

Extension and Advisory Service Delivery for Women's Groups in Jordan: Assessing Competencies and Building Social Capital

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Modernizing Extension and Advisory Services (MEAS)

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Catholic Relief Services

University of Illinois



Jordan

- Population: 6.181 million¹
 - Large refugee population
 - Unemployment 12.9%
- Agriculture
 - 3% of GDP
 - Employs 9.8% of working population [70% female]²
 - Total arable land: 10%
 - 75% rain-fed/25% irrigated
- Food Security
 - Food insecurity: Urban 5%: Rural 11% [32.4% women]³
 - Can only produce 8-10% of nation's cereal needs⁴
- Gender constraints
 - Mobility and access to public spheres
 - Financial services
 - Education and literacy



• ¹World Bank; ² FAO, 2008; ³Food and Nutrition Profile: The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, 2011; ⁴ Bawadi, et al. 2012

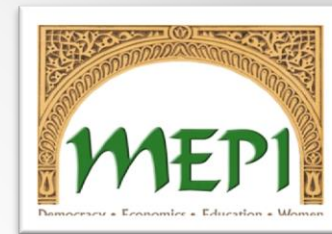
Our Research

Can developing social capital empower women's groups to overcome gender constraints in the Middle East?

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What methods can be used in Jordan, and perhaps elsewhere in the Middle East, that might build social capital and expand women's networks?





Research Setting

NCARE & MEPI: Peer to Peer Cooperative Training

- Catholic Relief Services: 5 Skill Sets
- Three women's cooperatives
 - Ngera – 15 years
 - Al-Khudair – 3 years
 - Mawakeb Al-Noor 1.5 year

Group Management

- Women's Leadership
- Cooperative Management

Savings and Financial

- Microfinance
- Fundraising

Business and Marketing

- Value-Added Processing
- Marketing
- Marketing for Dairy Products
- IT Skills

Natural Resource Management

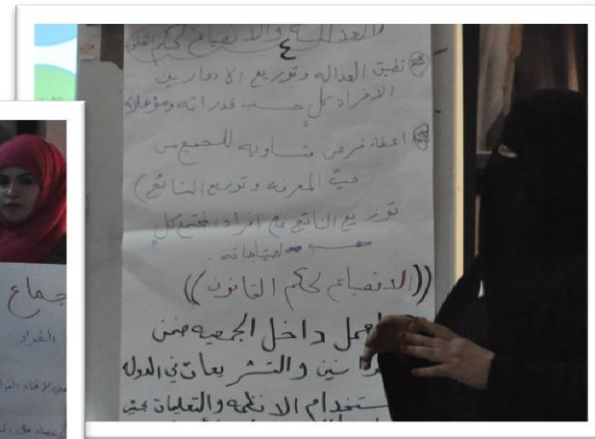
- Graywater Use

Technology and Innovation

- Cultivation of Medicinal & Herbal Plants
- Mushroom Cultivation

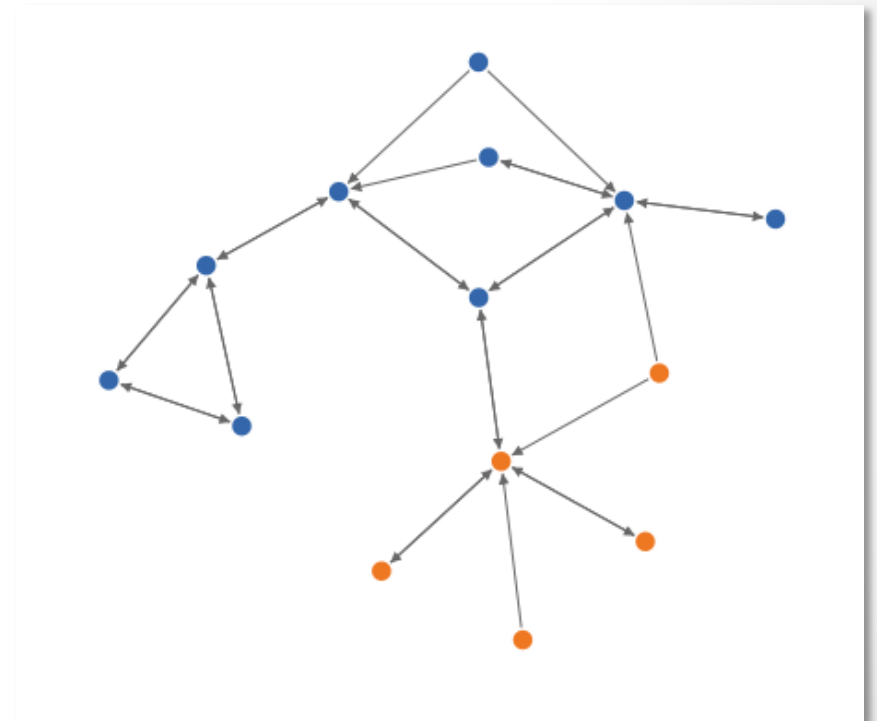
Social Capital and Networks

- Social capital broadly refers to 'resources' that accrue to individuals/groups through active social ties.
- Social capital develops within networks and networks influence behaviors and opportunities. By understanding networks, we can get a measure of social capital.



