

**Memorandum of Understanding**  
**between**  
**USAID Funded Health Systems Strengthening II Project**  
**and**  
**The University of Jordan**

**I. PARTIES:**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is signed between the USAID-funded Health Systems Strengthening II Project (HSS II) and The University of Jordan (UJ).

**II. BACKGROUND:**

The University of Jordan is an old yet modern institution of higher education in Jordan. Established in 1962, the university has, since then, applied itself to the dissemination and advancement of knowledge. In its capacity as a comprehensive teaching, research and community service institution, the UJ enables its students to choose from a wide range of programs. More than 3500 different courses are offered by more than 20 faculties and institutes. The Jordan University Hospital (JUH) is a leading teaching hospital in Jordan. It is considered a tertiary referral hospital with a high case load, mostly of high risk cases referred from other government or private hospitals. It serves as a teaching institute for undergraduate and postgraduate medical students from throughout the country for both pre-service and in-service training.

The Health Systems Strengthening II (HSS II) Project, a five-year USAID-funded project implemented by Abt Associates Inc., is supporting improvements in the quality of services at hospital and primary health care levels. Interventions focus on addressing the country's important health priorities in family planning, reproductive health, neonatal care, essential obstetrics care, and access to high quality primary healthcare. One of the main HSS II strategies is to upgrade the obstetrics and neonatal departments at public sector hospitals through a set of interventions that include renovating and equipping the departments, and enhancing the technical and managerial capacities of service providers to provide high quality services.

**III. OBJECTIVES:**

The aim of this MOU is to establish collaborative mechanisms with the UJ to support efforts towards achieving the quality of essential obstetrics and neonatal health care at JUH by upgrading the physical infrastructure of obstetrics and neonatal departments, providing equipment and furniture related to these departments, and by strengthening service providers' technical skills through competency based training. This MOU defines the roles and responsibilities of each of the parties during the various stages of the implementation of HSS II interventions at JUH.

#### IV. AREAS AND MEANS OF COLLABORATION:

##### *A. Upgrade physical infrastructure of obstetrics and neonatal departments at Jordan University Hospital*

Subject to the availability of funds, USAID-funded HSS II Project will upgrade the physical infrastructure of the obstetrics and neonatal departments according to American Institute of Architects (AIA) standards.

##### HSS II will:

- In close collaboration with JUH, conduct a comprehensive needs assessment for the obstetrics and neonatal departments.
- Prepare the architectural and engineering designs for the proposed obstetric and neonatal departments, upgrade and submit them for the JUH review and approval.
- Subcontract a construction company to implement the obstetrics and neonatal departments upgrade.
- Inform JUH in advance about the expected date for the commencement of works.
- Be responsible for monitoring all renovation works executed by the sub-contractor and making sure of compliance with the agreed upon designs.
- Arrange for monthly progress meetings to discuss the renovation works.
- Form a taking-over committee to inspect the renovation works with members from UJ and HSS II to inspect the renovation works.

##### JUH will:

- Provide timely technical reviews/approvals on the submitted designs according to a pre-established schedule.
- Obtain approvals, registrations, certifications and all other needed documentation for the proposed renovation works from the local governmental and non- governmental authorities in a timely manner. Costs related to obtaining and processing any of these requirements shall be paid by the JUH.
- Secure a functioning interim place to continue providing the services during the renovation interventions, prior to the start of the construction/hospital upgrade activities.
- Facilitate access for HSS II staff and subcontractors to the renovated departments' sites
- Not give direct instructions to the construction sub-contractor regarding the renovation works. Any observations, comments or requests shall be addressed to HSS II.
- Prior to the completion of the renovation works, UJ shall contact local municipality and utility companies and make sure that the new renovated departments are connected to all utility services. Fees related to utilities or/and local municipalities shall be covered by UJ.
- Utilize and maintain the renovated departments according to designated functions.

##### *B. Procure and install equipment and medical furniture in obstetrics and neonatal departments*

HSS II will lead an in-depth assessment to define essential equipment and furniture needed by the obstetrics and neonatal departments. Based on the findings, HSS II will

prepare a standard list of equipment and medical furniture for JUH review. The procurement and installation of the equipment will be done by HSS II in full collaboration with the counterparts at JUH.

JUH will utilize and maintain the medical equipment and furniture according to the designated functions.

**C. *Strengthen the technical capacity of obstetrics and neonatal care service providers***

The HSS II team will work in collaboration with the heads of the obstetrics and neonatal departments at JUH to conduct a training needs assessment. Based on the findings, HSS II will initiate a participatory effort to institutionalize a capacity building program that will depend on competency-based training for service providers working in the obstetrics and neonatal departments.

**V. MECHANISMS OF COORDINATION:**

**Regular meetings:**

HSS II, UJ and JUH have agreed to have monthly follow up meetings and joint visits to the renovation sites.

**Representatives**

• **From HSS II:**

Eng. Osama Obeid, Renovations Senior Task Manager

Eng. Hania Naber, Senior Procurement Manager

Ms. Donna Vivio, Reproductive Health / Family Planning Team Leader

• **From UJ:**

• Dr. Shawqi Saleh, Director, Obstetrics and Gynecology Department

• Dr. Eman Badran, Head, Newborns Intensive Care Division

• Mr. Husni Al Ta'ani, Deputy Director General for Administrative Affairs, JUH

• Eng. Jehad Taha, Director, Engineering and Maintenance Department, JUH

**Signatures**



**Dr. Sabry Hamza**  
HSS II Project Director  
Abt Associates Inc.

Date: April 20, 2011



**Dr. Adel Tweissi**  
President  
The University of Jordan

Date: April 20, 2011