



# From Words to Action

Reviewing the commitments made at the  
'Supporting Syria and the Region' Conference six months on

## Signed by:

### ➤ NGO Platforms

- Alliance2015
- Jordan INGO Forum (JIF)
- Lebanon Humanitarian INGO Forum (LHIF)
- Syria INGO Regional Forum (SIRF)

### ➤ Individual agencies

- Action Against Hunger (ACF)
- ActionAid
- Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED)
- Amel Association
- American Relief Coalition for Syria (ARCS)
- Basamat for Development
- CAFOD
- CARE International
- Cooperazione e Sviluppo (CESVI)
- Concern Worldwide
- Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
- Deutsche Welthungerhilfe
- Diakonia
- Dorcas
- Economic Development Foundation (IKV)
- Foundation for the Support of Women's Work (KEDV)
- Hand in Hand Syria
- Hope for Syria
- Humedica
- International Blue Crescent Relief and Development Foundation (IBC)
- International Medical Corps (IMC)
- International Rescue Committee (IRC)
- INTERSOS
- Karam Foundation
- Khayr
- Médecins du Monde (Mdm)
- Mercy Corps
- Norwegian People Aid – Lebanon (NPA)
- Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
- NuDay Syria
- Oxfam
- Phenix Center for Economic and Informatics Studies
- Première Urgence - Aide Médicale Internationale (PU-AMI)
- People in Need (PIN)
- QuestScope
- Research Center for Asylum and Migration (IGAM)
- Save the Children
- SAWA for Development and Aid
- Sonbola Group for Education and Development
- Syrian American Medical Society Foundation (SAMS)
- Syrian Community Network
- Syria Relief and Development
- Terre des Hommes – Italia
- UDA Consulting
- United Cities Local Governments Middle East and West Asia Section (UCLG-MEWA)
- WATAN
- World Vision International

# Executive summary

The 'Supporting Syria and the Region' conference held in London on 4 February 2016 agreed 'a comprehensive new approach on how we respond to this protracted crisis'.<sup>1</sup> The promises made in London have the potential to make a significant contribution to improving the lives of both refugee and vulnerable host communities in [Jordan](#), [Lebanon](#) and [Turkey](#): the three countries hosting approximately 75 percent of refugees from Syria.<sup>2</sup> However, the conference has failed to deliver with regard to the core issues of the protection of civilians inside Syria and of refugees in neighbouring countries.

Participants committed to 'reduc[ing] the pressure on countries hosting refugees by supporting them in providing access to jobs and education that will benefit both refugees and host communities'.<sup>3</sup> This included a commitment that all boys and girls in refugee and vulnerable host communities will have access to quality education by the end of the 2016/17 school year.

In order to achieve these goals, members of the international community committed to providing Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey with financial and technical support to stimulate their economies and to help with policy reform and better cope with the crisis, including fully funding the aid response, providing increased development and concessional funding, and facilitating access to external markets.

Some steps are being taken in the right direction to make this ambitious 'new approach' a reality. Donors pledged \$6bn for 2016 and a further \$6.1bn for 2017–20,<sup>4</sup> the largest amount ever raised 'on a single day for a single crisis'.<sup>5</sup> Since the conference 73 percent of the pledged funding for 2016 has been committed;<sup>6</sup> the EU announced a relaxation of the 'rules of origin' on imports to make it easier for products from Jordan to enter EU markets;<sup>7</sup> and Jordan had issued 26,000 work permits to Syrians by end of August 2016,<sup>8</sup> of which approximately only 2 percent went to women.<sup>9</sup> All three neighbouring host countries are accelerating plans to increase the number of children benefiting from education.

Much more needs to be done, however. Funding needs to be made available promptly. Disbursement has been slow and the UN-led appeal for the Syria crisis remains less than half funded.<sup>10</sup> Many of the positive policy developments already underway will take time and require sustained political will, effort, and sufficient funding and technical capacity to come to fruition. For example, in order to achieve greater access to livelihoods opportunities for host communities and refugees alike at the scale required, clear follow-up plans are required from the Lebanese government for the effective implementation of their decision to lift the 'pledge not to work' for Syrian refugees; and Turkey and Jordan need to make regulatory changes to ease applications for work permits. This has



Syrian youth in Zaatari Refugee Camp welding metal.  
Photo credit: Norwegian Refugee Council

to be combined with sufficient investment and employment creation plans, with support from the international community.

