

Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

International Experience Award

external team of Toronto-based, Canadian planners to collaborate with the local planning authority on a new Amman Master Plan (AMP). The City was in dire need of an updated strategy for regulating population growth as its population was expected to triple over the next 20 years. The resulting Amman Master Plan 2025 won two prestigious awards, including the 2010 Canadian Institute of Planners Award of Excellence.

Collaboration and knowledge transfer between Jordanian and Canadian planners was not without its own set of challenges. Promoting urban intensification and mixed-

Research Findings:

Local Challenges:

From my interview with the Amman planner, I learned that there is an urgent need to revise the Amman Master Plan due to the influx of refugees as a result of the Syrian Crisis. These refugees will need places to live and adequate service provisions. There is also a need to think about critical social dimensions in planning for a multicultural city. Currently, there is a lot of cultural segregation within Jordan, with many locals losing their jobs due to cheaper refugee labour. Ample work still needs to be done to mitigate the situation.

Planning Challenges:

There are several key challenges that hinder the implementation of the AMP 2025 such as the hilly topography, land ownership negotiations and cultural sensitivities. In Amman, collaboration between agencies are difficult; the water utilities and schools operate independent of the municipality, making it difficult to integrate them into planning decisions. Similarly, religious sites are typically donated by the public and governed by an independent body so the City has no jurisdiction over these areas. In addition, locals like to keep residential areas and commercial areas separate and are opposed to integrating mixed-use developments into their neighbourhoods.

Cross-cultural twss