

JORDAN



Programme Portfolio

- JPr1** Strengthening organizational development, financial management and fiscal capacities of municipalities affected by the Syrian crisis
- JPr2** Improving solid waste management and income generation in host communities – Rehabilitation of Al Akedir landfill
- JPr3** Enhancing rule of law and access to justice in host communities
- JPr4** Enhancing air quality control and management
- JPr5** Mitigating the increased competition for natural resources and ecosystem services at the community level
- JPr6** Managing environmental risks from the Jordan response plan to the Syria crisis
- JPr7** Green lights: Scaling-up energy efficient lighting in host communities
- JPr8** Improving the management of hazardous medical waste
- JPr9** Building resilience through enhancing livelihoods and employment opportunities
- JPr10** Local development planning (including economic aspects) aligned with new context
- JPr11** Solar aid: Expanding solar PV use in Jordanian communities hosting Syrian refugees



UNDP Response in Jordan

Since the start of the crisis, approximately 618,650 Syrian refugees have fled to Jordan, with more than 80 percent of them residing in host communities and the rest in camps. This has increased pressure on existing infrastructure and public service provision in the host communities, worsened already stretched public finances and highlighted the need for urgent public investment in sectors such as education, health, water and sanitation, energy and municipal services.

Crowding effects in the local market, in particular with regards to housing, are widely reported in the northern governorates, as is pressure on basic service delivery, especially energy provision and solid waste management, where municipalities are unable to meet the demands.

With respect to livelihoods, the influx of Syrian refugees has created keen competition for jobs and income-generating opportunities, particularly in the governorates of Mafraq, Irbid and Amman.

Furthermore, tensions between refugees and host communities over the use of resources and services are escalating.

As an answer, the Jordan Response Plan (JRP) constitutes a new way of doing business. The JRP presents an opportunity to include innovative components in its implementation. Funding architecture has been designed to facilitate aid flows and efficient implementation of the JRP. In partnership with the UN, the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation established the Jordan Resilience Fund (JRF) on 28 March 2015. The JRF is linked to the JRP as a platform to expand partnerships, reduce transaction costs and enhance accountability through joint Government, UN and Donor management. It is taking Jordan forward toward a sustainable future.

The development community has concluded that there needs to be greater integration of relief, recovery, and long-term planning in order to address the comprehensive nature of the challenge. Since the beginning of the Syria crisis, UNDP has believed in the importance of coordinating support for host communities with international actors and government to promote long-term resilience and to counter duplication, including through area-based coordination mechanisms. With its extensive experience and existing network of contacts with regional, national and local stakeholders, UNDP is uniquely qualified to maximize development investment in the promotion of long-term resilience.

The Project

This project is part of UNDP's Improved Delivery of Municipal and Social Services programme, which constitutes a key pillar of the host communities initiative, an ongoing project launched in 2012. It will strengthen municipalities by building their capacity to increase organizational effectiveness. It will also strengthen financial management and fiscal capacities of municipalities affected by the Syrian crisis. This project will strengthen municipalities by building their capacity to increase organizational effectiveness. It will also strengthen financial management and fiscal capacities of municipalities affected by the Syrian crisis (Irbid, Mafrqa and New Ramtha). To understand capacity building needs, a capacity assessment for 36 municipalities will be conducted by the end of 2015. The focus of the capacity assessment is to measure progress in the host communities initiative and to provide insights to further strengthen the municipality systems, processes and staff capacities.

Budget 1,500,000 USD

Results of the assessment will be used by municipalities as they plan their capacity building needs. UNDP will support municipalities by facilitating the identification and hiring of experts in organizational development and financial management, from national counterparts where possible, within the overall framework of UNDP Jordan assistance.

The continuous pressure on municipalities to deliver services has been affected by limited capacity to address housing shortages, to encourage local economic development, and to support social cohesion within communities. The sudden increase in population has contributed to the increase of local tensions, particularly from Jordanian citizens in host communities that are starting to demand a more effective response to their own needs from state institutions and local authorities.

The Issue

The annual cost to provide for municipal needs is estimated at US\$ 176.4 million, equivalent to US\$ 115 per capita and continues to increase because of population shifts. Given that the majority of Syrians reside outside of camps in the northern governorates, the additional cost incurred by these municipalities reached around US\$ 40.5 million by the end of 2013¹², and it is likely that it will be over US\$ 50 million per year in 2014 and 2015. In sum, the Syria crisis is posing additional challenges to local governance and municipal services.

While the Ministry of Municipal Affairs (MoMA) is upgrading its financial management systems to meet the increased demand, it is not able to cope and service levels have decreased. At the same time, MoMA is also developing regulatory frameworks to guide municipalities in their administrative duties so they are carried out in a just and fair way. (Too often management is concentrated in the hands of the Mayor with insufficient checks and-balances by the Municipal Council.)

To make matters worse, municipalities have insufficient capacity in terms of their administrative and technical staff, financial management and accounting systems and they lack equipment.

12. Needs Assessment Review, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, November 2013 (<http://www.un.org.jo/sites/default/files/NAR.pdf>)

Additionally, municipalities suffer from severe financial distress. For example, salary spending still consumes an excessive share of municipal budgets (60% in average, and as high as 85% in some locations). Debt service has become unsustainable for many municipalities and revenue generation is constrained by legislation and vested interests. All of this leaves municipal authorities with little, if any, investment capacity (60% of municipalities did not invest in capital projects in the past year).

The overall objective of this project is to support municipalities in strengthening their systems, processes and staff capacities. It starts with a needs assessment and puts a process in place to facilitate hiring of appropriate expertise to build capacity. More specifically, the project:

- Ensures that the Jordanian local governance system is responsive to host citizens, communities, and Syrian Refugees' needs as identified by governorates most affected by the Syrian refugee crisis
- Transforms local governance systems resulting in better performance in core functions and a more enabling legal and fiscal framework
- Supports organizational development, financial management and fiscal capacities of municipalities

UNDP will develop and implement a rigorous results framework to link organizational development and financial management interventions with desired outcomes. Indicators are designed at all levels to measure quantitative and qualitative progress towards results. Baseline performance measures will be established by compiling existing data (including for data made available from MoMA).

To carry out the project, UNDP will mobilize national and international expertise, embedding organizational development and financial management support within relevant Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Local Governance institutions. In other areas, and depending on the nature of the request for assistance, the project will act as a facilitator, broker and coordinator of support by using its extensive network of partner organizations. This will enhance national advocacy efforts on top priorities. Resources will be allocated to facilitate provision of specialized technical expertise upon demand from national counterparts where possible, and within the overall framework of UNDP Jordan assistance.

The Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC) will continue to be the main government partner, and will also be the overall coordinating authority of this project. The Ministry of Municipal Affairs will provide overall guidance, policy-setting and advocacy to ensure the mandate is adopted by municipalities. It will also be closely involved in supervisory and monitoring roles.

Building on previous work, the project will work with local authorities to plan, coordinate and implement the priority interventions. It will develop, with local authorities, a monitoring framework to track implementation status and adjust deliverables against any changes on the ground to ensure that interventions remain relevant. The project will concentrate its implementation in 3 governorates namely Irbid, Mafrq and New Ramtha with attention to geographic areas with high levels of social tension.

The Project will rely on the close working relationships with municipalities and local NGOs, which have developed through the UNDP Flagship Host Community Programme. At the same time, will keep channels open for additional partnerships in order to support a more efficient and coordinated response to host community concerns. Strong partnerships will be established with international donors (including Gulf countries, the European Commission, Netherlands, Switzerland, Norway, Sweden, and the United Kingdom).

Strategy

Partnership Framework

Activities

In order to respond to increased demands on municipalities and to assist the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, the project will strengthen municipalities by building their capacity to increase organizational effectiveness. Key activities include:

- A capacity assessment of 36 municipalities in the most effected areas
- Summaries of capacity building needs for each municipality
- A results-measurement framework to support progress toward organizational and financial management goals
- Facilitation of hiring organizational development and financial management experts to carry out capacity building efforts

Impact

The overall expected outcome under this initiative is to increase the efficiency of municipal administrative and service delivery processes, and to enhance investment for local development.