At the London conference, the international community failed to comprehensively address issues around the legal status and documentation of refugees. As many as 70 percent of refugees from Syria in Lebanon<sup>11</sup> and 25 percent of Syrian refugees in host communities in Jordan lack valid residence making them vulnerable to arrest, detention, forced relocation and even deportation. Neglecting refugees' legal status risks undermining the premise of the new approach, as it is a precondition for accessing work and education. Lack of valid residency entails significant limitation on the freedom of movement for many refugees, which hinders their ability to access work and basic services. Fear of the authorities can also make refugees reluctant to apply for newly available work permits and more vulnerable to workplace exploitation. As a result of these and other barriers, despite the commitments made in London, almost one million Syrian refugee children will most likely remain out of education as schools reopen this September in Syria's neighbouring countries.<sup>13</sup>

Even more worrying is that Syria's neighbours, along with many third countries in Europe, North America and elsewhere, seek to limit the number of refugee arrivals by closing their borders or imposing other restrictive measures. Progress on aid, funding and increased livelihoods and education opportunities in neighbouring countries – while welcome and potentially life changing – does not absolve governments of their collective and individual responsibility to ensure that desperate men, women and children are able to flee the terrible violence in Syria and in other countries. Fully sharing the responsibility of the crisis includes offering durable and interim solutions, such as resettlement and other humanitarian admissions; something which most countries outside the region, with few exceptions such as Canada and Germany, are failing to do.

**48 organisations and four NGO platforms urge international donors and governments of refugee-hosting countries to use the upcoming UN General Assembly 71 to:**

● **Redouble international efforts to achieve a political solution** to the conflict in Syria to enable refugees' to voluntarily return in safety and dignity.

- **Provide sufficient funds and other economic incentives in a timely and transparent manner** to allow Syria's neighbouring countries to implement successfully the substantial policy changes. Use the upcoming UNGA 71 to report on additional financial resources mobilised in 2016 and to develop a stronger monitoring mechanism to track multi-annual funding commitments and disbursements.
- **Take the necessary steps to operationalise the commitments made in London** including clear plans with timeframes and benchmarks. These need to be reflected in relevant country plans under the 3RP.
- **Strengthen access to protection for refugees**, by setting up clear, accessible and affordable procedures to maintain valid documentation, residency and registration. Legal protection is a prerequisite to improving access to livelihoods, education and other basic services.
- **Remove barriers preventing adult refugees from accessing decent work opportunities** without threat of punitive measures by addressing exploitation in the workplace and restrictions on legal stay and freedom of movement; supporting the development of micro, small and medium-sized Syrian-owned enterprises; and expanding and funding initiatives to increase other livelihood opportunities for all.
- **Ensure that every last child benefits from quality education** to avoid creating a lost generation by opening new places in public schools; placing more emphasis on quality and on school retention; addressing the worst forms of child labour; and providing sufficient opportunities for quality and certified non-formal education with civil society support and with a future prospect to engage in formal education.
- **Respect the rights of those seeking asylum.** All countries must allow entry to asylum seekers fleeing violence and seeking international protection, and ensure that due process is afforded where there is risk of deportation. **Third countries must also increase resettlement to at least 10 percent of the Syrian refugee population** by the end of 2016, and also scale up other forms of admission through safe routes including family reunification, scholarships and other labour based schemes.

# Introduction

The conference 'Supporting Syria and the Region 2016' held in London on 4 February was co-hosted by Germany, Kuwait, Norway, the UK and the UN. The conference 'set itself ambitious goals on education and economic opportunities'<sup>14</sup> for refugees and host countries. Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey presented statements with bold commitments, with the backing of the wider international community and in a spirit of collective responsibility sharing.

The Conference generated significant funding for the response inside Syria, but did little to address the causes of the humanitarian crisis or to improve the protection of civilians, as the co-hosts had initially intended. The conference participants simply committed to using 'their influence with all parties (...) to abide fully by the terms of UN Security Council Resolutions' as well as 'to constructively and meaningfully engage in [political] negotiations'<sup>15</sup>

Six months on, 48 organisations and 4 NGO platforms have analysed progress and the gaps in the international commitments made in London with a focus on the situation in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey in three key sectors: protection, livelihoods and education.

## A collective commitment

The London conference aspired to generate significant new funding including long-term funding solutions.<sup>16</sup> Donors pledged over \$6bn<sup>17</sup> to support 13.5 million people in need inside Syria<sup>18</sup> and more than 4.8 million registered refugees in the region in 2016,<sup>19</sup> and a further \$6.1bn for 2017–20.<sup>20</sup>

Of the \$6bn pledged for 2016 at the London conference, \$4.76bn has been committed overall to UN-led, ICRC/IFRC and bilateral governmental appeals for the crisis inside Syria and in neighbouring countries,<sup>21</sup> compared to \$3.9bn by the same period in 2015.<sup>22</sup> However, with two million more in need compared to last year, the funding available per person is roughly the same.<sup>23</sup>

Moreover, of the \$4.54bn requested by the UN and its partners for the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) to support refugees from Syria and affected host communities in neighbouring countries, \$2.16bn (48 per cent) has been received,<sup>24</sup> whereas the Syria Humanitarian Response Plan (SRP) has only received \$1.07bn one-third of the \$3.19bn requested.<sup>25</sup>

