

Strengthening resilience of Syrian women and girls and host communities in Iraq, Jordan and Turkey



FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION
EU REGIONAL TRUST FUND 'MADAD'
الصندوق الاستراتيجي الأوروبي 'مدد'



Photos: UN Women

Programme Brief

STRENGTHENING THE RESILIENCE OF SYRIAN WOMEN AND GIRLS AND HOST COMMUNITIES IN IRAQ, JORDAN AND TURKEY

Geographical Coverage: Iraq, Jordan, and Turkey
Executing Agency: UN Women
Development Partners: European Union ([EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis](#)), Governments of Japan, France, Iceland and Qudra GIZ.
Collaborating Partners: National governments, national women's organizations, UN agencies, international non-governmental organizations
Duration: February 2018 - July 2020

What is at stake

The conflict in Syria has entered its eighth year, with devastating humanitarian consequences. Over 13.1 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance in Syria while 5.6 million registered refugees remain displaced across the region, including Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. Of these, women and girls constitute 47.5 percentⁱ. The crisis has also negatively impacted the development of the sub-region. Countries such as Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey are struggled to extend their social services to their expanding populations. In Iraq, this is compounded by instability that has plagued the country and resulted in displacements.

Conflict has taken a disproportionate toll on women and girls across the region. A recent UN Women report has assessed the gendered impact of the Syria crisis on refugee women and girls in Lebanon, Jordan, and the Kurdistan Region of Iraqⁱⁱ. Although the living conditions across the three countries differ, women's life in displacement is characterized by economic insecurity, limited employment opportunities despite a desire to work, challenges

in accessing aid, acute isolation, increasing levels of gender-based violence and changing gender roles, both in the private and public spheres. Moreover, the report found that female-headed households are more vulnerable to food insecurity than male-headed households.

Since 2015, there has been a shift towards resilience-increasing interventions articulated through the Regional Refugee and Response Plans (3RP). Within the overall response, the space for women's proactive and meaningful participation in society has not been utilized adequately. This is despite the fact that women's empowerment and equality have the power to bolster recovery and peace. For example, in Jordan, the UN estimates that if employment were more equally distributed between men and women, the gross domestic product would increase by 5%, the equivalent of almost USD 2 billion per yearⁱⁱⁱ. Statistically, data also shows that women's participation in peace negotiations makes them 64% less likely to fail and 35% more likely to last at least 15 years^{iv}.

ⁱ UNHCR, 11 April 2019 <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/syria>

ⁱⁱ UN Women, "Unpacking gendered realities in displacement: the status of Syrian refugee women in Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq" <http://www2.unwomen.org/media/field%20office%20arab%20states/attachments/publications/2018/refugeecrisis-all-brief-final-links.pdf?la=en&vs=2008>

ⁱⁱⁱ International Labour Organization (ILO), 2016, http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---arabstates/---ro-beirut/documents/publication/wcms_542454.pdf, page 14.

^{iv} UN Women, A Global Study on the implementation of UNSCR1325, <http://wps.unwomen.org/participation/>

The Programme

The two-year programme, "Strengthening the Resilience of Syrian Women and Girls and Host Communities in Iraq, Jordan and Turkey" aims to strengthen the resilience of women affected by the Syria crisis. It works through a multi-dimensional strategy that enables women's resilience and empowerment through addressing issues of economic vulnerability and violence. This is done by increasing access to recovery and livelihood opportunities, paired with comprehensive protection services and support to national justice structures to promote accountability for violence against women.

This programme also works to engage men as partners, champions and advocates for women's increased empowerment, including their engagement in the labour market. In Turkey, the programme additionally seeks to promote a culture of peace and coexistence through women's leadership in peacebuilding, reconciliation, conflict prevention and rights protection.

This programme seeks to achieve the following outcomes:

- (i) Outcome 1: Women (refugee, displaced and host country nationals) contribute to, and benefit from, economic growth in ways that build their resilience and make it possible for them to attain more equitable relationships, free from violence.
- (ii) Outcome 2: Women and girls are engaged in promoting social cohesion and co-existence in their communities.



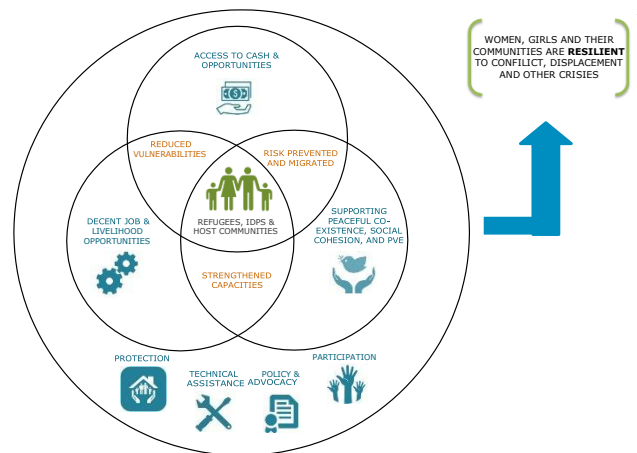
Photo: UN Women/Christopher Herwig

Valuing, utilizing and resourcing women's engagement are an incredible tool for positive change and lasting peace.

How do we make a difference

- Support refugee and local community women and girls through productive and financial assets and skills, facilitating graduation from short-term interventions to longer-term employment opportunities;
- Work with governments, the private sector and national partners to advocate for compliance with decent labour standards in the employment opportunities provided to women (local community nationals and refugees);
- Enable women's increased access to comprehensive essential services for preventing and responding to gender based violence;
- Support national governments to hold perpetrators to account for violence against women; and,
- Work with women's organizations to promote stability and peaceful co-existence and social cohesion.

GENDER RESPONSIVE RESILIENCE-BASED



What do we aim to achieve

Reaching approximately 62,400 women, girls, men, and boys (21,500 directly and 41,000 Indirectly), the programme will specifically result in the following:

1. 4,850 women (displaced, refugee and host country nationals) will be engaged in long – term employment opportunities through the productive and financial assets and skills. 1,660 men are engaged as partners in social equality and economic growth;
2. Employment opportunities generated for women are monitored for compliance with decent labour standards. Ten partners are engaged to advocate for decent work standards;
3. 17,000 women have increased access to comprehensive essential services for preventing and responding to GBV;
4. Host governments are supported to hold perpetrators to account for violence against women through support to 90 justice professionals in the national justice structures;
5. In Turkey, ten women organisations are supported to promote stability and peaceful co-existence in their communities through dialogue and peacebuilding initiatives.