At the beginning of 2018, JIF would like to take this opportunity to wish all its readers a happy and peaceful new year. In 2017, JIF continued to grow and now includes 59 humanitarian and development organisations which together provide life-saving and life-sustaining assistance to hundreds of thousands of vulnerable Jordanians and refugees.

Despite our best efforts, too many vulnerable Syrian, Palestine, and Iraqi refugees and poor Jordanians continue to live in dire conditions and require our sustained support. In 2018, our newsletters will move from a quarterly to a bi-monthly publication and will continue to showcase our efforts to meet the needs of all people in need in Jordan. Our website www.jordaningoforum.org will also feature more in-depth articles from our members highlighting the impact of their projects. We thank you for your continued support and look forward to continuing advocating for the needs of Jordanians and refugees living in Jordan.

Yannick Martin, JIF Coordinator.

Funding update
JRP\textsuperscript{1} – interagency appeal 64% funded with $472 m received

Fact & Figures
655,624 Registered Syrian\textsuperscript{2}

89% Syrian refugees outside of camps below poverty line\textsuperscript{3}

65,922 Registered Iraqis\textsuperscript{4}

18.6% Unemployment in Jordan\textsuperscript{5}

1 Inter-sector Working Group (Oct. 2017), Dashboard Financial Tracking System
2 UNHCR (Jan. 2018), Syria Regional Refugee Response Inter-agency Information Portal
Humanitarian Overview

Berm Update

On 8 January, the UN managed to resume the delivery of food and non-food items through a crane to approximately 10,000 families stranded at the northeastern border between Jordan and Syria in Rukban at the berm. This is the first time a delivery takes place since 15 June 2017.

This distribution comes after the Government of Jordan announced in November 2017, that any future assistance would need to be delivered from inside Syria. Between October and December, UN assessments reported low levels of severe acute malnutrition in the camp, although it also noted that many Syrians could not afford current food prices: 89 per cent of households could not include a source of protein in their standard meals.

Despite the recent positive developments with regards to a one-off resumption of aid at the berm, a long-term solution is yet to be found.

Azraq Update

According to UNHCR, the active camp population of Azraq camp stood at 36,041 Syrian refugees at the end of December. As of 31 December 2017, UNHCR recorded 8,580 Syrian refugees still registered within V-5. Over these past three months, SRAD reportedly screened 968 individuals who were relocated to the unfenced area of Azraq Camp, although no movements took place in December. Overall in 2017, 3,187 to 3,576 individuals were screened out from V-5, according to different sources. However, in the meantime, 734 refugees have been involuntarily relocated to V-5 in 2017 from Zaatari camp and the host communities, raising increasing concerns of the area’s use as a detention facility. During this reporting period, 1,233 work permits were issued, however, V-5 residents are not allowed to apply for a work permit and former V-5 residents are expressing concerns over equal opportunity to access these work permits. Azraq partners also agreed to increase the rotation period for the semi-skilled incentives based volunteers to two months instead of one.

Partners activities

Mental Health

International Medical Corps (IMC) celebrations throughout Jordan

October 10, 2017 marked the 25th anniversary of world mental health day, and this year was dedicated to mental health in the workplace.

As one of the leading organisations in mental health in Jordan (running 17 mental health clinics across the Kingdom) International Medical Corps (IMC) celebrated this day with beneficiaries, local and international organisations, and governmental directorates in Tafileh, Ma’an, Amman, Karak, Azraq camp and Jerash. To improve mental health in the workplace, IMC teams are developing initiatives that will put staff care in the spotlight, including an emphasis on teambuilding activities and access to a staff care specialist. Awareness sessions, discussions, patient’s testimonies and success stories as well as student performances were organized throughout the day, in partnership with a variety of actors such as the Tafileh-Jordan Nurses and Midwives Council, the Maan-Jordanian Natural Forum for women, the Tla’ Al Ali clinic, the Deputy Director of Health Directorate, the director of the Health Centre, and Karak State Hospital. In Jerash, the Great Municipally hall hosted more than a hundred of participants for a joint presentation by IMC and Jerash Director of health, on the importance of mental health and reducing stigma. In Azraq camp, IMC produced a video documenting the achievement of mental health activities within the camp. You can watch the video here.

