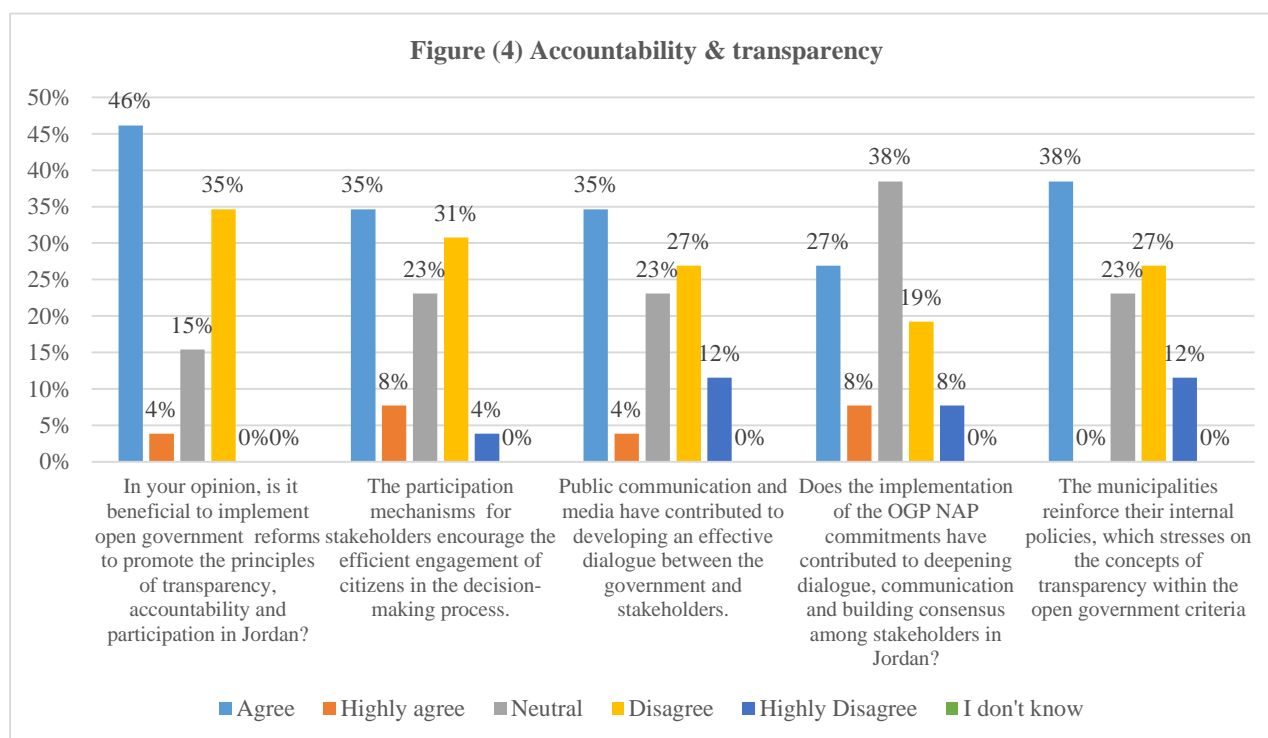
Figure (3) Open government Reform and partnership

1.2 Accountability and transparency

1.2.1 Accountability and transparency respondents' geographical distribution:

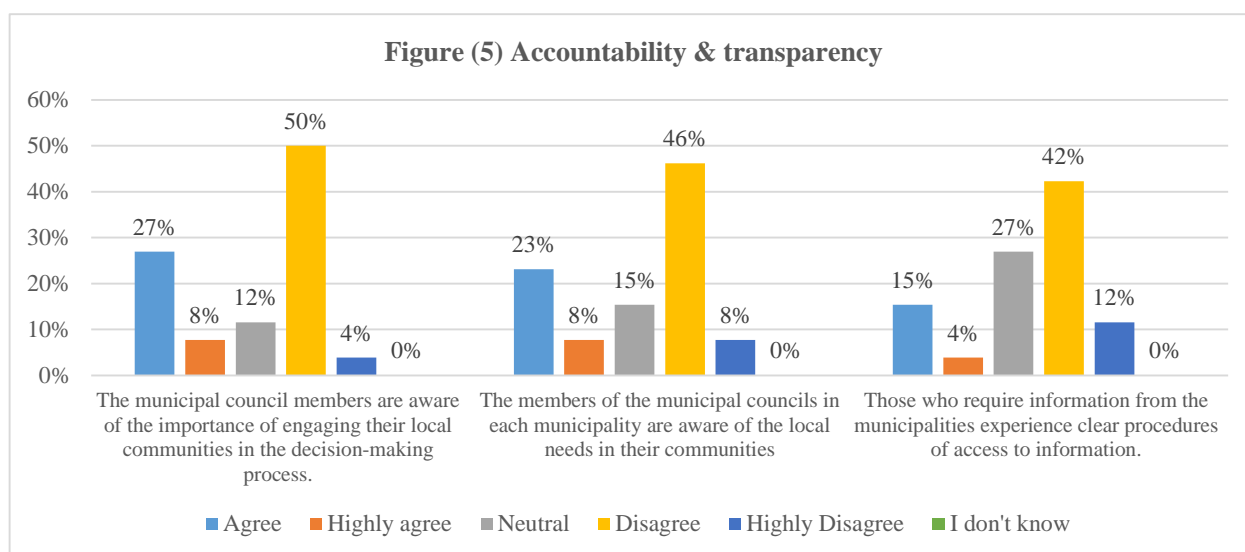| Governorate	Number of Participants
Salt	15
Karak	11
Total	26

