

**INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS DATA SHEET  
CONCEPT STAGE**

Report No.: AC3331

**Date ISDS Prepared/Updated: 02/20/2008**

**I. BASIC INFORMATION**

**A. Basic Project Data**

Country: Jordan	Project ID: P102487
Project Name: Jordan Higher Education Reform for Knowledge Economy	
Task Team Leader: Ghassan N. Alkhoja	
Estimated Appraisal Date: June 9, 2008	Estimated Board Date: September 16, 2008
Managing Unit: MNSHD	Lending Instrument: Sector Investment and Maintenance Loan
Sector: Tertiary education (100%)	
Theme: Education for the knowledge economy (P)	
IBRD Amount (US\$m.):	25.00
IDA Amount (US\$m.):	0.00
GEF Amount (US\$m.):	0.00
PCF Amount (US\$m.):	0.00
Other financing amounts by source:	
<u>Borrower</u>	<u>15.00</u>
	15.00

**B. Project Objectives [from section 2 of PCN]**

The proposed HERfKE project supports the Government's sector program and integrates the implementation of policy reforms into its design. The proposed project development objective is to support the development of a higher education system that is financially sustainable, with incentives to improve the equity, quality and relevance of tertiary education in Jordan. The project will support policy reforms that will: (i) improve the Government's capacity to diversify and improve financing mechanisms to universities as a means to create incentives to promote a culture of quality and innovation in universities; and (ii) strengthen the management and efficacy of the sector by aligning the roles, missions and responsibilities of various governance bodies to the new strategy objectives. In terms of expected results, the project would increase the efficiency of public higher education institutions; diversify the resource base of state universities and link government financing mechanisms to quality incentives.

**C. Project Description [from section 3 of PCN]**

The proposed project components are as follows:

Component 1 - Sustainable Financing would: (i) establish a standardized and transparent allocation mechanism of the government block grants; (ii) strengthen the competitive financing

mechanism to develop programs for universities and community colleges; (iii) build the capacity of the R&D fund; and (iv) identify successful elements in the student aid system that can be further strengthened and expanded, and support the creation of new grant and loan programs where necessary.

Component 2 - Accreditation and Quality Assurance would: (i) strengthen the accreditation and quality assurance system for both public and private universities; (ii) establish links between the government and labor market information systems; and (iii) enhance testing and analysis of learning outcomes.

Component 3 - Strengthening Sector Management would: (i) clarify roles and responsibilities of higher education governance bodies (HEC, MoHESR, BOT, and HEAQAC) for the purpose of streamlining decision-making and enhancing monitoring of sector performance; (ii) develop capacity in HEC for medium-term sector planning, policy making, and evidence-based decision-making; (iii) implement academic and administrative management information systems; and (iv) improve university capacity for budgeting, planning, financial, and human resource management, as well as building senior management capacity at the university level for strategic planning.

**D. Project location (if known)**

Amman, Jordan

**E. Borrower’s Institutional Capacity for Safeguard Policies [from PCN]**

Not applicable

**F. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists**

Ms Samia Al-Duaij (MNSSD)

Mr Gregorio Bettiza (MNSSD)

**II. SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY**

<b>Safeguard Policies Triggered</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>Environmental Assessment (OP/BP 4.01)</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>Natural Habitats (OP/BP 4.04)</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>Forests (OP/BP 4.36)</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>Pest Management (OP 4.09)</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>Physical Cultural Resources (OP/BP 4.11)</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>Indigenous Peoples (OP/BP 4.10)</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>Involuntary Resettlement (OP/BP 4.12)</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>Safety of Dams (OP/BP 4.37)</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>Projects on International Waterways (OP/BP 7.50)</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>Projects in Disputed Areas (OP/BP 7.60)</b>		<b>X</b>	

**Environmental Category:** C - Not Required

**III. SAFEGUARD PREPARATION PLAN**

- A. Target date for the Quality Enhancement Review (QER), at which time the PAD-stage ISDS would be prepared: 04/30/2008
- B. For simple projects that will not require a QER, the target date for preparing the PAD-stage ISDS: N/A
- C. Time frame for launching and completing the safeguard-related studies that may be needed. The specific studies and their timing<sup>1</sup> should be specified in the PAD-stage ISDS.  
Not applicable

#### IV. APPROVALS

<i>Signed and submitted by:</i>		
<b>Task Team Leader:</b>	<b>Mr Ghassan N. Alkhoja</b>	<b>02/19/2008</b>
<i>Approved by:</i>		
<b>Regional Safeguards Coordinator:</b>	<b>Mr Hocine Chalal</b>	<b>02/19/2008</b>
<b>Comments:</b>		
<b>Sector Manager:</b>	<b>Ms Adriana Jaramillo</b>	<b>02/19/2008</b>
<b>Comments:</b>		

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<sup>1</sup> Reminder: The Bank's Disclosure Policy requires that safeguard-related documents be disclosed before appraisal (i) at the InfoShop and (ii) in-country, at publicly accessible locations and in a form and language that are accessible to potentially affected persons.