UN
DP

Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

The Project

This project responds to the urgent need for solid waste management and treatment in Irbid Governorate by supporting improvement of the solid waste management cycle and by strengthening efficient and effective basic service delivery. This will be done through rehabilitation of the main landfill, as well as efficiency gains in solid waste management. UNDP will also support the development of improved solid waste management cycle at municipal levels (collection, transfer, landfills, recycle and re-use) and support funding and implementation of labour intensive recycling activities. In addition, livelihoods and small and medium-sized businesses in waste management will be strengthened. This includes establishing a cooperative society for recycling and marketable products to increase community income, rehabilitation and development of the capacities of waste pickers. Relevant capacity building will be provided to MoMA, Joint Service Council (JSC) and landfill staff members.

In summary, the project is a multi-sectorial response to address urgent solid waste management needs, helping municipal governments recover from the impact of refugees in the areas of service delivery, local governance, and livelihoods and economic recovery.

Budget 26,000,000 USD

The Issue

A major impact of the dramatic increase in population is the additional pressure exerted on Jordan's natural resources and waste management systems. Water, soil, and air pollution have increased due to the inability of municipalities to cope with increased waste, including illegal dumping and the inappropriate disposal and burning of solid waste.

Managing waste removal is challenging because of increase in waste and a deteriorating waste management system due to overuse. For example:

- The volume of medical waste has increased due to the expansion of healthcare services
- Irbid, Mafrq and Ramtha, are characterized by a massively littered environment
- Damaged waste removal vehicles and rubbish containers impede waste removal on a regular basis
- Limited capacity at landfills is creating negative consequences such as burning of solid waste and illegal dumping

Akedir landfill is one of the hotspots in Jordan for the disposal of both solid and liquid wastes. The landfill receives the solid waste generated by about 100 towns, villages and communities in northern Jordan. The landfill started operation back in 1980. The criterion used in the site selection was mainly based on pure economic considerations, without taking into account other landfill selection criteria. Due to its environmental and health impacts the landfill was the subject of national debate.

At the Alakedir site, the amount of solid waste disposed has increased by 50% from 800 tons in 2010 to 1200 tons in 2014 as a result of the Syrian refugee crises. Waste disposal at the Alakedir landfill however is inappropriate and dangerous, with deteriorating landfill infrastructure and workshop equipment,

inadequate offices for employees, and unsanitary landfilling process. For example, landfills often lack leachate, biogas control and proper management and an overall operational plan to manage the solid waste. The Alakedir landfill has no recycling interventions.¹³

The overall objective of the project is to improve the solid waste management cycle through the implementation of efficient and effective basic services delivery. The key strategies are to:

- Support JSC in their efforts to find a solution to the limited capacity of Alakedir Landfill and to increase its performance
- Build municipal services and infrastructure in the 27 municipalities in the Mafrag and Irbid governorates
- Facilitate urgently required investment and capacity in equipment and service delivery of solid waste management services
- Assess immediate capacity development requirements in the solid waste management cycle (e.g. storm water and sewage maintenance)

Strategy

The main partners in the project include MoMA, MoE and JSC for target municipalities in Irbid and the Government of Canada.

Partnership Framework

The immediate objective is to respond to the urgent needs of solid waste management and treatment in Irbid Governorate by:

- Immediately addressing the increasing problem of solid waste disposal and treatment at the Alakedir landfill through intensive labour programmes and innovative solutions
- Strengthening the capabilities of MoMA and JSC in Irbid to enhance capacity for service delivery, emergency response and waste-related local economic development
- Supporting the development of livelihoods opportunities in the area of solid waste management

More specifically, UNDP will help review and assess the governance structure of the Al Akedir landfill, and help MoMA and JSC in Irbid address the deteriorating status of the solid waste chain.

Activities

UNDP will support increase the efficiency of municipal administration and service delivery processes to improve equitable service delivery and encourage investment for local development. In this way, UNDP will support the JSC to fulfil their mandate as prescribed by the Municipalities Law. Adhering to environmental laws, the project will comply by including Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), which are mandatory in Jordan for projects with environmental risks. To ensure that environmental impact and sustainability is mainstreamed across all projects, the Environment Task Force, working closely with the MoE, will provide dedicated technical support to the JRP 2015 Secretariat to undertake: 1) rapid EIAs, 2) lead environmental reviews, 3) identify opportunities, and 4) design mitigation strategies for the project.

13. Need Assessment Review, Nov 2013

A technical committee comprising of members from MoE and MoMA will be established to guide the implementation. UNDP will also support the establishment of a donor-government coordination mechanism on Al Akedir interventions.

Impact

The project will deliver results at the local and national level through:

- Improved service delivery in solid waste management by using participatory planning, improving equipment and considering best practices
- Improved debris removal services in the most affected municipalities
- Strengthened capacity of MoMA, MoE and the JSC to plan, coordinate and implement waste management systems
- Building capacity for municipalities to optimize waste collection treatment and equipment maintenance
- Assessing need for investment in infrastructure (e.g. road maintenance and development, street lighting, small/storm water and sewage maintenance works, parks and public space maintenance, slaughterhouse improvements and development)
- Increased solid waste management to livelihoods and small and medium-sized business opportunities
- Completed value-chain analysis of all components of the solid waste management cycle to identify income-generation and business generation opportunities that strengthen livelihoods in the effected areas
- Capacity development of local implementing partners (Civil Society Organizations (CSO), women's groups, the private sector, etc.) involved in the waste management programme



The Project

The project will assist in the promotion of rule of law through provision of support to the justice sector in Jordan, with particular focus on host communities. The project aims to promote an enabling environment that will increase access to justice through sustainable legal aid service delivery and enhanced capacity of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), including the courts. Under this project, assistance will be provided for institutional and capacity development to rule of law institutions to ensure effective and speedy provision of justice services. The Project will also work on linking community based and formal justice institutions at the local level, including aid in the creation of inclusive dialogue.

Project activities are designed to enhance confidence and trust in rule of law institutions at both the national and local level. In doing so, UNDP will engage with MoJ, the Judicial Authority (Judiciary), Public Security Directorate, "Prosecution" and the Jordanian Bar Association. Engagement will be designed to increase sustainability, including a major emphasis on national ownership and linking activities to policy and strategy development.

The project is oriented around three main, reinforcing outcomes:

- Enhanced access to justice and legal counseling
- Strengthened institutional capacity of the Ministry of Justice and the Courts
- Strengthened capacity of the Sharia Courts

Budget 6,350,000 USD

In spite of the government's commitment to ensure access to justice and enhance judicial capacity in Jordan, the justice sector has faced a number of challenges since the start of the Syrian crisis. This is in part due to the steady increase in the total number of judicial cases, which now include Syrians living in Jordan. For example there have been caseload increases of 50% in Amman from 2011 to 2014, 77% in Irbid, and 84% in Mafrq. While violence and criminality levels in Jordan are quite low, according to the Public Security Directorate (PSD), there has been an increase in the northern region of criminal acts, assaults, and proliferation of small arms. These have posed specific challenges mainly in the following areas:

The institutional capacity of the justice system and Sharia courts has been challenged by technical and operational limitations, which have a direct impact on the performance of the courts and their ability to ensure a fair trial. This includes juvenile courts, which have gained importance since the Juvenile Law was endorsed in 2014. Juvenile courts have also faced challenges due to increasing demand for speedy and child-friendly procedures. There are only three dedicated juvenile courts operating in Amman, Zarqa and Irbid that are challenged by the increasing demand for speedy and child-friendly procedures. Further pressures are placed on juvenile courts from the increasing numbers of Syrian youth coming in contact with the law.

The provincial courts are in dire need of more staff and facilities to reduce the administrative burden on judges, the escalating caseloads, and the ability of the courts to ensure a fair trial. The judges have increased case loads and must put in a great deal of working hours per day, which minimizes the quality of the work, and also impacts the time that affected people have to wait before their case can be seen by a judge.

The Issue

There is a strict separation of the civil court system and Sharia' and other religious courts that essentially act as "family courts". Because these courts play a central role in access to justice especially with regard to women and girls, it is important to strengthen the linkages of these courts with the rest of the justice system.

