



# UNDP IN JORDAN: BOOSTING RESILIENCE IN A TIME OF STRAIN



50  
YEARS

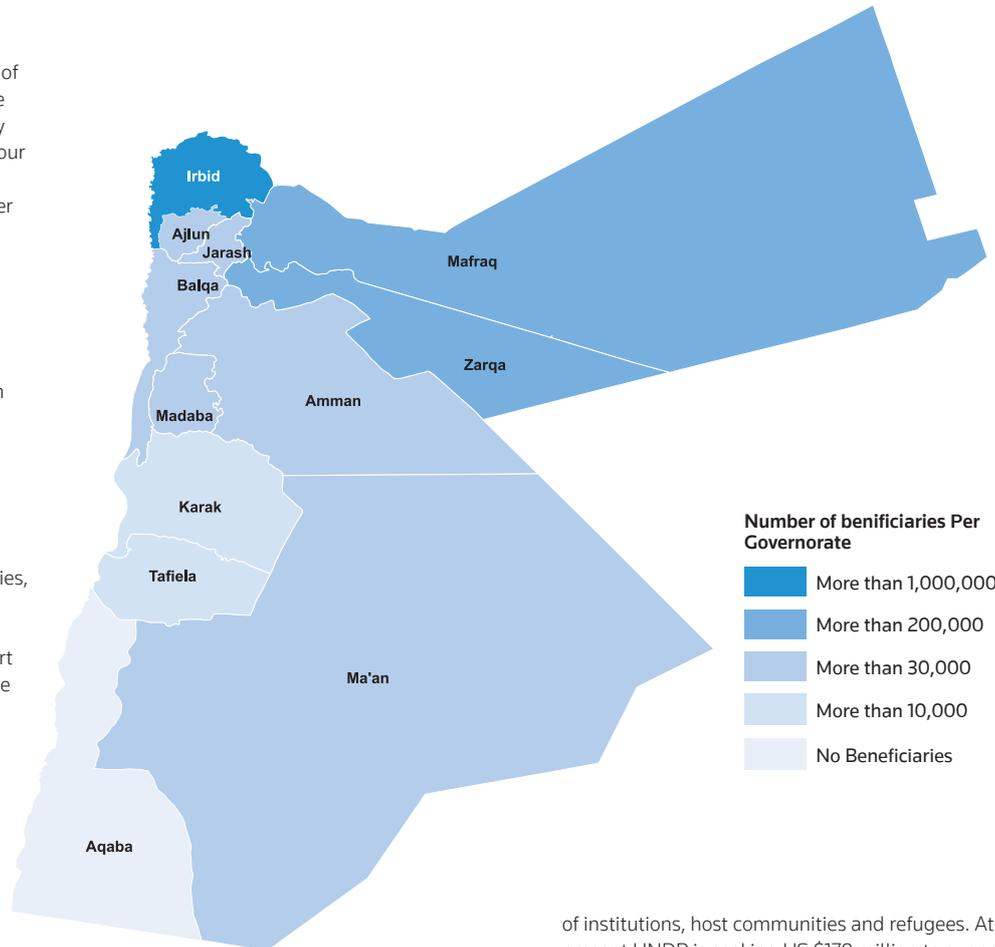
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**UNDP has made** supporting the national efforts of the Government of Jordan to manage the refugee crisis a priority since the onset of the crisis in early 2011, which has seen nearly 650,000 refugees pour into the country, mostly living outside of camps and spread across all of Jordan including in poorer Governorates and communities.

UNDP has provided both policy and operational support. At the policy level UNDP has supported the Government in building its capacity in aid coordination resulting in the creation and monitoring of the Jordan National Response Plan (JRP) 2015-2016 and the 2016-2018 Response.

The great majority of UNDP's support comes at the operational level by assisting Governorates and municipalities to expand access to currently over-stretched social services, and to increase livelihood opportunities for vulnerable communities, in particular through the Mitigating the Impact of the Syrian Refugee Crisis on Vulnerable Host Communities project. UNDP also provides support for enhancing relations between local and refugee populations and boosting access to justice in order to foster social cohesion.