1.2.2 Accountability and transparency responses result:

- The results demonstrate that most CSOs in these governorates agreed that it is beneficial to implement open government reforms to promote the principles of transparency, accountability, and participation in Jordan (46% agreed and 4% largely agreed to a certain extent), emphasising the importance of the main values of OGP, as seen in figure 4.
- The majority of CSOs agreed that the municipalities reinforce their internal policies, which stresses the concepts of transparency within the open government criteria (38% agreed to a certain extent). They also agreed that the implementation of the OGP NAP commitments have contributed to deepening dialogue, communication and building consensus among stakeholders in Jordan (38% Neutral and 27% agreed to a certain extent), as seen in figure 4.
- Likewise, most CSOs agreed that the participation mechanisms for stakeholders encourage the efficient engagement of citizens in the decision-making process (35% agreed, and 8% largely agreed to a certain extent). In addition, most CSOs agreed that public communication and the media have contributed to developing an effective dialogue between the Government and stakeholders (35% agreed and 4% largely agreed to a certain extent), as seen in figure 4.

Figure (4) Accountability & transparency

When it comes to public participation, most CSOs disagreed that the municipal council members are aware of the importance of engaging their local communities in the decision-making process (50% disagreed, and 27% agreed to a certain extent). Moreover, most CSOs disagreed that the members of the municipal councils in each municipality are aware of the local needs in their communities (46% disagreed and 23% agreed to a certain extent). Finally, most CSOs disagreed that there are clear procedures for access to information for those who require information from the municipalities (42% disagreed and 15% agreed to a certain extent), as seen in figure 5.
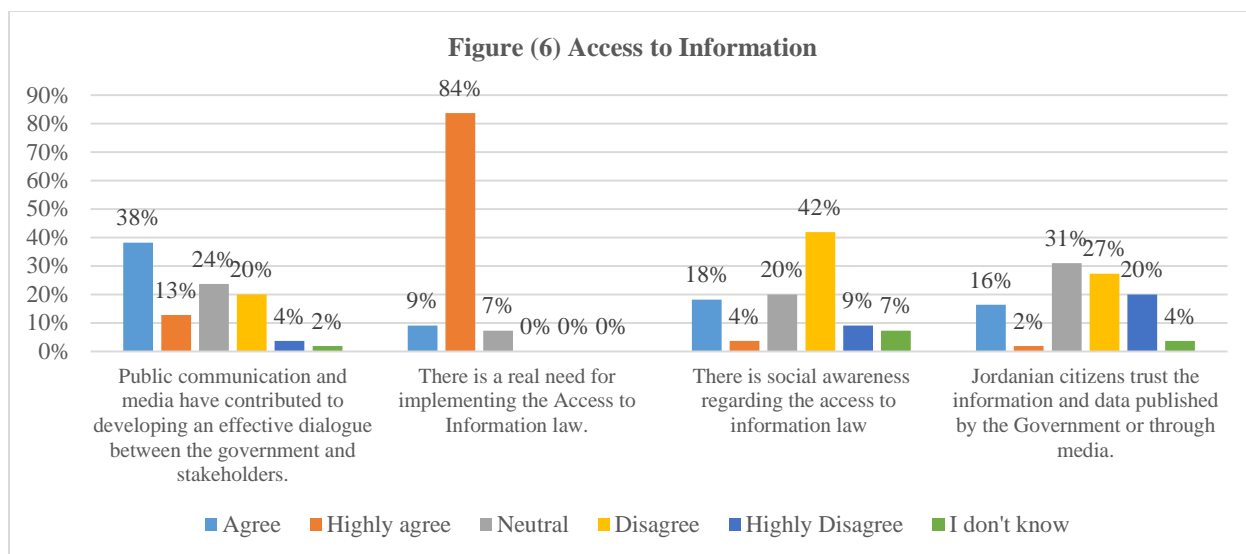

Figure (5) Accountability & transparency

1.3 Access to Information

1.3.1 Access to Information respondents' geographical distribution:

Governorate	Number of Participants
Irbid	19
Zarqa	17
Amman	19
Total	55

1.3.2 Access to Information responses results:
- The results demonstrate that most CSOs in these governorates agreed that there is a real need for implementing the Access to Information law (84% largely agreed, and 9% agreed to a certain extent). Likewise, most CSOs agreed that public communication and the media have contributed to developing an effective dialogue between the Government and stakeholders (38% agreed and 13% largely agreed to a certain extent), as seen in figure 6.
- On the other hand, most CSOs disagreed that there is social awareness regarding the Access to Information Law (42% disagreed, and 18% agreed to a certain extent). Also, most CSOs have a neutral opinion that Jordanian citizens trust the information and data published by the Government or through the media (31% neutral and 27% disagreed to a certain extent), as seen in figure 6.

Figure (6) Access to Information

- Most CSOs agreed that social media platforms have played a role in shedding light on the right of access to information (58% agreed, and 13% largely agreed to a certain extent), as seen in Figure 7.

- Similarly, most CSOs agreed that it is beneficial to implement open government reforms to promote the principles of transparency, accountability, and participation in Jordan (49% agreed, and 13% largely agreed to a certain extent). Furthermore, most CSOs agreed that the Open Data standards have provided valid insights regarding the Government performance (38% agreed and 5% largely agreed to a certain extent). Additionally, most CSOs agreed that the implementation of the OGP NAP commitments have contributed to deepening dialogue, communication, and building consensus among stakeholders in Jordan (36% agreed and 5% largely agreed to a certain extent), as seen in figure 7.

Figure (7) Access to Information