Obtaining free legal aid and counsel services for those who cannot afford legal support and representation is difficult. There is no comprehensive legal aid framework and statistics on demand for legal services, where they exist, reveal that legal aid services are poorly targeted without coordination or consideration of cost.¹⁴

Courts are only mandated to grant legal representation for adults in criminal cases entailing death penalty and/or life imprisonment. Legal aid is granted by virtue of the Bar Association's law of 1972 but in practice access to free legal aid remains a challenge especially for vulnerable groups, women and children.¹⁵ The Bar Association currently lacks any mechanism for allocating indigent cases to practicing attorneys for pro bono legal representation. Moreover, there is no enforcement mechanism available.¹⁶

There is also a lack of awareness of rights and duties amongst the Jordanian public as well as Syrian refugees,¹⁷ which on the one hand prevents individuals from claiming their rights and on the other hand places individuals face to face with unintentional law breaking situations.

With the absence of a comprehensive legal aid representation law and lack of a coordinating body, access to legal counsel and aid are currently being provided by a number of CSOs, providing services to indigent and vulnerable groups—especially women and SGBV survivors—across Jordan and within host communities including the Zaatari Refugee Camp.

Legal aid for refugees is limited. Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development (ARDD) Legal Aid is the only legal aid CSO operating in the Zaatari refugee camp.

The lack of a legal aid framework results in sporadic and unsustainable provision of legal aid across Jordan. This situation hinders poor and vulnerable people's access to justice and especially affects girls, women and refugees disproportionately.

14. *Id.*, citing, Justice Centre for Legal Aid (JCLA) study (2010). The JCLA study showed that 47% of cases in Jordan where legal representation was provided involved personal status issues. The vast majority of cases (81%) involved civil law as opposed to criminal law legal issues.

15. According to several studies: in 2011 it was found that 68% of defendants in Jordan did not have legal representation and in pre-trial cases 83% defendants did not have legal representation (Justice Center); another study found that women are more likely than men – 26% versus 17% - to report avoiding court due to customs and traditions (World Bank, 2013). Social pressure also steers women from initiating claims directly with formal institutions. Nearly 70% of requests for legal aid assistance come from women (Justice Center for Legal Aid).

16. "A Survey of Pro Bono Practices and Opportunities in 71 Jurisdictions", Latham & Watkins LLP (August 2012).

17. According to UNDP Interviews conducted with public prosecutors, judges and lawyers working in and with courts in host communities.

The objective of the project is to enhance prompt access to justice and quality of legal services for the most vulnerable women, girls, men and boys in Jordan in areas with an increased caseload due to the influx of Syrian refugees.

UNDP will work at the national and local levels to increase access to justice in host communities. Support will be designed to provide immediate access to justice and redress in host communities by strengthening mechanisms at the local level that include 1) piloting legal aid clinics, 2) operationalizing fast-track/dockets in pilot courts, 3) strengthening Sharia' Courts and their linkages to Family Protection Units as well as, 4) working with and strengthening alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. In order to ensure sustainability of access to legal aid, support will be provided to national actors at the strategic level to institutionalize legal aid and put in place a regulating framework.

The project will also provide support to Sharia' and Religious Court extension offices in host communities to enhance their mechanisms of cooperation, communication and linkages with Family Protection Units and legal aid service providers. Technical advisory services and trainings will be provided to the judges of the Sharia courts operating in host communities to familiarize them with issues facing women, youth and children in host communities and other critical areas in Jordan. Additionally, the project will roll out relevant legal awareness campaigns.

The Project will be implemented under the guidance of the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC) and MoJ in close collaboration with the PSD, the Judiciary, the prosecutors, the police, Ministry of Social Development, Sharia' Courts, Jordanian Bar Association, National Centre for Human Rights, National Women's Commission, and other leading Jordanian CSOs especially those working on human rights and justice issues.

The project will increase access to justice, provision of legal aid and counselling across Jordan and improve legal aid services in host communities through the following activities:

- Facilitate government and non-governmental providers of legal aid and counselling as they support vulnerable individuals, including survivors of Gender Based Violence (GBV), women & girls and juveniles
- Build capacity in juvenile courts and new court houses
- Encourage dialogue between the mainstream justice sector and Sharia and other religious Courts

The project ***Enhanced access to justice for the most vulnerable women, girls, men and boys in Jordan***, will 1) improve the national capacity to implement justice reform strategies at national and sub-national levels and enhance the legislative processes so that more vulnerable groups have access to legal aid; 2) strengthen the institutional, human resource and technical capacity of the MoJ and the courts, and 3) reinforce the institutional and human capacity of the Shari'a courts including ensuring that they are gender and child-sensitive.

Strategy

Partnership Framework

Activities

Impact

The Project

This project will provide technical assistance to the MoE to strengthen its capacity to mitigate air pollution and help communities recover from the impact of increased population and support the transformation to more sustainable development. Key activities include:

- Installing air quality monitoring systems in host communities
- Identifying and quantify sources of air pollution
- Designing and implementing a pollution mitigation mechanism

The key outcome is a system to monitor and decrease air pollution levels, which will ultimately improve health conditions and decrease public health costs.

Budget 4,050,000 USD

The Issue

Increase in population, vehicle use and an expanding industrial and services sector is leading to an increase in air pollution. This degradation of the air quality is adversely impacting public health. The MoE monitors Sulfur dioxide (SO₂), carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxides (NO, NO₂) in five areas vulnerable to air pollution and notes an increase in pollutants emitted into the ambient air. Emissions are highly associated with human daily activities, and they increase in direct proportional trend with population size. For example, in the Irbid governorate, which hosts 25% of the refugees, there has been a dramatic increase in the concentrations over the past 5 years that parallels population growth. According to the Monitoring Study, this increase is due to unprecedented rise in population, especially with the presence of more than 150,000 refugees in Irbid (MoE, 2013).

Air quality issues are challenged by lack of capacities and technologies for maintaining the monitoring programme of air quality, which is a first step toward pollution mitigation. It is worth noting that there is no facility that measures air quality at the Zaatar camp site and other refugee camps. Also because of the increase in population and human activities, all emitting factors such as waste water treatment plants and factories have been maximizing their productive capacities, resulting in more emissions. Due to the increase of these emissions, respiratory allergies are likely to rise in Jordan especially among children. It is clear from the study that all monitored pollutants (except NO₂) started showing an increasing trend in 2012/2013. However, such short period of measurements is not enough to judge the observance of a certain trend and more measurements should be collected in the future.

Strategy

The objective of this project is to establish a strong and sustainable air quality monitoring system and to find ways to mitigate pollution in order to reduce health-related risks. By understanding sources of pollution and finding ways to reduce emissions where refugees are located, Jordan can continue its transformation toward an environmentally sustainable society.

Partnership Framework

UNDP will work jointly with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and with the MoE as major implementing partners. They will collaborate with key government entities involved in air pollution issues such as the Ministry of Health and the Royal Scientific Society (the MoE's technical arm in air pollution monitoring).

The project will facilitate a process to install pollution monitoring systems, identify sources of pollution and develop a plan to mitigate pollution.

Install air quality monitoring systems in host communities

Building on existing initiatives, the project will develop an air quality and emissions monitoring network and database. The project will facilitate investments to establish air quality monitoring stations in host communities and near the Syrian refugee camps. It will also collaborate with UNDP projects enhancing waste management facilities in Al-Akaider and Azraq. The project will also strengthen the monitoring and knowledge management capacities agencies (Department of Statistics and Royal Scientific Society) to increase effectiveness of planning and field monitoring.

Identify and quantify sources of air pollution

With a dramatic increase in population size due to the influx of refugees and an increase in industrial activity and vehicle use, sources of air pollution have changed. The project will identify and quantify sources of pollution and measure pollution levels, particularly in the host communities. A technical report will be produced as a result of this output.

