

Jordan Operational Update

August 2017

Zaatari Office of Employment

was inaugurated on 22 August by UNHCR and the International Labour Organization (ILO), the first of its kind in a Syrian refugee camp.

Work permits have been issued to Syrians since spring 2016 - and **28,000** Syrians are working formally with permits.

220 bachelor degree scholarship slots

announced for Syrian refugees under the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI).

738,009

Refugees in Jordan as of end of August 2017

81%

Refugees living outside camps in urban areas, equal to four out of five refugees in Jordan

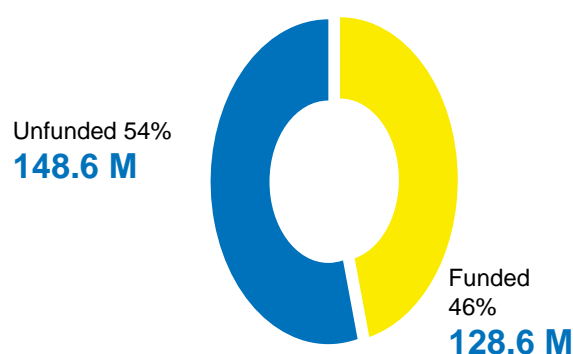
25,945

Work permits for refugees issued in 2017 to the end of August.

FUNDING (AS OF AUGUST 2017)

USD 277.2 M

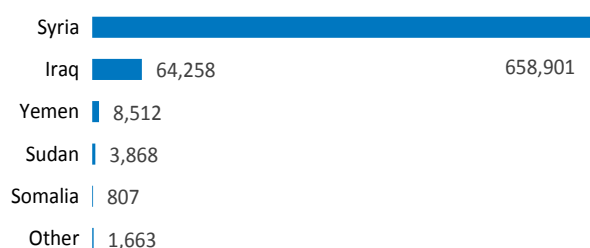
requested for the Jordan situation



Dawn over Zaatari on Eid Al Adha ©UNHCR/Mohammad Hawari

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Countries of Origin



Update on Achievements

Operational Context

The situation of Syrians stranded in the north eastern berm remained precarious and challenging. Movements by the Syrian Arab Army to regain control of all southern border areas with Jordan has meant that supply routes to Hadalat and Rukban were increasingly curtailed. Airstrikes were reported to have taken place in close proximity to Hadalat in mid-August, precipitated a press release on behalf of the United Nations through the Jordan Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Anders Pedersen, raising deep concerns on the safety and security of the vulnerable population. By the end of August, Hadalat site was reportedly mostly deserted by its 4,000 inhabitants, with an additional 10,000 to 15,000 people fleeing wider Hadalat area and the population of Rukban had grown to approximately 60,000 people.

On 30 August, the border crossing between Karama in Jordan and Treybil in Iraq was reopened, the main route linking Amman and Baghdad, after a two year hiatus. In 2014 Iraqi troops had previously pulled out from the Western Iraqi border posts after gains made by militants; commercial traffic continued until July 2015, when the Iraqi Government launched a major offensive to reclaim the territory, closing the crossing to deny militants a key area of funds from their imposed tax levies on commercial vehicles. Since the closure, exports from Jordan to Iraq dropped by two thirds, and exports were obliged to take a longer route through Saudi Arabia. At the same time, Iraqi shipments of oil to Jordan were also curtailed, an economic blow for both countries.



PROTECTION

- On 16 August UNHCR organized the planning workshop for the 2107 Age, Gender and Diversity Mainstreaming Participatory Assessment (AGDM PA), a key tool for identifying and analysing refugee needs, protection risks, and priorities, and an integral part of the yearly planning cycle. The AGDM PA uses rights and community-based approaches and is a participatory and qualitative exercise. The findings of the AGDM PA are actionable and support improvements in the assistance and protection provided to persons of concern (PoCs) to UNHCR, and are used in planning, programming and policy decisions that affect refugee lives. The process also strengthens UNHCR's accountability to refugees and others of concern. The AGDM PA is a UNHCR-led collaboration with humanitarian actors; participation and inputs from humanitarian partners are welcome and essential. The objectives of the Participatory Assessment were to obtain an overview of the perceptions and lived experiences of persons of concern (Syrian, Iraqi, Yemenis, Sudanese and Somalis) in Jordan around the following thematic areas: refugee youth, identifying registration needs, health, and elderly refugees. Around 77 participants took part in this workshop which will be followed by two weeks of field work, and included discussions with refugees, host community, civil society, Local and International NGOs and UNHCR.
- UNHCR began work on a multi-market assessment project in August - the objective of the multi-market assessment is to inform cash based initiatives programming and to provide needed information to the Basic Needs, Food Security, and Shelter Sectors on demand, supply, and pricing of select markets – food, non-food items, and shelter - in Jordan. The assessment will cover Amman and additional

locations including Zarqa, Irbid and Karak, with the final report due to be published by the end of the year. Findings of the [cash assistance Post Distribution Monitoring](#) which took place in 2016 was also published in late July 2017.

