Economic Inclusion of Syrian Refugees
Jordan
November 2018

670,000+
Syrian Refugees registered with UNHCR in Jordan

305,000+
In working age

Men mostly work in agriculture & construction

Women prefer home-based activities

Jobs and economic opportunities
Better trade conditions (including EU rules of origin)
Support programmes - bilateral & oncessional funding

Agricultural Cooperative facilitates access to work permits

Ministry of Labour adjusted the skilled occupations open for foreigners in manufacturing

Regulations restricting home-based businesses

Ministry of Labour issued circular allowing Syrian refugees to move freely between employers & sectors

Issuance of work permits for Syrian Refugees made easier by the government
One year renewable Ministry of Interior card
Free of Charge

Refugees in camps allowed to work outside

‘Freelance’ work permits in construction through the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions

‘Supporting Syria and the Region Conference’ Brussels I & II 2017 & 2018

New decision issued to allow Syrian refugees to register & operate home-based businesses
November 2018

Cumulative number of work permits issued
5,408

125,392
Zaatari Office for Employment
11,518 Work Permit

Aqra Centre for Employment
4,791 Work Permit

Syrian Refugees’ work is regulated by Jordanian Labour Law as it applies to migrant workers
Syrian Refugees can work in the occupations open to foreigners; many sectors of work are not available to them including health, teaching, engineering and technical professions
Syrian Refugees can open a business with a Jordanian partner

Syrian Refugees in camps allowed to work outside

Ministry of Labour issued circular
allowing Syrian refugees to move freely between employers & sectors

In partnership & coordination with:
Chair the Livelihoods Working Group with the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) as part of the Inter-Sector Coordination.

Alternative pathways to cash assistance project, in partnership with Jordan River Foundation (JRF) and Danish Refugee Council (DRC). UNHCR refers Syrian refugees to employment services, business coaching, training and apprenticeships, including training for IKEA production.

Run by UNHCR, World Bank (WB) and the International Labour Organization (ILO), to better understand trends and motivations, targeting employers and working Syrians.

A joint programme developed by UNHCR and the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) to facilitate access to credit for income-generating activities and consumption for the refugees and host communities. Grameen Crédit Agricole Foundation (GCAF) has been selected by the parties as partner for this initiative. Microfinanza has been selected by GCAF to conduct a country assessment on the needs of refugees for financial and non-financial services.

Zaatari Office for Employment (ZOE) and Azraq Centre for Employment (ACE) run with the International Labour Organization increase mobility of camps residents to work outside camps, and provide information on employment.

Promote MADE51 initiative and direct implementation with SEP Jordan.

Train Syrian refugee women to become part of the SEP production with Palestinians refugee.

Monitoring and standardizing Cash for Work (C4W) in camps.

Help refugees to earn and gain work experience in selected sectors through volunteering.

Outreach and information sharing, FAQs, town hall meetings, participatory assessments, consultations on specific themes, SMS for information, referrals through UNHCR Helpline.

Ensure policies are understood by all.

Support Ministry of Labour’s Syria Refugee Unit.

Dialogue with private sector & outreach through community-based job fairs.

Support to livelihoods partners, using UNHCR data to identify Syrian refugees by geographical location, skill, occupation, age and gender. Linking cash assistance to livelihoods programmes.

Guidance and training to livelihoods actors in Jordan, provide legal services/guidance to refugees’ in-need.