



## IN BRIEF



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

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## Vocational Training: A Beacon for Syrian Refugees and Jordanian Hosts

In a commendable effort to bolster the employability and entrepreneurial skills of Syrian refugees and the host communities in Jordan, a strategic partnership has been formed with EFE-Jordan. The initiative's core objective is to train individuals, equipping them with the necessary skills to thrive in today's dynamic job market, ensuring that these programs are sensitive to factors like age, nationality, and disabilities.

This initiative aiming to make a significant impact, a target has been set to train a total of 550 individuals. The breakdown of this target exhibits a commitment to inclusivity, with 20% being Syrian and 80% from the Jordanian community.

UN Women, in conjunction with EFE-Jordan, has been actively involved in assessing market needs to ensure the training provided aligns with current employment opportunities. To put this into perspective, EFE took the proactive step of conducting a market assessment, wherein 102 employers across diverse sectors - from retail sales and IT to the garment industry - were surveyed. Drawing insights from this survey, EFE meticulously designed training modules tailored to the needs of today's job market. This not only encompasses vocational skills but also emphasizes strategies for job placements and fosters the spirit of micro-entrepreneurship, especially catering to the needs of women, both Syrian and Jordanian refugees.

While this initiative is ground breaking, it doesn't come without its challenges. The political landscape of Jordan imposes certain restrictions on refugees, limiting their work opportunities to specific sectors and only with government-issued permits.

Furthermore, the global economic downturn resulting from the



Photo: UN Women/Christopher Herwig

*Women working at an OASIS centre in the Azraq Refugee Camp in Jordan.*

COVID-19 pandemic has invariably impacted job availability, adding another layer of complexity to the job placement process.

Addressing these challenges head-on, UN Women and its partners are doubling down on their efforts. Furthermore, a significant emphasis is being placed on sensitizing employers about the importance of decent work standards, showcasing how such practices are not just ethically sound but also pivotal for the overall profitability of their businesses.

While challenges persist, the unyielding spirit of organizations like UN Women and EFE-Jordan, by the funding support from the EU Madad Fund, offers a beacon of hope. Their relentless efforts ensure that Syrian refugees and the Jordanian community are not only equipped with skills but also given platforms to transform these skills into tangible opportunities, promoting growth and prosperity for everyone involved.



Photo: UN Women/Marta Garbarino

## Empowering Al-Muwaqqar's Women: From theory to Practice

In the heart of Jordan, nestled within the bustling township of Al-Muwaqqar, there's a revolution in the making. Vulnerable women from this region, who have for years faced numerous challenges, are now receiving the support they need to transform their lives and their community.

In a collaborative stride towards making this vision a reality, the Ministry of Social Development has joined hands with the EU Trust Fund 'Madad'. This significant partnership is known for its comprehensive response to crises, ensuring that the most vulnerable communities receive the essential support they require.

The initiative is anchored in the UN Women's programme "Resilience and Empowerment of Vulnerable Women: The Future of Jordan's Growth and Stability". The name isn't just symbolic; it's a testament to the role that women play in the economic and social fabric of Jordan. By focusing on equipping these women with the relevant skills and training, the programme aims to ensure their seamless transition into the labour market.

The road to sustainable livelihoods is not just about economic independence. It's also about creating a safe environment where these women can grow, thrive, and contribute back to their community. With the efforts of this partnership, many women in Al-Muwaqqar are not just dreaming of a better future; they are actively working towards it.

## GBV Support Services Enhanced in Oasis Centres

UN Women has made significant strides in bolstering Gender-Based Violence (GBV) services in Oasis centres. Until September 2021, 335 beneficiaries were reached through awareness activities, and 46 women benefited of GBV services, maintaining a ratio of 20% refugee and 80% host community. Notably, 70 awareness sessions were held, spanning vital topics such as human rights, child protection, and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). Despite challenges, such as accessibility concerns and staff turnover, UN Women ensures continuity in support, offering remote assistance through dedicated hotlines, WhatsApp, and streamlined internal systems.

## Empowering Women, Empowering Nations!



Photo: UN Women/ Ye Ji Lee

This year, we achieved a significant milestone: over 3,700 vulnerable Jordanian and Syrian refugee women now stand stronger, their resilience amplified. All of this became possible with the unwavering support of the EU Trust Fund 'Madad'. Access to sustainable livelihoods, combined with social empowerment and protection, paves the way for improved labour market outcomes for women. Together, we are not just improving individual lives; we're shaping the future of nations.