UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

ECONOMIC INCLUSION OF SYRIAN REFUGEES

UNHCR JORDAN
February 2022

WORK PERMITS AND ECONOMIC INCLUSION OF SYRIAN REFUGEES IN JORDAN

673,957
Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR in Jordan

318,236
In working age
(or 47.2% of the population)

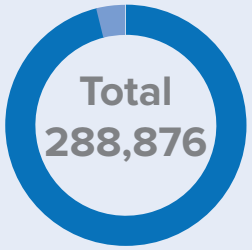
23.3%

23.9%

Men mostly work in agriculture & construction
Women prefer home-based activities

Cumulative number of work permits issued:

271,250



17,626

- Syrian refugees' work is regulated by Jordanian Labour Law as it applies to non-Jordanian workers
- Syrian refugees can work in the occupations open to foreigners; many sectors of work are not available to them until now
- Syrian refugees can register and operate a business

Zaatari Office for Employment
14,473 Work Permit

Azraq Centre for Employment
4,209 Work Permit

February 2016
'Supporting Syria & the Region Conference'
London

Agricultural Cooperative facilitates access to work permits

Refugees in camps allowed to work outside

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

Regulations restricting home-based businesses

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

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

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

2020
Ministry of Labour announced the list of occupations allowed to non-Jordanian workers by economic activity and allow issuance of flexible work permits for those occupations

2021
Social security registration is mandatory for flexible work permit holders

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