



IN BRIEF



RESTORING DIGNITY: PROGRAMMING IN ZA'ATARI REFUGEE CAMP

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A Snapshot: What we do

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) supports the economic empowerment of Syrian women refugees. UN Women has been operating its Oasis for women and girls in Za'atari refugee camp since its inception in late 2012. The overall aim of this space is to empower Syrian women refugees through increased access to economic opportunities and meaningful engagement in community life, putting in place the foundational cornerstones for the present and future enjoyment of their rights.

The protracted nature of the Syrian conflict has placed severe pressures on families reflected through domestic violence, child labour, early marriage and high rates of individuals and families returning to Syria. Providing women with livelihood opportunities enables their empowerment and provides them with financial resources needed to care for their families, bolstering the resilience of households and communities alike. Some achievements in Za'atari refugee camp include:

- Three safe spaces named 'Oases' for women and girls (one co-managed with the World Food Programme (WFP)) reaching 2,500 users per month, providing life skills training through Arabic literacy, English and computer classes.
- 172 women benefiting from cash-for-work programmes, directly and indirectly reaching 980 people, targeting those vulnerable to food insecurity. Daycare facilities are available for the children of programme beneficiaries.
- Emergency medical support services through financial assistance to support Oasis users. A self-sustaining micro-medical fund has also been set up with Operation Mercy to obtain medical support for cases that cannot be treated within the camp or through United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) support.
- Hosting women's committees with regular meetings to serve as interlocutors between the community, service providers and camp decision-makers.
- Protection referral services on issues from sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) to legal status and disability, and awareness-raising programmes to support the engagement of men and boys in SGBV response and prevention.
- #HeforShe dialogue sessions with men on combating domestic violence, leadership and community engagement support to women through capacity building.
- Technical assistance services on gender equality and women's empowerment to Za'atari and to country-wide inter-agency humanitarian partners.

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Our Impact

Recent UN Women successes in Jordan

FINANCIAL GAIN, SKILLS CAPACITY AND LABOUR

PARTICIPATION: Through support to employment and cash-for-work programmes, the average income of each participant has increased from 10 Jordanian dinars per month to an average of 145 Jordanian dinars for full-time workers. This has supported the diversification of participants' diets, as well as improved household hygiene and healthcare. In a region with one of the lowest levels of female labour participation rates in the world, this also serves to overcome barriers to women's labour market participation.

WIDER PERCEPTION OF SAFETY AND IMPROVED

WELLBEING: 20 percent of women participating in UN Women's programming reported a decrease in domestic violence within their households, and 89 percent stated that they felt they benefited in ways not limited to financial gain, but also related to social equality and mental wellbeing. 91 percent of beneficiaries reported an increase in household and community decision-making as a result of their engagement in the programme.

INCREASED SELF-ESTEEM, AN ANTIDOTE TO ISOLATION AND AN AVENUE FOR SUPPORT:

Participants in the cash-for-work programme report that their engagement both builds their confidence and awareness of their skills, and provides them with opportunity to leave their homes and to break the cycle of isolation. The Oases provide safe havens for women that may not frequently leave their households, where they are able to mix with their peers and access a range of support services.

UN WOMEN'S PROGRAMME COMPONENTS INCLUDE:

- Cash-for-work through services and skills that include recycling (repurposing UNHCR tents into reusable bags that are distributed free-of-charge to reduce plastic waste), tailoring (the production of school uniforms and comprehensive baby kits – distributed free-of-charge in cooperation with UNICEF to schools and hospitals), handicrafts, teachers, beauticians, security guards, centre managers, and childcare professionals. There are high numbers of women looking for cash-for-work opportunities in the camps, with over 1,200 having sought opportunities from

- UN Women since 2012. Only 23 percent of the available cash-for-work opportunities in the camp currently benefit women.

- Protection referral services addressing cases of child marriage, domestic and sexual violence against women and girls. These services are supported through UN Women's protection network.

- Support to and the facilitation of two women's camp committees, which link women's voices to camp decision-makers. Every month UN Women supports the committees in holding at least two meetings with camp decision-makers. These include the Government of Jordan, UNHCR and WFP, and may focus on issues such as food security in the camp.

- Increased awareness of women's rights and responsibilities for an inclusive, equitable and peaceful society through the enhancement of life skills, such as Arabic literacy, computer and English. Daycare facilities are also provided to programme beneficiaries to support access and attendance.

- A self-sustaining medical fund for those working in UN Women's centres – funded through the profits made by refugees in UN Women's centres.

- UN Women's operations in Za'atari work in close collaboration with other actors on issues of women's empowerment, gender equality and humanitarian action including the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNHCR and WFP.

UN WOMEN - JORDAN COUNTRY OFFICE

Established in December 2012, the UN Women Country Office for Jordan works in close collaboration with the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the UN Country Team and the Civil Society to advance the women's national agenda, promote women's empowerment and gender equality.

Um Uthaina, Jeddah street no.6
 P.O. Box 830896, Tel. +962 6 5200060
<http://jordan.unwomen.org/>
<fb.me/unwomenjordan>

