



### Funding



JRP/inter-agency appeal  
36% funded with \$431m received (September)

### In this issue:

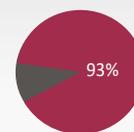
- Legal and policy developments
- JIF study on Jordan Compact
- Partners activities: Child Marriage; Early Childhood Care and Development; Unaccompanied and Separated Children; Summer Education; Supporting Torture and War Trauma Survivors; Empowering Women
- Advocacy
- Refugee voices – Alone in Azraq: A Syrian teenager's story

### Facts and Figures

(as of September)

**654,582** Syrian refugees

**64,497** Iraqi refugees



Syrian refugees outside of camps below poverty line of 68 JOD p/m



Jordanian unemployment

## Humanitarian overview

### Berm

On 28 September, the JIF issued a press release highlighting INGOs concerns about the fate of Syrians stranded at the Jordanian-Syrian border who have not received any assistance since 15 June. The last distribution of food and non-food items at the berm took place between May and 15 June and covered only 4,354 households, consisting of 35,451 individuals. Since then, the Government of Jordan has not allowed the United Nations to resume its operation and civilians are left in a limbo.

The security situation near Rukban and Hadalat has reportedly deteriorated with the advances made by the Government of Syria near the two camps, which led civilians in Hadalat to leave the camp and settle in the vicinity of Rukban. The international community must exert its influence on all parties to find a humane solution to this crisis and ensure access to humanitarian services.

### Azraq

According to UNHCR, the active camp population of Azraq camp now stands at 34,034 Syrian refugees at the end of September, with more than 21,000 refugees having arrived from the berm as of 8 March 2016. At the end of September, 8,676 people were living in Village 5 (V-5) which is still completely fenced-in and most of them have been there for over a year. INGOs welcome the recent screening of 413 individuals in August and over a thousand individuals at the end of September and urge the authorities to sustain the increased pace. Indeed, according to UNHCR, there are currently over 800 empty shelters in unfenced areas that could accommodate up to 6 individuals per household – meaning that over 4,000 individuals could immediately be relocated out of V-5.

During this period, agencies working in Azraq have welcomed the creation of a visitor center at V-5 and the liberalization of the market through shop creation in Azraq camp but continue to highlight challenges faced by beneficiaries related to high food prices at the malls and access to specialized and emergency health care. They also would like to highlight the continuous challenges related to the implementation of the Incentive Based Volunteering rotation scheme within the camp.

## Legal & Policy Developments

### New work permits in construction sector

In July 2017, a MOU was signed between the Ministry of Labor and the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions (GFJTU) to ease the process of issuing “non-employer specific work permits” for Syrian refugees in the construction sector. The aim is to formalize jobs and create a better work environment. The agreement allows work permits to be issued through the GFJTU for renewable one-year periods, and stipulates that workers should be covered by a private insurance scheme for 50 Jordanian dinars (about \$US 70).

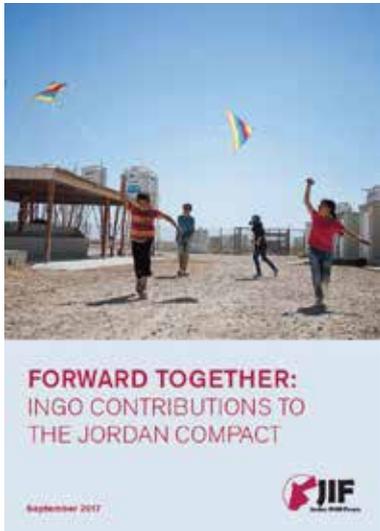
### Article 308 abolished

Following lobbying by civil society organizations, Article 308 of the Jordanian Penal Code, which allowed sexual assault perpetrators to escape punishment if they married their victims, was abolished in August.

## Jordan Compact Study

### Forward Together - JIF's Study on Jordan Compact

To mark 6 months since the Brussels Conference, JIF launched a report which critically evaluates JIF member organizations' contributions to implementing the Jordan Compact commitments. The study identifies how education and livelihood actors within JIF have incorporated the Jordan Compact commitments into their own education and livelihoods



programming and highlights best practices, lessons learned, current shortcomings and constraints.

Since the implementation of the Jordan Compact in 2016, JIF members have programmed over USD \$39 million in education projects and \$39 million in livelihoods projects. These projects have reached 429,256 beneficiaries in education, and 408,842 beneficiaries in livelihoods since 2016, including at least 128,777 members of the host community in education, and 122,652 in livelihoods.

The study underlines how member organizations of JIF have been essential partners to the GoJ, International Organizations, and Local NGOs to work towards the commitments of the Jordan Compact. JIF itself has served as a space for INGOs to discuss their projects, coordinate their activities, and learn from each other's experiences to achieve better results. INGOs – not only by acting together, but also by acting with others – have been and can continue to be essential partners in transforming the refugee crisis into a development opportunity for Jordan.

