

# WALK THE TALK

## FOR THE JORDAN COMPACT

The 'Jordan Compact' presented at the 2016 London conference details major commitments aimed at improving the resilience of refugee and host communities, focusing mainly on: **EDUCATION** and **LIVELIHOODS**.

### EDUCATION

#### ↑ Progress

The enrolment of Syrian refugee children in public schools increased from **126,127 children in 2016-2017 to 130,382 in 2017-2018**.



**209 double-shift schools have opened across the country. 6,000 out-of-school children were provided with certified non-formal education**, such as catch-up and drop-out programmes. A total of 118,107 children, including those vulnerable in host communities, were provided with non-certified learning support services.

The government **set up in September 2017 a grace period enabling all children to enrol in schools, regardless of their nationality and documentation status**.

It also accepted refugee children who had missed the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year enrol in the second semester.

**Large teacher training programs were rolled out** with 7,452 teachers, facilitators and school staff trained on psychosocial support, child-centred approaches and life-skills by the end of 2017.



A National Centre for Curricula Development was also established in order to support the development of educational materials, and encourage continuous curricula development and lifelong learning.

The system for collecting and managing education data in Jordan was considerably strengthened through OpenEMIS.



#### ↓ Challenges

**40 % of the 212,000 Syrian school-aged children remain out of school in Jordan:** the enrolment target set in the Compact for was missed.



The formal system remains overburdened, with overcrowded classrooms, condensed teaching time in double-shift schools.



The quality of education and of the learning environment have dropped and violence in and around school remain a strong concern. These factors are the main reasons for drop-out. **68 % of out-of-school Syrian refugee children who were previously enrolled in Jordan and have dropped out since.**

The underlying reasons for being out of school: **household economic hardship** and the need for children to work; **early marriage** and homebound children; **cost** associated with schooling; **distance** to school and limited transportation options.



The barriers to school registration: the lack of documentation (despite the Ministry of Education policies), unavailability of a specific service and lack of available spaces in public schools.



Persistent **poor learning achievements and employment prospects** upon completing basic education.

The education sector faced funding gaps in 2017, **with USD 106 million (67 %) underfunded** against the required amount USD 158 million.



### WHAT WAS COMMITTED?

'[The GoJ committed] (...) to ensur[ing] that every child in Jordan will be in education in the 2016\17 school year.' 'Public and free of charge education is provided to at least 140,000 Syrian children in 2016 and to at least 190,000 children at the end of 2017.'

'Every school will offer a safe, inclusive and tolerant environment with psychosocial support available to refugee children.'

'Access to vocational training for Syrians and to tertiary/higher education opportunities for all vulnerable youth (Jordanian and Syrian) will be increased.'

'(Predictable, multi-year funding (from donors) to meet the timeframes committed to by the Jordanian government.'

### WHAT WE RECOMMEND

Continue to expand access into the formal education system and certified non-formal learning opportunities.

Strengthen quality by addressing the space shortage and expanding school coverage in priority areas, as well as investing in teacher training, remuneration and benefits.

Address underlying barriers to education through expanding access to livelihood opportunities for parents.

Expand child-sensitive social protection programming including conditional cash transfers for education program to increase school attendance and retention in the short-term.

Promote vocational training and ensure it matches the criteria and demand of the private sector.

Reverse the trend of segregating school shift by nationality and mix Jordanian and refugee children in the same classrooms and in extra-curriculum activities to catalyse social cohesion.

Increase accountability and efficiency by making learning outcomes and quality the measure of success

## ↑ Progress

# LIVELIHOODS

## ↓ Challenges



The government lifted the burdensome application fee and simplified the procedures for work permits, by only requiring refugees to present their MOI card and a passport photo.

**Syrian refugees holding a MoI card are exempt from the medical check-up fee when applying for their first work permit.**

For the agriculture and construction sectors, it also de-linked work permits from a single employer and allowed refugees to obtain it through cooperatives or a trade union, instead of relying on a sponsor.



A circular granted Syrian refugees the right to change sectors and employers once their permit expires, without the consent of their current employer.



**Many Syrians inside the camps can now access work permits and pursue employment opportunities outside of the camp.**

The Government established Employment Centres, in both Za'atari and Azraq camps, as well as directorates across Jordan to match refugees with potential employers, facilitate work permits.



The Government of Jordan announced that a total of 91,640 permits had been issued and renewed as of 1 March 2018, with only 4% to women. Of this overall number of work permits issued, 45,850 are currently active.



Restrictions in work sectors opened to foreigners still **exclude refugees from high-skilled employment and semi-skilled labour.**

Additionally, **mandatory sector-quotas for non-Jordanians prevents employers from formalizing the majority of their Syrian staff**

The government has **not created an enabling regulatory framework for registering Syrian businesses**, and remains **opposed to refugees' home-based businesses.**



Refugees remain dependent on humanitarian aid, unemployed, or prefer to work informally. **Low wages, poor working conditions, and little flexibility** offered by open formal sectors **do not have added value** compared to opportunities in the informal labour market.

The **lack of transportation** to the workplace, disproportionate responsibility for **unpaid and domestic work**, a lack of **culturally appropriate employment opportunities**, and **limited or no childcare options** drive **women further away from formal work.**



The focus on work permit targets has not been meaningfully complemented by entrepreneurship pathways, job creation, revenue generation and overall economic improvements among Syrian refugees.

Only 3 firms have applied to export to the European market.

The Special Economic Zones have failed to attract Syrians: situated too far away from urban settings, with poor working conditions, low wages.



## WHAT WAS COMMITTED?

'Turning the Syrian refugee crisis into a development opportunity that attracts new investments and opens up the EU market with simplified rules of origin, creating jobs for Jordanians and Syrian refugees.'

'Rebuilding Jordanian host communities by adequately financing through grants the Jordan Response Plan.'

'Mobilising sufficient grants and concessionary financing to support the macroeconomic framework (...) as part of Jordan entering into a new Extended Fund Facility program with the IMF.'

'The government will undertake the necessary administrative changes to allow for Syrian refugees to apply for work permits both inside and outside [development] zones.'

'Syrian refugees will be allowed to formalise their existing businesses and set up new, tax-generating businesses (...) by the summer [2016]'; The removal of 'any restrictions preventing small economic activities within the camps'.

## WHAT WE RECOMMEND

Incentivize and promote business formalization processes, especially by simplifying procedures, improving access to credit.

Create legal avenues for self-employment, including home based and freelance to further incentivize Syrian refugees, especially women, to enter formal market and participate in the local economy

Create more flexible quotas in the service sector, and expand the sectors and professions open to refugees.

Improve working conditions in the formal sector and increase the capacity of the Ministry of Labour to scrutinize them.

Expand new trade access policies to qualifying firms outside Special Economic Zones, closer to urban hubs, that agree to meet the current requirement of employing at least 15 per cent of refugees by year one and 20 per cent by year two.

Introduce diversified targets to include micro-economic indicators of household welfare: indicators of success should include increase in household income, improvement in retention rates and additional sectors opened to Syrians.

Pay particular attention to inclusivity by creating specific indicators assessing both Syrian and Jordanian vulnerable groups engagement in livelihoods programming (i.e. women and person with disability).