There are marked variations across sectors. For example, 'livelihoods and social cohesion' was particularly underfunded across all 3RP countries, with just \$30m received of the \$461m requested (7 per cent) at the mid-year point.<sup>28</sup> Education was better funded, with \$258m out of \$662m requested (39 per cent) at the mid-year point.<sup>29</sup> Even under the most optimistic estimates, however, only \$0.4bn has been made available of the \$1.4bn needed<sup>30</sup> (including for inside Syria) to achieve the aims of the 'No Lost Generation' initiative of ensuring education for all children.<sup>31</sup>

### An unequal response

In terms of funding pledged at the London conference, just six out of 47 donors (Germany, European Commission, USA, United Kingdom, Japan and Norway) accounted for \$4.56bn, over three-quarters of the overall amount pledged for 2016.<sup>26</sup>

While generous, this figure pales in comparison with the annual expenditure of refugee-hosting countries such as Turkey, which says it has spent at least \$8bn from its budget in accommodating refugees from Syria since the start of the crisis.<sup>27</sup>

There has been significant progress on long-term financing. In London, donors pledged \$6.1bn for the period 2017–2020,<sup>32</sup> responding to calls for longer term, predictable funds to better respond to a protracted humanitarian crisis. In addition, multilateral development banks (MDBs) and donors announced around \$40bn in loans, including elements on concessional terms.<sup>33</sup> To partly operationalise this, donors pledged in April 2016 a package of over \$1bn in grants, loans and guarantees to a World Bank Concessional Financing Facility (CFF) designed to help Lebanon and Jordan in particular, as well as reconstruction across the region.<sup>34</sup> While this can certainly contribute to providing urgently needed funds to allow host countries to better cope with the crisis and find development opportunities, there are also concerns about the increasing level of debt of some host countries.<sup>35</sup>

The most significant long-term financing promised has been the €3bn pledged by the European Union (EU) to Turkey. While it has the potential to dramatically improve the lives of Syrian refugees and vulnerable host community members in Turkey, the deal has also been widely criticised, as it represents an attempt by the EU to shift responsibility for managing migration from Europe onto Turkey. The money is premised on Turkey taking responsibility for meeting the needs of refugees and migrants who would otherwise travel to Europe. More worryingly, the deal, if not outright illegal,<sup>36</sup> fails to respect the spirit of international and EU laws including the obligation to provide international protection and asylum – and thereby sets a dangerous precedent.



*Five-year-old, Hussein said he feels the happiest when he is looking after his family's sheep flock. "In Syria we had many sheep and lots of fields. Here you have to be careful that the sheep don't run away," Hussein says. The young Syrian lives with his extended family in an informal settlement in Halba, northern Lebanon that houses forty families from the Idlib, Syria region. Every morning, at sunrise, before taking himself to school, Hussein checks the family's sheep. After school he is straight back to the sheep to make sure they are ok.*

Photo Credit: Danish Refugee Council

## Inadequate responsibility sharing

The solidarity shown at the London conference by many countries has its limits, particularly regarding welcoming new refugees. After having admitted large numbers, countries neighbouring Syria have almost completely closed their borders to people fleeing the war, and *refoulement* is reportedly growing.<sup>37</sup> Hundreds of thousands of people are living near or on Syria's borders, often in terrible conditions and without access to adequate assistance. This includes 75,000 people trapped trying to enter Jordan, largely cut off from aid following a bomb attack in June;<sup>38</sup> and more than 300,000 in Afrin and Azaz near the Turkish border, squeezed between the intensification of fighting and an effectively closed border.<sup>39</sup> Most of them have nowhere to go.

Third countries, with few exceptions, have very limited legitimacy to pressure Syria's neighbours, as they prioritise their own border management policies. This is illustrated by the EU-Turkey deal to restrict the arrival of refugees instead of upholding the international right to seek asylum. UNHCR estimates that 480,000 of the most vulnerable Syrian refugees, including survivors of torture and widowed families, are currently in need of resettlement.<sup>40</sup>

Despite the UN, refugee-hosting countries and civil society repeatedly calling for increased resettlement for these refugees, the response of the wider international community, with a few notable exceptions such as Canada and Germany, has been very disappointing.<sup>41</sup> Other safe routes are also needed, such as expedited and expanded family reunification programs, community sponsorship, scholarship opportunities, and labour-based immigration schemes. The last resettlement pledging conference in Geneva in March 2016 resulted in pledges for only 180,000 resettlement places and some 40,000 additional admission pathways.<sup>42</sup> Even fewer refugees have actually arrived at their destination.<sup>43</sup>

