

ILO Syria crisis response strategy

Update January 2017



© ILO Saif al Sardi

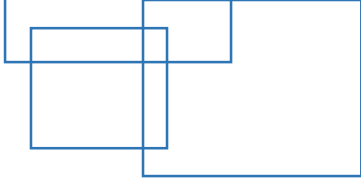
Within the framework of the Regional Refugee Response and Resilience Plan (3RP), the ILO has adopted a development-focused and employment-driven strategy to support host communities and refugees. The ILO strategy builds on its core mandate to promote employment, social dialogue, social protection and rights at work through three key pillars:

1. Contributing to building the resilience of host communities and refugees by enhancing access to **employment opportunities and livelihoods**;
2. Strengthening institutional capacities and coordination to **eliminate child labour** and;
3. Supporting evidence-based **policy development** to ensure an employment-rich national response, embedded in the principles of decent work.

The strategy is firmly anchored within the broader institutional refugee response policy framework outlined in the ILO's 2016 *Guiding Principles on the Access of Refugees and other Forcibly Displaced Persons to the Labour Market*.

ILO has allocated so far US\$ 40 million in response to the crisis, combining its own resources and project funding from partners. Under the 3RP, the ILO is seeking additional funding of US\$ 37.7 million for 2017-18 to deliver on: i) Livelihoods, Jobs and Skills, ii) Child Labour, and iii) Labour Market Governance.





In delivering its support, the ILO is focused on:

- ♦ **Promoting access of refugees to employment and labour markets** and collective representation. To this end, the ILO has been in regular dialogue with national policy makers, trade unions and employers' organisations as well as development partners on how to provide access to work for Syrian refugees. In doing so, the ILO ensures to promote a win-win situation that yields social and economic dividends for the host economies as well.
- ♦ **Creating immediate jobs and improving economically critical infrastructure through Employment Intensive Investment Programmes (EIIP).** These programmes promote local resource-based technologies optimising the use of labour and local procurement, thus increasing indirect and induced job creation while improving Decent Work standards for workers.
- ♦ **Improving access to and capacities to deliver market-based Vocational and Technical Education and Training (TVET) for refugees and host communities.** The ILO supports national formal TVET as well as non-formal vocational training providers as part of the crisis response to ensure improved quality of skills development targeted to the needs of the market. The ILO leverages experience and expertise in vocational education and accreditation frameworks that support the labour mobility of refugee and national workers.
- ♦ **Investing in capacity and ownership of local actors in the identification and implementation of local economic development,** including value chain development and income generation projects in crisis affected areas, which benefit both host communities and the refugees.
- ♦ **Enhancing employment services, and supporting business development and livelihoods projects,** which leads to tangible short-term employment opportunities with longer-term prospects.
- ♦ **Improving the regulatory framework for Syrian workers** in the labour market through innovative approaches that allow for refugees to access work permits, introducing job placement mechanisms, and promoting measures preventing unacceptable working conditions (in terms of wages, occupational safety and health, etc.)
- ♦ **Promoting better linkages between national and humanitarian responses to Syrian child labour** by ensuring stronger coherence and more effective coordination with the National Frameworks and Plans to combat child labour, especially in its worst forms.



© ILO Ala'a al Sukhni

Results in Jordan

Local economic development in Irbid and Mafraq

Gender-sensitive participatory value chain analysis in agribusiness (tomatoes and olives) led to work with local agricultural cooperatives. The findings of the value chain analysis coupled with broad consultations with local stakeholders informed the development of two local economic development plans in Mafraq and Irbid. These plans are being used for planning and resource mobilization at the governorate level. Demonstration projects were run for employment intensive programmes for maintenance and rehabilitation of roads as well as for improvement of farmers' lands. These are now being scaled up with a broader public works programme.

Intensive evidence-based research and policy dialogue fostered by the ILO on the right to work for Syrian refugees has contributed to the commitment of the Jordanian government to ease Syrian access to the labour market, as reflected in the Jordan Compact presented at the February 2016 "Supporting Syria and the Region" Conference in London.

Work permits for refugees

The Ministry of Labour, in consultation with the ILO, introduced a new model that includes de-linking work permit applications from specific employers in the agricultural sector, and allowing cooperatives to apply for Syrian refugee work permits. By mid-January 2017, the number of **work permits issued to Syrian refugees** increased to almost **37,000** – compared to 3,800 before the grace period was announced in April 2016.

