



IN BRIEF



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

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### Princess Basma reviews Oasis Centre services in Madaba's Bani Hamidah region

HRH Princess Basma, Chairperson of the Jordanian National Committee for Women and Goodwill Ambassador for UN Women, recently visited the Oasis Centre in Jabal Bani Hamidah, Madaba. The visit spotlighted the efforts of the Oasis Centres, a collaborative initiative between the Ministry of Social Development and UN Women, in empowering Jordanian women, including Syrian refugees.

She was joined by a delegation comprising key figures like Mr. Ziad Sheikh, UN Women Jordan Representative, H.E. Bernard Lynch, Australian Ambassador to Jordan, and representatives from the EU Delegation and Ministry of Social Development. Together, they highlighted the importance of public-private partnerships and international cooperation in championing women's empowerment.

Princess Basma expressed her appreciation for the holistic approach of the Oasis Centres, emphasizing their role as a bridge between various sectors and international partners. She also lauded the Ministry of Social Development for its instrumental role in uplifting women's status in the society, an endeavor further buoyed by support from UN Women, the Australian Embassy, and the EU Delegation.

Mr. Sheikh emphasized the Oasis model's significance, pointing out its unique contribution to women's economic and social recovery post-pandemic. He affirmed UN Women's commitment to ensuring that even the most vulnerable women benefit from such models.

The Australian Ambassador, H.E. Bernard Lynch, reiterated his country's dedication to these initiatives, highlighting the shared



Photo: UN Women/ Ye Ji Lee

*At the Oasis Centre in Jabal Bani Hamidah region in Madaba, implemented by the Ministry of Social Development in partnership with UN Women with the goal of providing integrated living support and necessary vocational training for local women and Syrian refugee women.*

vision of promoting women's rights and ensuring their active participation in socio-economic frameworks.

Ms. Mary Horvers from the EU Delegation mirrored these sentiments, praising the Oasis Centres as exemplary models of women's empowerment.

Ms. Arwa Al Zboun from the Ministry of Social Development spotlighted the tangible benefits of the Oasis initiative. Since its inception in 2020, the Bani Hamidah centre alone has provided training and employment to 789 women. Across Jordan, 22 such centres operate, underlining the country's commitment to its women.

The visit underscored the significance of collaborative models like Oasis Centres in fostering women's empowerment, with emphasis on synergies between public, private, and international stakeholders.



Photo: EFE Jordan

Despite evolving labor market demands, the garment sector continues to offer valuable employment opportunities. A commendable group of 33 women in Ajloun, Jordan, recently graduated from the "Industrial Garment" training program. This initiative, a collaboration between EFE-Jordan, UN Women, and funded by the EU Trust Fund 'Madad', falls under the "Building Women's Capacities with Technical Skills and Entrepreneurship" program. Its primary goal is to empower women towards financial independence by equipping them with relevant skills. Congratulations to these dedicated women for taking a significant step toward self-reliance.

### Empowering Voices: Women in Diplomacy Forum Highlights International Cooperation



Photo: the Embassy of France in Jordan

Esteemed ambassadors and H.E. Dr. Alia Hatoug-Bouran engage in a riveting discussion on women's pivotal roles in diplomacy at the 'Women and Diplomacy' forum.

Sharing experiences and insights from their unique journeys in diplomacy, esteemed ambassadors from the European Union, France, Greece, Spain, and Sweden were joined by H.E. Dr. Alia Hatoug-Bouran in the "Women and Diplomacy" discussion. This enriching debate was organized by the French Embassy in Jordan and UN Women Jordan, in collaboration with the Faculty of Prince Hussein for International Studies. The event falls within the purview of the French Presidency of the European Union, further emphasizing the importance of women's roles in diplomatic circles and fostering international cooperation.

### Empowering Youth through Private Sector Collaboration



Photo: EFE Jordan

Integrated Technology Group's session with EFE-Jordan and UN Women shines a light on data science's role in the digital economy and the private sector's potential to combat unemployment, all under the aegis of the European Union-funded initiative.