Design and implement a pollution mitigation mechanism

Based on new findings on sources of pollution, the project will design and implement mechanisms to mitigate pollution. Since industrial activities are thought to be largest sources of air pollution, they will be the main target for pollution mitigation. These may include the removal of barriers to use renewable energy, such as solar energy. The project will also develop and implement a plan to install appropriate small-scale green technologies including solar water heaters, recycling, and bio-energy.

Activities

The project will improve health and environmental conditions, helping Jordan achieve more sustainable development by:

- Decreasing air pollution levels in areas where refugees are concentrated
- Identifying quantities and sources of air pollutants to inform mitigation plans
- Mitigating pollution by decreasing pollutants emitted and increasing polluters' performance efficiency
- Enhancing monitoring and knowledge management capacities for measuring air quality
- Developing an air quality monitoring network and database on emissions and air quality

Impact



The Project

The project will help host communities recover from the impact refugees are having on the environment and help Jordan continue its transformation toward an environmentally sustainable society. The four key areas of the project are to:

- Complete an assessment to identify vulnerable geographical areas and groups
- Design and implement a sustainable income-generation programme (green business and jobs) for vulnerable communities
- Implement community awareness campaigns on sustainable uses of natural resources
- Enhance capacity for improved environmental law enforcement

Key outcomes are to strengthen ability to respond to stresses on the environment and to reduce severe damage to the ecosystem.

Budget 3,750,000 USD

The Issue

A key environmental vulnerability in Jordan is associated with land degradation and the state of terrestrial semi-arid ecosystems and habitats. Land use in Jordan is a complex pattern and mixture of rural and urban activities that reflect both climate and socio-economic characteristics. Relevant studies have shown that agricultural land forms a small portion of the country total area. The natural biodiversity of Jordan is threatened by habitat destruction and fragmentation, unsustainable agricultural practices (i.e. extensive farming and agricultural waste), diversion of water from use of biodiversity resources towards human-influenced uses, uncontrolled urbanization, and industrial pollution.

It is complex to assess the direct impact of refugees with regard to interaction with ecosystems and their associated biodiversity. However, there is observed evidence that the influx of refugees has had a negative impact on natural resources. For example, many refugees with nomadic and/or rural backgrounds are involved in livestock husbandry and agricultural activities. Host communities employ nomadic and rural Syrian refugees as low-cost labor/workers to support their agriculture related activities, as well as the operation of nature-based tourism enterprises.

Refugees in rural areas create pressure on the ecosystem by 1) grazing within and in surrounding of the protected areas, 2) wood cutting for heating and charcoal production purposes, 3) excessive collection of medicinal plants from wilderness areas, and 4) excessive farming activities that eventually lead to extra pressure on agricultural land. Additionally, the environmental gains of reforestation are significant, including biodiversity conservation and prevention of natural hazards.

Additionally, the economic impacts of refugees' crisis force hosting communities to exercise more direct and indirect pressures on natural resources. One clear example is the increasing trend of illegal tree cutting to compensate for increased fuel prices, overgrazing of livestock in response to inability to secure high cost fodder, and illegal wildlife hunting. In summary, there are increasing pressures on the ecosystem as both refugees and host community citizens cope with increased population and differing consumption patterns.

Strategy

The key objective of the project is to enhance coping mechanisms of to reduce environmental damage and that help rural and nomadic refugees. In the long-term the project intends to help Jordan continue its transformation toward sustainability and environmental integrity as a member of the international community.

Partnership Framework

UNDP jointly with UNEP will partner with the MoE as a major implementing partner, in addition to other key Government entities involved in biodiversity conservation, ecosystem management (Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Water and the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature, that is mandated to establish and manage protected areas).

The project will also engage the NGOs community concerned with issues of nature conservation, livelihood development, awareness and law enforcement, such as the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature, Jordan Environment Society, Friends of Environment and others. Additionally, it will include citizens as partners through local community participation and awareness building.

The project aims to identify vulnerable geographic areas and create a comprehensive plan to minimize environmental damage through the following activities:

Complete an assessment to identify vulnerable geographical areas and groups

The project will conduct a comprehensive vulnerability assessment of impacts of Syrian refugees on natural ecosystems and vulnerable communities. The assessment will help inform offset programmes to minimize the cost of ecosystem degradation brought by impact of additional population on Jordan's already challenged natural resource base. The assessment will include economic valuation of ecosystem services and degradation cost.

Design and implement a sustainable income-generation programme (green business and jobs) for vulnerable communities

To decrease competition on natural resources and the ecosystem, alternative income generation opportunities will be created for vulnerable groups, including women and youth in impacted areas. The project will catalyze creation of green jobs and businesses for the surroundings communities of protected areas, which will decrease pressure on natural resources and land degradation. The project will also build capacity of local community-based organizations to create green businesses increase awareness of sustainable uses of natural resources.

Activities

Implement community awareness campaigns on sustainable uses of natural resources

The project will design and implement community awareness campaigns that educate and encourage sustainable use of natural resources. The campaigns will include interactive and creative awareness tools, in addition to social media awareness. A survey on level of awareness at the community level will be used to assess baseline before implementation and to measure impacts.

Enhance capacity for improved environmental law enforcement

In consultation with local authorities, the project will design a mechanism to enhance enforcement of ecosystems management legislation. Capacity building in environmental monitoring and inspection will include training for rangers as well as the purchase of needed equipment and tools such as vehicles, Global Positioning System (GPS) and cameras.

Impact

Expected impacts include:

- Enhanced understanding of the actual impacts of Syrian refugees on natural resources and ecosystem services; this includes quantification of the impacts, economic valuation of ecosystem services and degradation costs, and offsetting priorities
- Enhancement of economic condition for vulnerable communities and lessening the competition on ecosystem services
- Community awareness about sustainable use of natural resources raised
- Capacities of concerned authorities enhanced in respect of environment law enforcement

The project will strengthen the capacities to respond to the stresses and severe damages to the ecosystem and associated communities caused by the Syrian refugees fluxes more effectively when done in a sustainable manner. Furthermore, the project will contribute to reducing pressure and competition on natural resources, raising awareness and enhancing enforcement of environmental law. The project will generate economic and social development dividends including livelihoods creation besides nature conservation benefits.





This project will ensure that environmental implications of important JRP investments are understood in order to inform decision-making and programmatic responses. It will include environmental risk management across JRP projects in infrastructure, transportation, municipal services, land use and other key areas to ensure that JRP projects include sustainable responses to vulnerable ecosystems and communities affected by the Syria crisis.

Three key elements of the project are:

- Strategic Environmental Assessment of natural resource security impact from the long-term Syrian crisis and the JRP
- Environmental Impact Assessment and Screening of individual JRP projects
- Environmental Mitigation Plans for individual JRP projects

The intention is to integrate environmental awareness into all JRP projects in order to minimize negative impacts on the environment.

Budget 900,000 USD

In an already resource-scarce and environmentally fragile country like Jordan, environmental sustainability is an important priority to ensure the response to the Syrian refugee crisis minimizes short-term environmental damage and facilitate long-term environmental stability. If due consideration is not given to environmental sustainability issues, JRP investments, including more than \$1.8 billion of proposed projects in 2015, could exacerbate local environmental challenges and risks. Mitigation measures can be put in place during the initial design of JRP investment projects to address environmental risks and help prevent ecological change as well as risks to community well-being and grievances.

All projects with potential environmental impacts in Jordan, whether through the JRP process or otherwise, are obliged by law to conduct an EIA. EIAs highlight the foreseen environmental risks to put in place mitigation measures and to engage positive opportunities through use of clean technologies and resource conservation measures.¹⁸ A number of JRP projects are likely to require EIAs such as those in shelter, infrastructure development, transport, municipal development, land use, and water supply. Conducting effective environmental risk screening of significant JRP investments can help achieve the environmental safeguard requirements by international donors and Jordanian law.

The strategy is to integrate environmental impact assessment and risk management activities into JRP projects as early as possible in the project design phase in order to ensure the environmental impact is minimized and managed.

