



Sixty-Third Session of the Commission on the Status of Women
Investing in social protection systems in a resilience context: empowerment models for women and girls in Jordan

Venue: Conference Room 11, UN Secretariat

Date and Time: 15th of March 4:45-6:00 pm

Context

The 63rd session of CSW (CSW63) will take place between the 11th -22nd of March 2019, at the United Nations HQ in New York. This concept note outlines a side event co-led by the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and UN Women on the priority theme of CSW63 “Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls” and linking this theme to the Jordan context.

Jordan is investing in social protection and provision of public services at strategic, policy and operational level and through partnerships at the national and international levels. Eight years into the Syria crisis, Jordan is currently hosting 1.3 million Syrian refugees, of whom approximately 670,000 are registered with UNHCR, with 20% residing in camps and the remainder in host communities. The situation has stretched already limited national resources and caused severe stress on Jordan’s economy, public services, and natural resources. From food insecurity to gender-based violence, Syrian refugee and vulnerable Jordanian women are exposed to multiple vulnerabilities, which are exacerbated by the limited access to sustainable and gender-responsive livelihood opportunities. The Government of Jordan, with its international partners, has been pioneering a resilience-based approach through the Jordan Response Plan (JRP) to the Syria crisis. Within the JRP framework, the Ministry of Social Development (MOSD) and UN Women have partnered to provide short term resilience-building with medium to long-term empowerment solutions to vulnerable Syrian refugees and Jordanian women and girls in host communities, building on the success of UN Women’s Oasis model in Za’atari and Azraq camps.

National planning documents are being streamlined to integrate the humanitarian response with long-term development needs identified in the Executive Development Plan/Vision 2025. MOSD and the Jordanian National Commission for Women have key roles in ensuring commitments to gender-responsive approaches throughout the planning processes. In addition to the strong focus on social protection, public service provision and gender-responsive approaches in the planning documents, the Government has also committed financially to strengthen national institutions with the help of the international community. Examples are the expansion of the National Aid Fund (NAF), where the Government has committed to nearly doubling the social assistance provision (from 92,000 households in 2018 to 177,000 households by 2020) to help reduce poverty.

The Side Event

This side event brings together national and international partners to highlight Jordan's resilience-based approach, addressing the specific needs of Syrian refugees and vulnerable Jordanian women and girls in the context of the protracted regional turmoil and its impact on public services and national systems for protection. Special attention will be paid to the support provided to women and girls, while pursuing significant evidence-based gender responsive policy reform; and ensuring gender mainstreaming into planning and financing processes at both national and local levels.

Timing and Proposed Agenda

The side event is taking place at the UN premises in the first week of CSW63, on the 15th of March at 4:45 -6:00 pm. The anticipated number of attendees is 130.

Prospective Speaker	Proposed Topic
Asma Khader, Executive Director, Sisterhood is Global Institute	Moderator
H.E. Basma Ishaqat, Minister of Social Development, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	Investing in resilience– social assistance as a means to increase social protection and access to public services
Mr. Ziad Sheikh, UN Women Jordan Representative	Reflection on women and girls' vulnerabilities and challenges: a programmatic model based on a resilience and empowerment approach to address their specific needs
Dr. Salma Nims, Secretary General, Jordanian National Commission for Women	Building national capacities on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and fostering policy reform
H.E. Mr. João Vale de Almeida, Ambassador of the European Union to the United Nations (TBC)	Reflecting on commitments and progress made at the Brussels Conferences for the response to the Syria Crisis
Civil Society Representative (TBC)	Planning social protection measures at local levels practical examples of working with VAW