

Creating an economically sustainable future for young Syrian refugees

Application for Hesse Ragle Foundation, October 2021



Creating an economically sustainable future for young Syrian refugees in Jordan

CARE Denmark strives to enhance empowerment of young Syrian refugees and other conflict-affected youth in Jordan by improving their livelihoods and self-reliance. Support from the Hesse Ragle Foundation will provide needed additional resources for this work and help ensure a brighter future for conflict-affected youth in Jordan. The overall project is carried out in collaboration with CARE Jordan and provides financial and technical support to improve the young people's educational level, entrepreneurship opportunities and economic participation. In addition, the project strives to improve the surrounding environment by facilitating awareness raising sessions on gender rights to enable the success of refugee and host community youth, particularly females. Support from the Hesse Ragle Foundation will contribute to the work focused on creating an economically sustainable future for young Syrian refugees. They will get the needed support for obtaining work permits in Jordan as well as training in required skills to partake in the Jordanian labour market - hereby contributing to sustainable, economic empowerment and enhanced opportunities for young Syrian refugees.



Context of the project

The prolonged Syrian crisis has created a range of socio-economic challenges for neighbouring Jordan. The Government of Jordan estimates that there are currently 1.36 million Syrians refugees in Jordan.

Over the past years the Jordanian economy has worsened, and the country has seen rising inflation, sluggish economic growth and deteriorating labour market conditions. The current unemployment rate is at 18.7% overall, while for women (26.8 %) and youth (35 %) it is significantly higher. Recent estimates from the Jordan Department of Statistics suggest a poverty rate of 15.7% in 2018.

The Syrian refugees in Jordan have very limited access to the formal labour market. This has forced refugees and asylum seekers to accept unskilled work in the informal sector with wages well below the generally accepted minimum, which has in turn negatively affected the access to unskilled jobs for Jordanians.

On top of this COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the pre-existing challenges across all communities. A rapid assessment CARE conducted among home-based businesses (HBB) owners found that 82% were impacted significantly by the COVID-19 pandemic, with 21% having to close their workplace. Very few income-generating opportunities exist for refugees in camps, and camp residents depend primarily on the support provided by organizations.



Project Scope

CARE Denmark is currently involved in a three-year project with CARE Jordan empowering young Syrian refugees and Jordanian youth through strengthening their economic participation and education. At the same time, the project strives to improve the surrounding environment to enable the success of refugee and host community youth, particularly females by including the youth and their families in awareness raising sessions on gender rights. By giving both financial and technical support, the project provides a comprehensive package that will build the capacity of young refugees to start up and run their own micro, small or home-based business, thus both creating a livelihood for themselves and help create jobs for others in the community.

Throughout the project the target group will be actively involved in determining the relevant activities. The program is implemented in close collaboration with key community leaders, local CSOs and the Jordanian Ministry of Education.

Project objective, outcomes and activities of the main project

Overall goal

Enhanced social and economic empowerment and self-reliance of young Syrian refugees and other conflict-affected youth in Jordan.

The overall goal is reached through four outcome areas briefly outlined below with related activities:

Outcome 1

Young refugees and Jordanians have been provided relevant financial and technical support to start up their own businesses.

Outcome 2

Young refugees and Jordanians have increased their skills and their access to the labour market.

Outcome 3

Vulnerable young refugees and Jordanians have enhanced access to education.

Outcome 4

Young refugee and Jordanian women have been supported to break traditional cultural norms around women's participation in economic activity.

Key activities

- Provide business grants to 105 entrepreneurs.
- Provide specialized technical training on small business management and development for the grantees for 90 people
- Entrepreneurship training for 300 secondary school students about to enter the job market
- Support 600 Syrian refugees to obtain work permits
- Conditional cash grant to support staying in school for 300 students for three years
- Awareness raising session on gender rights for families of female and male entrepreneurs

How much can DKK 50.000 contribute?

The contribution from the Hesse-Ragle Foundation will contribute to the work focused on creating an economically sustainable future for young Syrian refugees in Jordan. Many young refugees, especially women, are in need of both financial and technical assistance in order to obtain a work permit and acquire relevant skills for entering the Jordanian labour market. This will help them enter the formal job market and attain wages in line with the accepted minimum thus improving their livelihoods and self-reliance. The following is an indication of the direct impact which DKK 50.000 can make for 100 young Syrian refugees:

Description	Value in DKK
100 work permits (DKK 440) for Syrian refugees	44.000
Workshop: Introduction to and preparatory skills training for entering the Jordanian labour market	6.000