## Partners' activities

### Gender, Documentation, and Child Marriage

ICMC's recent assessment\* investigating the link between gender and lack of documentation among Syrian refugees found that child marriage accounts for a significant amount of documentation problems. Rooted in gender inequality, poverty and lack of opportunities for girls, the protracted nature of displacement has exacerbated the practice among the Syrian community. While the practice of child marriage affects both girls and boys, girls are disproportionately impacted - 89% of identified cases are girls. A marriage in Jordan involving a girl under the age of 15, is automatically rendered illegal. Should the couple wish to register the marriage when both parties are of legal age, they face a 1000 JD fine. The failure to issue a marriage certificate starts a chain reaction of documentation problems, linked with the ability to register births, deaths or to receive Ministry of Interior cards.

Although Jordanian law states that that the legal age of marriage is 18, minors aged between 15-17 can marry at the Sharia court if the marriage is deemed in the 'best interest of the child' - ICMC's data suggests that these marriages are frequently registered. In July 2017, an amendment was made to the Personal Status Law, adding 9 restrictions intended to limit the discretionary power of Sharia Court judges in granting marriages involving a child. In an effort to prevent and respond to child marriage, ICMC intends to create targeted child marriage interventions, understanding the multitude of factors and actors involved that enable this practice to continue.



*"I am not feeling comfortable without a marriage certificate. I can't relax or feel safe, and can't move around freely. The marriage certificate is connected to all the other documents, it is the foundation for all of the legal aspects of the family."* (Ma'ale, 14 years old, Mafraq).

\*This protection monitoring was conducted as part of a EU Humanitarian Aid funded project, Leveraging protection monitoring and emergency cash to overcome the legal challenges of extremely vulnerable Syrian refugees in Jordan, and the challenges related to harsh weather conditions of extremely vulnerable Syrian and Jordanian households (HHs) in Jordan, and is implemented through a consortium comprised of ICMC and INTERSOS. For further information contact: swan@icmc.net.

## Providing a good start for children through Early Childhood Care and Development

On 23 August, under the No Lost Generation initiative (NLG), Plan International Jordan hosted a regional workshop at the Dead Sea on Early Childhood Care and Development in Emergencies (ECCDiE). The workshop was attended by 39 participants from 19 organizations responding to the Syrian and Iraqi crises. A plethora of significant information regarding ECCDiE was presented including: UNICEF's presentation of the Lancet Series, a mapping exercise by the Bernard van Leer Foundation showing where various organizations were working, a report by the Arab Resource Collective on regional coordination, and panels on topics ranging from the importance of ECCD programming in Syria and Iraq, coordination and inter-sectoral collaboration, and the future of ECCDiE coordination.



photo credit : Plan

Some of the main recommendations from the workshop included:

- Create a coordination platform for ECCD to share experiences and good practice - Plan International in Jordan will facilitate this effort in Jordan and the Arab Collective Resources in Lebanon.
- Advocate for ECCDiE to be addressed by donors and the humanitarian community – Quality Early Childhood Care and Development is life saving and should be included in the early response. NLG's advocacy working group will advocate for ECCD.

## On My Own: Protection Challenges faced by Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC)

In 2016, there were 4,872 UASC in Jordan known to UNHCR and UNICEF. During the first half of 2017, INTERSOS – as a Mixed Migration Platform (MMP) partner and in conjunction with the Migration Policy Centre (MPC) – conducted a study into the daily challenges faced by UASC on the move in Jordan, Lebanon and Greece. Despite unique individual contexts, the findings indicate that UASC face similar struggles in all three countries:



photo credit : Timon Koch, INTERSOS

1. Inconsistent implementation of safeguards specifically tailored to protect them.
2. Overburdened asylum systems.
3. Fear among governments and local populations of young and unaccompanied male and female migrants, leading to their criminalisation over their protection.

Ambiguous legal status continues to place UASC at risk of arrest, detention, and in the cases of Greece and Jordan, relocation and even deportation. This threat means UASC rarely seek humanitarian support, nor register officially, making monitoring challenging. This mistrust of official channels impacts on their access to education, healthcare, psychosocial support, shelter and legal representation. In order to survive, findings illustrate how UASC are turning to negative coping mechanisms including child labour, transactional sex, illegal work and debt.

## Hope Family Centres: Summer education

Together with two local partners, Vision Hope International is currently operating integrated family centres in Karak and Mafraq. The project focuses on the integration and empowerment of Syrian families as well as trauma healing for school children, girls and women. As there is no school during the summer, it offers a great timeframe to conduct other learning activities. Both centres hosted summer schools for both Syrian and Jordanian children from 1 June until 5 September. Around 110 children from 6 to 12 years attended the program. Fun and creative activities including handicrafts, face painting, playful life skill trainings as well as dancing, singing and informal education took place. In Karak, the highlight for the youngest was a day trip to a nearby theme park.



photo credit : Vision Hope International

The family centres also welcomed around 40 new girls and women to take part in the therapeutic program. Besides individual and group counselling with a therapist, practical skills were learned: computer training, sewing, handicraft, accompanied by life skill trainings.

