



International Conference on
Social Protection
in contexts of **Fragility & Forced Displacement**

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JORDAN

"Now I have no future, but must secure a good future for my children..."

Syrian refugee father



TESTIMONIES

"Before the war, my situation back in Syria was very good. Now I have no future, but must secure a good future for my children. That's my priority. Last year two of my children were out of school, but when I started receiving the UNICEF cash assistance I was able to enroll them in school again."

Syrian refugee father, UNICEF child cash grant



"We try to integrate Jordanian and Syrian students. That is the main goal. In the beginning it was impossible for them to accept each other, but now they play together..."

Teacher, UNICEF Makani (My Space)



BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Jordan has the second-largest ratio of refugees to citizens in any country in the world and the fifth-largest refugee population in absolute terms. According to the inter-agency Vulnerability Assessment Framework (VAF) for 2015, 86% of Syrian refugees are living below Jordan's poverty line, and Jordanians living below or near the poverty line face heightened vulnerability due to the Syria crisis.

Despite recent challenges, Jordan maintains a relatively high social expenditure. Of the total recurrent expenditure, 13% was allocated to education (3.7% of GDP) and 11% to health (3.2% of GDP), comparable to other upper-middle income countries. Social protection expenditure (excluding pensions, compensation and subsidies) represented 3.3% of recurrent expenditure (0.97% of GDP).

Jordan's social protection programs range from subsidies to cash transfer schemes, tax exemptions and social services. The system faces challenges of fragmentation, limited resources and gaps in coverage. Existing programs lack the human resources for monitoring or case management of beneficiaries, and coordination between the national system and humanitarian assistance programs is not robust. Government of Jordan is developing National Social Protection and Poverty Reduction Strategy (2018-2025).

The Jordan Response Plan (JRP) 2017-2019 is the primary national strategy document for humanitarian responses, covering more than 200 partners. The Jordan Compact of February 2016 aims to attract new investments and create jobs for Jordanian and Syrian refugees, strengthening the resilience of host communities through adequate financing of JRP and other arrangements. As part of this compact, Jordan would receive £1.6 billion in foreign assistance and investment in exchange for offering up to 200,000 work permits to Syrians (48,026 already awarded as of May 2017).

PROMISING PRACTICES

CHILD CASH GRANT:

UNICEF provided unconditional child cash grants to the most vulnerable families with children under age 18, reaching some 57,500 children from 15,500 households with monthly grants of JOD20 (approx. US\$28) per child, up to 4 children). Together with the National Aid Fund (NAF), the Ministry of Social Development, and the Ministry of Education, UNICEF redesigned its integrated Child Cash Grant to enhance educational access of 100,000 vulnerable children. The grants aim to increase enrolment and retention through cash assistance, a case management system, referral pathways, behavior change, communication, and monitoring enrolment and attendance.

MAKANI (MY SPACE):

UNICEF and the government are expanding the flagship *Makani* (My Space) platform for all vulnerable children, irrespective of nationality or immigration status, to access a minimum package of integrated social protection services. These services are available through more than 200 *Makani* centres around the country and include life skills, psychosocial, learning support services, WASH services, outreach and referral for vulnerable children and young people.

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING:

With UNICEF's support, the government has been strengthening the national social protection system for the most disadvantaged children. Funded by the EU's Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis (the "Madad Fund"), the NAF-UNICEF program aims to strengthen NAF's monitoring and evaluation systems; enhance NAF's staff capacities; review the cash assistance targeting system and its impacts; and update the ICT system for paying transfers.



UNHCR MULTI-PURPOSE CASH TRANSFER:

First launched for Iraqi refugees in 2008 and expanded to Syrian refugees in 2012, the UNHCR cash transfer currently provides about 32,000 households with 130 JOD a month (on average), depending on household size and vulnerability level.

WFP FOOD VOUCHERS:

These electronic vouchers are for purchasing food in certain shops. The value is based on the cost of a food basket providing approximately 2,100 kcals/person/day. Some 25,000 households in refugee camps and 120,000 households in host communities (a total of around 430,000 individuals) receive monthly vouchers of JOD10 to JOD20 per person, depending on level of vulnerability.

MAIN CHALLENGE(S) AHEAD AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION

- The comparatively high baseline level of investment by the Jordanian government in social services demonstrates a commitment to strengthening social welfare outcomes;
- The number and scale of existing humanitarian social protection programs presents an opportunity to strengthen Jordan's national social protection system;
- Specifically, there is an opportunity to harmonize administrative and operational systems currently in use across the humanitarian and national social protection programs;
- Despite unprecedented support from the international community, Jordan faces pressure on its social services, and donor funding is largely crisis-based, which limits the ability to deliver across the humanitarian-development continuum;
- Cash transfers are critical to the survival and stabilization of the most vulnerable Syrian refugees;
- There is an urgent need for US\$30 million to support vulnerable families to overcome demand-side barriers to accessing education in Jordan.

USEFUL RESOURCES

[UNICEF Child Cash Grant Program, Post Distribution Monitoring Report March 2016](#)

[UNICEF Child Cash Grant Program, Post Distribution Monitoring Data Viz 2015-2016](#)