

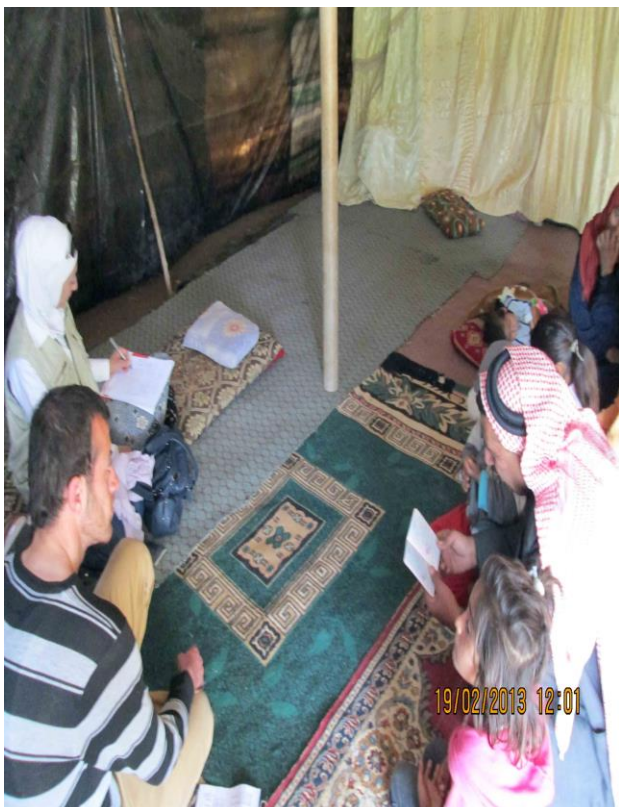


**Comprehensive Outreach Assessment on Education
Needs of Syrians in Ghor and Irbid (Feb. 18-March 20)**

**Implemented by
Save the Children Jordan (SCJ)**

**Reported by
UNICEF Education Section & Save the Children Jordan
April 18, 2013**

Title	Comprehensive Outreach Assessment on Education Needs of Syrians in Ghor and Irbid
Date & duration	One month (February 18 –March 20, 2013)
Objective	Conduct outreach activities to assess the current situation of Syrian refugees residing in Ghor “Jordan Valley” and Irbid, with a focus on Education, and Child Protection.
Implementing Partner	Save the Children Jordan (SCJ) staff with the support of 40 Syrian and Jordanian volunteers. Managed by SCJ Education for All team, Reem Al-Khatib & Sate Al-Qudah
Reported by	Kholoud Abu Zaid- Emergency Education Consultant/ UNICEF and SCJ Education for All team.
Date of Submission	April 18, 2013



Executive Summary

On the 18th of February 2013, UNICEF and in partnership with Save the Children Jordan conducted widespread outreach activities to screen the situation of Syrian refugees residing in Ghor and Irbid for one month. The decision to conduct a comprehensive outreach in both Ghor and Irbid was based on the recommendations of the joint assessment field visit, which was organized by UNICEF, and its implementing partners including Save the Children Jordan (SCJ), Ministry of Education (MoE) and Madrasati Initiative, which was conducted on the 31st of January 2013. A rough number of 300-350 Syrian families were reported to reside in Ghor with no access to adequate services be it education or health. The outreach activities conducted by (SCJ) were, also based on assessment completed by REACH mapping of concentration of Syrian Refugees in Irbid Governorate and partially in Ghor.

A total of **3,890** Syrian families were screened in both **Ghor** and **Irbid**, through door-to-door /tent-to-tent outreach activities conducted by a team of **40 volunteers** (that included both Syrians and Jordanians) recruited from Ghor and Irbid. The focus of the outreach was to assess the education needs of children, and to advocate the importance of education; however, it also covered child protection, early marriages, livelihoods, health and economic situation of the families and other needs reported by the Syrian families.