Thus far the work of UNDP Jordan in response to the Syria crisis has supported 11 of Jordan's 12 Governorates, and 45 municipalities, reaching approximately 2.4 million people directly, mostly local but also including some 300,000 refugees from Syria. This support for resilience is tightly integrated into UNDP's overall work in the country, which since 2013 has focused on institutional reform, social protection and services, youth empowerment and environmental sustainability.



In close partnership with the Government, UNDP is committed over the foreseeable future to assist Jordan and its host communities to find more sustainable solutions that strengthen the resilience

of institutions, host communities and refugees. At present UNDP is seeking US \$178 million to support the Government of Jordan on key areas within the Jordan Response Plan 2016–2018, including \$88 million for the Vulnerable Host Communities Project for 2016, \$31.5 million of which has been raised.

## JORDAN KEY RESULTS TO DATE (2014-2015)

**LIVELIHOODS AND JOB CREATION**

21,800  
local beneficiaries

**MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND BASIC SERVICES**

2.4 MILLION  
beneficiaries (2.1 million local, 315,000 Syrian)

**COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND SOCIAL COHESION**

1.04 MILLION  
beneficiaries (931,000 local, 109,866 Syrian)

## LOOKING AHEAD: 2016 FUNDING AND PROGRAMME PRIORITIES FOR MITIGATING IMPACT OF SYRIA CRISIS IN JORDAN

US\$ 56.2 million is urgently needed to scale-up UNDP Jordan's work in support of livelihoods and resilience for vulnerable host communities in 2016, with a view to expanding work in municipal services, livelihoods, legal aid, community security and social cohesion, social protection, and countering violent extremism, reaching more of the most vulnerable and deepening support for those already engaged.

# BUILDING RESILIENCE IN JORDAN BY CREATING JOBS



50 YEARS

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“Despite the difficult situation in already-vulnerable communities bordering Syria, UNDP’s work in countries such as Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq is providing lasting opportunities for young people affected by the spillover of the conflict”



**Yahia Yousef al-Deques** looks to the future with confidence. Through support from a UNDP project, and in partnership with the Jordan Career Education Foundatoin, Yahia completed on-the-job training with electronics company LG. , completed a month of on-the-job training with electronics company LG. He and other graduates of the programme were then offered placements with large manufacturers such as LG and Petra.

“I benefited from the programme,” says Yahia. “I learned lots of things. It has really helped me. Now I am a qualified technician in heating, ventilation and air conditioning. I am happy.”

Yahia as not always so optimistic, however. Coming from a large family with 5 brothers and sisters, he left school aged sixteen to find work. Unemployment is a major challenge in Jordan, particularly for young people. Overall, the unemployment rate is around 13 percent, with more than 65 percent of those without jobs under the age of forty.

The problem of youth unemployment is hugely exacerbated by the ongoing influx of refugees from Syria. Numbering nearly 650,000 in Jordan alone, most settle in the country’s poorest areas, such as the Balqa region, where Yahia and his family are from.

After working intermittently in supermarkets and then as an electrician, Yahia came across an advertisement for the UNDP supported vocational training scheme. He successfully completed two interviews, and began the training with engineers from the Asala Foundation, under JCEF’s supervision. In addition to technical education, participants undertake supplementary courses on topics such as succeeding at work, building self-confidence and effective time-management.

UNDP Jordan Country Director Zena Ali Ahmad says the strength of programmes such as this lies in the combination of vocational and life-skills coaching. This dual approach, which she calls “closing the circle”, means that young Jordanians are offered continued support through the programme and as they look for jobs. “Once they graduate, they will be able to find employment,” she adds. “We are not only training young Jordanians, we are securing job placements, since training is demand-driven.”

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opportunities for young people affected by the spillover of the conflict.

Being one of the top students at the practical job training; Yahia was one of few students who were given a contract to work on a permanent job with LG, where he has put his new skills to good use - to end up with a promising technical career.

“I was so happy then, I have applied all of my technical & soft skills in to my new job, my supervisors were happy of my performance.. I always owe that to the vocational training I got the chance to have.”

Since then he moved on to a pharmaceutical company, noting the skills he learned in the programme and at the electronics firm have been highly transferable.

## Funding of Vulnerable Host Communities Project

**Budget for 2016:**  
\$87.7 million

**Funds Raised:**  
\$31.5 million

**Budget Gap:**  
\$56.2 million



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