



IN BRIEF

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



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From where I stand: “As a businesswoman, I feel stronger and more confident and my words carry weight”

Wijdan Al-Abbadi, a 38-year-old beautician from Iraq Al-Amir, Jordan, uses her 18 years of experience to head beauty training at the Oasis Centre. This initiative, aimed at empowering local women through work, is part of a resilience program developed by UN Women and Jordan's Ministry of Social Development, funded by the European Union.

“Despite the usual customs in my community, my family encouraged education and work. However, I failed the General Secondary Education Certificate Examination (Tawjihi) in 2000, which left me at home for a year. I wanted to work but was unsure which career path I should follow.

Then, a neighbour told me about an opportunity to take training courses on beauty and sewing in a community development centre. I was more interested in the beautician training, so I applied in 2003. During those six months, I worked very hard in order to be able to go out and work and live decently. I graduated first of my class and then I practiced my career for 11 years in a number of beauty salons. After that, I opened my own [after] I applied for a loan and received some aid. The business was successful at the beginning, but financial difficulties led to the closure of my salon in 2017. I continued to work from my home to pay off my debts and came across the opportunity to work as a trainer at the Oasis.

Re-joining the Oasis was a new opportunity for me, as it was my chance to become a trainer. At first, I was nervous about teaching as I had only dealt with customers, not students, so I was nervous about presenting and teaching. Over the course, I have grown stronger as a trainer and a person.



Photo: UN Women/ Ye Ji Lee

Wijdan Al-Abbadi demonstrates hairstyling techniques during the beautician course at the Oasis Centre in Iraq Al-Amir.

My experience at the Oasis taught me to be more independent and to be more responsible. Before, I felt I did not have the right to speak up, but now as a teacher, I can point out whatever I feel is wrong. As a businesswoman, I felt stronger and more confident and my words carry weight.

One of the biggest advantages of the Oasis is that it is a place of practical learning. We are provided with the necessary tools that equip us with hands-on learning, which is key to finding a career. I have seen many women enter the beauty sector, and I highly encourage them to do so. Even if one lives in an environment that forbids her to work outside of her home, you can work from home and contribute to the household without having to leave it.

By working, women can help provide for their family, build their character and improve the education of their children. As a woman becomes stronger, she can provide both financial and moral support. There are many opportunities out there, and rewards for your hard work.”



Photo: EFE Jordan

Congratulations are in order for the alumni who have successfully completed the "Self-Employment" training, a commendable initiative implemented by EFE-Jordan in partnership with UN Women and funded by the European Union in Jordan under the "Building Women's Capacities with Technical Skills and Entrepreneurship" programme. Delivered in Irbid, this training provided participants with invaluable entrepreneurship and marketing knowledge, empowering them with the essential skills to launch and manage their own micro-businesses. This accomplishment not only signifies personal growth but also contributes to economic development, as these women take confident steps towards self-sufficiency and community enrichment.



Photo: EFE Jordan

EFE-Jordan, in partnership with UN Women and funded by the EU Trust Fund Madad, proudly initiates a Social Media training program at Abdali Mall Recruitment and Training Centre (AMRTC). This empowering venture is tailored to advance women's digital expertise, ensuring they are primed for the competitive workforce. The program delivers focused, hands-on social media skills critical for navigating today's digital-centric job landscape, thereby bolstering women's employability and career progression.

Empowerment through Partnership: Oasis Centres' Milestone Achievement



A beacon of hope and progress, the Oasis Centres, driven by the Ministry of Social Development and UN Women, have proudly supported nearly 5,000 women and girls on their journey towards sustainable livelihoods.

The collaborative efforts of the Ministry of Social Development and UN Women have culminated in the remarkable success of the Oasis Centres, where 4,953 vulnerable Jordanian and Syrian refugee women and girls have gained increased access to essential livelihood support until September in 2022. Furthermore, the ripple effect of the Oasis programme, funded by the European Union, has indirectly benefited to an additional 24,765 individuals. This initiative stands as a testament to the power of partnership and shared commitment in creating sustainable change and fostering resilience among people in need.



Photo: UN Women

Celebrating World Humanitarian Day, we honor the united efforts at UN Women's Oasis Centre in Za'atari Camp, working together as a community towards the sustainable development goals of Agenda 2030.