Save the Children Jordan (SCJ) followed a comprehensive door-to-door /tent-to-tent methodology and word of mouth during this mission. They also deployed a mixed team of Syrian and Jordanian volunteers and key Syrian informants in order to reach the families that are not reached. The outreach mission focused on Education needs and also gathered other related data that prevent families from sending their children to schools. Outreach volunteers, advocated for the new regulations issued by MoE for school registration to increase education opportunities for the Syrian families who arrived to Jordan after the end of the 1st school semester. In addition, (SCJ) team recommended that MoE establish two double shifted schools and expand one female school in Irbid, to absorb the students who were encouraged to register and not yet enrolled. In Ghor, the mission was focused on advocacy and registration of school aged children.

In Ghor the total number of families reached is **1,241**; out of which children (3.8-18 yrs) are **4,287** and KG aged children (3.8-5.8) out of these are **289**. From these children the total number out of educational facilities (KG & School) is **3,536**. The total number of children registered in KG is **0**. The total number of school-aged children (5.8-18 yrs) is **3,998**, and according to Ministry of Education (MoE) records, only **52** Syrian children are enrolled in the formal education sector, however, outreach results showed only **16** students are actually attending and **751** children are claimed by parents that they are registered in schools either in Syria or in Jordan. Thus, the total number of children (5.8-18 yrs) out of school is **3,247**. There are **1,790** child labour cases and the total number of early marriage cases is **300**. The number of children with special needs is **76**, and the total number of children in the outreach activity is **5,991**. Another alarming finding reported that

about **70%** of these families were sort of nomadic and traveling to get jobs between Jordan and Syria before the crisis. However, those and other families who crossed the border after the crisis are now living in tents and are nomadic between Ghor, Mafraq, and Shobak in the south of Jordan depending on the season looking for work.

In Irbid the number of families visited is **2,649**, around **2,071** families are living in crowded houses, with several families in one household. The total number of children screened in Irbid is **7,283** between the ages of (3, 8-18), out of this number, around **6,095** are school aged and are not attending education as well, and in addition **1,188** children are Kinder Garten (KG). Total number of children registered in schools is **3,810**, out of which **1003** students were registered as a result of the outreach activities. Around **122** protection cases and violence in schools. **91** cases of female early marriages. **91** child labour cases. **244** Tawjihi age students. The total number of children Cases in the Outreach Activity is **5,030** and the number of children who has duplicated cases per area is **4,881**.

The major recommendations in this report focused on the need for more intense advocacy for a free access to education. Interventions needed to minimize child labour, early marriages and children with disabilities, and provide child protection, in addition to livelihoods that will reflect positively on registration in education. Girls' education especially in Ghor area is an alarming matter specially that parents have immense fear of sending their daughters to schools.

The below table shows the percentages in relation to the total number of children reached.

Mandate	Total # of children out of Education Facilities (KG& School) to Total # of children (3.8-18) yrs.	Total # of KG aged children (3.8-5.8) to Total # of children (3.8-18) yrs	Total # of children in School Age (5.8-18) to Total # of children in Educational (3.8-18) yrs	Total # children registered in school to Total number of school-aged children (5.8-18) yrs	Total # of out of school Children (5.8-18) to Total # of school-aged children (5.8-18) yrs	Total # of child labour cases to Total number of children (3.8-18) yrs	Total # of early marriage cases to Total number of children (3.8-18) yrs	Total # of children with special needs to Total number of children (3.8-18) yrs
Ghor%	82.48%	6.74%	93.26%	18.78%	81.22%	41.75%	7.00%	1.77%
Irbid %	47.69%	16.31%	83.69%	62.51%	37.49%	1.25%	1.25%	2.57%

Situation of Syrian Refugees in Ghor and Reasons for the lack of Enrolment in the Formal Education.



