



WORK PERMITS AND ECONOMIC INCLUSION OF SYRIAN REFUGEES IN JORDAN



654,955
Syrian Refugees registered with UNHCR in Jordan



299,839
In working age
(or 45.8% of the population)



22.5%

Men mostly work in agriculture & construction



23.3%

Women prefer home-based activities

Cumulative number of work permits issued:

151,928



7,614

- 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 register and operate a business



Zaatari Office for Employment
23,904 Work Permit



Azraq Centre for Employment
10,727 Work Permit



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

June 2019
Number of valid work permits decreased due to new Ministry of Labour internal instructions

'Supporting Syria & the Region Conference'
London
February 2016



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



WHAT DOES UNHCR DO?

Coordination, Information Sharing and Advocacy

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

Implement Livelihoods Projects

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.

Annual Survey on Work Permits

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

Financial inclusion project

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.

Mobility for Employment

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.

Support to Artisanal Work

Promote MADE51 initiative and direct implementation with SEP Jordan.
Train Syrian refugee women to become part of the SEP production with Palestinians refugee.

Cash for Work

Monitoring and standardizing Cash for Work (C4W) in camps.
Help refugees to earn and gain work experience in selected sectors through volunteering.

Communicating with Communities

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.

Capacity Building

Support Ministry of Labour's Syria Refugee Unit.

Outreach, referral, and jobs

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.

Protection Mainstreaming

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