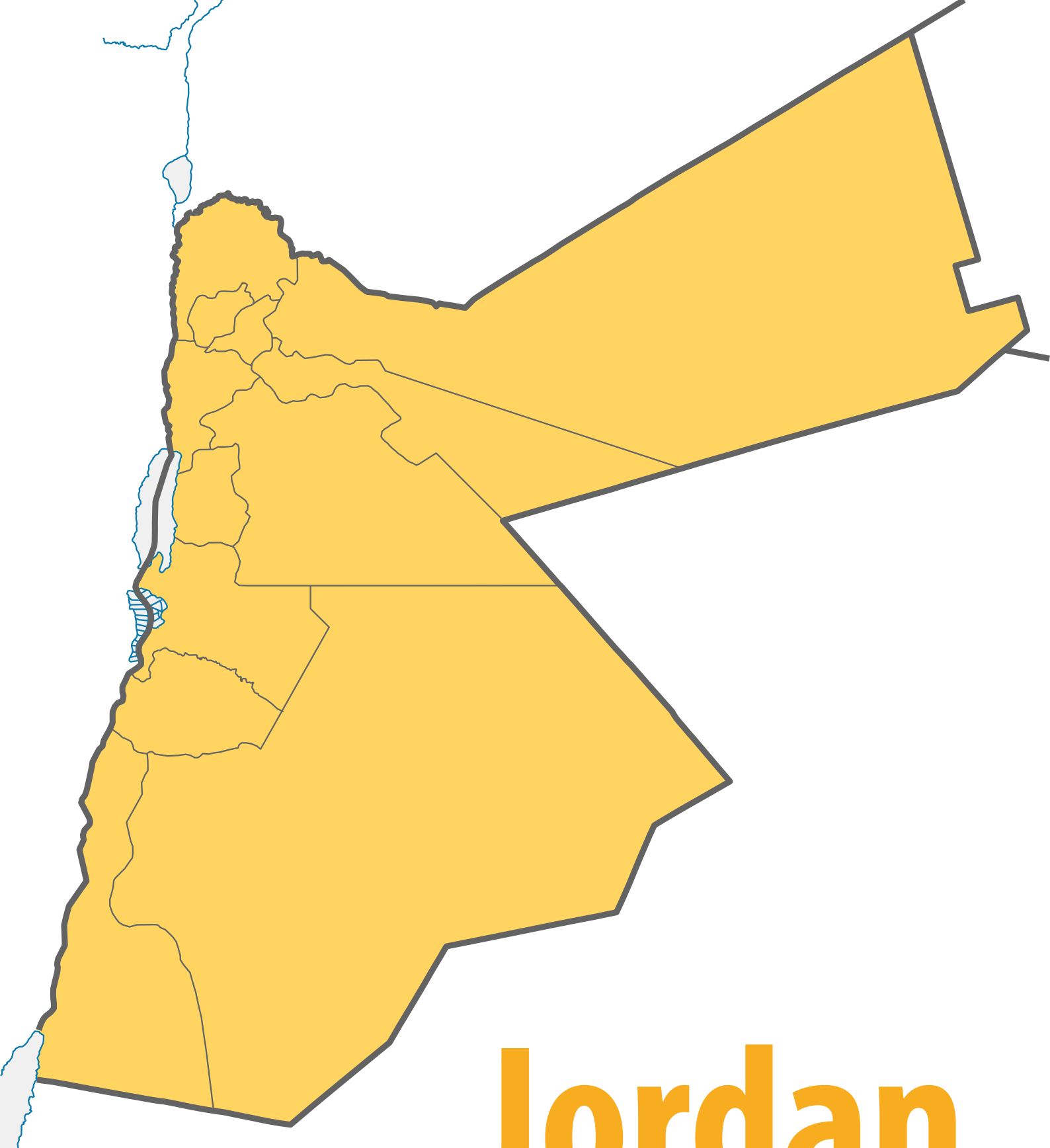
The international community will be failing in its obligations to fully share the responsibility for this crisis unless civilians can exercise their right to flee the conflict in Syria and find a safe haven in other countries.



“ Today I graduate from Kindergarten! Everyone says I look like Dora the Explorer, it’s my favourite thing to watch on TV,” says six-year-old Sama\* at her graduation from kindergarten in Za’atari Camp. ”

Photo Credit: Hassan Hijazi/Save the Children





**Jordan**

# Protection as a precondition for success

The 'Jordan Compact' presented at the London conference sets out a series of major commitments aimed at improving the resilience of refugee and host communities, focusing mainly on livelihoods and education. The document did not include specific commitments on protection, including on legal stay, however.

In 2014, the Government of Jordan (GoJ) started an ongoing 'urban verification exercise' requiring all Syrian nationals to present themselves to local police stations to obtain new biometric Ministry of Interior (MoI) service cards and confirm their place of residence. About a quarter of all registered refugees outside of formal camps (approximately 130,000 currently do not hold an updated MoI card. Many refugees who informally left the camps following the suspension of the official bail-out system are barred from renewing their registration in host communities.

Without updated registration or a valid MoI card, refugees risk detention, forced encampment and even deportation. This not only compounds their vulnerability, limiting their freedom of movement and capacity to interact with authorities, but represents a crucial barrier to achieving the commitments made in London. For example, a valid registration is a prerequisite for Syrian refugees to be able to apply for work permits. Although children have the right to register in school regardless of their legal status, in practice families without valid registration also struggle to access education, other basic services and even humanitarian aid. They also face challenges to register births, deaths and marriages.

