

Digital Inclusion Project

Approach

1. Pilot project to increase the digital inclusion of Jordanian & Lebanese women
2. Study on the “Barriers and Opportunities to Refugee Women Engaging in the Digital Economy in Jordan and Lebanon”
3. Small referral engagements with UNHCR, UNICEF and ILO to pilot approaches to include women from disadvantaged communities



Refugee Study and Referral Engagement Pilots

Lessons Learned and Recommendations

Many of the lessons learned from the initial pilot to engage women in the digital economy also apply to women from disadvantaged communities, including refugees.

- The workforce gender gap extends to the digital economy and also impacts refugee women.
- Freelancing should not be overestimated as a preferred employment option.
- Advocate to improve legal restrictions.
- Address the lack of access to the internet and to IT devices.
- Address financial and formal banking constraints.
- Offer English language courses.
- Support awareness of online freelancing and its opportunities and close the knowledge gap.
- Engage universities and local organizations in identifying women from disadvantaged communities interested in the digital economy.



Refugee Study and Referral Engagement Pilots

Lessons Learned and Recommendations

- Increase **knowledge-sharing** among organizations.
- Support **digital literacy and business** classes such as marketing, including to girls in high school.
- Increase higher inclusion by offering highly skilled women from disadvantaged communities, initial, paid for work opportunities. Ensure **job placement**.
- Provide **coaching and mentoring** to create an online profile, start and complete training, and find work.
- Build a **community** for support.
- Provide online employers with **incentives to hire women** from disadvantaged communities.
- Explore providing support to **social enterprises** as a path to engaging refugee women in the digital workforce.