The Jordan Valley is a low-lying strip which cleaves down the western border of the Jordan. It is a part of the **Great Rift Valley**, which extends down southwards into East Africa. The Jordan Valley is divided into several distinct geographic sub-regions. Its northern part is known as the **Ghor**, and it includes the **Jordan River**. Several degrees warmer than the rest of the country, its year-round agricultural climate, fertile soils and water supply have made the Ghor the food bowl of Jordan. The Jordan River rises from several sources, mainly in Syria, and flows down into Lake Tiberias, 212 meters below sea level. It then drains into the Dead Sea which, at 400 meters below sea level, is the lowest point on earth. South of the Dead Sea, the Jordan Valley turns into the hot, dry **Wadi 'Araba**. Official information about Ghor was rare on the web, and for more information about Ghor, please follows the link [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan_Valley_\(Middle_East\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan_Valley_(Middle_East))

According to the sources in the Directorate of Education in the Jordan Valley, there are **63** public schools, and only **10** schools are double shifted in the most populated areas in Ghor. Many of the schools in Ghor are rented schools lacking appropriate learning environment where class rooms do not match MoE standards, yet MoE decided to rent and open schools to accommodate for the pressing need for education for Jordanian children. Many students continue their education in classrooms that fail health and safety regulations.

The outreach activities covered the geographical areas in Ghor or Al Aghwar, between Shuna Al Janobiyya to Deir Alla and Shuna Shamaliyya, screening the following areas: Em-Ayyash, Khazmah, Al Karama, Sawalha/ Tal Al Rabe', Al-Eskan, Al-Bohaira, Sweimeh, Al-Rama, Al-Rawdah, Al-Alshouneh Aljanubeh, Al-Kafrain, Shuna Wusta Shuna Al-Jadeedah, Alkaramah, Thahret Al-Alramleh, Maaddi, Fannosh, Deir Alla, Damia, Almghtas, Almallaha, Muthalath Al-Arda, Al-Dayyat, Muthalath Kofranjeh, Al-Balawnah, Kraymeh, Abu Sidu, Sofara, Al-Slaikhat, Abu Habeel, Al-Qaren, Derar, Wadi Al-Rayyan. (Annex 2 table report figures and areas). The outreach included the geographical areas covered by REACH.

Taking a more focused analytical look at the results in the annex 1; referring to number of children reached, it is clear that the Syrian refugees in Jordan are young in age, and based on the UNHCR data, more than 50% of the registered families are below the age of 18 years. However, only 52 Syrian students are registered in the schools in Ghor based on the MoE records. Most of the Syrian families screened in Ghor are living in tents inside farms. All family members including children are working in the farms in exchange of shelter, which explains that the source of livelihoods is the most crucial need even for the families whose children were in education prior to the crisis.

Out of **1,241** families screened, around **110** families are categorized as “clustered or extended families”, mostly headed by women. (Clustered families refers to several families related living under one roof)

Girls Education in Ghor is alarming, and parents residing in farms expressed their fear to send their daughters to the schools on foot walking through the farms. Parents are over protective of young girls and prefer to keep them home, even if they are a group of girls going to school together.

Women who are living in houses and who were recently living in Ghor, indicated that they have no information about registration and it is important for them to know more about rules and regulations related to registration.

Most Syrian parents who fled to Jordan after the crisis, and their children who were enrolled in the education system inside Syria; expressed the importance of education for their children. When children were asked about schooling, around **1,000** children expressed their desire to go back to schools and those were mostly from the younger age groups.

Most families are also under the impression, that the crisis will end in the coming months and eventually they will go back to Syria. For that reason, they do not see the significance of education over livelihoods.

When asked; Syrian children said that they miss their schools and their homes in Syria. The most repeated statement was “we wish to go back to school, yet, we do need to work to provide livelihoods for our families.” When asked about the future, (12-15) years old children and young adolescents answered: “look around you, now we have to work in picking vegetables, and we always worry if the wind will destroy our tents”.

Ghor is appealing for Syrian refugees, because of the relatively affordable cost of living, however it is still considered high and unaffordable, but, it is much cheaper than most cities of Jordan.

Transportation is an enormous obstacle facing families. One of the most important reasons not to be registered in schools is transportation especially for females and for children with disabilities.

