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United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women



**Programme
Brief:**

**Women's Leadership, Empowerment, Access and Protection (LEAP) –
Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Regional Component (in partnership with the
Arab Women Organization and the League of Arab States)**

Geographical Coverage:	Iraq, Jordan and Regional Office for Arab States
Collaborating Partners:	National governments, national women's organizations, UN agencies, international non-governmental organizations.
Funding Partner	Government of Japan
Executing Agency:	UN Women
Duration:	April 2020 – March 2021

What is at stake?

With the conflict in Syria entering its ninth year, it continues to impose devastating effects on the Syrian people. The conflict has killed hundreds of thousands of people and caused the largest refugee displacement crisis since World War II, with 5.67 million¹ refugees residing in neighboring countries of Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey in addition to Egypt, and 6.6 million² internally displaced inside Syria. Host governments have absorbed displaced populations at an extraordinary rate, placing significant pressures on host communities, national infrastructure and social services, which in turn has contributed in some instances to internal instability (Iraq and Lebanon).

Women and girls across the Arab region continue to bear a disproportionate toll from these conflicts; not due to innate vulnerabilities, but due to the historical and structural marginalization stemming from gender-based discrimination. This discrimination limits their access to employment and to public space and increases isolation and the risk to gender-

based violence. It also manifests itself through a growing number of female-headed households, who are one of the most vulnerable groups to food insecurity across the region.

The situation for refugees in hosting countries remains precarious and challenging despite the generous support of host governments, their communities and the international community. Across the region, female-headed households are finding themselves increasingly vulnerable to food insecurity and exploitation, with greater levels of vulnerability than those households headed by men³. UN Women data speaks to women's life in displacement being characterized by economic insecurity, limited employment opportunities – despite a desire to work. There exist many challenges in accessing aid, acute isolation, increasing levels of violence against women, and changing gender dynamics both in the private and public spheres.

¹ UNHCR's Syria Regional Refugee Response Portal: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/syria> (As of December 2019)

² UNHCR webpage, Syria Emergency: <https://www.unhcr.org/syria-emergency.html>

³ UN Women, 2018, Unpacking Gendered Realities in Displacement - Syrian Refugees (Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq); UN, March 2019: <http://arabstates.unwomen.org/en/digital->

The Programme:

The one-year programme, “**Women’s Leadership, Empowerment, Access and Protection (LEAP) – Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Regional Component (in partnership with the Arab Women Organization and the League of Arab States)**” aims to provide essential services to women affected by conflict. 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.

To increase the scope and impact of the project, it will be complemented by funds provided through the European Union Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syria Crisis (MADAD). This programme also works to engage men as partners, champions and advocates for women’s increased empowerment, including their engagement in the labor market. 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:

- 1) **Outcome 1:** Policies, plans and aid assistance developed and mobilized in response to the Syria crisis have defined targets, financing and implementation arrangements that are gender-responsive and promote accountability for performance on women’s rights and gender equality.
- 2) **Outcome 2:** 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.



How UN Women makes a difference?

- Support refugee and local community women and girls by offering gender-responsive and resilience-based activities 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 labor 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.
- Work with women’s organizations to promote stability and peaceful co-existence and social cohesion.

What do we aim to achieve?

- The project aims to reach more than 3,800 women and girls directly across Egypt (530), Iraq (2,120) and Jordan (1,150) with humanitarian services, indirectly impacting 19,000 immediate household members.
- Engage 500 women (displaced, refugee and host country nationals) in long-term employment opportunities through the productive and financial assets and skills; 1,500 men will be engaged as partners in social equality and economic growth.
- Employment opportunities generated for women will be monitored for compliance with decent labor standards through monitoring reports and advocacy campaigns.
- 3000 women will have increased access to comprehensive essential services for addressing GBV.
- 300 women will have access to leadership and civic engagement services through the Oasis centers in Jordan.
- Host governments will be supported to hold perpetrators to account for VAW, through support to justice professionals in national justice chains.
- Women’s organizations will be supported to promote, stability and peaceful co-existence in their communities through dialogue and peacebuilding initiatives.
- To enhance stability, two national organizations in Iraq will be supported and engaged to roll out work on social cohesion in camps and host communities, increasing trust between individuals and communities
- Conduct three gender assessments across the Arab States region to ensure that Syria response actors are building their programmes around a sound gender analysis in Iraq, Jordan and the region.

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