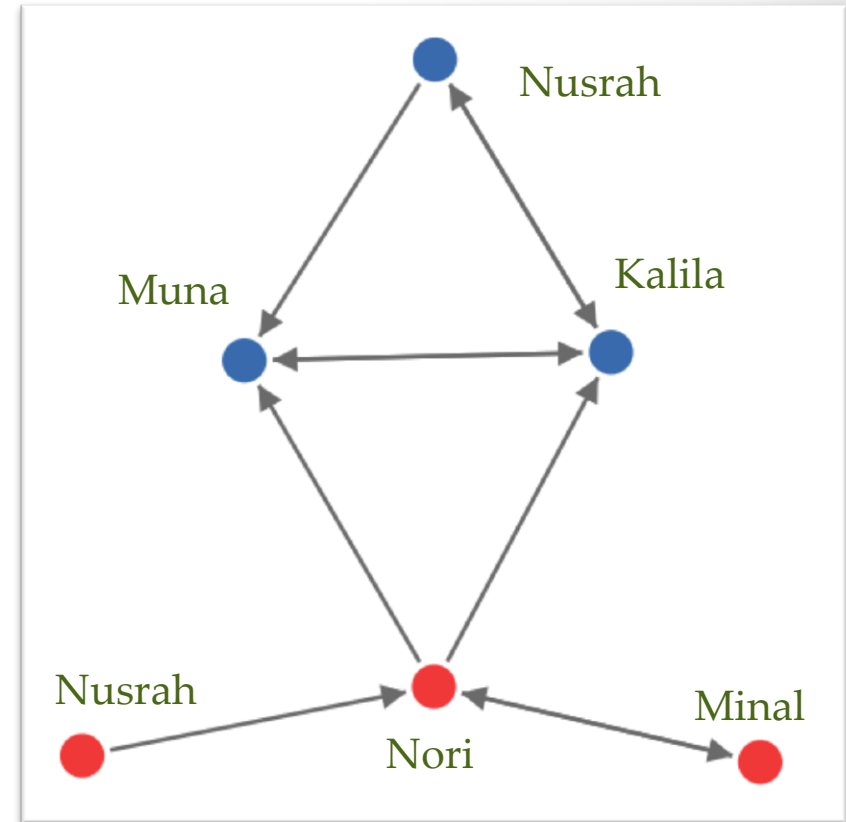
Social Network Analysis

- Visual representation of a network
- Shows how individuals within a network relate to others in the same network and how info is likely to be transmitted (or not)
- Low cost
- **Socilyzer.com**



SNA of women's groups

- Designed survey instrument to capture depth of existing relationships and track changes
 - Feeling of commonality
 - Frequency of communication
 - Types of communication and interactions



Who in the cooperative, if anyone, have you talked to about personal matters that do not relate to the cooperative?

Progress & Findings to Date

- Social Network Analysis
- Baseline Questionnaire comparing Ngera to newer cooperatives
- Focus Group Discussions

“After college graduation, I felt like I was nothing but with the cooperative’s trainings I became more confident and know I have many skills.”



Challenges and Opportunities for the Project

- Low levels of education and literacy/inability to commit to full participation in trainings



- Selection process for inclusion in trainings
- Disentangling tribal and kinship relations (SNA)

Scaling Up

- Adapting materials developed by CRS and funded by MEAS to specifically target women in the Middle East
- Disseminating materials and stories in culturally relevant regions to initiate new groups



Recommended Approaches: for working with women



- Work through women's groups/cooperatives
- Allow groups to:
 - Identify problems
 - Define learning outcomes
 - Learn through participation
- Utilize mentors and peer-to-peer models
 - CRS Five Skill Sets
- Conduct social network analysis

Recommended Approaches—for those working with women

- Built capacity at NCARE in gender and SNA
- Train extension agents to recognize women's roles, needs, constraints and opportunities in agriculture
- Engage with both sexes



Works Cited

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