UNDP will partner with the MoE and other key Government entities involved in implementing Jordan's EIA law as well as local community partners engaged in these JRP projects. UNDP's global network of experts in environmental screening systems are also important partners in the project because of their

18. Jordan's Environment Protection Law (EPL) no. 52/2006 and its Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulation no. 37/2006

experience in the UNDP Social and Environmental Screening (SES) mechanism. These partners include UN agencies, top ranked universities and institutes with EIA expertise who have helped UNDP lead environmental assessment methodologies and develop best practice in environmental screening.

Strategic Environmental Assessment of natural resource security impact from the long-term Syrian crisis and the JRP

The project will conduct a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of security risks due to natural resource and environmental issues that are expected to converge with the Syria crisis and impact Jordan in the coming 5-10 years. For example, this includes climate risks, more frequent and severe droughts, and water insecurity, all of which could exacerbate social vulnerabilities.

EIA and Screening of individual JRP projects

The project will analyze significant JRP projects and integrate environmental sustainability measures, map environmental risks and rank their levels of significance. It will also categorize risks, and identify the level of screening and impact assessment required based on a tailored Environmental Screening Check-List. Environmental issues include risks to biodiversity and natural assets such as groundwater; risks to exacerbating energy security and opportunities to integrate sustainable energy solutions; and prevention of pollution and impacts on communities.

Environmental Mitigation Plans for individual JRP projects

The project will help define the scale and type of mitigation action required for the identified risks in the EIAs and work with individual JRP project groups to develop mitigation plans.

A specialized EIA unit will be established within the JRP Secretariat to undertake the project. The unit will consider environmental risks, take into account any gender-specific risks from environmental impacts, and provide technical assistance for mitigating environmental risks. The team will promote EIA best practices and support long-term monitoring and evaluation of environmental safeguards in the process. This will help JRP investments comply with Jordan's EIA law, achieve the environmental safeguard policies of the international partners, and help prevent local community grievances.

The activities present an opportunity to strengthen environmental governance in line with Jordan's EIA law. The project will provide top expertise to the government to conduct EIAs, and identify mitigation options that use of clean energy and resource conserving technologies. The project will tailor EIA methodologies for the unique context of responding to the Syria crisis in Jordan, and create a better understanding of the benefits from environmental sustainability to achieving long-term resilience of JRP responses and outputs.

Activities

Impact

Expected impacts include:

- Ensure environmentally sustainable outcomes of investment projects across JRP sectors
- Avoidance of adverse impacts to people and the environment
- Minimize, mitigate and manage adverse impacts where avoidance is not possible
- Strengthen stakeholder engagement and capacity for managing social and environmental risks

With the expectation of a protracted crisis in Syria and its subsequent long-term impact on Jordan, effective and comprehensive environmental risk screening and impact assessment of significant projects across JRP sectors will ensure proper mitigation of adverse environmental impacts to decrease pressure on natural resources and support long-term resilience of JRP interventions. In undertaking EIAs, the project will also result in systems of indicators for effective monitoring of the environmental safeguards and performance of investments across all JRP sectors.

Manuel Bessler
Federal Council
Delegate for
Humanitarian Aid,
Switzerland

"We must strive in a joint endeavor for tailored national responses where humanitarian and development efforts are intertwined and optimized. Notwithstanding, introducing resilience-based approaches where possible is also key inside Syria for strengthening local resilience and preserving pockets of stability."

The Project

This project helps affected communities in Jordan cope with the increased energy demand from the influx of Syrian refugees by scaling-up the use of energy efficient lighting in host communities. In the medium-term, the project helps address Jordan's energy crisis and supports Jordan to continue its transformation toward an energy-efficient economy. Three aspects of the project are to:

- Deploy one million energy efficient lights into buildings and residences in host communities
- Enhance operations, maintenance, and training of local institutions including the safe disposal of old lighting systems
- Build awareness of the benefits of energy efficiency for community resilience

In the long-term, the project will reduce energy shortages and begin to reduce adverse social and economic impacts from rising energy insecurities.

Budget 5,000,000 USD

The Issue

Jordan is one of the world's most energy insecure countries, importing about 97% of its energy needs. While Jordan has achieved many development goals, sustaining these results will increasingly depend on the transition to a sustainable energy future due to the heavy burden of energy costs on the Jordanian economy. Until 2009, the country relied on natural gas imported from Egypt for around 86% of its electricity generation. But due to a series of disruptions to this flow in recent years, the number has declined to 10% by 2014. In response, Jordan shifted to higher-cost heavy fuel oil and diesel imports, which has increased the cost of importing energy from 1.9 billion JD (USD\$2.7 billion) in 2009 to 4.1 billion JD (USD\$5.8 billion) in 2014.

This energy insecurity crisis has been exacerbated by the impacts of the Syrian crisis, with the influx of refugees increasing the population of Jordan by about 15%. Furthermore about 75% of Syrian refugees reside in Jordan's cities and towns, adding pressures to residential energy consumption, including demands on the power grid and needs for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) for domestic cooking, the only fuel derivative which remains subsidized by the government. Thus, total residential electricity consumption in Jordan, due to the presence of Syrian refugees, has risen significantly from 4926 gigawatt-hours in 2009 to 6265 gigawatt-hours in 2013. While not a primary driver of systemic energy sector challenges in Jordan, the Syrian crisis is an important factor.

Given the centrality of energy to the public budget, the rising costs of energy in the State budget are decreasing fiscal space to respond to overall challenges, and could derail the development trajectory of the country unless urgent actions are taken. Securing a sustainable energy pathway and enacting sustainable energy measures within the crisis response is thus critical for achieving the goals of the Jordan Response Plan.

Strategy

The project will help scale up sustainable options to address Jordan's energy crisis in a way that offsets the incremental energy demand pressures triggered by the influx of Syrian refugees and forced migrants into Jordanian host communities. In addition to being a core part of the Jordan Response Plan to the Syria crisis, this goal also aligns with the National Energy Strategy and the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (NEEAP). Scaling-up of energy-efficient lights is a rapidly deployable and low-cost option.

This project seeks to replace up to one million inefficient lights with new Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) in residences and buildings in host communities. This will potentially free up to 50 megawatts of power in the short term, while also creating large energy subsidy savings. The project will help address the developmental risks from both the Syrian crisis and the energy crisis by helping accelerate Jordan's plans to scale-up green lights.

Partnership Framework

The project will bring together the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (MEMR), inter-Ministry Energy Task Force, local host community partners, the National Energy Research Centre (NERC), CFL distribution companies (JEPCO, EDCO, IDECO) and local CFL suppliers. UNDP will bring its global expertise and networks in sustainable energy to the project. This is the UN's largest provider of country assistance in the areas of climate change and sustainable energy and it has a global portfolio of \$1.2 billion in these areas. UNDP will also engage partner UN agencies, such as the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) for project implementation support services.

The project takes a bold step to help instill energy efficiency in a rapid way to address energy shortages caused by a sudden population increase. Key activities include:

Deploying one million energy efficient lights into buildings and residences in host communities

- Through the project, energy efficient CFLs will be deployed to offset incremental energy pressures in host communities. CFLs are already produced and readily available locally in Jordan. The project will procure CFLs via national and local small-scale distributors. Initial activities will include rapid surveys and identification of specific residences and buildings to participate in the project and review plans with local distributors to rapidly scale up distribution. The project is expected to also reduce energy subsidy costs, so it will have a financial impact in addition to creating energy savings

Activities

Operations, maintenance, and training of local institutions for acquisition and safe disposal of lighting systems

- The project will help provide expertise for deployment of green lighting to specific types of building needs and categories of energy-users in host communities. The project will provide guidance and operational support for identification and procurement of CFL solutions from the market. It will also support engagement with and training of energy service companies in local communities to service residences and public buildings. A major emphasis will be placed on identifying systems for safe disposal of old lighting systems

Advocacy and community awareness of the benefits of energy efficiency

- The project will develop communication materials to build awareness around the benefits of integrating energy efficiency into crisis response, including acknowledgement of donor contributions. Information will be shared with communities, end-users, local officials, national partners and the international community. Dedicated communication products will be produced including short-films, knowledge products capturing results and success stories, and convening of stakeholder dialogues in order to help shift public purchasing patterns and move Jordan toward increased energy efficiency

With the expectation of a protracted crisis in Syria and its subsequent long-term impact on Jordan, effective deployment of energy efficiency solutions within crisis response can help decrease the fiscal impact of rising energy demands on Jordan's public budgets.

