



IN BRIEF

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

FEBRUARY – DECEMBER 2021



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 Education for Employment - 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.

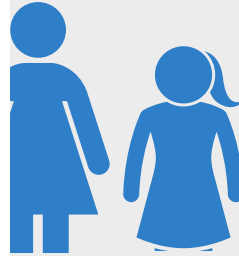
Addressing these challenges head-on, UN Women and its partners are doubling down on their efforts. Furthermore, a significant emphasis is being placed on sensitizing employers about the importance of decent work standards, showcasing how such practices are not just ethically sound but also pivotal for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



34,671

women and girls directly and indirectly reached with protection services, referral and livelihood support in 2021



4,953

women and girls received access to protection services and livelihood support through the Oasis Programme in 2021



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 Neighbourhood & Enlargement. This significant partnership is funded by the esteemed EU Trust Fund 'Madad', 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.

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In 2021, the Oasis model scaled from 17 to 22 centres, with four in refugee camps and 18 in host communities.



Photo: UN Women/Ye Ji Lee

Hadeel Qunaibi, Protection Officer at UN Women Jordan, explaining the interactive activities as part of the protection initiative during 16-day to UN Women incentive based volunteers at the Oasis center in Muwaqqar, Jordan.



Photo: UN Women/Ye Ji Lee

Participants from the open day "Orange the Oases" at the Oasis center of Muwaqqar, during the interactive protection initiative activities held to commemorate the national 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence theme, "Combating Political Violence Against Women".

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.

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.



Virtual briefing for Gender Sensitive Public Transport launching.

Empowering Women in Tech: Data Analytics Training Initiative



Photo: UN Women

More than 45 women have recently completed training in data analytics, marking a significant step towards entering the modern workforce. This initiative was made possible through a collaborative program led by Education for Employment - EFE Jordan, in close partnership with UN Women and the European Neighbourhood and Enlargement in Jordan. Such endeavors not only equip women with in-demand skills but also play a vital role in bridging the gender gap in the tech industry within the region. We look forward to witnessing the positive ripple effects of this training in the coming months. It's worth noting that this commendable initiative is generously funded by the EU Trust Fund 'Madad'.





Photo: UN Women/ Ye Ji Lee

We recently had the honour of welcoming H.E. Mrs Maria Hadjitheodosiou from the European Union in Jordan to the Oasis center located in Um Sayhon, Ma'an. This centre, proficiently managed by the Ministry of Social Development in collaboration with UN Women, stands as a testament to the positive impact of collaboration. Our initiatives are bolstered by the generous support of EU Trust Fund 'Madad'. This visit reinforces our shared dedication to social development and showcases the robust ties that bind our institutions together in service of the community.



Photo: UN Women/ Ye Ji Lee

In a significant event, we were honored to host the Deputy Managing Director of the European External Action Service - EEAS MENA, the EU Trust Fund 'Madad' Manager, and H.E. Maria Hadjitheodosiou from the European Union in Jordan at the UN Women Oasis Zaatari Camp. Their visit highlights the strength of our partnership and mutual commitment. With the steadfast support of the European Union, we're making remarkable progress in empowering 900 Syrian refugees and vulnerable Jordanian women by offering them sustainable livelihood opportunities. Such collaborations reinforce our mission and strengthen the impact of the EU Trust Fund 'Madad'.

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!

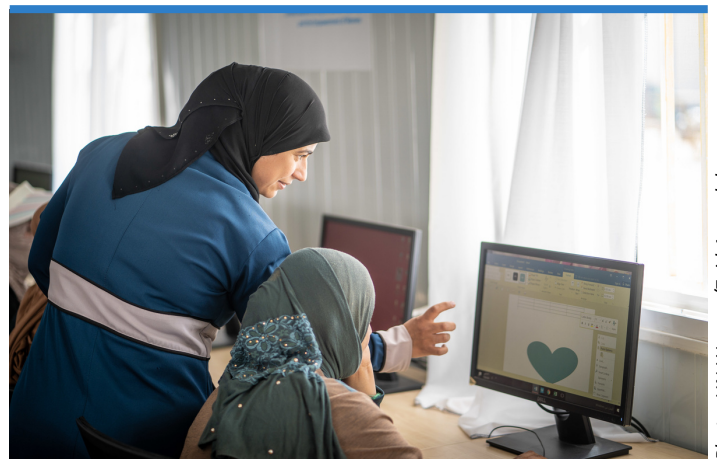


Photo: UN Women/Zaid Awamleh

Happy international Women's Day!

International Women's Day 2021, observed on March 8, embraced the theme "Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world." This theme underscores the pivotal role of women's leadership in shaping an equitable and resilient future, especially amidst the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. UN Women, with the support of the EU Trust Fund 'Madad', has been instrumental in promoting inclusive economic growth and sustainable development in Jordan.