

# WALK THE TALK

## FOR THE JORDAN COMPACT

Progress and challenges in implementing the commitments made in the Brussels Conference 2018 by Jordan and the international community

### ↑ Progress

## EDUCATION

### ↓ Challenges

134,121 Syrian refugee children were enrolled in public schools  
17,575 children were provided with certified non-formal education in 2018 (NLG, 2019)

For the precedent school year, 7,102 teachers were recruited in response to the increased number of students in public schools; where a total of 1,273 were recruited to serve in camps schools (JRP, 2019)

A three-year strategic plan was developed in a public-private partnership with the aim of ending violence against children and progressing towards safer schools

The international community continues to provide multi-year pledges for education mainly through budget support and pooled funding through the multi donor account based on the achievements and challenges of the Accelerating Access Initiative

The government launched the National Education Strategic Plan (ESP) last year, a five-year plan with the objective to improve Early Childhood Development, Access and Equity, Quality, System Strengthening, Human Resources and Vocational Education and managed to secure long-term funding for its implementation

The system for collecting and managing education data in Jordan was strengthened over the years through OpenEMIS and a GIS platform for supporting school mapping and planning was established last year



An estimated 83,920 Syrian refugee children were out of formal and non formal education in 2018, including adolescents, children with disability and those residing in informal tented settlements (NLG, 2019)

Enrolment and attendance decreases considerably with age.

- Enrolment rates: 99 per cent for Syrian children under 11, 15 per cent for 16-year-olds (FAFO, 2019).
- Net Attendance Ratios for Syrians are 10 percentage points lower than Jordanians in primary education, and 47 percentage points lower in secondary education (JPFHS 18/2017)
- Very low number of Syrian youth access tertiary education



Overcrowded and poorly maintained school, violence against children and bullying, lack of basic pedagogical equipment, and inadequate training of teachers remain vast issues and largely contribute to students dropping out

The government did not renew its decree which used to allow Syrian children to attend school regardless of their document status. For the year 2019-2020, Syrian children without documentation will not be accepted in school

The underlying reasons for being out of school remain:

- Economic hardship and child labour, child marriage and homebound children;
- Distance to school and limited affordable transportation options;
- The unavailability of a specific service and lack of available spaces in public schools



Syrian children are performing far below the national average, particularly those in camps, where children receive limited teaching time

### WHAT WAS COMMITTED

Implement and monitor the Education Strategic Plan (ESP) 2018-2022

Provide quality education opportunities for all children regardless of their nationality, gender or status. This includes access to public education in a safe and inclusive environment

Expand infrastructure to reduce overcrowding and double shifting, universalize Kindergarten, expand non-formal education, and provide school transport

Improve quality of education and learning outcomes for children, through training and proper teacher certification, education technologies, addressing violence and social cohesion in schools, and supporting children with disabilities

Improve efficiency of the education system through strengthening policy, planning and EMIS functions of the Ministry of Education

Implement key employment-related aspects of the National Strategy for Human Resource Development, including Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET), with a particular focus on youth

### WHAT WE RECOMMEND

Improve teaching and learning environment of public schools facing the most challenges and serving the most vulnerable population

Improve programs to address the needs of out-of-school children and youth, with clear referral to enrol them in non-formal education, ensure they complete the program and transition to formal education or TVET

Reinstate the waiver policies for Syrian refugees in all directorates and the create clear referrals mechanisms to address cases of children refugees rejected from enrolment

Further invest in teacher training, focus on pedagogy, classroom management, non-violent disciplinary approaches, and inclusive education

Encourage the mix of Jordanian and Syrians schoolchildren in the same shift for social cohesion

Allow sufficient time and planning to implement the ESP, ensuring alignment of the Jordan Response Plan (JRP) and the ESP and reinforcing the coordination between the MoE, other line ministries, donors and civil society stakeholders. Continued operational space should be allowed for actors to address humanitarian issues not well reflected in ESP

Ensure data are systematically disaggregated by age - and not only by basic/secondary education - in order to fully capture trends and needs

## ↑ Progress

# LIVELIHOODS

## ↓ Challenges

For Syrian refugees, the government extended the waiver for work permits fees and allowed



- Flexible work permits in the agriculture and construction sectors,
- Work permits portability to different sectors
- Short-term work permits

These measures contributed to stronger legal protection, offering the possibility of formalization to workers who would have otherwise remained in the informal sector



In the manufacturing sector, the government granted an exception to Syrian refugees, so they are not targeted by the reduction of foreign labour quotas

Syrian refugees living outside the camps are allowed to register and operate Home Based Businesses (HBB) in Food Processing, Handicrafts, and Tailoring, provided that they obtain professional licenses. HBB in camps are allowed in all sectors.