Expected impacts include:

- Decreasing adverse social and economic impacts from rising energy insecurity in local communities and the nation
- Building energy demand management capacities that offset increased energy pressures caused by the influx of refugees in host communities
- Increasing usage rates of compact fluorescent lamps and reduced energy bills in host community beneficiaries
- Strengthening partner capacities to integrate energy efficiency measures into crisis response

By supporting cost-effective and sustainable solutions, the project supports Jordan in its development trajectory.

Impact

The Project

The project will provide essential equipment needed to expand medical waste treatment capacities in Jordan and to improve capacity to dispose of substantial amounts of hazardous medical waste. Key elements of the project are to:

- Provide equipment for medical waste collection, transfer and disposal
- Transfer accumulated medical waste in Swaqa to sites abroad for disposal
- Conduct training on medical waste management

The key outcome is a reduction in health-related risks and costs by quickly addressing hazardous waste sites, which are in areas with high refugee populations.

Budget 2,200,000 USD

The Issue

The influx of Syrian refugees in Jordan has been putting extra pressure on the management of solid wastes, especially medical waste. Expansion in provision of emergency health care services for an increasing population of the Syrian refugees has increased the volume of medical wastes generated considerably, which exposes serious health related impact risks on human environment. According to Swaqa hazardous landfill (run by MoE), the amounts of medical waste entered into the landfill since the crisis in Syria began has been increasing intensely. For instance, solid wastes quantities have increased from 2,024,832 tons in 2011 to 2,242,967, and 2,529,997 tons, in 2012, and to 2013 respectively.

However, the treatment of hazardous waste is challenged by a lack of human capacities, equipment, databases and proper monitoring programme. Also, waste management operators face the challenge of transporting waste and lack treatment technologies. In addition, the emerging situation of an increasing influx of Syrian refugees in Jordan has further exacerbated the limited capacity of national agencies to manage the larger amounts of medical waste generated before the refugees arrived.

With higher levels of waste across all waste types, it is essential to update the approach for hazardous solid waste management. This will minimize negative human health and environmental impacts and additional health care needs. It is urgent that action is taken immediately to address the issue of hazard waste treatment in order to avoid dangerous health consequences and costs.

Strategy

The objective of the project is to enhance national and local capacities to manage increased hazardous waste arising from Syrian refugees and to strengthen capacity in the medium term for resilient and sustainable responses to vulnerable ecosystems and communities affected by the Syrian crisis. The project will help achieve this goal through provision of equipment for collection, transfer and treatment of hazardous wastes, which will enhance the treatment capacities at source and landfills. Among different kinds of hazardous wastes, medical waste are a priority given the considerable increase caused by the influx of refugees.

UNDP will jointly partner with UNEP, the MoE, and other key Government entities involved in hazardous and medical waste issues. The project will also largely engage the Ministry of Health as a key partner in addressing the source of medical waste. In an effort to dispose of the accumulated medical waste in Swaqa to a location outside the country, the project will engage an experienced company.

The MoE governs waste through laws such as the environment protection legislation 52/2006. Directive 24 of that law, passed in 2005, addresses management, transportation and handling of harmful and hazardous substances, solid waste bylaws, medical waste management instructions, hazardous wastes management instructions, liquid acid batteries requirement and used oil regulation.

Within its mandate, the MoE undertakes a set of interventions to implement solid waste management and recycling plan and program through: a) reduction of waste generation at source; b) developing of areas for recycling and reuse with comprehensive integrated system; c) improving of the disposal of solid waste in environmentally sound manner; d) establishing of treatment center of hazardous and medical wastes at the Swaqa hazardous landfill; e) increasing the percentage of medical wastes treated, and establishing and enforcing a documentation and information system for hazardous, medical and solid waste; f) completing the set of legislations to manage hazardous and medical wastes; and g) developing and executing of a national program to manage electronic wastes and implement the international conventions relate to hazardous and medical wastes. This project will support the MoE in its efforts to carry out its mandate and move Jordan on its development trajectory.

Partnership Framework

The project will provide essential equipment, training and expanded capacity to improve the management of hazardous wastes, particularly medical wastes, so as to minimize their impact risks on human health and environmental quality sustainably. Medical waste is a priority given the considerable increase caused by the influx of refugees. Key aspects of the project are to:

Provide equipment for medical waste collection, transfer and disposal

- In order to offset the added amounts of medical waste because of the Syrian crisis, enhancing collection, transfer and disposal capacities in the country becomes essential to overcome the environmental risks of the medical waste. The project will assess the existing infrastructure capacities for medical wastes processing, and identify gaps, secure priority needs for equipment and infrastructure facilities

Transfer accumulated medical waste in Swaqa to sites abroad for disposal

- Medical waste has been accumulated at the Swaqa dumping site as a result of the unusual and extra amounts of medical waste in the country. And, the Swaqa dumping site is at capacity. The project expands the site to manage disposal of hazardous wastes and accumulated medical waste in Swaqa to a location abroad in line with international treaties, particularly Basel convention. This project will assess existing waste levels and create an action plan to dispose of waste outside of Jordan

Activities

Impact

Provide training on medical waste management

- The process of managing medical waste includes different institutions and staff, starting from the source of production, i.e. hospitals and health care centers, collectors, transferors and engineers responsible for treating the hazardous waste at the Swaqa dumping site. The project will design tailored training programme on medical waste management. In doing so, a rapid training-needs assessment should be conducted followed by extensive training session responding the actual needs

Expected impacts include:

- Enhanced infrastructure capacities for medical waste collection, transfer and treatment
- Mitigate serious environmental and health risks, caused by accumulation of large amounts of medical waste in Swaqa
- Define and dispose of critical amounts of medical waste to sites outside the country
- Enhance technical capacities of concerned authorities' staff in the area of medical waste management

The project will provide essential equipment needed to enhance medical waste treatment capacities in the country, and enhance the absorptive capacities for substantial amounts of medical waste at the Swaqa landfill. The project will also mitigate the existing health related hazards and risks in Swaqa by immediate transfer and disposal of hazardous medical wastes in an environmentally sound manner. Moreover, the project will contribute to improving the capacities of relevant agencies to manage medical waste using safety and health best practices. This will significantly reduce staff vulnerability and exposure to any potential health and environmental risks.



The Project

The Issue

This project addresses both the impact of the Syria crisis and the underlying vulnerabilities that are exacerbated by its impact. Immediate attention has been given to interventions that help vulnerable populations cope with the impact of the crisis through short-term employment creation in order to recover livelihoods and income-generation capacity and avoid further depletion of their assets. The project also includes interventions supporting recovery and leading to sustainable development with approaches that foster social cohesion.

Key components of the project are to:

- Improve social protection and poverty alleviation mechanism for vulnerable populations affected by the crisis
- Create short-term employment opportunities for vulnerable households in host communities
- Address the skills mismatch of youth and labour markets through enhancing active labour market initiatives
- Support the establishment and growth of sustainable MSMEs
- Facilitate participatory local economic development and public-private partnership at local levels

Budget 24,950,000 USD

The influx of Syrian refugees has resulted in rising poverty and lack of job opportunities, particularly in the governorates of Mafrqa, Irbid, Zarqa and Amman. This mostly affects vulnerable Jordanian youth and women. It has also resulted in an increase in unemployment, reaching 30% for youth aged 15-24 years, and reaching twice as much unemployment for women compared to men (2014). The situation is worse in Mafrqa governorate where unemployment increased from 10.4% in 2012 to 14% in 2013; with female unemployment reaching 22.2% in 2013.

Competition with Jordanians in host communities over income and employment opportunities is particularly acute in the informal sector and in sectors such as construction, wholesale and retail, food services and agriculture as these are the sectors that Syrian refugees are most likely to be employed without work permits, earning lower wages than the national minimum wage (190 JD per month (approximately 270 USD) for Jordanians and 150 JD per month (approximately 210 USD) for migrant legal workers). In addition, the influx of refugees also resulted in a decline in wage rate in particular affecting unskilled and low earning Jordanians.