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6 UN
7 UNICEF (Oct 2017) Rapid Nutrition Assessment
8 Protection actor
**Winterization**

Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) reaches more than 23,450 households in Azraq and Zaatari camp for winterization distribution

To prepare for winter, NRC distributed materials in Azraq and Zaatari refugee camps to help residents of the two camps to cope with the cold months. In Azraq camp, NRC distributed gas cylinders, heaters, blankets, insulation rolls, plastic sheets to cover the shelters and prevent water from leaking in, as well as cash for gas refill and other materials necessary for winter. In total, 7,095 households across the camp benefitted from the distribution. In Zaatari camp, NRC provided refugees with cash for gas refill and other materials necessary for winter, reaching a total of 16,372 households across the camp.

**INTERSOS launches winterization phase in host communities**

Starting from November and following a few heavy rain incidences, INTERSOS started responding to harsh weather through distributions of non-food items. In the South, Informal Tented Settlements (ITS) in Karak and Ma’an some tents had been destroyed by the wind and water, and INTERSOS repaired the damaged property. Also in Karak, following a fire caused by an electrical short-circuit, INTERSOS replaced the family tent with a new one provided by UNHCR. Additionally, INTERSOS provided emergency assistance to 39 households in ITS in Amman at the families’ request. Various items were distributed including big plastic sheets to cover up ITS tents that were shaky or leaking, and a number of blankets. Support was also provided in the north of Jordan to 185 individuals, with materials needed to aid them during harsh weather conditions.

**Non Syrian Refugees**

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) report reveals that Iraqi, Yemeni, Sudanese and Somali refugees in Jordan are underserved by aid community

Syrians constitute the largest and most visible persons of concern registered with UNHCR in Jordan. However, there are also 65,922 Iraqi refugees and 14,850 refugees mostly from Yemen, Sudan, and Somalia. Like Syrians, Iraqi and other refugees came to Jordan seeking refuge from conflict, but compared to Syrians, they enjoy limited access to assistance and little quantitative data on their needs is available.

The recent report by Mennonite Central Committee, "On the Basis of Nationality: Access to Assistance for Iraqi and Other Asylum-Seekers and Refugees in Jordan" highlights that while the humanitarian community espouses the principle that assistance should be provided on the basis of need alone, access to assistance in Jordan is often conditioned on nationality. Many avenues of assistance open to Syrians are simply unavailable to non-Syrians regardless of vulnerability. These include WFP’s food voucher program, UNICEF’s child cash grant program, and preferential access to work permits under the Jordan Compact. NGOs have not filled the gap in assistance to other refugees the report argues. Find the report here.
Juvenile justice
Terre des Hommes (Tdh) Lausane: Bringing hope to children in rehabilitation centers

Tdh concluded two cycles of psycho-social and recreational activities for children in conflict with the law – meaning children currently detained in training centers (for children in pre-trial detention) and rehabilitation centers (for convicted children), and for children at risk in Amman, Irbid and Zarqa. Tdh’s volunteers, who were recruited through local partners JOHUD (in Amman) and Al-Faruk (in Irbid), delivered recreational and psychosocial support (PSS) activities in both training and rehabilitation centers, twice a week. Their main focus was conflict resolution, communication, self-control, respecting law, and emotional self-awareness.

“At first I was offended when they asked me to play games, but now I look forward to the day the volunteers come to the center” said one of the children in Amman’s rehabilitation center. Through role play, games, drawing, sports and theatre, children got to learn about the above themes. The centers’ staff were also involved in the organization and can now reproduce these activities later on.

Tdh’s Juvenile Justice Project also supported vocational training programs in the centers, such as barbering skills and mobile maintenance. Once released from the facilities, children struggle to reintegrate society and face stigma in their communities and families. A large number of them live in a dysfunctional family environment, with no community safety net: they drop-out of school and end up working, sometimes in the worst form of child labor. Often with no or limited education, they struggle to find employment opportunities. Vocational training offers them an opportunity to start their own projects, or equip them with skills that will help them find less exposed work opportunities.

