

JORDAN | DEVELOPMENT APPROACHES TO DISPLACEMENT

Context – Displacement Situation

Considered to be the world's most harmful humanitarian disaster with its continuous spill-over effect to neighbouring countries, the war in Syria has become a protracted and serious crisis. Jordan has been particularly affected by the influx of refugees from Syria, exacerbating existing vulnerabilities within the country.

UNHCR-Jordan has registered more than 630,000 Syrians, approximately 15 percent of whom reside in refugee camps while the remainder live in host communities. The present situation clearly places a heavy burden on local host communities and institutional resources.

As Syrian refugees are granted access to basic public services, pressure has drastically increased on water and electricity supply, education, health, sanitation and solid waste management and the scarce employment opportunities in areas where refugees have settled.



One of the new greening initiatives done by beneficiaries of the new phase of the emergency employment project Al-Khalidiyah Municipality- Mafraq Governorates (Photo: Ra's Addayleh, UNDP Jordan)

As the war in Syria has become a protracted crisis and aid resources for refugees have decreased, the international community and the Government of Jordan are now looking at innovative ways to help refugees sustain their livelihoods without jeopardizing the labour market for Jordanians.

RESULTS

The host community programme has reached all 37 municipalities of the Northern Governorates of Mafraq and Irbid, which host about 40 percent of Syrian refugees in Jordan;

1,350 vulnerable Jordanians have been supported with short-term employment opportunities. 50 percent of them transitioned to more sustainable livelihoods opportunities;

500 vulnerable Jordanians and 250 Syrians have been supported with inter-community skills exchange for social cohesion and livelihoods stabilization;

525 vulnerable Jordanian men and women are supported with demand-driven vocational training; and more than 300 vulnerable Jordanians supported with entrepreneurship development;

Through a partnership with WFP over 1,238 vulnerable people have benefitted from short-term employment creation to stabilize livelihoods.

UNDP implemented over 39 community rehabilitation projects. UNDP further trained more than 100 municipal members on planning, community engagement and community outreach.



Beneficiary of emergency employment project at Sabha and Dafyaneh Municipality- Maraq Governorate.
(Photo: UNDP Jordan)

UNDPs Main Thematic Areas of Work

The programme 'Mitigating the Impact of the Syrian Refugee Crisis through Support to Host Communities', was initiated by UNDP and the Government of Jordan to help alleviate the impact of the Syrian crisis through enhancing the absorption capacity of basic services, improving the standards of living for local communities, and enhancing social cohesion. The programme encompasses six outputs:

- 1) Short-term employment opportunities and economic recovery initiatives;
- 2) Enhanced local economic development through skills-matching, MSMEs growth and capacity development;
- 3) Improved delivery of municipal and social services;
- 4) Development of state-society trust and social cohesion, prevention of violent extremism;
- 5) Enhanced community security and crime prevention, support to legal aid;
- 6) Technical support to coordination of host community concerns.

Humanitarian Partnerships

To strengthen the coordination of host community support and resilience-building, UNDP Jordan has supported the government to establish the *Jordan Response Platform for the Syria Crisis (JRPSC)* as a strategic partnership and coordination mechanism among the government, donors and UN agencies.

Through supporting JRPSC, UNDP has taken a key role in leading and coordinating the Jordan Response Plan in collaboration with UNHCR and under the leadership of the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation and Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator. To ensure an integrated, coherent national response plan, address resilience-building and align with the national development plan, UNDP and UNHCR, together with the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, co-chair the mechanism and support the secretariat of JRPSC in the planning, coordination and monitoring processes. UNDP also has the lead in coordinating the sectors of municipal services, environment, energy, livelihoods and food security (with WFP), and justice.

UNDP – UNHCR partnership moving forward

There is a need to provide direct support to Syrian refugees with livelihoods opportunities to strengthen their resilience, support self-reliance and strengthen social cohesion in host communities. In response, the Government of Jordan launched the Jordan Compact at the London Conference in February 2016. Under the Compact, UNDP and UNHCR will step up their coordination efforts to address the structural challenges of the labour market in Jordan, to benefit Syrian refugees and Jordanians and to explore potential partnership in livelihoods interventions, strengthened resilience and social cohesion. Within the 3RP framework and JRP 2016 – 2018, UNDP and UNHCR will continue to share the responsibility of coordinating the response mechanism with the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation. This will include monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the plan.

Contact

UNDP in Jordan
Zena Ali-Ahmad

zena.ali-ahmad@undp.org