Vulnerable Jordanian households are among the least resilient to shocks and stresses affecting their food and livelihood security as households have limited income earning opportunities and a high dependence on subsidies. A recent study carried out by UNWomen (2014) highlights that the increase in competition over livelihoods and job opportunities has particularly impacted young men and women-headed households in host communities. The National Aid Fund (NAF), which targets the poorest families of vulnerable Jordanians, estimates that the Syrian crisis has resulted in an additional 20,000 Jordanian families enrolled in cash assistance programmes, translating in an additional USD 4.23 million required annually.

Several assessments indicate that Jordanian host communities perceive livelihoods and employment to be a source of tension, risking social cohesion between Jordanian and Syrian refugees in communities. In addition, the influx of the refugees is severely stressing basic infrastructure and services in host communities. Municipalities are unable to meet the basic social services needs of Syrians and Jordanians alike.

It is equally important that support is aimed at offering durable solutions for improvement of social and public infrastructure; sustainable livelihoods creation; and supporting the government in delivering basic services through the participatory planning and implementation that links these efforts to local economic development

Strategy

The overall objective of the project is to respond to urgent needs of vulnerable Jordanians to increase their livelihood capacities, while simultaneously linking it to more sustainable livelihoods creation and local economic recovery, and leading to sustainable development with priority given to approaches that foster social cohesion.

The project follows the strategy of the Jordan Response Plan (JRP) to build resilience of host communities by addressing immediate needs of vulnerable households in the most refugee-impacted governorates (Amman, Irbid, Mafrqa, Zarqa), with a specific attention to women and youth population. It directly addresses the key objectives of the JRP in sectors of basic needs (social protection), livelihoods and food security. The project will improve social protection and poverty alleviation mechanisms for vulnerable people affected by the crisis; and ensure that more and better job opportunities are created for the vulnerable young men and women; additionally, local economies of the most-affected areas will be revived through sustainable employment and income generation.

Partnership Framework

UNDP will partner with the NAF, municipalities in three northern governorates, businesses, dairy cooperatives and solid waste companies, CBOs and relevant ministries and departments on social protection, livelihoods and employment to create and implement the project. Partnerships with private sector businesses will also be established to facilitate job creation.

Activities

Improve social protection and poverty alleviation mechanisms for vulnerable populations affected by the crisis

- UNDP will work with the National Aid Fund (NAF) and review its targeting criteria and mechanism in order to enhance its effectiveness, particularly with respect to the working poor who are often overlooked for cash assistance and often in competition with Syrians in the informal labour market. UNDP will complement and build capacity of the NAF by assisting the working poor who are not covered by current livelihoods recovery initiatives. The project will also help NAF by providing examples of exit/graduation programming to promote self-reliance of NAF beneficiaries

Create short-term employment opportunities for vulnerable households in host communities

- Short-term employment creation will be implemented in a form of cash for work through three phases, linking cash for work in exchange for community services over three months; with savings and sustainability of MSMEs

Address the skills mismatch of youth and the labour market through enhancing active labour market initiatives

- Create permanent employment opportunities through private sector demand-driven vocational training, job placement and apprenticeships while accommodating the graduates from the Cash for Work programme

Support the establishment and growth of sustainable MSMEs

- Facilitate business development in appropriate industries in each local area
- Encourage Cash for Work beneficiaries who receive a monthly incentive for savings to utilize these savings as seed capital to establish microbusinesses

Facilitate participatory local economic development and public-private partnership at local levels

- Participants receive basic business training and advisory services to develop and run their business plans or career plans to proceed with vocational training. Successful business and career plans are financed by UNDP by multiplying the savings

The project directly benefits 2,000 vulnerable households through the cash for work activities. This includes unemployed and unskilled women and youth, of whom more than 50 per cent are women. The project will be implemented in the northern governorates (Mafrqa, Irbid and Zarqa), targeting poverty pockets, with over 25% of the population living on less than 680 JOD per annum. The project also will create mid-to long-term employment opportunities, by supporting MSME development and growth.

UNDP will maximize the impact through a comprehensive livelihoods recovery project with emergency livelihoods stabilization, basic social services, sustainable employment creation, enhanced capacity for service delivery, and local economic development. It envisions the following achievements by the end of 2015:

- Immediate short-term employment opportunities created for 2,000 vulnerable population (50 % women)
- At least 500 men and women transition from short-term employment to more sustainable employment to be self-reliant
- At least 2,000 vulnerable people supported with MSMEs development and growth
- 10,000 young men and women supported and employed directly and indirectly with active labour market initiatives
- Access to developed and rehabilitated socio-economic infrastructure provided for more than 100,000 Jordanian and Syrian host community members
- Value chain analysis on at least two commodities (dairy and municipal solid waste)
- Value chain development on at least two commodities (dairy and municipal solid waste) conducted through clustering support including development of associations
- At least two associations/cooperatives formulated with a focus on dairy products and informal waste pickers (solid waste management) to promote decent work condition, self-support mechanism and access to market

Impact

The Project

This project will strengthen the relationship between the many stakeholders affected by the Syrian crisis, including local and state government, citizens, refugees and host communities through:

- Municipal local development and local economic development plans that include community outreach
- Basic IT equipment for governorate and municipal local development units (LDU) and training for directorates' staff
- Community-led consultations to identify developmental challenges and rapid response interventions that foster social cohesion. Community Cohesion Grant Programs (CCGPs) that promote and fund community development activities to bring rapid results and enhance community confidence

The project will improve social cohesion and economic development in 20 out of 50 high-need municipalities.

Budget 6,500,000 USD

The Issue

Within the Jordan Response Plan (JRP) to the Syria Crisis, the Chapter on Resilience Responses identifies issues relating to local development planning as an integral part of the Local Governance and Municipal Services sector. The overall sector objective as per the JRP is to ensure that the Jordanian local governance system is responsive to host citizens, communities, and Syrian refugees' needs identified in most affected governorates. The JRP recognizes that all sectors need to give consideration to how their response interventions mitigate the prospect of increased tensions between Syrian refugees and their Jordanian hosts. In particular, two sectors of the JRP provided leadership and inclusion of specific outputs relating to social cohesion, including Local Governance/Municipal Services and Social Protection. Within Municipal Services, there is a clear commitment to civic and community participation and to ensure social accountability mechanisms are in place as capacities of Governorate and Municipal LDUs are strengthened.

Strategy

The overall objective of the project is to strengthen the relationship between the many stakeholders affected by the Syrian crisis, including local and state government, citizens, refugees and host communities. The project will also facilitate integration of local development priorities and new priorities since the arrival of Syrian refugees.

The project will work with international, national and local NGOs, partner UN agencies, universities and research institutions to exchange learnings to promote empowerment, social cohesion, conflict prevention and reconciliation in the context of participation and engagement at municipal and community level.

Partnership
Framework

The MoPIC will continue to be the main government counterpart, and will also be the overall coordinating authority of this project. Main partners include municipalities (LDUs), Joint Service Councils, the MoMA, the World Bank, ILO, and CSO.

The MoMA will provide overall guidance, policy-setting and enforcement. The project will work with local authorities to plan, coordinate and implement interventions. The project will focus on three governorates, namely Irbid, Marfaq and Zarqa, with attention to geographic areas with medium and high level of societal tension.

