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Job creation for Syrian Refugees and Jordanian Host Communities through Green Works in Agriculture and Forestry (2017-2019)

According to the latest census, around 1.3 million of Syrians are residing in Jordan, 637,000 of whom are refugees registered with UNHCR. The registered Syrian refugee population in Jordan is equivalent to about 10% of the total population.

A 2015 ILO labour market study showed that 50% of Jordanians and 99% of Syrians are working in the informal economy, and thus, outside of the scope of any form of governance. This has a negative impact on the quality of the jobs provided such as sub-standard wages, poor working conditions and exploitative practices, including child labour. At the same time, competition for jobs is leading to increasing social tensions.

The ILO is supporting the Ministry of Labour (MoL) chairing the food security and livelihoods task force, which is addressing labour market challenges, such as high unemployment particularly among women and youth, increasing informalisation, and child labour. In particular, this project is promoting better living conditions for Syrian refugees and Jordanians as a result of increased agricultural employment and decent working conditions.

The ILO is supporting systemic changes in policy and practice that, among other objectives, enables job creation, protects rights at work, ensures social protection, all the while emphasizing gender equality. The ILO is also securing decent livelihoods for both Syrian refugees and vulnerable Jordanians in the short term through an [Employment Intensive Investment Programme](#) in the Governorates of Mafraq and Irbid, with the support of the German Development Bank (KfW). This programme is focused on using employment intensive methods in agriculture and forestry sector. Building on previous work in those two Governorates to support local economic development, the programme links decent work with asset creation and maintenance in the communities.



Achievements:

The project successfully introduced and **demonstrated the effectiveness of local resource-based approaches and local participation** in planning, utilization of locally available skills, appropriate technology, materials and work methods, for infrastructure and agricultural works.

Through its activities in soil terracing, cistern construction, installation of irrigation systems, forestry works, building greenhouses, producing seedlings and strengthening the skills, abilities and processes within the Ministry of Agriculture, the project **created short-term employment in the agriculture, forestry and nurseries sector**, enhancing living conditions for Syrian refugees and Jordanians through increased decent work and an improved environment.

Other achievements include:

- **52,850** workdays generated for **2,165** Syrian refugees and Jordanians.
- **157** hectares of forest lands with drip irrigation systems.
- **120** cisterns constructed at local farms as a rain water harvesting measure.
- **2** greenhouses constructed.
- **335,000** fruit tree seedling production (germination and growth of young plant from a seed)



Learn more at the [project website](#).