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▶ **The role of cooperatives
and social and solidarity
organizations in forced
displacement contexts**

INTRODUCTION

- ▶ ILO response to the refugee crisis driven by **employment-rich interventions** focusing on the needs of refugees and host communities
- ▶ Many lessons learned, innovative models piloted, and a range of partnerships established to ***promote inclusive socio-economic growth and decent work***
- ▶ A key partner on this journey is cooperatives

ILO Recommendation 193

The ILO recognizes the important role cooperatives play in **helping create jobs, mobilizing resources, generating investment and promoting decent work while also improving living and working conditions of women and men**. They are critical in reaching workers, especially those in rural communities in times of crisis. However, cooperatives face challenges due to globalization.

ILO adopted **Recommendation 193 “Promotion of Cooperatives Recommendation”** in 2002, emphasizing role of governments in providing a supportive policy and legal frameworks to promote the potential of cooperatives.

R 193, has been **used by 110 countries** in national policy/law revision and contributed to a number of regional and sub-regional uniform model laws.

ILO's support to cooperatives aligned with findings of **“Mapping responses by cooperatives and social and solidarity economy organizations to forced displacement” (ILO, 2020)** which highlights the role of cooperatives in supporting displaced persons and host populations highlighting the importance considering cooperatives as development partners and the need to invest in their capacities.





IN JORDAN

- ▶ ILO partnered with the cooperative movement since 2016, building their capacities to advance livelihood opportunities for vulnerable workers especially in agricultural sector
- ▶ Cooperatives played a key role facilitating flexible work permits for Syrian refugee workers
- ▶ In collaboration with MoL, the ILO helped build capacities of cooperatives flexible work permit issuance and awareness raising on labour rights so they can sensitise workers on these issues.





Work Permits for Syrian refugees

MOL Report January 2020:

Flexible work permits in the agriculture sector under the umbrella of the cooperatives from Jan 1, 2016 to Jan 31, 2020

68,681 WP's (38% of the total work permits for Syrian refugees)

Period	Male	Female	Total no of WB
January 1, 2016 to January 31, 2020	170,938 (95.2%)	8,507 (4.8%)	179,445

IN JORDAN

- ▶ Within the framework of the PROSPECTS Programme, **6 career guidance and employment units** established in 6 cooperatives in Jordan
- ▶ Services provided to job-seekers and workers and employers in the agricultural sectors include: **career counselling, job-matching, work permit issuance and awareness raising on labor law, Occupation Safety and Health (OSH), mitigation of COVID-19 in the workplace**
- ▶ The units are timely considering the impacts of the pandemic on livelihood opportunities and income for the vulnerable populations





6 units established between 7.1.2020 until 9.30.2020



140
Farms
visited



2000
Jobs
secured



1620
Registere
d job
seekers
24% Syrian
36.5% Female



1300
Placed job
seekers
23% Syrian
34.9% Female

IN JORDAN

- ▶ Grants provided grants for joint business ventures between cooperatives and Syrian refugees, helping setting up thirty-eight business ventures. These include:
 - **18 in construction, 20 in agriculture** with seed funds (JOD3,000) provided to each to start-up their own business.
 - Number of vacancies provided for Jordanian and Syrian workers is **246 (173 M & 73 F)**
 - Winners trained on project management and entrepreneurship and provided with mentoring, coaching and follow up, the winners while they run their business.





IN JORDAN

With partners ILO translated vital COOP training tools, such as **My.Coop, Think.coop, and Start.coop** and adapted them to the Jordanian context

Recently, the ILO in collaboration with ITC and ILO HQ, trained **63 cooperative representatives** on Think.coop and Start.coop tools and provided online **training of trainers** to 32 trainers on My.coop.

ToTs are critical in transferring the participants gained knowledge to reach cooperatives and help promote and advance the sector further.

Finally, the ILO is supporting development and validation of a national strategy and action plan for cooperative movement in Jordan, in close collaboration with Jordanian Cooperative Corporation (JCC).

IN LEBANON

Crises in Lebanon: 2019 October uprisings, economic and financial crisis, COVID-19, Beirut Port explosion

This has compounded vulnerabilities for Syrian refugees and host communities significantly impacting levels of unemployment, poverty and access to decent work.

Amid the crises, Lebanese communities started social and solidarity initiatives in agriculture and other sectors as a mean of basic survival. Most significant, was the youth led response to the Beirut explosion to clear and clean streets, provide community support and support reconstruction efforts since day 1.

- The ILO, within the framework of the PROSPECTS programme, planned to build on these efforts by strengthening the social solidarity economy through strengthening and supporting the formalization and expansion of youth led social and solidarity economy initiatives (SSE). While the work did not materialize, it highlights the need for such interventions to provide opportunities for young people and support their continued community engagement.
- In partnership with ACTED, the ILO in Lebanon, will support support vulnerable Lebanese host communities and Syrian refugees in 4 villages: Kfar Habou, Akroum, Syr el Donniyeh, and Bebnine in Akkar and North-Lebanon governorates through promoting social and solidarity income-generating initiatives in agriculture and agro-food sectors

IN IRAQ

- ▶ Within the framework of the PROSPECTS Programme, the ILO is planning to undertake a needs assessment for cooperative development in Iraq.

Objective of the assessment: To understand the current situation of cooperatives, farmers/producers groups, and other similar organizations in the target governorates and value chains, particularly their capacities, strengths, weaknesses and needs.



Thank you