The project activities are in three key areas:

Municipal local development and local economic development (LED) Plans updated/developed/implemented, with community outreach

- Rapid planning and coordination support will be provided to municipalities and communities in affected areas. Technical assistance will be provided to strengthen capacity for planning and implementation of municipal LDUs, with a particular focus on understanding pressing local needs to enhance the social contract with citizens
- UNDP will support participating municipalities to undertake extensive community consultations with all key stakeholders using an inclusive and participatory approach, such as the Maps of Risks and Resources of Municipalities (MRR)
- Through the Municipal Working groups, the process will engage all community representatives to identify and prioritize the socio-economic needs of the municipalities
- Prioritized responses will be defined using local knowledge of the drivers of vulnerability, in the short medium and long term and the needs assessment will inform the creation of Local Development Plans, priorities and response

Activities

Governorate and Municipal LDU and directorates staff trained, and received basic IT equipment

- The project will support governorate and municipal LDUs and directorates through training and IT equipment to improve service delivery. This will help build social cohesion and strengthen local government structures for ongoing and potential future crises. Staff will acquire skills in community consultation, strategic planning, and prioritization of investment needs

Community-led consultations conducted to assist in identifying developmental challenges and rapid response interventions that foster social cohesion. Community Cohesion Grant Programs (CCGPs) established to promote and fund community development activities that bring rapid results and enhance community confidence

- A Conflict-related Development Analysis (CDA) will be conducted through the project to identify priority interventions to foster social cohesion nationwide, particularly the northern governorates. Through the project, UNDP will familiarize stakeholders with the concept of social cohesion and support inclusion of social cohesion into national and local development plans
- A Community Cohesion Grant Programs (CCGPs) will be established to promote and fund community and youth development activities that bring quick results and enhance community confidence

Impact

- The community cohesion fund (CCF) will be used as “stimulus” for integrated social cohesion and LED, with a specific focus on projects carried out by women and youth
- The intended beneficiaries for the community cohesion grant mechanism are people living in communities with existing or growing tensions. In order to raise awareness on social cohesion, a component of the project aims to engage with members of the Jordanian executive, legislature and bureaucracy to sensitize them to concepts of social cohesion as well as engaging and providing a forum for civil society organisations

Community-level development plans created in 20 out of 50 high-need municipalities, based on a better understanding of the evolving socio-economic needs and priorities of host communities identified through a consultative and participatory approach, including:

- Multi-sectorial investment plans developed to respond to and implement the LED Plans and to facilitate public-private partnerships
- Enhanced capacities of municipal LDU staff in planning, community outreach, and implementation of LED Plans
- Responsive local governance system in place for better coordination and improved linkages between LDUs at the governorate and municipal levels
- Analysis deepened through the CDA enabling better programme and policy development
- Small grants funded through CCF used as “stimulus” for integrating social cohesion into LED while also giving (host) communities a sense of recognition that their issues are addressed
- Dialogue and facilitation within selected communities in the northern governorates enhanced through trainings and specific small grants



This project will help to scale up and accelerate responses to Jordan's energy crisis in a sustainable manner that alleviates incremental demand pressures from the Syria crisis. It will increase solar energy for electricity generation through solar photo-voltaic (PV) solutions as a means to offset the increased energy demand from the influx of Syrian refugees. And, it will offset serious socio-economic risks that could emerge in host communities from rising energy insecurity.

Three key aspects of the project are:

- Deploy solar photovoltaic systems in Jordan's communities hosting Syrian refugees
- Establish operations, maintenance, and training of local institutions for solar energy
- Build awareness and advocacy of the benefits of sustainable energy to the community

Overall, the project will help decrease the fiscal impact of rising energy demands.

Budget 28,000,000 USD

Jordan is one of the world's most energy insecure countries, importing about 97% of its energy needs. While Jordan has achieved many development goals, sustaining these results will increasingly depend on the transition to a sustainable energy future due to the heavy burden of energy costs on the Jordanian economy. Until 2009, the country relied on natural gas imported from Egypt for around 86% of its electricity generation. But due to a series of disruptions to this flow in recent years, the number has declined to 10% by 2014. In response, Jordan shifted to higher-cost heavy fuel oil and diesel imports, which has increased the cost of importing energy from 1.9 billion JD (USD 2.7 billion) in 2009 to 4.1 billion JD (USD 5.8 billion) in 2014.

Exacerbating this energy insecurity crisis has been the impact of the Syrian crisis, with the influx of refugees increasing the population of Jordan by about 15%. Furthermore about 75% of Syrians refugees reside in Jordan's cities and towns, adding pressure to residential energy consumption, including demands on the power grid and needs for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) for domestic cooking (the only fuel derivative which remains subsidized by the government). Thus, total residential electricity consumption in Jordan due to Syrian refugees has risen significantly from 4926 gigawat-hours in 2009 to 6265 gigawat-hours in 2013. The consumption of LPG increased from 270,000 TOE in 2009 to 315,000 in 2014, adding a direct cost to the government of USD 6.3 million. While not a primary driver of systemic energy sector challenges in Jordan, the Syrian crisis is a significant exacerbating factor.

Given the centrality of energy to the public budget, the rising costs of energy in the State budget are decreasing fiscal space to respond to overall challenges, and could derail the development trajectory of the country unless urgent actions are taken. Securing a sustainable energy pathway and enacting sustainable energy measures within crisis response is thus critical for achieving all goals of the Jordan Response Plan.

The objective of this project is to scale up sustainable options to address Jordan's energy crisis in a way that offsets the increased energy demand triggered by the influx of Syrian refugees and forced migrants into Jordanian host communities. In addition, this goal aligns with the National Energy Strategy, which identifies renewable energy solutions as a cost effective solution to the country's energy crisis. Rapidly installing up to 5,000 solar water heaters in buildings and residences through the project, for example, could free up 10-15 megawatts and reduce related electricity costs.

The Project

The Issue

Strategy

The project will help address the developmental risks from both the Syrian crisis and the energy crisis and help accelerate Jordan's plans to scale-up solar power in the coming years. In particular the project would focus on bottom-up, decentralized solutions that help bolster energy supply for small businesses and households.

The project will bring together the MEMR, Inter-Ministry Energy Task Force, local host community partners, the NERC and local and international solar technology providers. UNDP will bring to the project its global expertise and south-south networks in sustainable energy, as the UN's largest provider of country assistance in the areas of climate change and sustainable energy and a global portfolio of \$1.2 billion USD in these areas. UNDP will also engage partner UN agencies, such as the UNOPS for project implementation support services.

Deploy solar photovoltaic systems in Jordan's Communities Hosting Syrian Refugees

- Solar technology would be deployed to meet incremental energy supply needs of Jordanian host communities. This would include hundreds of bottom-up, decentralized solutions such as solar micro-grids and solar home systems (passive and photovoltaic) to be used by local host communities. Technology solutions will be adapted to the needs of small businesses, health clinics, schools, farmers and households within each host community. This will include use of two solar PV solutions: (i) deployment of solar water heaters (SWHs) and related roof-top solar applications or micro-grids as the most-effective means of reducing intensity of household energy use, and (ii) retrofitting of diesel generators into diesel-to-solar (D2S) hybrid units, to reduce costs and improve energy security, for small businesses, clinics, schools, farmers and households now relying solely on diesel for power generation, water pumping and other needs. Both sets of solutions will be made to particularly benefit low- and middle- income segments of host communities.

Establish operations, maintenance, and training of local institutions for solar PV

- The project will help provide expertise to undertake technology needs assessments for tailoring of technology options with specific needs of each host community selected for deployment, and for the various categories of energy-users. The project will provide expertise and operational support for identification and procurement of technology solutions/or combinations of options from the market, for solar water heaters, solar photo-voltaic and retrofitted diesel-hybrid systems tracks of activities as noted above. It will also support engagement with and training of energy service companies in local communities to ensure local business ecosystems are generated to service small businesses, clinics, schools, farmers and households benefiting from the solar technologies under the project.

Build awareness and advocacy of the benefits of sustainable energy to communities

- The project will also develop communication materials and build awareness on the benefits of integrating sustainable energy into the crisis response, including acknowledgement of donor contributions. This will include raising awareness on public benefits of JRP solar solutions among community end-users, local officials, national partners and the international community. In addition, dedicated communication products including short-films, knowledge products capturing results and success stories, and convening of stakeholder dialogues will be produced.

Partnership Framework

Activities

Expected impacts include:

- New energy supply capacities that offset of increased energy demand caused by the influx of refugees in host communities
- Reduced costs/ energy bills and increased energy security in host community beneficiaries
- Increased usage rates of solar water heaters and significant share of diesel generators with hybrid solar capacity integrated
- Avoidance of adverse social and economic impacts from rising energy insecurity in local communities and the nation
- Partner capacities for mainstreaming sustainable energy solutions into crisis response strengthened

Impact

