



IN BRIEF



# RESTORING DIGNITY: PROGRAMMING IN REFUGEE CAMP SETTINGS - 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 empowerment of female Syrian refugees living in Jordan. This is done through a safe space model, which UN Women has been operating in Za'atari refugee camp since its inception in late 2012, and in Azraq camp beginning early 2016. The overall aim of these spaces is to utilize economic empowerment as an entry point for social and political empowerment – including reducing violence against women. Syria refugees are supported through increased access to economic opportunities and meaningful engagement in community life, putting in place the foundational cornerstones for the present and future enjoyment of their rights.

The protracted nature of the Syrian conflict has placed severe pressures on families reflected through increases in domestic violence, child labour, early marriage and the prevalence of individuals and families returning to Syria. Providing women with livelihood opportunities enables their empowerment and provides them with financial resources needed to care for themselves and their families, bolstering the resilience of households and communities alike. The portfolio of work in camp settings includes:

- Three safe spaces named 'Oases' for women and girls (one co-managed with the World Food Programme (WFP)) in Za'atari camp, reaching 2,500 users per month, providing life skills training through Arabic literacy, English and computer classes. One new centre is being opened in Azraq camp in cooperation with WFP.
- 172 women benefiting from cash-for-work those vulnerable to food insecurity. Daycare facilities are available for the children of programme beneficiaries, programmes, directly and indirectly

reaching 980 people, targeting those vulnerable to food insecurity. This will increase to 400 by mid-2016. Daycare facilities are available for the children of programme beneficiaries. This results in the production of 4000 school uniforms and 1000 comprehensive maternal kits per year, which are distributed through UNICEF to new parents and school children after the completion of immunizations. This will also soon include the production of healthy school meals, distributed to students enrolled in camp schools.

- Emergency medical support services through financial assistance to support Oasis users. A self-sustaining micro-medical fund has also been set up with Operation Mercy to obtain medical support for cases that cannot be treated within the camp or through United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) support.
- Establishment and hosting of two women's committees – one youth committee and a second geographically diverse committee - with regular meetings to serve as interlocutors between the community, service providers and camp decision-makers.
- Protection referral services on issues from sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) to legal status and disability, and awareness-raising programmes to support the engagement of men and boys in SGBV response and prevention.
- #HeforShe dialogue sessions with men on combating domestic violence, leadership and community engagement support to women through capacity building.
- Technical assistance services on gender equality and women's empowerment to Za'atari and to country-wide inter-agency humanitarian partners.



## Our Impact

Recent UN Women successes in Jordan

### **FINANCIAL GAIN, SKILLS CAPACITY AND LABOUR PARTICIPATION:**

Through support to employment and cash-for-work programmes, the average income of each participant has increased from 10 Jordanian dinars per month to an average of 145 Jordanian dinars for full-time workers. This has supported the diversification of participants' diets – with 70% of income being spent on fresh fruit and vegetables, as well as improved household hygiene and healthcare. In a region with one of the lowest levels of female labour participation rates in the world, this also serves to overcome barriers to women's labour market participation.

Cash-for-work links women's productive labour to the camp economy and provides an opportunity for livelihoods. The work on offer includes recycling (repurposing UNHCR tents into reusable bags that are distributed free-of-charge to reduce plastic waste), tailoring (the production of school uniforms and comprehensive baby kits – distributed free-of-charge in cooperation with UNICEF to schools and hospitals), handicrafts, teachers, beauticians, security guards, centre managers, and childcare professionals. There are high numbers of women looking for cash-for-work opportunities in the camps, with over 1,700 having sought opportunities from UN Women since 2012. Only 23 percent of the available cash-for-work opportunities in the camp currently benefit women.

### **WIDER PERCEPTION OF SAFETY AND IMPROVED WELLBEING:**

20 percent of women participating in UN Women's programming report a decrease in domestic violence within their households, 76 percent report increased positive intra-household relations while 89 percent state that they felt they benefited in ways not limited to financial gain. Related to social equality and mental wellbeing, 91 percent of beneficiaries report an increase in household and community decision-making as a result of their engagement in the programme.

### **INCREASED SELF-ESTEEM, AN ANTIDOTE TO ISOLATION AND AN AVENUE FOR SUPPORT:**

Participants in the cash-for-work programme report that their engagement both builds their confidence and awareness of their skills, and provides them with opportunity to leave their homes and to break the cycle of isolation. The Oases provide safe havens for women that may not frequently leave their households,

where they are able to mix with their peers and access a range of support services.

Increased awareness of women's rights and responsibilities for an inclusive, equitable and peaceful society are provided through training and awareness raising, including on civic mobilization. This is paired with Arabic literacy, computer and English classes. Daycare facilities are also provided to programme beneficiaries to support access and attendance.

Support to and the facilitation of two women's camp committees' link women's voices to camp decision-makers. Every month UN Women supports the committees in holding at least two meetings with camp decision-makers. These include the Government of Jordan, UNHCR and WFP, and may focus on issues such as food security in the camp.

UN Women's operations in Za'atari work in close collaboration with other actors on issues of women's empowerment, gender equality and humanitarian action including the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNHCR and WFP.



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### **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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