Most refugees living in formal camps face difficulties gaining permission to leave, greatly limiting access to employment opportunities and basic services in host communities, including secondary healthcare. Approximately 15,000 people live in a small fenced area within the Azraq refugee camp since they arrived from the 'Berm' from April to June.<sup>45</sup>

## What is needed

- **Strengthen the Urban Verification Mechanism** and extend its implementation to ensure all refugees in host communities are able to update their registration.
- **Promote the freedom of movement of Syrian refugees** by allowing Syrian refugees with MoI cards to update their places of residence in a timely manner and reviewing policies to permit some Syrian refugees to formally leave the camps and reside in host communities.
- **Permit refugee access to humanitarian assistance and public services** irrespective of their location, registration or residency status.
- **Put an end to refoulement** and ensure that due process is afforded where there is a risk of deportation.
- **Assist Syrian refugees to obtain legal and civil documents**, in particular to register their births, deaths and marriages.

# Improving access to livelihoods

Until February 2016, Syrian refugees in Jordan had extremely limited access to formal employment. An estimated 160,000 Syrians were working in 2015, but fewer than 5,000 had work permits.<sup>46</sup>

Most families are dependent on humanitarian assistance or on work in the informal sector to meet basic needs – vulnerable to exploitation and at risk of detention or even deportation, if caught working illegally.

In 2015, there was a dramatic rise in food-insecure refugee households in host communities from 48 percent in 2014 to 86 percent, due to a reduction in humanitarian assistance combined with vulnerability due to lack of legal status and limited income generating opportunities. This led to an increase in negative coping strategies, such as child labour.<sup>47</sup>

## State of play

### Commitment



'Turning the Syrian refugee crisis into a development opportunity that attracts new investments and opens up the EU market with simplified rules of origin, creating jobs for Jordanians and Syrian refugees.'<sup>48</sup>



'Rebuilding Jordanian host communities by adequately financing through grants the Jordan Response Plan.'<sup>52</sup>



'Mobilising sufficient grants and concessionary financing to support the macroeconomic framework (...) as part of Jordan entering into a new Extended Fund Facility program with the IMF.'<sup>54</sup>

### Progress

- As of 26 August 2016, donors had indicatively assigned \$496m for Jordan.<sup>49</sup>
- The EU announced a relaxation of the rules of origin on imports to make it easier for products from Jordan to enter EU markets; available to producers in 18 industrial areas and development zones which employ 15 percent of Syrian refugees at the outset (increasing to 25 percent after two years).<sup>50</sup>
- A government loan scheme was established for unemployed Jordanian youth beneficiaries to support small and medium-sized enterprises.<sup>51</sup>
- \$255m going to Jordan Response Plan (JRP); a 23 percent of the requested amount.<sup>53</sup>
- A letter of intent was signed in July by the Government of Jordan and the IMF for a \$700m extended fund facility<sup>55</sup> and was approved by the IMF board at the end of August.
- Two projects funded by the World Bank as part of the CFF, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development announced plans to improve job opportunities for more than 200,000 Syrian refugees and address the rehabilitation of wastewater municipal infrastructure in Jordan.<sup>56</sup>



'The government will undertake the necessary administrative changes to allow for Syrian refugees to apply for work permits both inside and outside [development] zones.'<sup>57</sup>

- 26,000 work permits issued to Syrians in 2016 as of end of August<sup>58</sup> in sectors open for migrant workers,<sup>59</sup> encouraged through a 'grace period' until the end of the year of waived fees and relaxed rules on required civil documentation; 98 percent of work permits were granted to male and 2 percent to female workers.<sup>60</sup> Skilled professionals (e.g. teachers and doctors) are unable to work in their fields despite the pressure on public services.
- Work permits are linked to a specific employer, discouraging uptake due to requirements for social security payments by employers especially in seasonal or predominantly informal sectors and risk limiting refugees' ability to challenge poor working conditions or move roles. The only exception are some pilots run by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) through cooperatives within the agricultural sector.
- Ongoing awareness-raising campaign to increase the understanding of local authorities and Syrian refugees on the process to access permits. Nonetheless, widespread confusion relating to social security payments, as well as fear of losing asylum status, reduced humanitarian assistance or forced relocation to camps remain as major barriers.
- A review of the labour market is underway led by the Ministry of Labour and recruitment of new migrant workers is largely halted until the end of the year.<sup>61</sup>



'Syrian refugees will be allowed to formalise their existing businesses and set up new, tax-generating businesses (...) by the summer [2016]'; The removal of 'any restrictions preventing small economic activities within the camps.'<sup>62</sup>

- No regulatory or procedural changes announced as of end of August to allow (and clarify process) for Syrian refugees to formalise existing businesses or set up new small or home businesses inside or outside the camps.<sup>63</sup>
- Refugees continue to lack access to formal financial and banking services necessary to promote small business development.