Tdh has been implementing access to justice program in Jordan since 2010 and supporting services towards children detained in all training and rehabilitation centers in the country.

Interested? Check out our special feature on juvenile justice, in collaboration with Tdh, on JIF website here.

Host Community

Second phase of Première Urgence Internationale (PUI) Community Program

In November, PUI and its local partners launched the second phase of its community program by inaugurating two new community centres, one in Al Hashmi neighbourhood in East Amman with Aman Jordanian Association, and the second one in Zarqa city, with Khawla Bint Al Azwar Association. Both centres are dedicated to vulnerable communities, both Syrian refugees and host community. They will offer a wide range of services, such as case management and referrals, psycho-social counselling, life skills activities, cash assistance (cash for education and cash for delivery), learning support services and home visits to vulnerable families. The community program is funded by the Agence Française de Developement (AFD) and will run until April 2019.

Islamic Relief Jordan runs a mobile clinic in northern Jordan

Islamic Relief (IR) Jordan deployed a mobile clinic providing primary health care support for Syrian refugees and vulnerable Jordanian communities in the north of Jordan (Mafraq, Irbid and Ramtha). The objective is to increase access to primary care for populations usually unable to access public health facilities, and offer flexible and viable medical options to isolated and vulnerable groups, both in rural and urban area. The average number of patients per day is 100 to 150 and the majority of patients consults for allergies, anaemia, or respiratory diseases. The whole clinic is running using a solar system, which minimizes the pollution and noise, and enables the medical team to work in rural areas with reduced fuel consumption and no additional power sources.
While public schools in Jordan focus on teaching the academic curriculum, sports classes provide a critical opportunity for young people to exercise, engage socially with their peers, and develop key life skills, such as teamwork, communication, and leadership. However, a needs assessment conducted by RTP in the fall of 2017 showed that public schools and teachers often have few resources to hold proper sports classes for students, especially girls.

Supported by GIZ, RTP new project “Sports for Development” aims to improve children and youth’s football knowledge and skills, increase students’ engagement in sports classes, and strengthen socio-emotional skills through football. RTP is training public school teachers on how to use football and participatory learning methodologies to teach children and youth—including girls—both the practicalities of playing football, as well as the socio-emotional skills needed to make a positive contribution to their community. “Now I have the skills and knowledge of how to integrate football skills into my physical education classes” a teacher in Irbid told RTP after participating in the first training, “I also learnt that girls have the rights and ability to play football just as much as male students.” Over the course of eight months, the project will reach 1,440 children and 48 teachers in 32 schools in Jordan.

**Voices from Jordan**

**Through a different lens: Syrian youth with visual impairment gains new perspective**

Hasan*, 15, started taking photos of his life as a refugee in Mafraq six months ago. In 2012, Hasan and his family came to Mafraq after fleeing their home in Homs. The boy, who lost his right eye during an explosion back home, participated recently in a three-week photography workshop that provided him with artistic and technical training. He then embraced the opportunity to share his stories and those of his community with photos.

“Before the workshop, I had no special place. One day I went exploring and took lots of photos and on the computer screen, I saw things I would normally have missed. Now I have a special place.”

Syrian children and youth in Jordan face a lack of education and recreational activities, and those with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to exclusion, due to the scarcity of support services and social stigma.

Despite his injuries, Hasan is now determined to be an active participant in his community. Photography workshops not only helped him to see things differently but they also provided him with an alternative learning space and a safe environment to feel accepted and meet new people.

“I don’t feel so comfortable in school. Because of my eye I feel people don’t accept me. Through the workshops, I gained a skill, a certificate and friends.” Hassan said.

His father, who was also once a photographer and artist in Syria told us “I’d love him to be a photographer so he can see things he has never seen before.”

The photography workshops run by the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) engaged 56 vulnerable Syrian and Jordanian children and youth in Mafraq.
Through the photo-voice technique, which involves photography classes and individual and group counselling sessions, the participants develop their voices and contribute to building healthy and peaceful communities.