Lack of services provided to Syrian families includes health (treatment & vaccination), financial, and legal services. In addition to the fact that there is only one Islamic Charity Centre (ICS) that is active and is providing services, however, this centre is overstretched and unable to cover all the families. When asked, the manager said that the centre covers 350 families with services and trainings, and is unable to receive more.

Number of screened children emphasised the fact that Child Labour is an alarming problem. Many of these children work in picking vegetables. Child protection interventions are highly recommended.

Numbers indicated that **244** of Tawjihi students are out of school and are in the labour market. Females Tawjihi students, indicated their interest to go back to school, however MoE’s regulations prevent registration due to lack of documentation and ask students to go back and study the 11th grade to be eligible to attend Tawjihi.

Situation of Syrian Refugees in Irbid and Reasons for lack of Enrolment in the Formal Education

One father interviewed said, that the reason for him to leave Syria was the future of his children. “I do believe in education, I waited for the situation to get better, but it never did. That forced me to leave my hometown. I came and searched for the best schools, SCJ helped me to find the best schooling opportunity to enrol my children. With all my heart, I am advocating for education among my fellow Syrian families. However, sometimes it is difficult for them because of the others pressing needs they need to provide.



The governorate of Irbid is the third largest governorate in Jordan by population (after Zarqa). Metropolitan Irbid is the second largest. The province of Irbid Governorate has the second largest population and the highest population density in the kingdom. The city is a major ground transportation hub between Amman, Syria to the north, and Mafraq to the east. The Irbid region is also the home to several colleges and universities. The economies of Irbid is mostly based on the services sector, which is directly or indirectly related to the higher education institutions in the city, as an example there are 26 book publishing companies in the city. The number of internet cafes per capita is the highest in the world that took Irbid to the [Guinness Book of World Records](#). There is one [Qualifying Industrial Zone](#) in Irbid. (Copied from <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irbid>).

Irbid is appealing for the Syrian refugees crossing the border to Jordan. Availability of work opportunities, and schooling were important reasons for why Syrians are reaching to Irbid. One of the threats realised, is that more and more Syrian children are enrolled in the workforce in all work sectors, on the expense of their education.

The outreach activities conducted by Save the Children Jordan (SCJ) outreach team covered the geographical areas in Irbid that are in line with the REACH Assessment results. Areas covered are: Alnasim Circle, Alqobbah Circle, Kolleyet Banat Irbid, Alna'aymeh, Dahyet Alhussien, Yarmouk University Street, Al-Hay Al-Sharqi, Howwara, Al-Sareeh, Bushra, In'eimeh, Sal, Al-Barha, Hay Al-Matareq, Hakama, Attatweer Al-Hadari, Iydoon, Dowwar Alnaseem and Sahara, Aldahyieh, Al-Sheikh Khalil, Irbid Camp, Al-Quds Street, Hay Al-Turkmen, Zebdeh Farkouh, Hay Al-Gosailh. The

area of the transportation station between Irbid and Ghor called is called “North Aghwar Transportation Complex”. (Annex 2 table report figures and areas).

Most Syrian families, especially those who entered Jordan recently are under the impression that the crisis will end in the coming months, and eventually they will go back to Syria. For that reason, they do not see the significance of education over livelihoods.

Parents, who are reluctant to send their children to school, emphasized that livelihoods are more crucial than education, especially due to the increase in rent. (Clustered families, who are living under one roof, also indicated lack of privacy.

Over crowdedness in schools in Irbid prevents Syrian children from being enrolled in the formal education. Syrian families residing in Irbid, unlike Ghor, do search for the suitable schools for their children. Yet, schools close to their residencies are either overcrowded or do not accommodate for the required grades.

Outreach Team Mission Observations & Opinions

In general and towards the end of the mission, Save the Children’s Children team, realised that the number of families coming to Ghor and Irbid was increasing by the day, which made it difficult to their mission, as they were forced to go back to the already screened areas to register the new comers. This case was observed in Ghor more than in Irbid. It was clear to SCJ that the door to door/ tent to tent screening in Ghor provided not only information related to Education, but to a lower extent, also covered other sectors, i.e. Child Labour, Early Marriages, Livelihoods and Health.

