

# Livelihood Working Group

## Amman, Jordan

### 15.03.2018

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| Meeting Location    | EMOPS Room UNHCR Khalda                    | Meeting Date | 15.03.2018  |
| Facilitator         | Laura Buffoni (UNHCR)<br>Emily Lewis (DRC) | Meeting Time | 9:00– 11:00 |
| Minutes Prepared by | Rema'a Alawi (UNHCR)                       |              |             |

#### Agenda

1. Updates on work permits (MoL /PMU-MOPIC)
2. Forthcoming provisions on home based businesses and on project supporting them (chair+)
3. Advocacy messages on refugees livelihoods included in the Brussels conference documents (ILO)
4. Cash for work guideline of waste collection in municipalities (ACF/CARITAS)

#### Update on the number of work permits (MOPIC/EPU)

- Cumulatively, 92,703 work permits have been issued/renewed for Syrian refugees in Jordan since 2016. Further breakdown as follows:

|        | Total permits Jan 2016- March 8, 2018 | Total permits Jan 2018- March 8, 2018 | Total permits Jan 2017- March 8, 2018 (P4R Y2 Target) |
|--------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Male   | <b>89,026</b>                         | <b>9,005</b>                          | <b>53,350</b>   |
| Female | <b>3,677</b>                          | <b>191</b>                            | <b>2,563</b>  |
| Total  | <b>92,703</b>                         | <b>9,196</b>                          | <b>55,913</b>   |

- Recently, the majority of work permits were issued in the construction sector (Jan 1<sup>st</sup>- March 8<sup>th</sup> 3,820).
- An observed reduction in work permits for women.
- Overall monthly rate is lower than last year.
- The issuance of work permits in the camps has been low as well as short term work permits. This is probably due to projects of CfW have yet to start.
- MOPIC invited a selected number of agencies to discuss the possibility of counting C4W and IBV work done in the camps towards work permits targets with a work permit-like document to be provided to refugees.

Access the full MoL presentation [here](#).

**Draft provisions on home based businesses and on project supporting them (chair+)**

- A provision issues by the Prime Ministers’ office on start-ups and HBBs was informally circulated. The provision reverses what foreseen by the JRP in terms of HBBs, both inside and outside camps. Some changes to the provision are expected hence the limited circulations. However what contained is very worrying for NGOs and other agencies planning to support businesses owned by Syrians, including HBBs, as part of their livelihoods projects.
- Projects that support HBB’s with Syrians might have to be reformulated or re-targeted as the regulations requires that 70% of all investments and grants go to Jordanian start-ups /HBBs or to jointly owned businesses.
- Much clarity is needed on the provision, ie which list of closed occupations applies to start ups in camps/outside camps; how shared ownership would look like, what will happen to projects that are currently on hold; how each agency must negotiate the changes in the project. As it is now the regulation leaves much open to interpretation.  
Below is an unofficial translation of the provision:

**First: Projects for the provision of grants to start-ups:**

a. Inside camps:

1. Limiting grants given to small projects of Syrian refugees in the camps to those marketing products inside the camp exclusively and within the professions allowed to non-Jordanians, following approval of competent authorities.
2. Limiting the overall financing of these projects inside camps to a total value not exceeding ten million Dollars (10.000.000) \$ throughout the year 2018.

b. Outside camps:

1. The percentage of Jordanian beneficiaries of any project included in the JRP - should be at least 70%.
2. For the remaining 30% of Syrian beneficiaries there should be a Jordanian partner for every Syrian, requirements of registration and licensing of the Ministry of Industry and Trade and of the relevant authorities shall apply, and the share of the Jordanian partner must be at least 50%.
3. Approval of the relevant authorities must be obtained for Syrian beneficiaries before giving him/her the grant, and the business must be within the professions allowed by existing regulations and instructions.

**Second: Home-based business projects:** Syrian refugees are not allowed to start any of this type of activity proposed in the JRP - due to the difficulty of monitoring, regulating or organizing these occupations.

**Third:** the above-mentioned principles and standards shall apply - after receiving approval of the humanitarian aid affairs coordinating committee - to projects already submitted through (JORISS).

**Fourth:** these principles shall be revised and updated on a regular basis and depending on the developments.

Access the link to the original document [here](#).

**Advocacy messages on refugees livelihoods included in the Brussels conference documents (ILO)**

- The UN, the EU and donors have been working on a number of documents to be reviewed by the GoJ and then presented to the Brussels conference. Additional topics have been added to the discussion compared to the Compact focus on economic inclusion and education, and additional points on protection as well as health have been raised.
- UNHCR facilitated consultations with refugees in form of focus group discussions to have additional feedback on the Compact. The sessions were held in Zataari and Mafraq

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| <p>together with EU and Dutch Embassy.</p> <p>ILO supported by other agencies has brought forward a number of areas for advocacy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Developing a clear and stable legal framework for decent employment of Syrian refugees separate from the labour law that addresses migrant workers;</li> <li>○ expand the sectors and occupations open to refugees with a particular focus on occupations that could bring about more women's participation;</li> <li>○ In implementing NEEP (National Empowerment and Employment Programme), ensure that refugees are exempted from reductions that will affect non-Jordanians working across multiple sectors;</li> <li>○ Ensure the work permit cost is continuously waived.</li> </ul> <p>-</p> <p>- A number of challenges persist and need to be addressed to increase formal employment of Syrian refugees:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Employers cannot hire Syrians if their foreigners' quotas have already been filled. By October 2018, migrant workers are expected to be reduced by 25% to be replaced by Jordanian workers.</li> <li>b) Increases in electricity costs, key agricultural inputs as well as transportation, are affecting employers as well as the cost of life in general.</li> </ol> <p>Projects and solutions</p> <p>The ILO is supporting the private sector through apprenticeships, with the condition that the employer hires the job seeker for a minimum of a year. The Syrian worker is paid and considered a worker from the first day of training. The scheme includes both Jordanians and Syrians.</p> |   |
| <p><b>Cash for work guideline of waste collection in municipalities (ACF/CARITAS)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This document has been jointly produced by Caritas Switzerland, Caritas Jordan, ACF and DRC.</li> <li>- The Waste Management field has been chosen because of the declining capacity of municipalities as a result of increased demand on national services and infrastructure; Environmental pollution, including illegal dumping and inappropriate disposal and burning of solid waste, weak investment in the waste management sector and lost opportunities within the solid waste value chain.</li> </ul>  | <p>Access the full document presented <a href="#">here</a>.</p> |
| <p><b>Agency Updates</b></p> <p>- UNHCR:</p> <p><u>Rectification of status exercise:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The rectification of status exercise started on 5 March and will continue till at least end of September 2018.</li> <li>○ The number of Syrians approaching UNHCR for appointments gradually subsides and the activities are gradually entering the next important stage – verifications and UNHCR registration interviews.</li> <li>○ The staff in Amman, Irbid, Mafraq and now mobile missions verify family compositions, check and refer for civil documentation</li> <li>○ By week 3, some 5000 refugees had received UNHCR Asylum-Seeker Certificates and are ready to proceed for the MOI cards issuance.</li> <li>○ UNHCR Livelihoods Unit is using this opportunity to pass messages on work permits with a mini-information campaign using leaflets and talking/explaining FAQs to refugees.</li> <li>○ Partners have referred cases for appointments with NRC leading the process (93% of 755 total cases referred by partners to UNHCR). DRC is second (with 6% out of total cases submitted to UNHCR by partners)</li> </ul>  |   |
| <p><b>Next meeting date:</b><br/>April 19<sup>th</sup> 9:00-11:00 am</p>   |   |

**Next Meeting Agenda:**

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