**EDUCATION**

- UNHCR announced in August call for application for 220 DAFI scholarship funded by Germany, Said and Asfari Foundation. About 2,000 application were received with increased numbers from camps. The scholarship which covers all tuition fees, and comprises standard allowances for living, transportation and book continues to draw a lot of interest with youth in pursuing higher education in Jordan, many see this as an opportunity to build their future, give back to the community and have prospect to rebuild their country.
- Eight students who successfully qualified for scholarships supported by JICA were also able to depart for their studies to various universities in Japan in August.
- Outreach messages to refugees on school registration and school opening dates were shared through SMS to all refugee families in camps and urban settings. School fees and school kits, support to other vulnerable families from other nationalities such as Somalis, Iraqis, Sudanese is being provided.

**HEALTH**

- In August, UNHCR's Cash for Health programme assisted 211 Syrian refugees to pay for medical services, with over 50% focusing on emergency life threatening conditions. Other main areas of need were ante and neo natal issues including deliveries. Cash is used as part of a wider programme of referral services, and allows UNHCR to serve more people of concern with the same level of resources – Syrian refugees are eligible to pay the Jordanian uninsured rate in Ministry of Health facilities if they pay directly, while if UNHCR refers patients through the referral system, they pay foreigner rates which are three times as much. Since the project began in November 2015, almost 6,000 Syrians have benefitted from cash assistance to pay for healthcare.
- UNHCR continues to operate a clinic on the north east border, providing services to those Syrians currently stranded at the berm in conjunction with partner Jordanian Health Aid Society (JHAS). The clinic opened on 15 December 2016, and had received 7,869 patients for consultation management and treatment up to the end of August 2017, including 1,551 in the month of August. 36% were children under the age of five; the top three chronic illnesses were diabetes, hypertension and asthma, while the top three acute diseases were Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTI), Urinary Tract Infections and Watery Diarrhea.

**COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE**

- On 22 August UNHCR, and the International Labour Organization (ILO) inaugurated the first employment office inside a Syrian refugee camp. The Zaatari Office for Employment, set up in coordination with the Government of Jordan, aims to facilitate access to formal work opportunities across Jordan for refugees living in the camp.

Earlier this year, the Government of Jordan announced that Syrian refugees living in camps were entitled to obtain work permits and be employed in urban areas. Zaatari's office forms part of the efforts to bring employment services closer to refugees in camps. So far, over 800 refugees in Zaatari camp have already benefited from the presence of the job centre by registering their work permits in exchange for one-month leave permits. As part of this, over 350 work permits for the agricultural sector have been issued by the office. A specific data base programmed by UNHCR will record the work permits and facilitate the movement of the workers in and out of the camp, helping them make the most of their new jobs. The facility will also allow refugees to receive employment advice, counselling and information from ILO officials located in the office daily. The centre will host job fairs and provide job matching services to bring employers and refugees together. A second office is now under construction in Azraq camp to bring job opportunities closer to its residents.

Following the London Conference on the Syria crisis in early 2016, the Government of Jordan waived the fees required to obtain a work permit for Syrian refugees in a number of occupations open to foreign workers and simplified the documentation requirements. These measures have encouraged employers to regularize their workers; 28,000 Syrians now work in Jordan formally with a valid work permit.



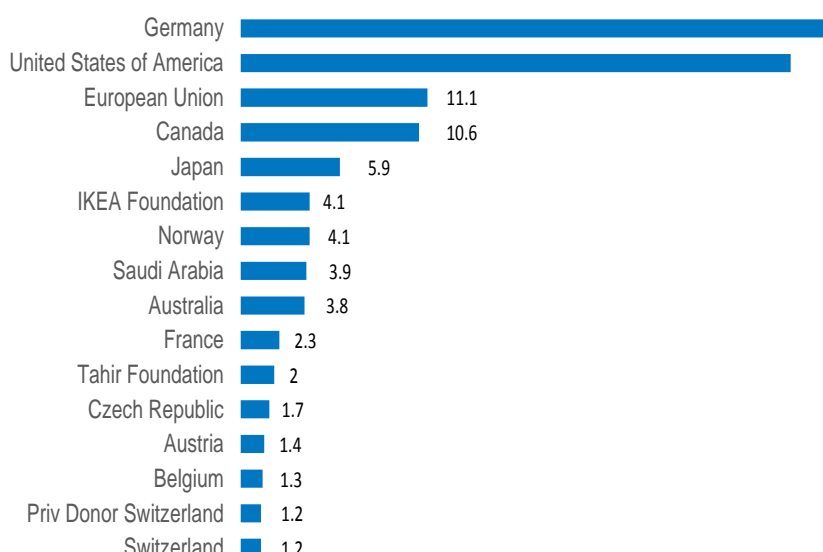
Zaatari Office for Employment, helping Syrian workers benefit from work permits to secure jobs ©UNHCR/Mohammad Hawari

Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 128.6 million** as of end of August 2017, covering **46%** of overall needs for refugees in Jordan. The Syrian refugee response is **48%** funded, while response for other refugee populations remains only **12%** funded.

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

Funding received (in million USD) over \$1 million



External / Donors Relations

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2017

United States of America (95 M) | Sweden (76 M) | Netherlands (52 M) | Norway (41 M) | Priv Donors Spain (35 M) | Japan (25 M) | Denmark (23 M) | Australia (19 M) | Priv Donors Republic of Korea (17 M) | Canada (16 M) | Switzerland (15 M) | France (14 M) | Priv Donors Italy (12 M) | Priv Donors Japan (10 M) | Italy (10 M) |

Thanks to other donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2017

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