

Livelihood Working Group

Amman, Jordan

13.12.2018

Meeting Location	EMOPS Room UNHCR Khalda	Meeting Date	13.12.2018
Facilitator	Emily Lewis (DRC) Najwan Aldorgham (UNHCR)	Meeting Time	09:00–10:30
Minutes Prepared by	Najwan ALDORGHAM (UNHCR) Rania Bakeer (UNHCR)		

Agenda:

1. Work permit updates - MoL/ MoPIC
2. Comprehensive instructions regarding the conditions and procedures for the employment of Syrian workers- MoL
3. Cabinet Decision to allow Syrians to register and operate HBB- MOPIC
4. Amendment in RoO and its requirements- MoPIC
5. Livelihoods vs returnees FAQs- UNHCR

MoL: Updates on work permits figures

- Cumulatively, 125,392 work permits have been issued/renewed for Syrian refugees in Jordan since 2016. Further breakdown as follows:

	Total permits Jan 2016- November 30/ 2018	Total permits Jan 2018- November 30/ 2018
Male	119,984	40,001
Female	5,408	1,886
Total	125,392	41,887

- Women constitute 4% of work permits on average and 96% for males.
- During November 2018, 937 flexible WP's were issued in the construction sector through the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions (GFJTU), with total of 19,184 WP's.
- 1,617 flexible WP's were issued in the agriculture sector through the cooperatives, with total of 45,357 WP's.

Access to MoL figures [here](#).

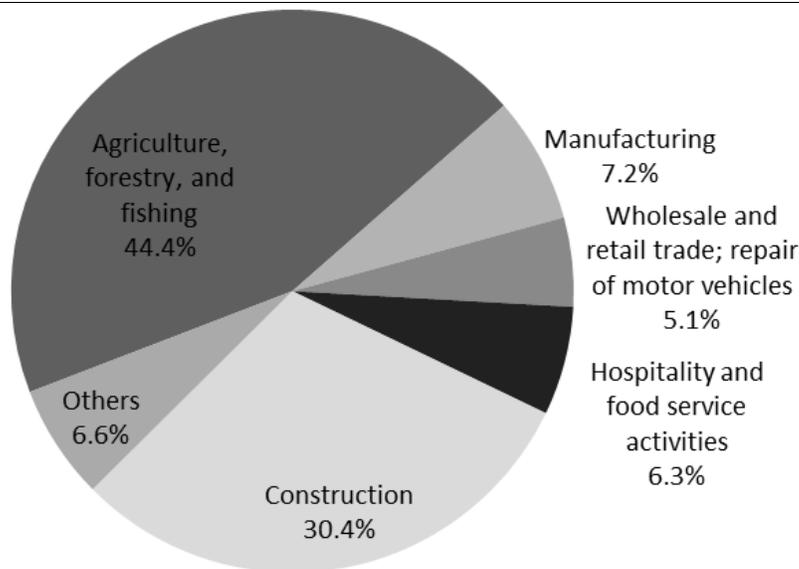


Figure 1: Percentages of the issuance of flexible WPs according to sectors in all governorates

MoL: Comprehensive instructions regarding the conditions and procedures for the employment of Syrian workers

- The instructions are called (Comprehensive instructions on the conditions and procedures of employment of non-Jordanian of Syrian nationality workers for the year 2018), issued according to Article 12 Paragraph (a) of the Labour Law and its amendments No. 8 of 1996 and are effective from the date of publishing in the official gazette. These should work as a reference for Syrians employment for refugees, employees, and for stakeholders as well.
- MoL has received an approval from the cabinet on extending the work permits exemption period until the end of 2019.
- Short work permits were designed to help in introducing Syrian refugees to the labour force. The main objective is to transit workers from temporary to long term employment and sustainable income generation. Syrian are allowed to change their work permit from short to one-year work permit, but not from one-year work permit to short work permit.

Access to MoL Comprehensive instructions regarding the conditions and procedures for the employment of Syrian workers [here](#).

MOPIC: Cabinet Decision to allow Syrians to register and operate HBB

INGOs are allowed to fund HBBs, 30% SYR-resilience component, as Syrian are now allowed to operate and register their HBB in Tailoring, Handicrafts, and food processing, without the need for a Jordanian partner. Same applies to small and medium size enterprises.

Refugees inside the camps can now sell their products inside or outside the camps.

Registering a HBB at the Ministry of Industry and Trade requires a Security Clearance from the Ministry of Interior. It has been agreed that clearances be facilitated to Syrian refugees in a timely manner, approximately 10 days.

UNHCR and ARRD-legal aid are now collaborating to register two Syrian HBBs, in order to sensitize and understand the full procedures. Outcomes and feedback to be shared with the group. Other agencies are encouraged to share their experiences in licensing and registering a HBB. These would all contribute into a one page FAQ on HBB, and a HBB-registration awareness document.

Access to Cabinet Decision to allow Syrians to register and operate HBB [here](#).

<p>MOPIC: Amendment in RoO and its requirements</p> <p>On December 3rd 2018; association committee for the EU and Jordan met at MoPIC to finalize the amendment on RoO agreement. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RoO agreement will be extended till the year 2030 instead of 2026 - RoO is not restricted to the 18 development zones, it is now open to all geographical areas in Jordan - The requirement to increase the percentage of Syrians, from 15% to 25% after two years, is now removed. Now the percent can be 15% through the agreement lifetime. This would help more factories to have access to EU market, which means they will expand their businesses and so they would need to employ more Jordanians and Syrians - There was a target on the number of work permits issued to Syrians (200,000 cumulative work permits), now it is 60,000 active work permits. 	
<p>UNHCR: Livelihoods vs returnees FAQs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Refugees are encouraged to remain engaged in livelihood activities. - A work permit is not a valid travel document, and so it doesn't enable refugees to re-enter Jordan. - Returns to Syria are voluntary, and are based on the free and informed decisions of refugees. - Procedures that refugees should follow in the event that they decide to return to Syria to cancel their work permits. - Instructions on how refugees can close their files and withdraw their contribution from Social security. 	<p>Access to Livelihoods vs returnees FAQs here.</p>
<p>Other updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None 	
<p>Next meeting date: TBA</p> <p>Next Meeting Agenda: TBA</p>	