



## IN BRIEF

# Resilience and Empowerment of Vulnerable Women: The Future of Jordan's Growth and Stability

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## Turning the Impossible into Reality: Dua'a's Journey Back to Work

Dua'a Al-Omari, a 38-year-old Jordanian mother of three children, embarked on a transformative journey through the Hairdressing Training programme at the UN Women operated Oasis centre in Madaba. This opportunity allowed her to integrate into the workforce after a pause in her educational journey. Her determination, combined with the support of her family, enabled her to balance her enrolment in the training with her responsibilities at home. This life-changing path was made possible through the Oasis centre, a safe space funded by the European Union through the Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian crisis, the Madad Fund, in partnership with the Ministry of Social Development.

Dua'a reflects on her initial encounter with the Oasis centre, saying, "I discovered the Oasis centre through a Facebook advertisement. To join, I had to submit a form along with personal documents, followed by an interview that ultimately welcomed me into the course."

"Luckily, I encountered no significant challenges during my time in the course. My family's support was invaluable; they helped me tremendously. It was a remarkable and transformative experience. I hope to have more opportunities like this in the future with the Oasis centre," shares Dua'a.

The Oasis centre, Funded by EU Trust Fund 'Madad' collaboration with the Ministry of Social Development, has reshaped lives. Dua'a's story shows this transformation, as she elaborates, "This experience brought significant changes in my life. On a personal level, I had the privilege of meeting inspiring individuals who provided me with unwavering support, including our facilitators at the centre, who were truly motivating. On a professional level, I gained a growing customer base, and the income I earned



*Dua'a Al-Omari during a class at the UN Women Madaba Oasis Centre.*

Photo: UN Women/Bashar Al-Jabari

during that period significantly contributed to my family's financial well-being. Additionally, I became more integrated with the women in my community, and people now recognize me for the work I do and my unwavering dedication."

She further reflects, "I learnt numerous new skills, and the psychosocial support sessions offered by the centre allowed me to express my thoughts and emotions more effectively. They empowered me and enhanced my self-esteem."

Dua'a's journey, along with those of many other women, serves as proof of the Oasis centre's impact. Her advice to women is to prioritize self-care, invest in their well-being, and allocate time and energy to self-improvement and education. These efforts contribute to personal growth and improvement.

As she envisions her future, Dua'a shares her dreams, "My dream is to establish my own business, ensuring a stable source of income for myself and my family. I also aspire to provide my children with the finest education. Achieving these dreams demands hard work and dedication, and it will become a reality."





Photo: UN Women

In a significant collaborative effort, the MENA Safeguarding Resource and Support Hub recently led a training program in Jordan, aimed at reinforcing zero tolerance towards Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and Sexual Harassment and Abuse (SHA). This initiative, supported by international bodies like the European Union, Italian Agency for Development Cooperation in Jordan, and the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, as well as embassies from Finland, France, Cyprus, Canada, Iceland, and Norway, brought together various partner organizations. The training focused on enhancing safeguarding policies and practices, with a strong emphasis on survivor-centred approaches and effective reporting mechanisms. Key Jordanian entities like the Jordanian National Commission for Women, Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development - ARDD, and the King Hussein Foundation participated, highlighting the local commitment to these issues. This collaborative effort marks a critical step towards creating safer environments, demonstrating the power of partnership in addressing sexual misconduct. The training underscores the collective responsibility in this domain and sets a precedent for future initiatives aimed at ensuring the safety and dignity of all individuals served by these organizations.

### Empowering Change: Jordan Joins Global Leaders at Morocco's Gender Responsive Budgeting Conference



Photo: UN Women

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### World Refugee Day 2023! Theme: Hope Away from Home



Photo: UN Women/Bashar Al-Jabari

World Refugee Day, observed globally on June 20 each year, is a United Nations-designated day to honor and celebrate the strength, courage, and resilience of millions of refugees. This day is dedicated to recognizing those who have been compelled to flee their home countries due to conflict or persecution. It serves as an important occasion to foster empathy and understanding for the challenges refugees face and to acknowledge their determination in rebuilding their lives under difficult circumstances. In 2023, World Refugee Day was marked with the theme "Hope Away from Home," encapsulating the spirit of optimism and resilience that refugees carry with them as they seek safety and a new beginning away from their homelands. This theme highlights the enduring hope that refugees hold onto, even in the face of great adversity, as they forge new paths in unfamiliar environments. World Refugee Day 2023 was not only a tribute to their unyielding spirit but also a call to the global community to support and stand in solidarity with refugees in their journey towards a hopeful and dignified future.

On October 7 and 8, a significant collaboration was on display at Morocco's Gender Responsive Budgeting Conference, where key Jordanian ministries and organizations participated. The Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, the General Budget Department, the Jordanian National Commission for Women, and UN Women Jordan came together to explore the critical role of public finance in driving change for gender equality. This conference, supported by the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), UN Women, and the European Commission, emphasized the importance of incorporating a gender perspective into budgeting processes as a means to foster equality and empowerment.



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