## What is needed

- **Remove protection threats**, including issues with legal stay and freedom of movement, which act as barriers to effective economic inclusion of Syrian refugees.
- **Implement regulatory changes to ensure the work permit process is accessible and effective**, including by enabling workers to apply directly for a permit de-linked from an employer; extending the waiver of fees permanently in sectors able to absorb Jordanian and Syrian supply; allowing skilled Syrian labour, especially in education and health; facilitating intake of permits for women; and removing hiring quotas and restrictions for NGOs employing Syrian staff for the refugee response.
- **Oversight to ensure decent working conditions and limiting abuse and exploitation** by guaranteeing any initiative to access the labour market and livelihoods has clear safeguards in place, including tackling child labour.
- **Remove restrictions on Syrian-owned businesses and support for the development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs)** including joint Syrian and Jordanian enterprises, home-based businesses and those operating in the camps to provide predictability, facilitate targeted investment and increase tax revenues. As an interim first step the authorities should halt closure of existing enterprises and detention of those working in them.
- **Increase donor funding for income generation, employment creation and social protection schemes**, including cash assistance, cash for work and small business opportunities prioritising investment in critical infrastructure.

Syrian youth welding metal at the Zaatari Refugee Camp. Photo credit: Norwegian Refugee Council



# Improving access to education

Despite leadership from the Ministry of Education (MoE), approximately one-third of all Syrian refugee children remained out of school in Jordan at the end of the school year.<sup>64</sup> Adolescents have much higher non-attendance rates with just over half attending school.<sup>65</sup> Of the estimated 83,000 Syrian refugee children out of school in 2016, some 60 percent are currently ineligible for formal schooling after missing three or more years of school.<sup>66</sup>

Financial constraints represent the main challenge for enrolment and attendance of Syrian refugee children in public schools, with families struggling to cover education-related costs, especially transport, or are dependent on income generated by children. Children living in informal settlements and those without registration are almost invariably out of education.<sup>67</sup>

Violence, harassment and bullying is one of the key causes of high dropout rates of Syrian refugees. Syrian parents and caregivers suggest that more than 70 percent of Syrian refugee children are exposed to bullying or ridicule at school, and 78 percent exposed to violence by teachers.<sup>68</sup>

## State of play

### Commitment



'[The GoJ committed] (...) to ensur[ing] that every child in Jordan will be in education in the 2016/17 school year.'<sup>69</sup>



'Every school will offer a safe, inclusive and tolerant environment with psychosocial support available to refugee children.'<sup>73</sup>

### Progress

- Education Action plan developed with the following elements:
  - 102 additional public schools to be opened to double shift to accommodate 50,000 new spaces for Syrian refugee children in the 2016/17 school year; although shifts are separated by nationality.<sup>70</sup>
  - 'Catch-up programme' to be developed to offer non-formal education (NFE) to 25,000 Syrian refugee children aged 8 –12 years and delivered only in public schools and by MoE teachers.<sup>71</sup>
  - 1,000 Syrian volunteers to support as classroom assistants.<sup>72</sup>
- No formal plans have been made available, although this continues to be an ongoing focus of the MoE and partners.



'Access to vocational training for Syrians and to tertiary/higher education opportunities for all vulnerable youth (Jordanian and Syrian) will be increased.'<sup>74</sup>

➤ Humanitarian actors are now able to provide vocational training opportunities for Syrian youth and donors are funding some scholarships, but no comprehensive plans have been made available as of August 2016.



'Predictable, multi-year funding to meet the timeframes committed to by the Jordanian government.'<sup>75</sup>