As part of this project, an exhibition was held in Mafraq to showcase the photos and stories of the young participants. A second and larger exhibition will be held in February in Amman. *The teenager’s name has been changed*

**Meet Farah: how a refugee woman regained confidence with counselling**

Farah* is a single 21-year-old Syrian woman who fled the war in Syria with her family. She recalls the journey from her hometown in Dara’a to Jordan as horrific. Her family was chosen for resettlement and moved to Germany. She couldn’t join her family because she was considered an adult. Now Farah has no relatives in Ramtha except for her married sister, and lives alone in a rented room in one of the old neighbourhoods of Ramtha.

Being a single woman, Farah has been constantly exposed to sexual harassment. She says that men in her neighbourhood asked for her phone number, hoping to receive sexual favours. The stretch of fear followed Farah every day, and it was hard for her to believe that she was going through this on her own. She suffered from insomnia, decreased appetite and anxiety.

Desperate and out of solutions, Farah found her way to the IRC centre in Ramtha, a 15-minute walk from her home. There, she was able to speak to the Women’s Protection and Empowerment (WPE) counsellor, who first provided her with a security plan and referred her to UNHCR for immediate protection.

UNHCR transferred her case to resettlement and immigration, and she was granted resettlement to Sweden. During the process of resettlement, Farah attended three individual counselling sessions with the WPE counsellor, where she learned how to cope with stress and anxiety through breathing exercises. Farah was also supported with monthly cash assistance for a period of six months. Working with the WPE counsellor, Farah developed a sense of self-confidence and self-esteem where she could achieve her goals. GBV remains a constant concern for the Syrian refugee female population in Jordan. The IRC recognizes that significant support in addressing GBV will need appropriate psychosocial, legal, health and economic interventions that reduces the phenomenon and mitigates its effect on GBV survivors. *The woman’s name has been changed*

**Advocacy**

**16 Days of Activism**

**IM Swedish Development partner holds “Legislation on Violence Against Women in the MENA Region” conference with partners**

IM Swedish Development Partner, Diakonia, Norwegian People’s Aid and Institute for Women’s Studies in the Arab World held the “Legislation on Violence Against Women in the MENA Region” Conference, on 5 and 6 December, in partnership with the Lebanese American University (LAU) in Beirut, with the active participation of leading Civil Society Organizations, Government representatives, and women’s rights activists from Tunisia, Jordan and Lebanon.

The conference highlighted women’s rights organization’s role in the recent law reform that took place in Tunisia, Jordan and Lebanon. Last July, Tunisia’s parliament approved a comprehensive new legislation addressing violence against women.

**Interested?** In collaboration with IM, a special article on Jordan legislation and women will soon be available on our website, stay tuned.
Following Tunisia’s footsteps, the Jordanian parliament voted to abolish article 308 in the penal code that allowed rapists to escape punishment by marrying the victim. A few days after, the Lebanese parliament abolished article 522, which also allowed rapists to marry their victims in order to avoid imprisonment.

The Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) Working Group conducts a workshop “Seven years into the crisis; scaling up the response to SGBV in Jordan.”

Jointly organized by IRC, UNFPA, and UNHCR, the workshop’s objectives were to identify the main gaps of the SGBV response and to develop a clear direction for programming and advocacy opportunities in Jordan. Through a series of presentations and Q&As, participants discussed the prevention, mitigation and response to SGBV; case management with a particular focus on cash assistance and livelihood opportunities; and the legal framework. The following recommendations for a sustainable response to SGBV to Syrians and Jordanians were drawn out of focus group discussions:

- Strengthening the capacity of the local system, local NGOs, line ministries (MOSD, MOH, and MOE) as well as the shelter system in urban areas and in camps;
- Continuing advocacy efforts related to the new law for mandatory reporting for SGBV severe cases, which could lead to under reporting from the victims from the fear of retaliation;
- Emphasizing the role of INGOs in finding job opportunities for women and support SGBV survivors to find appropriate channels for employment;
- Enhancing GBV mainstreaming in the following sectors; 1) the judicial system with the sensitization of judges to apply the existing law with the best interest of the survivors, and push for more gender equal laws; 2) the livelihood sector with the combination of case management, cash, and economic empowerment for SGBV survivors and 3) the health sector with the training of health practitioners on clinical care for sexual assault survivors at national level, and the availability of PEP kit in health facilities.