The Government of Jordan announced that a total of 153,535 permits had been issued and renewed from January 2016 to August 2019. The proportion of work permits granted to women is still very low, but has increased from 4.5% in 2018 to 6.7% in the first half of 2019.

Of this overall number of work permits issued, 33,959 were issued in camps (MoL 2019)



The EU rules-of-origin scheme was expanded last year to include all Jordanian companies across Jordan, rather than being restricted to the Special Economic Zones. The agreement was expanded to 2030



Mandatory sector-quotas for non-Jordanians prevent employers from formalizing the majority of their Syrian staff.



Lack of transportation to the workplace, disproportionate responsibility for domestic work, a lack of culturally appropriate employment opportunities, poor working conditions, limited or no childcare options, and skills mismatch drive women further away from formal work



Syrian youth are largely impacted with unemployment, with an unemployment rate of 20 percent for males and 53 percent for females (FAFO, 2019)

There is no evidence that the number of work permits has translated into an increase in Syrian refugee engagement in the work force. The majority of Syrian refugees report being unable to work or having to work informally.



- Refugees may not apply for a work permits due to a perceived higher risk of exploitation, fear of losing humanitarian aid or having to cover the cost of the permit. These factors lead to refugees not perceiving the benefits of holding a work permit.
- Employers may prefer to hire informally, to avoid minimum wages, procedures or cost or because their business is not registered.

There has been no HBB registered by Syrians since the policy has been approved. Barriers to entry are too high, the HBB scope in host communities remain restrictive (in opened sectors and funding modalities) and their procedures are too complex, unclear (including for local authorities), and costly for small informal HBB owner to seek registration



NGOs report continued cases of abuses in the workplace: unpaid wages, remuneration at the discretion of the employer, low wages, refusal to pay overtime, discrimination and harassment

## WHAT WAS COMMITTED

Promote livelihoods and decent work for Jordanians and Syrian refugees, including women in a manner that complements job creation for Jordanians

Ease access for Syrian refugees into the formal labour market in a manner that complements job creation for Jordanians [...] GoJ will consider expanding the sectors and occupations open to Syrian refugees, mainly at technical level, with a particular focus on women's participation [...]

Create a clear framework for the set-up of joint ventures between Syrians and Jordanians, especially focusing on women and youth, making sure that the rights of both parties are upheld, ownership clarified and access to finance facilitated

Assess the performance of the RoO scheme, and seek to review the terms to further simplify and maximise the benefits to Jordan's export sector in a timely manner. [...] raise awareness of the benefits of the scheme for the Jordanian private sector, while fostering a predictable regulatory framework which would enable more companies to participate in the scheme and meet the minimum threshold for Syrian refugee employment

## WHAT WE RECOMMEND

Review and relax the quotas and closed occupations, based on available skills amongst both the Jordanian and Syrian refugee workforce, particularly in the sectors targeted for growth

Research the reasons for low HBB registration, both on the demand and supply sides. Based on findings, review business formalization processes for Syrian refugees, especially the procedures, the barriers to entry, the access to credit and the advantages of registration

Focus on the decent work agenda by building the capacity of the Ministry of Labour to inspect labour conditions and by strengthening dispute resolutions mechanisms

Adopt comprehensive strategies for the empowerment of all youth and women, including refugees. They should tackle structural obstacles, such as transportation, day-care provision, labour code, and skills mismatch and include public campaigning

Assess the efficiency of the flexible work modalities, including by monitoring their implementation and impact on women's participation to the workforce

