



SUCCESS STORY **Advancing the Adoption of Renewable Energy in Jordan**

Ensuring renewable power projects are compatible with Jordan's electricity networks



“As the first country in the Middle East to adopt renewable energy integration codes, we expect rapidly increased investment and adoption of renewable energy on a large scale in Jordan.”

- Dr. Allan Khalil, Coordinator of International Cooperation, National Electric Power Company (NEPCO)

Jordan's energy sector faces numerous challenges, with 97% of its energy imported, a projected 5.5% annual increase in demand, and annual government subsidies of US \$1.3 billion. One of the many steps the government of Jordan is taking to address this challenge is the adoption of renewable energy such as wind and solar. The Government of Jordan aims to increase renewable energy's share of the energy supply from 2% in 2010 to 10% in 2020.

The National Electric Power Company (NEPCO) is responsible for procurement of large-scale renewable energy projects and ensuring the integration of renewable energy into the national grid. This is not an easy task, despite a high level of investor interest. Unlike conventional power plants, renewable power depends on the amount of sunlight or wind available at any given moment, resulting in intermittent power production to be integrated into the electricity grid. This inconsistent production requires special standards and protocols to protect the infrastructure.

To address this challenge, the USAID Energy Sector Capacity Building activity supported the development of a renewable energy integration code in close consultation with NEPCO, the Energy and Mineral Resources Commission, and electricity distribution companies. The new grid code chapter, adopted in May 2015, provides standardized procedures and interconnection requirements for renewable power projects, eliminating the need to address technical issues on a project-specific basis. They also provide project developers with a standard reference which will streamline the design and procurement process.

Jordan is the first country in the Middle East to adopt a renewable energy code, a major step towards reaching its goal of 10% renewable energy by 2020.

Establishing the renewable energy transmission grid code was accomplished just in time, as the second phase of NEPCO's renewable power procurement efforts are well underway. This opens the door for rapid adoption of renewable energy projects, which will not only reduce dependence on energy imports, but is expected to create 2,000 to 3,000 jobs over the next few years.

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