The combination of Syrian and Jordanian volunteers facilitated the outreach process. Engaging with the Syrian volunteers created more trust and opened doors to the outreach team to register this number of Syrian refugees. It also shed a light to one of the most under privileged areas in Jordan that lacks proper services, not only to Syrian refugees but also to disadvantaged Jordanians. Moreover, over than **6000** children were also reported as child labour cases in Jordan Valley.

In addition to the outreach activities, volunteers and SCJ Education team strengthened their relationship with Directorates of Education in Ghor and Irbid, to facilitate the enrolment of Syrian students, especially families living in tents.

The mechanism of door to door outreach also, provided Syrian families with the opportunity to learn about the new rules and regulations that MoE announced in relation to the grace period, especially in Irbid.

Recommendations

General for Ghor and Irbid

- It is important to advocate for the rights of KG aged students whose families are unable to cover the cost of private KGs, in addition to the fact that KG classes are very minimal and do not have the capacity to absorb the KG aged students.
- It is crucial to advocate for Tawjihi and higher education Syrian students who are unable to finish their university education
- It is recommended to take into consideration the situation of Ghor not only for Syrians but also for Jordanian children residing there.
- It is recommended that data collected by Save the Children Outreach and Help Desk teams is desegregated by age (Less than 13 yrs. 13-16 yrs. 16-18 yrs.)

Ghor Specific Recommendations:

- It is recommended to establish a presence-Help Desk for SCJ in order to conduct a proper awareness and advocacy to Syrian families.
- It is recommended to initiate work to bridge the identified gaps as the numbers of children out of school are extremely shocking, more inclusive inter-sectoral collaboration between Education, Child Protection and Health is required to facilitate the school enrolment and to minimize the child labour cases.
- Since the immediate enrolment in the formal education is quite difficult due to the fact that children are extremely involved in providing the livelihoods of their families. It is also, crucial to conduct field awareness sessions to promote the importance of education in order to change the rooted perception about education versus livelihoods amongst parents and working children.
- Awareness campaigns and other distinctive interventions are immensely needed to ensure successful transition from working in the farms and going back to schools. (Back to Schools Campaigns implemented by SCJ is recommended).
- In schools there is a need to rehabilitate the WASH facilities as facilities are in bad shape.
- Girls' education remains a huge problem among the Syrian refugees. Constant fear for female girls going to schools is growing among Syrian families. It is recommended to consider transportation to schools.

Irbid Specific Recommendations:

- Due to the increasing number of Syrian families asking for enrolment of their students, it is recommended to ensure the presence of Save the Children Jordan (SCJ) volunteers in the schools to support school principals in referring Syrian families to appropriate and schools close to their residencies.
- It is recommended to activate the establishment of Parent Teacher Associations and Students Councils to defuse the level of stress and invest in the student's energy with a more positive manner.
- It is recommended to strengthen the working relationship between Save the Children Jordan (SCJ) and Directorates of Education to ensure proper referral of cases specially related to the child protection issues.
- It is recommended to initiate work to bridge the identified gaps as the numbers of children out of school are extremely shocking, more inclusive inter-sectoral collaboration between Education