The ILO is now also collaborating with the National Employment and Training Company to provide testing and certification for Syrian and Jordanian workers in the construction sector, with the aim of improving employability of these groups in occupations that are subject to licensing.



© ILO Nisreen Bathish

Compliance to decent work principles in the export sector – under the new EU-Jordan trade agreement.

As part of the Jordan-EU trade agreement, the ILO will build on its existing Better Work programme in the Garment Sector to provide third-party monitoring services for a compliance programme for the factories exporting under the EU trade agreement.

ILO projects in Jordan

Partner	Title	Duration	Budget USD
ILO voluntary core funds	Promoting a Decent Work approach for Refugees and Host Communities	Jan 14- Dec 16	1,804,104
Canada	Pilot Project for the Elimination of Child Labour among Refugees and Host Communities in Jordan	Mar 16 - July 17	251,000
Sweden	Supporting a National Employment Strategy that works for Young Syrian Refugees in Jordan (SIDA III)	May 16 - Dec 17	260,139
Germany	Employment intensive programmes for Jordanians and Syrian refugees	July 16 - Sep 17	10,857,245
United Kingdom	Supporting the strategic objectives of the London conference	Sep 16 - Mar 17	1,418,733
Norway	Creating job opportunities for Jordanians and Syrians in host communities through green work in agriculture and forestry	Dec 16 - Nov 17	1,771,324
Netherlands	Decent work for Jordanians and Syrians in the manufacturing sector	TBC	5,000,000
European Union	EU-ILO Collaboration in the monitoring of labour aspects in the implementation of the EU's rules of origin initiative for Jordan	TBC	950,000

Results in Lebanon

Value Chain Development in agriculture based on Making Markets Work for the Poor (M4P) approach.

Linking into the Aid for Trade agenda, the implementation of value chain development was highly participatory, promoting a resilience-based approach. One example of an intervention is the demo-plots established in order to demonstrate how farmers in the Akkar region in northern Lebanon can produce different varieties of potatoes that are suitable for other markets and produce high quality crops in accordance with Global Good Agriculture Practices (GlobalGAP) standards. The crops were tested by the Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute (LARI), which forms part of the Ministry of Agriculture, and were found to fulfil EU requirements.



© ILO Annabella Skof

These initiatives led to improved production practices and productivity for **67 farmers**, and built the capacities of **200 farmers** and the staff of **six supporting organisations**. The ILO is supporting the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture in North Lebanon to take an active role in accessing new markets. To date, the potato value chain development is the only active initiative in support of strengthening Lebanon's access to the EU market.

Vocational training in agriculture enhanced to address youth unemployment.

As part of improving access to employment opportunities and livelihoods, the ILO worked with the Ministry of Agriculture in delivering adapted vocational training in agriculture for youth, including better on-the-job-training opportunities.

Risk reduction in child labour

Concrete measures to end child labour and direct rehabilitation services were supported for children involved or at risk of being involved in the **worst forms of child labour**. This also involved supporting evidence-based research, fostering policy dialogue, building institutional capacity, and promoting awareness-raising activities to support effective implementation of ILO conventions on child labour. Furthermore, ILO work also included workshops targeting farmers and workers in the leafy greens and potato sectors to raise awareness on the impact of child labour on children's well-being and preventive actions to reduce child labour in agriculture.

ILO projects in Lebanon

Partner	Title	Duration	Budget USD
ILO voluntary core funds	Enabling Job resilience and protecting DW conditions in rural communities affected by Syrian Refugee Crisis in Northern Lebanon	Jan14-Mar17	1,412,054
Italy	Improved access to employment opportunities for Lebanese host communities and Syrian refugees (2 phases)	Feb 15 – Jan 18	980,000
Denmark	Tackling child labour among Syrian refugees and their host communities in Jordan and Lebanon	Jul 15 to Mar 17	342,414
Norway	Combating the Worst Forms of Child Labour among Syrian Refugees and Host Communities in Lebanon	Oct 16 – Sep 17	715,733
Germany	Creating Decent Work Opportunities for Syrian Refugees and Host Communities Through Infrastructure Improvement in Lebanon	Jan 17 – Feb 18	12,680,467
UNICEF	Towards improved formal and non-formal TVET	Jan 17 – Oct 17	477,868
FAO	Upgrading the technical agriculture education system	Jan 17 – Jan 18	515,593

Results in Turkey

Vocational Training and Employability

The ILO delivered vocational, technical, skills development, and entrepreneurship trainings to Syrian refugees and local communities to improve the employability of both. In 2016, a total of **1,487 Syrian refugees and Turkish citizens** benefitted from the courses on welding, Turkish language, Computer Numerical Control programming, plastic pipe installation, hairdressing and skin care, patient admission services, woodworking, and CISCO Network Systems, with certificates approved by the Ministry of National Education.