Reform of Technical Vocational Education Training in close collaboration with the private sector, to make it more attractive to employers and trainees, demand-driven, and inclusive of refugees - especially youth, women and other vulnerable groups

## ↑ Progress

# PROTECTION

## ↓ Challenges

Over 24,000 people were successfully issued Asylum Seekers Certificates (ASCs) through the Rectification of Status Process (RSP)



The RSP was finalized in March 2019 and allowed certain categories of refugees living informally outside of the camps to regularize their status. The regularization allows them to obtain a Ministry of Interior (MoI) card to access basic services and work permit



The government has maintained 2017 measures to make access to birth certification (mainly for Syrian children born in Syria) - reducing the risk of statelessness.

In Feb. 2019, a pardon law was adopted and allowed Syrian couples who married informally in Jordan (before December 2018) to be exempted from fines and criminal charges related to this act

The issuance of those legal and civil documentation also gives Syrian refugee families more latitude to decide on their preferred durable solutions

Despite the RSP, thousands of Syrian refugees do not fit the criteria set by the GoJ and are not able to legally stay in their place of residence, move freely, access public services and humanitarian assistance, or register births, deaths, and marriages



The situation of almost 10,000 refugees confined in a barbed wired area of Azraq camp (following the government's security measures) remains unresolved. Refugees report distress caused by the long period of uncertainty - in many cases since 2016 - and the perspective of indefinite detention

Harsh economic realities (lack of livelihood opportunities, high debt levels) as well as social norms, are pushing families to resort to harmful coping mechanisms like child labour and child marriage



Resettlement to third countries is low and falling, down from 17,956 in 2016, to 4473 in 2017 and 4404 in 2018

## WHAT WAS COMMITTED

Continue to issue birth, marriage and death certificates, and MoI service cards to enable refugees to safely reside in communities. [...] Continue and expand the registration, the documentation and the regularisation exercise of the Syrian refugees in order to help them become more resilient and self-reliant

Reaffirm that conditions inside Syria do not lend themselves to the promotion or facilitation of organised voluntary returns in conditions of safety and dignity in line with international law (...) Recognise resettlement to third countries as an essential protection tool for refugees with heightened protection risks

## WHAT WE RECOMMEND

Revise the current criteria of the RSP to include more Syrians, in consultation with protection and legal partners

Increase dialogue between the GoJ and protection actors to explore suitable and dignified solutions for Syrian refugees retained in V5, compatible with GoJ's security concerns

Follow-through on existing commitments to resettle vulnerable refugees and expand opportunities for resettlement and complementary pathways

## ↑ Progress

# HEALTH

## ↓ Challenges



Recognizing the harmful impact of March 2018 government's decision to cut healthcare subsidies for Syrian refugees and the need to support the government, a Multi-Donor Account was created to:

- Directly supporting the Ministry of Health (MoH) to cover costs of healthcare for Syrians
- Re-establish subsidies for primary and secondary health care and exempt maternity and childhood fees at any MoH facilities.

The policy was rolled out end of March 2019 and is applicable for Syrian refugees holding a MoI card



Despite the policy, health cost for secondary and tertiary healthcare, medication and necessary medical tests (including maternity related ones) remain unaffordable for a Syrian refugee household



The consequences of the one year subsidies cut are likely to have lasting effects, especially for the most vulnerable who had seen their healthcare cost increase threefold, and had to resort to negative coping mechanism (for example contracting medical debt)



Mental health and SGBV services provision remain limited, with underserved areas and lack of specialized services for child, adolescent, elderly and person with disabilities

## WHAT WAS COMMITTED

Review health system approaches and develop a long-term strategy and costed action plan that is sufficiently supported and afford Syrian refugees equitable access to national health care systems and provide life-saving interventions to all

## WHAT WE RECOMMEND

Organize an information campaign on the policy reversal, detailing what it includes, and what is excluded, through different channels and modalities to reach all MoH facilities and the targeted patients

Create an independent monitoring of the policy in order to guarantee its implementation at the directorate/ local level and measure its impact on Syrian refugees access to healthcare and overall household vulnerability. Based on the assessment, review the policy so it increasingly alleviates financial and non-financial barriers to healthcare.