



SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

U.S. Forest Service International Programs

VISION

The Sustainable Environment and Economic Development (SEED) project aims to achieve sustainable landscapes and communities through improved water catchment and infiltration using an approach that builds capacities of local organizations to engage rural populations in natural resource stewardship. By the end of 2019, SEED will have re-established native plant populations for watershed health and community uses and promoted long-term stewardship across the Badia by bringing together communities (traditional and non-traditional stakeholder groups) in natural resource management. SEED is implemented by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) International Programs and funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development in Jordan.

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OVERVIEW

In 2017, SEED is transforming the way native plants are grown in Jordan and will result in planting over 65,000 seedlings in the first year of the project. These seedlings represent a range of species that will support natural processes, including aquifer recharge and habitat conservation, as well as economic activities such as grazing and agroecology.

The project demonstrates how a community-based approach to restoration through nursery establishment and operation offers broad benefits to the Jordanian people by promoting watershed protection, rural economic development, livelihoods support, social stability and civil society capacity building. The first SEED project nursery, established in Sabha, Mafraq, in partnership with the Hashemite Fund for the Development of the Jordan Badia, is used as a platform for community outreach and STEM education. SEED aims to use the nursery as a model system for baseline plant quality. in Jordan.



Engaging rural women in ecosystem rehabilitation fosters the next generation of land stewards, which is especially important in an area disproportionately impacted by the Syrian refugee crisis. The SEED nursery in Sabha, Mafraq, only 12 kilometers from the Syrian border, produces high quality seedlings better able to handle the stresses of transplanting and harsh field conditions. The practices and methods implemented at the nursery will be made available to other nurseries, promoting enhanced water management and increasing seedling survival rates across the Badia.