Labour market access

The ILO supports the integration of Syrian refugees and host communities into the labour market, by providing assistance for the implementation of the **“Regulation on Work Permits of Foreigners under Temporary Protection”** of 15 January 2016 and the new **“International Labour Force Law”** of 13 August 2016. In doing so it supports an employment-rich response and protects vulnerable Syrian refugee population categories, such as children and women.

In order to build the knowledge-base for future programming, the ILO carried out:

- ◆ field research on employers' outlook for the employment of Syrians;
- ◆ situation analysis for Syrian children working on the streets;
- ◆ need-assessments for institutional capacity development at the central and local level, that was followed by the necessary trainings.

Seminars for Syrian workers and local employers on the work permit legislation were organized at national, regional and provincial level in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Security. Seminars were also conducted with **local media representatives** in order to increase awareness and promote the use of a positive and non-discriminatory language.

ILO projects in Turkey

Partner	Title	Duration	Budget USD
ILO voluntary core funds	Promoting Decent Work Opportunities for Syrian Refugees and Host Communities in Turkey	May 15 to Jan 18	1,015,000
USA	Improving livelihoods and decent work opportunities for Syrian refugees and host communities	Sep 15 – Sep 16	500,000
USA	Improving Labour Market Integration of Syrian Refugees and Host Communities in Turkey	Sep 16 – Sep 17	2,500,000

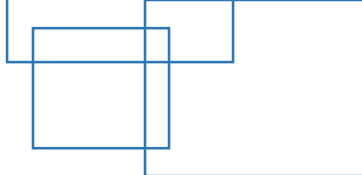


© ILO Erku Ertürk

The ILO collaborates with the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, the Directorate-General for Migration Management of the Ministry of Interior, the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of National Education, the South Eastern Anatolia Regional Development Administration, social partners, business networks, local governments, training institutions, NGOs and other UN agencies.

Going forward, the ILO will focus on immediate steps to support the creation of decent work opportunities through activities aimed at strengthening the labour market supply, as well as stimulating labour market demand through local economic and business development. The engagement of the private sector in areas with high density of Syrian refugees will be of paramount importance.

These interventions will support the development and training of a more skilled, competent, active and productive labour force that can meet the needs and expectations of employers in diverse economic sectors. They will facilitate labour market access of beneficiaries through employment opportunities with the Turkish Employment Agency (ISKUR) and Employment Intensive Investment Programmes (EIIP).



ILO's contribution to 3RP targets

Livelihoods and Social Cohesion

Indicator	2017 target	ILO Contribution (recently achieved and planned in 2017)
# of individuals employed or self-employed – including short-term (cash for work and seasonal labour) and long-term employment	65,700	Jordan: ♦ 9,000 individuals to be employed Lebanon: ♦ 6,000 individuals to be employed
# of individuals supported to access employment (training, internships, job placement and language courses)	218,000	Jordan: ♦ 37,726 work permits received in all sectors ♦ 2,400 received training and certificates in the construction sector ♦ 10,000 Syrian workers to obtain a work permit in the agriculture sector ♦ 7,000 Syrian refugees to obtain work permits in the construction sector ♦ 7,000 Jordanians and Syrian refugees will have the skills needed for the job opportunities to be created by the trade agreement between the EU and Jordan. Lebanon: ♦ 257 received vocational training ♦ 21,000 to benefit from improved vocational training and education. ♦ 25,000 work permits to be obtained. Turkey: ♦ 1,487 Syrian refugees and Turkish citizens benefited from vocational training and language courses. ♦ 10,360 (7,580 Syrian refugees and 2,780 Turkish citizens) to benefit from vocational, technical, skills development, and entrepreneurship training.
# of mixed groups supported in social cohesion initiatives (directly or indirectly)	119,300	Jordan: ♦ 44,820 Syrian refugees and Jordanians to benefit indirectly. Lebanon: ♦ 28,000 Syrian refugees and Lebanese to benefit indirectly. Turkey: ♦ 25,000 Syrian refugees and Turkish citizens to benefit indirectly.