In a dedicated move to tackle unemployment, Integrated Technology Group (ITG) hosted a motivational session underscoring the crucial role of the private sector in connecting the youth to job prospects. The session placed particular emphasis on the relevance of data science in the burgeoning digital economy. This engagement was an integral component of the Data Analysis training implemented by EFE-Jordan, in alliance with UN Women. All these commendable efforts are part of the expansive "Building Women's Capacities with Technical Skills and Entrepreneurship" program, generously funded by the EU Trust Fund 'Madad' in Jordan, aiming to arm its participants with indispensable market-ready skills.



*I want to share with other women that anything is possible... Once you set a goal and work for it, you will accomplish whatever you want.*

AMAL MOHAMMAD ZYOUD

UN Women's Cash for Work project in Jordan funded by the European Union through the Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian crisis, the Madad Fund

[Click here](#) to read the story of Amal.

## From where I stand: “The Oasis Centre has now become a place where I can release my energy”

Through her work experience at the UN Women’s Oasis Centre in the Azraq refugee camp, 29-year-old Marwa Barakat has gained confidence, independence and financial stability. The Oasis model for women’s resilience and empowerment was developed by UN Women and the Ministry of Social Development with significant funding and contributions from the European Union, including in the model’s extension to community centres and related policy dialogues.

“I arrived in the Azraq camp in 2016, with my mother-in-law and my three children. The situation in Syria was very difficult and dangerous, and the passing of my husband in 2014 put more responsibility on me to look after our family. We heard that Jordan was providing services to Syrian refugees, which led our family to leave Eastern Ghouta, Syria.

Before my husband passed away, I had no work experience. However, after I became a widow and the sole provider of my family, I worked at a cheese factory for one year until I was able to save enough money for me and my children to come to Jordan. While we managed to arrive at the Azraq camp, the struggles did not end. I needed to find an opportunity in the camp to cover the expenses of my family.

Luckily, I found an opportunity to work at the Oasis Centre, despite having only basic knowledge of tailoring and cutting. I quickly grasped the skills taught at the Oasis Centre, and now work in the tailoring sector to produce baby suits that are distributed inside the camp.

**“Raising my children on my own put a lot of stress on me, and as an introvert I did not have the courage to interact with others. However, the Oasis Centre has now become a place where I can release my energy.”**

My experience at the Oasis Centre built my character and my self-esteem, [and willingness] to learn and interact with others. It is a place of comfort, a community that helps me relieve my stress and allows me to get a breath of fresh air. It feels like a home, a place where I rebuilt my new life. It made me feel more capable and empowered.

I tell the women that everyone who enters the Oasis benefits. Here, one finds safety, trust, and a strong sense of community. We not only benefited financially but also became self-confident and learned more about our rights as women. There are many things we were unaware of that we learned here. You contribute, and you carry away experience with you.”

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Marwa Barakat, 29, works on baby suits at the UN Women Oasis Centre in the Azraq refugee camp.

Photo: UN Women/Tamara Abidin

## Eng. Musa Al-Ma’aitah Honored for Pioneering Gender Equality Initiatives in Jordan



H.E. Eng. Musa Al-Ma’aitah honored for advancing gender equality, pictured with top Jordanian officials.

Photo: European Union

June 7, 2022, H.E. Eng. Musa Al-Ma’aitah, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of the Independent Election Commission and former Chair of the Inter-ministerial Committee for Women Empowerment (IMC), was celebrated by the Gender Partners Coordination Group. This honor was presented in the esteemed company of H.E. Wafa’a Bani Mustafa, Minister of State for Legal Affairs and current Chair of the IMC, as well as H.E. Dr. Muawieh Radaideh, Minister of Environment. The accolade recognizes Ma’aitah’s significant contributions to gender equality and women’s empowerment. His dedication to fostering collaboration with the Jordanian National Commission for Women, the European Union in Jordan, UN Women, and other pivotal stakeholders, has been pivotal in propelling the cause forward.



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