Annex 1 Results of Ghor outreach per area and per sector

Areas Covered	Total number of families	Total number of children (3.8-18 yrs.)	Total number of children out of Educational Facilities (KG&School)	Total number of KG aged children (3.8-5.8) yrs.	Total number of children registered in KG	Total number of school-aged children (5.8-18) yrs	Total number of children registered in school	Total number of children out of school (5.8-18)yrs	Total number of child labor cases	Total number of early marriage cases	Total number of children with special needs	Total number of children cases in the outreach activity
Sawalha/ Tal Al Rabe'	23	92	70	8	0	84	22	62	30	10	1	119
Abu Sedo	34	81	75	5	0	76	6	70	50	20	2	152
Abu Obaida	150	600	550	51	0	549	50	499	100	30	4	735
Al Eskan	12	31	20	1	0	30	11	19	20	0	1	42
Al Bohaira	1	5	4	1	0	4	1	3	0	0	0	5
Al Balawneh	71	250	198	12	0	238	52	186	100	20	0	330
Wadi Al Rayyan	11	70	50	2	0	68	20	48	30	0	5	87
North Shona	21	113	103	6	0	107	10	97	99	0	0	208
Mothalath Al Arda	9	35	31	2	0	33	4	29	20	0	0	53
Al Karama	542	1400	990	118	0	1282	410	872	450	100	35	1693
Al Malaha	13	52	35	5	0	47	17	30	25	5	0	70
Em Ayyash	15	48	46	2	0	46	2	44	30	0	0	78
Talet Al Ramleh	4	14	12	2	0	12	2	10	0	0	0	14
Khazmah	4	2	2	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	2
Damia	2	5	2	0	0	5	3	2	0	0	0	2
DairAllah	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Slekhat	5	15	10	0	0	15	5	10	5	0	0	15
Sofara	16	50	22	3	0	47	28	19	10	0	2	37
Derar	3	8	5	0	0	8	3	5	1	2	0	8
Fannosh	14	40	15	1	0	39	25	14	15	15	0	46
Kraima	255	1236	1200	57	0	1179	36	1143	739	80	25	2101
Mothalath Kofranjah	3	12	6	1	0	11	6	5	6	3	0	16
Ma'addi	32	128	90	12	0	116	38	78	60	15	1	178
Totals	1241	4287	3536	289	0	3998	*751	3247	1790	300	76	5991

* According to MoE records 52 are registered, discrepancy is in outreach the number 751 children are registered in schools are claimed by parents during outreach.

Annex 2 Results of Irbid outreach per area and per sector

Areas Covered	Total number of families	Total number of children in Educational (3.8-18)	Total number of children out of Educational Facilities (KG&School)	Total number of KG aged children (3.8-5.8)	Total number of children registered in KG	Total Number of children in School in School Age (5.8-18)	Total number children registered in school	Total Number of out of school Children (5.8-18)	Total number of child labor cases	Total number of early marriage cases	Total number of children with special needs	Total Number of children Cases in the Outreach Activity	Number of children who has duplicated Cases Per Area
Irbid Area	933	2693	1583	445	0	2248	1110	1138	54	41	116	2239	2257
Alnasim Circle	108	429	117	39	0	390	312	78	2	9	3	170	191
Dahyet Alhussien	115	250	114	44	0	206	136	70	3	4	5	170	237
Alqobbah Circle	175	410	212	67	0	343	198	145	4	8	10	301	321
Alhai Alsharqi / Alshakh Khalil complex	135	454	98	42	0	412	356	56	5	2	3	150	158
Kolleyet anat Irbid	159	292	171	53	0	239	121	118	6	4	10	244	234
Bushra	151	312	153	51	0	261	159	102	7	4	2	217	210
Alna'aymeh	139	319	112	57	0	262	207	55	3	3	8	183	74
Ina'aymeh	159	379	252	61	0	318	127	191	2	4	9	328	298
Albarha / Alqaselah	107	380	81	55	0	325	299	26	0	4	2	142	89
Albarha / Fo'ara st.	65	211	87	53	0	158	124	34	0	1	2	143	171
Alsarah	113	284	124	56	0	228	160	68	1	6	10	197	221
Hai turkuman	62	174	81	49	0	125	93	32	1	1	1	133	91
Iydoon	79	261	82	38	0	223	179	44	0	0	2	122	110
Sahara and Alnaseem Circle	60	198	87	43	0	155	111	44	0	0	2	132	120
Hanina/Hai ALmatarq	89	237	119	35	0	202	118	84	3	0	2	159	99
Total	2,649	7,283	3,473	1,188	0	6,095	3,810	2,285	91	91	187	5,030	4,881