



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), Government of Japan
 Collaborating Partners: National governments, national women's organizations, UN agencies, international non-governmental organizations
 Duration: February 2018 - January 2020

What is at stake

The conflict in Syria has entered its eighth year, with devastating consequences. Inside Syria over 13.1 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance. Outside Syria, 5.6 million registered refugees remain displaced from their homes, across Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. Of these, women and girls constitute 47.5 percent¹. While the Syrian refugee population has to deal with loss of lives, extreme poverty and unprecedented forced migration, the crisis has also adversely impacted the development gains in the sub-region, where neighbouring countries such as Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey struggle to extend their social service structures to their expanding populations. Compounding this, instability in Iraq continues to challenge the socio-economic situation of the country.

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 – both in Syria and outside. 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.

Since 2015, there has been a shift towards resilience focused interventions, articulated through the Regional Refugee and Response Plans (3RP). Within the overall response, the space for women's proactive and meaningful participation has not been utilized to adequate scope and scale. This is despite the fact that women's empowerment and gender equality has the power to bolster recovery and peace. For example, in Jordan, the UN estimates that if employment occupations were reshuffled between women and men to ensure more equal distribution, the gross domestic product would increase by 5%, the equivalent of almost USD 2 billion per year². Moreover, women's participation in peace-making makes peace more likely to be reached, and 35% more likely to hold for at least 15 years³.

1 UNHCR, 30 April 2018, <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/syria>

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

3 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.



Photo: UN Women/Christopher Herwig

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:

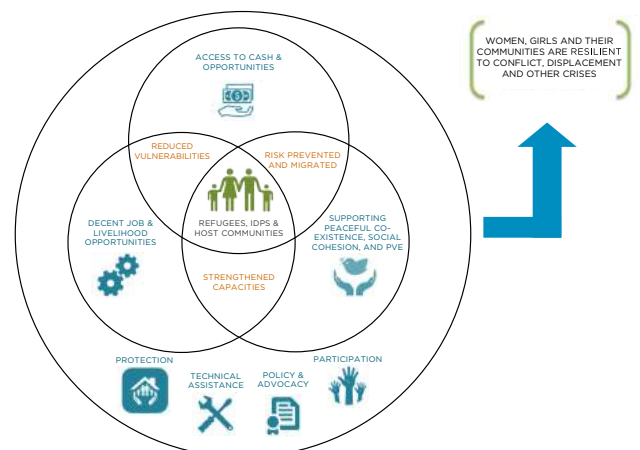
- (i) Outcome 1: Women (refugee, displaced and host country nationals) contribute to, and benefit from, economic growth in ways that build their resilience and make it possible for them to attain more equitable relationships, free from violence.
- (ii) Outcome 2: Women and girls are engaged in promoting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

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 60,912 women, girls, men, and boys - 20,640 directly and 40,272 indirectly, the programme will specifically result in the following:

- 5,469 women (displaced, refugee and host country nationals) will be engaged 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 labour standards through monitoring reports and advocacy campaigns;
- 16,500 women will have increased access to comprehensive essential services for addressing GBV;
- 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.