



IN BRIEF



UN WOMEN'S PROGRAMMING: SYRIA CRISIS RESPONSE IN JORDAN

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A Snapshot: What we do

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) supports the Government of Jordan to address the impact of the Syria crisis on Jordan and to promote gender equality in humanitarian action and resilience programming through a portfolio of interventions focused on economic recovery and combating violence against women. The overall aim of UN Women's refugee crisis-focused programming is to empower Syrian women refugees, through increased access to opportunities, services and meaningful engagement in community life, to put in place the foundational cornerstones for the present and future fulfillment of their rights.

In 2012 UN Women opened its first women and girls safe space in Za'atari refugee camp to support the Government of Jordan to respond to the impact of the Syria crisis. Since then, UN Women's response to the Syria crisis has expanded within and beyond Za'atari camp to include comprehensive gender equality focused support to refugees and Jordanian nationals living in Azraq camp (to be opened mid-2016) and hosting communities through protection services, employment opportunities and community engagement and decision-making. This work is undertaken in the governorates of Mafraq, Irbid, Zarqa and Amman. This work includes -

- The provision of safe spaces for women and girls. UN Women supports 12 safe spaces in refugee camps (3) and Jordan's hosting communities (9), providing safe access to adequate comprehensive support services to those at risk and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) – and creating space for women to meet and access services.
- Livelihood opportunities to 850 Jordanian women living in communities hosting Syrian refugees, as an entry point to address

increasing pressures on services and resources in host communities and to promote women's empowerment.

- Cash for work opportunities for 172 per day Syrian refugees in camp settings – soon to be increased to 400 per day, benefiting close to 900 people.
- Food security engagement for 500 women through kitchen gardens and healthy lifestyles, in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- Social cohesion and trust-building programmes in host communities, targeting 600 Jordanians and Syrian refugees through access to essential social services, sport and access to public spaces.
- Technical assistance on gender equality and women's empowerment to humanitarian and resilience partners in Jordan.

Through its work in refugee camp settings, UN Women reaches, on average, 16,000 people per year through three safe spaces – Oasis' for women and girls. To this end UN Women runs Za'atari's largest female-focused cash for work programme. With only 6000 cash for work opportunities available in Za'atari camp, and women receiving on average 23% of them – this targeted programme is key to balancing gender inequalities and supporting women's empowerment. These opportunities are tagged with language and literacy classes, computer classes and other remedial education, awareness raising, day care services and protection referrals on issues of civil status and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). UN Women supports women's leadership through the facilitation of a camp women's committee, and hosts #HeforShe dialogues, building awareness on issues of gender based violence and creating alliances between men and women living in the camp on gender equality and key issues affecting women's lives.



Monitoring demonstrates that this holistic approach to women's empowerment serves as a powerful entry point to combating violence against women, with a documented 20 percent decrease in domestic violence amongst programme beneficiaries and 91 percent of beneficiaries citing increased decision-making over matters financial and other within their households and communities. Moreover, the financial gain garnered from the cash for work contributes to household dietary diversity and decreased food insecurity, with 70% of spending going directly on fresh fruit, vegetables and meats.

In Jordan's hosting communities UN Women supports the extension and strengthening of national SGBV related services, supporting the Jordanian Women's Union (JWU) to operate 4 centres for those at risk of and surviving SGBV and partnering with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to manage one survivor centred shelter.



Za'atari Refugee Camp.

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In 2015 through the four JWU centres, 1,990 women and girls, Jordanian and Syrian refugees, benefited from a variety of essential services (of these, 412 SGBV survivors had access to case management including psychosocial support and legal assistance and 182 SGBV survivors benefited from trainings which encouraged them to be self-sufficient).

In addition, 4 community based centres are supported across Irbid and Zarqa to serve as safe spaces and community centres for women and children. Awareness-raising on issues related to SGBV and the services available is undertaken throughout host communities to try and strengthen efforts to prevent gender-based violence.

To promote social cohesion and bolster gender equality and women's empowerment, UN Women supports women's economic empowerment, providing employment opportunities to Jordanian women through support to social entrepreneurship and by expanding women's engagement in the paid economy – primarily in Jordan's garment and retail sectors.



Mafrqa, Jordan. ©UN Women/Christopher Herwig

To this end, in 2015 UN Women supported 400 women in communities hosting large numbers of refugees to access decent paid employment. In tandem UN Women is supporting close to 450 through social entrepreneurship and business startup support. In these areas UN Women is working with local authorities to extend social service delivery to women in remote areas and women living under the poverty line. This includes working with health centres to provide infrastructure support needed to service women's health needs. In the same communities, UN Women is working to bring Jordanians and Syrians together, using sport and drama as entry points for trust-building and dialogue. This is targeting roughly 1000 women – Jordanian and Syrian.

In 2016 UN Women began working with the FAO to support food insecure families, both Jordanian and Syrian, to meet their food security needs through greater engagement in agriculture, the establishment of kitchen gardens, while promoting women's leadership in agricultural organizations.

At the national level, UN Women and the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) serve as the co-Secretariat of the Ministry of Social Development (MOSD) managed social protection task force – serving as the national coordinating body on social protection issues. UN Women is also supporting the MOSD to extend its social services in Mafrqa governorate, while providing the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation with capacity building support to manage the national response to the Syria crisis.

UN WOMEN - JORDAN COUNTRY OFFICE

Established in December 2012, the UN Women Country Office for Jordan works in close collaboration with the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the UN Country Team and the Civil Society to advance the women's national agenda, promote women's empowerment and gender equality.

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