



IN BRIEF

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

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Nesreen's Journey of Resilience and Empowerment

Nesreen, 35, comes from Deraa, Syria and now lives in Jordan.

Nesreen arrived in Jordan at the beginning of 2013. "We got here through Za'atari camp [where we stayed] for 2 years. I came here from Syria with my 3 girls and, when we were at the camp, I got pregnant with Aya." Aya was born with epilepsy. Nesreen and her family had to leave the camp, and resettle in El Karak, where treatment for Aya is available. They have been living there for the past 5 years. In the meantime, one of Nesreen's daughters got married and does not live with the family anymore.

Their financial situation is grim. Her husband cannot find work and their family has to rely on external financial support. "We get income from the UN and I also receive aid for Aya's condition. This is the only income we have every month and it's not enough. We are 5 people and, if we get a work opportunity, I'm the only one who works."

"I am more valued because I'm the one working hard and providing for the family. [...] It changed a lot of things at home. Before I started working, I was depressed at home... [...] [my daughters] would not ask for anything, but now they have the courage to ask because they know that their mother works and has a salary."

Thanks to a workshop she registered for, however, Nesreen is learning how to sew. "I was a beginner when I started the workshop. [...] They taught us how to use the [sewing] machine, to join the thread with the needle, how to remove it, the foot motion... they taught us all of this and we started stitching and sewing." In addition, attendees to the workshop have access to a



Photo: European Union

Nesreen is learning sewing machine operation in the OASIS centre in Za'atari camp.

daily allowance that also covers transportation. "I benefitted a lot from it. My daughters used to walk every day for 30 minutes in the freezing cold and rain to get to school and now they take the bus. Aya's treatment was a burden on me, especially when I couldn't afford her medicines. Her treatment shouldn't be stopped, so when I couldn't afford her treatment, I had to borrow from the pharmacy. But now, thankfully, we will be able to cover the cost." explains Nesreen.

The EU Madad Fund, initiated in response to the Syrian crisis, has successfully marshalled over EUR 2.3 billion, demonstrating the EU's unwavering commitment to aiding Syrian refugees and their host communities. This fund underscores the significance of collaborations in education, healthcare, livelihoods, and particularly women empowerment. Alongside this, the United Nations (UN) plays a pivotal role in facilitating global support, and UN Women Jordan work diligently to address gender-based challenges, ensuring that women's rights and opportunities are at the forefront of reconstruction efforts.

Community-led transportation solutions contribute to reducing gender barriers

April 12, 2021, innovative and community-led transportation solutions contribute to reducing gender barriers to mobility while opening job opportunities for women.

The Ministry of Transport and SADAQA introduced the National Framework on Gender Sensitive Transportation developed in partnership with the European Union and UN Women in Jordan.

“At this time where the world is confronted with a harsh economic reality, it is imperative that we start to think about solutions to support women’s access to economic opportunities through improved mobility, and by ensuring safer and more affordable public transport,” said the Secretary General of the Ministry of Transport H.E. Eng. Wissam Tahtamouni.

“Innovative and community-led transportation solutions contribute to reducing gender barriers to mobility, while opening job opportunities for women in the transport sector. Revising the transport systems with gender lens will make them more resilient and inclusive, this increasing economic growth potential at the local level” said Tamar Tavartkiladze on behalf of UN Women.

According to Head of Cooperation at the EU Delegation to Jordan, Ms. Corinne André “Gender equality and women empowerment are at the heart of EU cooperation programmes, especially in crisis contexts. In Jordan, economic empowerment has been a prominent and imperative aspect of many of the programmes we fund, particularly under the EU regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis, covering the needs of the most vulnerable as well the needs of refugees. We are convinced that safe transportation for women is an essential prerequisite for achieving this goal.”

“Based on the main recommendations of our study to mainstream gender policies into public transportation, it was essential that we developed a framework for public transportation applying gender and social lens, that would encompass all national efforts in this field, while taking into account women’s needs during mobility,” said SADAQA Core Team member, Ms. Randa Naffa.

As part of its commitment to integrate gender perspectives into policy reforms, the Ministry of Transport signed a Memorandum of Understanding with SADAQA to implement the National Framework for Gender Sensitive Public Transport and other measures to improve women’s mobility.



Virtual briefing for Gender Sensitive Public Transport launching.

The Ministry is also working on operationalizing a code of conduct for passengers, drivers and operators in the public transport system developed in partnership with the World Bank under the Mashreq Gender Facility, including a dedicated app to report violations.



Photo: UN Women/Zaid Awamleh

Happy international Labour Day!

UN Women promotes inclusive economic growth and sustainable development by supporting women in Jordan to enter and, more importantly, remain in the labour force with the support of EU Trust Fund ‘Madad’. By enabling women to be consistent contributors to the workforce, we pave the way for an environment that is both inclusive and sustainable.