Plan International Jordan and Finn Church Aid (FCA) organize a public football championship in Azraq, Village 5 “Sport is Life”

This championship was part of a larger program for children and adolescents living in Azraq V5, which includes a community centre that provides psychosocial support interventions, early childhood education, and protection activities for all. The 260 participants (26 female and male teams) were provided with sport equipment, trainings and coaching by Plan International and FCA. They created slogan reflecting their own understanding of gender equality and ways to prevent GBV risks in their communities, such as “My childhood, education and my future are the number one priority”, “Say no to early marriage” or “Education can lift us to higher places”. Team spirit was at its best, with the participation of different agencies’ staff inside the camp and females’ participation was also exceptional, as they consider sport as a gateway for further learning and opportunities.

Speakers included civil society organization representatives, members of parliament and governments, women’s rights activists in addition to high level diplomatic representatives from Canada and Sweden.

Throughout the day, participants were able to express themselves while engaging in a community awareness raising event. Plan International will build on the outcomes of this event and work with the community committees and adolescents to translate the slogans into a reality on the ground.
In Zaatari camp, the campaign kicked off on 26 November with an interactive theater to spread awareness about child rights for parents and caregivers.

In cooperation with Un Ponte Per (UPP) and ARDD, INTERSOS’ staff conducted an awareness session on the rights of women migrant workers in Jordan on 24 November. The event, which included music, food and a photo exhibition, targeted mainly Filipino migrant workers, in compliance with the campaign’s overarching theme “Leave No One Behind”.

In Azraq camp, the Education program held a theater play to advocate for education equality, followed by a role-play by children to raise awareness against early marriage and child labor. The third day was dedicated to the screening of a documentary about women’s role in the community. Gender-based violence awareness sessions for parents were organized throughout the second week, as well as a paintings display which highlighted different forms of gender-based violence, and helped participants identify such behaviors.

INTERSOS and partners jointly celebrate the 16 Days of activism

In cooperation with Un Ponte Per (UPP) and ARDD, INTERSOS’ staff conducted an awareness session on the rights of women migrant workers in Jordan on 24 November. The event, which included music, food and a photo exhibition, targeted mainly Filipino migrant workers, in compliance with the campaign’s overarching theme "Leave No One Behind".

On 22 December, INTERSOS launched its Youth Network and conducted an awareness session on SGBV from the youth perspective, to the 130+ Syrian and Jordanian young participants. During the event, sketches related to GBV topics were performed by youth participants and the winners of a musical campaign "My melody is heard لحني - لحني مسموع" was awarded

Universal Children’s Day

Islamic Relief Jordan celebrates Universal Children’s Day

Every year on 20 November, IR Jordan celebrates Universal Children’s Day and offers children and mothers a day of fun and activities, with sessions around best hygiene practices, gender based violence, as well as child protection and child rights. Most of the children who participated had either lost their father or both of their parents and IR Jordan in Jordan sponsors 1,982 Jordanian Palestinian children in such a situation in the country. The celebrations were attended by around 170 children and 54 mothers in Irbid (IR Jordan Ramtha Office), Zarqa (Sukhna Camp) and Jerash (Gaza Camp, with the help of local NGOs.

JIF Protection Brief 2018

JIF will publish the third edition of its JIF Protection brief, which looks into the limited legal status of Syrian refugees in Jordan and the specific vulnerabilities that derive from it. Built on INGOs researches, assessments and testimonies, it aims at giving a snapshot of Syrian refugees’ main needs, their legal status, and its consequences on everyday life. The report draws key recommendations to improve humanitarian assistance, legal stay and the implementation of the Jordan Compact. Stay tuned.