

Livelihood Working Group
Amman, Jordan
08.12.2016

Meeting Location	EMOPS Room UNHCR Khalda	Meeting Date	8.12.2016
Facilitator	Laura Buffoni (Coordinator) Bryn Boyce (co-chair)	Meeting Time	10:00– 12:00
Minutes Prepared by	Rema'a Alawi UNHCR		

Agenda

- 1) Updates by agencies
- 2) Updates on work permits figures (MoL)
- 3) Results of a rapid assessment on work permits (UNHCR)
- 4) Presentations by Luminus and City&Guild
- 5) BCARS (Boston Consortium for Arab Region Studies) policy report
- 6) Coordination in 2017
- 7) Farewells

Updates by agencies

- Representatives of the garment sector association joined the meeting (J-Gate):
 - They represent factories which produce garments and export to the US, currently looking to export to the EU.
 - Current number of employees for industry are approx. 69,000, 30% are Jordanians, the rest are migrant workers from Asian countries.
 - The pilot project promoted by UNHCR and BWJ strengthened the collaboration with J-Gate and gave some interesting lessons learnt.
 - Through town hall meeting and job fairs Syrians were informed of jobs in the garment sector but attracting and retaining them in the workforce has proved to be difficult.
 - More women should enter the workforce; factories are willing to hire unskilled refugees and train them.
 - The model of satellite factory could be explored (nearer to where refugees live).

Updates on work permits figures (MoL)

- The grace period (free work permits for Syrians) has been extended till April 2017.
- 50,000 work permits are to be issued by Feb 2017 to keep the commitment of the Jordan compact.
- MoL figures:
 - As of December 7th, Jordan has 34,467 (10% of foreign workers) Syrians with work permits compared to 2% before London conference Feb 2016.

ACTION POINTS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Percentage of work permits issued to Syrian workers by gender: female 558, 2% and male 33,909, 98%. ○ 10,677 work permits have been issued in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sectors. ○ 6,383 work permits have been issued in the manufacturing sector. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access the MoL/ILO presentation here.
<p>Results of a rapid assessment on work permits (UNHCR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Results of a rapid assessment on WP conducted by UNHCR: UNHCR conducted a survey over the phone through info line. The sample was conducted randomly of 1000 refugees in working age (of which none of respondents were women). ● Findings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 53% had work permits from this sample of refugees called. ○ Only a small number mentioned fear of assistance being curtailed ○ Refugees want to maintain flexibility in work. ○ Work permits are considered a good tool for protection. ○ Many are working in professions that are closed, therefore without a regular contract/WP. ○ Misconception that refugees are required to pay fees to the employer. ○ Refugees know about WP through SMS's from UNHCR- which has proven to be effective. 	
<p>Presentations by Luminus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Luminus: This project has been rebranded from “Tasmeem” to “Shamal Start”. Established in Irbid and Mafraq because they are the most affected areas from the Syrian crisis. Prospective entrepreneurs are to go to the website Shamalstart.com in order to apply, enter all related information, after which if selected, they undertake intensive training. It gives Syrians and Jordanians an opportunity to start their own entrepreneurship endeavours in manufacturing and services sectors located in North of Jordan. Shamal Start has two main innovation centres: FabLab and the Shamal Start business incubator. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FabLab: (Fabrication Lab) a Jordanian start-up specialized in digital fabrication and 3D printing. Individuals can build almost anything by computer controlled tools by uploading designs to the machine and it begins work according to desired design. ○ The business incubator: a working space open for the community in Irbid and Mafraq equipped with needed technology and mentors. Weekly events are held for the local community about success stories in the field, innovation, entrepreneurship and start-ups. The other section is the office space, which will be used by start-ups. Administrative, legal, financial and technical support will be given to the incubated start-ups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For the full presentation of FabLab, use the following link. - For more information as well as interested entrepreneurs, use the following link.

<p>Presentations by City&Guild</p> <p>City & Guild: non-profit organization that focuses on monitoring and upgrading the training in technical vocational education to ensure it is in accordance with the international standards from the employer’s perspective.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For more information, use the following link.
<p>BCARS (Boston Consortium for Arab Region Studies) policy report</p> <p>This policy paper has been a work in progress since April 2016. BCARS structured the analysis around four groups in order to analyse problems as such: Syrians who have work permits, Syrians who work informally and regularly, Syrians who work informally and irregularly and Syrians who do not work.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interested members have been emailed separately in order to read the report and send feedback to BCARS.
<p>Coordination in 2017</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JRP/3RP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For the IA appeal of the 3RP, 30 organization participated as appealing agencies. ○ 23 organizations participated in the refugee component and 19 participated in the resilience component. ○ 25 million \$ were appealed for the refugee component and 93 million \$ were appealed for the resilience component. ○ This is the provision for now as the JRP process is still ongoing, therefore the budget for 2017- 2018 is not yet finalized. ○ The ISWG unit will conduct an ActivityInfo database training and Services Advisor (monitoring) training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Invitation will be sent at a later stage.
<p>Farewells</p> <p>Bryn Boyce will be replaced by Emily Lewis. DRC will remain as co-chair for the LWG.</p>	
<p>Next meeting date: 9:00-11:00 on 15th January, 2017</p> <p>Next Meeting Agenda: Facts and figures from MoL/ILO Update on JRP</p>	

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