## Supporting Torture and War Trauma Survivors



On 31 July, The Center for Victims of Torture (CVT) organized a panel discussion on 'Supporting Life of Torture and War Trauma Survivors'. The event, attended by representatives from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, academics, UNHCR and civil society organizations was an opportunity for relevant organizations in Jordan to share their work on supporting life of torture and war trauma survivors.

The panel discussion aimed to advocate for victims' right to heal the wounds of torture and other war-related trauma and advocate for the protection and care of torture and war trauma survivors.

It included discussions on the protection for torture and war survivors within the human rights framework, the right to rehabilitation within the international and national legal framework and a presentation on CVT's trauma rehabilitation model.

## Empowering Syrian and Jordanian women

In August, CARE and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) started a pilot capacity building activity for 15 Syrian and Jordanian entrepreneurial women in Irbid by equipping them with business and life skills.

While CARE offers its community center to train these future entrepreneurs, the EBRD provides technical training sessions on leadership skills, financial management, and digital marketing, and other needed topics. The community centre will also be used to provide day care for the women's children.



photo credit : CARE

The women are identified through CARE's case management system and its economic development activities where hundreds of women are engaged, as per the following criteria: 50% Jordanian, 50% Syrian and women already engaged in economic activities, including home-based activities.

## Advocacy

### Berm Press Release (28 September): International NGOs Call for Urgent Humanitarian Assistance and Respect of Humanitarian Principles at Syrian-Jordanian Border

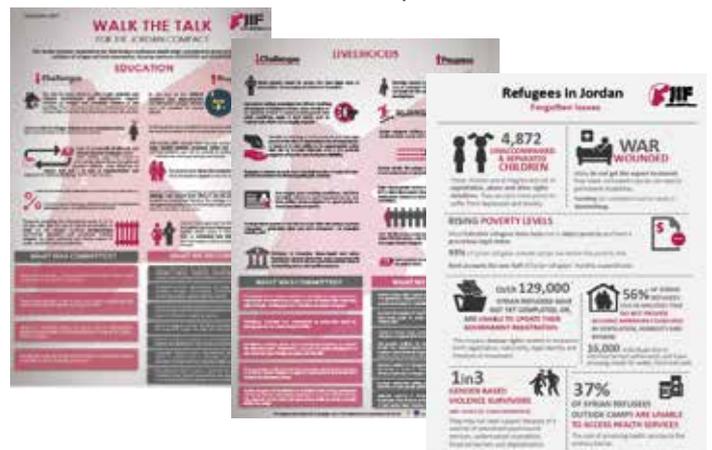
After one year of frustrating negotiations to ensure impartial, accountable and meaningful access to humanitarian assistance for and protection of the population stranded at the border, JIF called for action in a press release.

### Walk the Talk Infographic

In advance of the UN General Assembly in September, JIF updated the 'Walk the Talk' infographic to highlight outstanding challenges and progress made in relation to the implementation of commitments under the Jordan Compact.

### Forgotten Issues Infographic

JIF also published an infographic on 'forgotten issues' relating refugees in Jordan.



## Alone in Azraq: A Syrian teenager's story

*Fifteen-year-old Samir became separated from his family after his home in Aleppo was attacked. He tells IRC about his journey to Jordan and hopes to be reunited with his parents.*

One of 15 children, Samir\* was separated from his family after his town of Aleppo was bombarded with missiles. "Our house was hit, but was not completely destroyed, thank God," he recalls. "I stayed there alone for 15 days waiting for my family. No one knew whether they were dead or alive."

Samir's aunt convinced him that Syria was no longer safe and that he should seek refuge in neighboring Jordan. He made his way to a barren piece of desert known as "the berm," a no man's land where 30,000 people were camped near the border. Samir waited at the berm for 20 days before crossing.



photo credit : Kaity Kavar/IRC

When Samir crossed the border, he was driven to Azraq camp, where he was immediately referred to the International Rescue Committee's (IRC) child protection team. IRC workers provided Samir with a safe place to stay and food to eat and asked him questions to help him reconnect with his family.

The team of some 64 aid workers—which includes 36 Syrian volunteers who are refugees themselves—is on hand 24 hours a day, seven days a week to welcome and care for unaccompanied and separated children, try to locate their relatives and, if necessary, identify potential foster parents. More than 3,000 such children have crossed into Jordan since 2012. An estimated 94% have been reunited with their families, but the process can be daunting and tedious.

The IRC team was able to quickly track down distant relatives of Samir's in Azraq, but because they did not have documentation that proved their relationship, Samir could not be released to them. Then, one month later, Samir's immediate family found him using WhatsApp - they were all alive.

As he waits to be reunited with his family, Samir helps out at the camp reception center by doing small chores and playing football. Meanwhile, the IRC works tirelessly to ensure Samir gets the support and services he needs.

The IRC's child protection team works in partnership with UNHCR and UNICEF.

\*Name changed

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