UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

ECONOMIC INCLUSION OF SYRIAN REFUGEES

UNHCR JORDAN
March 2024

WORK PERMITS AND ECONOMIC INCLUSION OF SYRIAN REFUGEES IN JORDAN

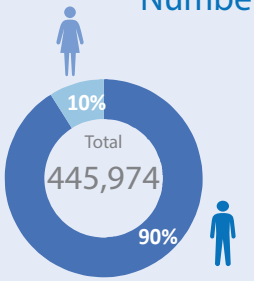
638,760
Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR in Jordan

303,040
In working age
(or 47% of the population)

23% 24%

- 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
- Syrian refugees can register and operate a business

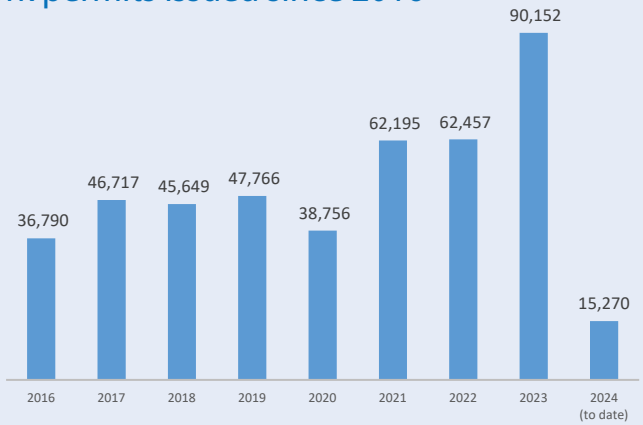
Number of work permits issued since 2016



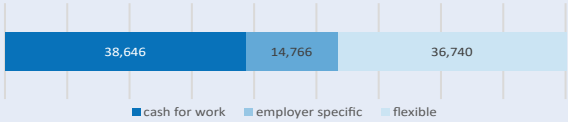
Zaatari Office for Employment
27,286 work permits

Azraq Centre for Employment
4,483 work permits

Number of registered and licensed home-based business (2019-2023): 113



Breakdown of work permits issued in 2023



February 2016
'Supporting Syria & the Region Conference' London

2017
Refugees in camps allowed to work outside

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

2021
Programme support unit established at the Ministry of Labour to better faciliate cash for work projects for Syrian refugees.

July 2021
Social security registration started to be mandatory for flexible work permit holders

June 2016
Agricultural Cooperative facilitates access to work permits

September 2017
'Freelance' work permits in construction through the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions

December 2020
Ministry of Labour issued circular allowing Syrian refugees to move freely between employers & sectors (* flexible work permits)

July 2021
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

2023
The monthly social security contribution increased for flexible work permit holders.

In partnership & coordination with: International Labour Organization, NRC Norwegian Refugee Council

Thank you for the generous donations from: Australian Aid, Canada, Irish Aid, Luxembourg Aid & Development, Kingdom of the Netherlands, Private Donors to UNHCR, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC, UKaid, The World Bank IBRD • IDA | World Bank Group