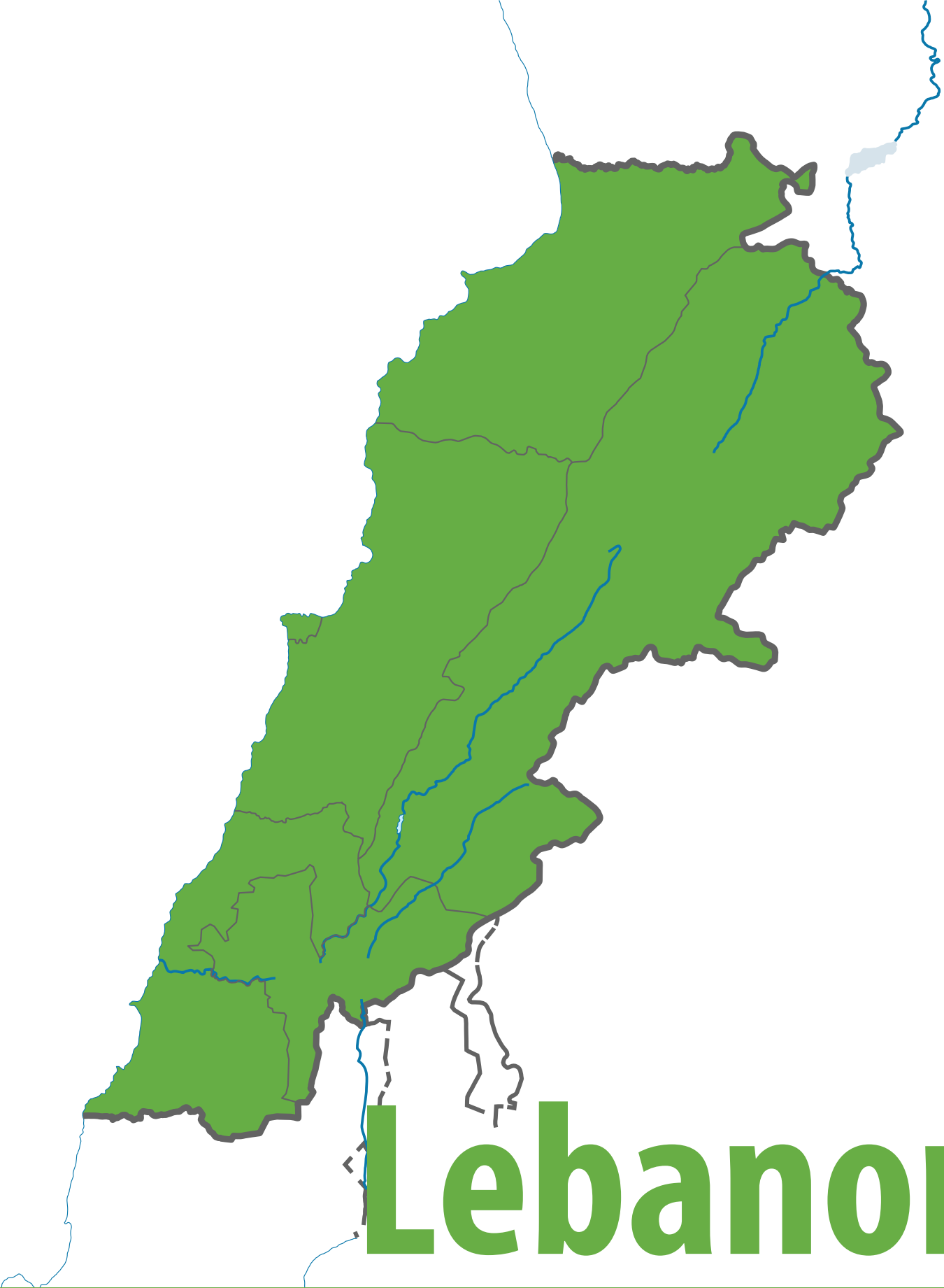
➤ The EU, Germany, Norway, UK and US pledged 57.7m JD<sup>76</sup> to fund opening and running of 102 more double-shift schools in May 2016 in line with the MoE request.<sup>77</sup> This figure was increased in August to \$97.5m, and the GoJ signed a memorandum of understanding with the UK to support education with \$84m over a four-year period.<sup>78</sup>

## What is needed

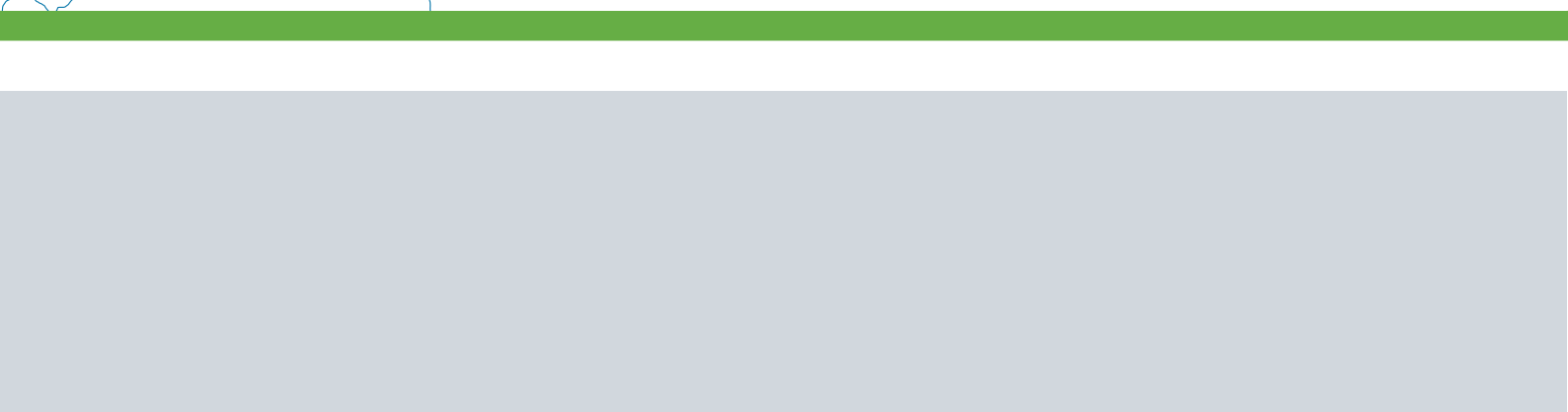
In addition to the pre-conditional regulatory changes to residency, which would remove some barriers to education and pressure for children to work:

- **Ensure that quality and learning outcomes are the measure of success in education in both shifts:** prioritising strengthening the education system and the retention of students by investing in enhanced school management; better monitoring of attendance; remedial education ; and providing Jordanian teachers and counsellors with pre-service and continuous professional support to education in emergencies.
- **Ensure the quality of education in both shifts:** by actively enforcing quality assurance in second shifts, including additional support for teachers to deliver a curriculum within shorter timeframes, allowing afternoon shifts access to all facilities such as libraries and labs, and further involving Syrian teachers in refugee education response.
- **Put special provisions in place with the support of civil society to ensure the most vulnerable children out of school also benefit from quality education:** by guaranteeing appropriate planning and technical resources to implement complex NFE Catch-Up programmes; carrying out these programmes in alternative learning centres, not only in public schools; developing a viable plan to expand the provision of certified quality NFE to children over 12; and ensuring the lack of valid residency or birth registration is effectively not a barrier for children to access quality education.
- **Develop a system-wide strategy to address violence in and around schools** and between shifts, within a broader context of community cohesion: by providing teachers with the skills required to help distressed children and to address bullying and violence; avoiding segregated shifts by nationality, refraining from pushing Syrian refugee students who attended single or morning shifts last school year into afternoon shifts; and promoting integrated activities between shifts, and joint parent and student associations.





# Lebanon



# Protection as a precondition for success

The 'Statement of Intent' presented by the Government of Lebanon (GoL) in London launched a new vision for managing the impact of the Syria crisis. It included proposals to support local development, job creation and education benefiting both Syrians and Lebanese communities, with the support of the international community. The Statement also included a commitment to 'review existing regulatory frameworks related to residency conditions and work authorisations'.<sup>79</sup>

This commitment is critical. As many as 70 percent of refugees from Syria in Lebanon lack valid residence,<sup>80</sup> as they are unable to meet the cost and documentation requirements of the entry and residency renewal regulations introduced in January 2015.<sup>81</sup> Without valid residence refugees are vulnerable to arrest if they attempt to cross checkpoints or seek legal redress with authorities. This has helped create an environment conducive to increased exploitation and abuse, significantly limited refugees' freedom of movement and severely curtailed access to livelihoods and basic services. Refugees who lack valid residence also face considerable difficulties in obtaining birth registration and other civil documentation.

In addition, some refugees are required to have a Lebanese sponsor to obtain residency, which incurs additional informal costs (as much as \$1,000), and – especially when employers act as sponsors – further increases vulnerability to exploitation. Without progress on these issues, the commitments on livelihoods and education will not be attainable.

The commitment to review the regulatory frameworks in the 'Statement of Intent' included seeking a 'periodical waiver of residency fees and simplifying documentary requirements such as waiving the "pledge not to work" requirement'.<sup>82</sup> No fee waiver has been implemented or announced since the London conference. However, in early June 2016, the GoL announced the replacement of the pledge not to work with a 'pledge to abide by Lebanese law'.<sup>83</sup> Although a welcome development, the new procedure has so far been applied in a few General Security Offices (GSO) only, with other offices awaiting further detail. Its full and consistent implementation remains to be seen.

The Minister of Social Affairs (MoSA) has also announced<sup>84</sup> the intention to issue Syrians an identification document to facilitate crossing checkpoints. This could have a positive impact on freedom of movement for refugees who lack valid residence. However, the proposed mechanism has yet to be fully agreed or defined, and it remains unclear who would be able to receive it or what benefits it would provide. New protection risks could also be created, especially for those not able to obtain the document (e.g. eligibility might not cover all those with a right to protection according to international humanitarian law). In addition, such a document would not remove the need for refugees to have valid residence in order to be compliant with Lebanese law.

## What is needed

- **Ensure that refugees from Syria are able to obtain and maintain valid residency regardless of their UNHCR registration status**, through a simple and consistently applied administrative process that does not incur any cost or require refugees to obtain a Lebanese sponsor. Any mechanisms created to alleviate the effects of lack of valid residence should not lead to new, additional protection risks for refugees.
- **Ensure that the replacement of the 'pledge not to work' with the 'pledge to abide by Lebanese law' is formalised and implemented consistently** by General Security Offices throughout the country.

# Improving access to livelihoods

Poor Lebanese and Syrian refugees alike face barriers to earning sufficient income. Fewer job opportunities are available as a result of crisis-related economic slowdown (especially in construction, agriculture and service sectors), and the overall increase in workers available for cheap labour drives down wages and makes all workers more 'replaceable'.

Moreover, the January 2015 residency regulations have made it much harder for Syrians to access work and earn sufficient income to meet their basic needs, despite having worked largely informally in Lebanon for decades.<sup>85</sup> When asked between January 2015 and February 2016, only 27 percent of adult Syrian refugees reported having worked at least one day in the previous month.<sup>86</sup>

Syrians are also facing increased risk of abuse and exploitation, such as non-payment of wages and child labour, if they lack valid residency, if they have signed the 'pledge not to work', and especially when employers are sponsoring residency permit renewals.<sup>87</sup>

## State of play<sup>88</sup>

### Commitment

In the Statement of Intent, the GoL proposed an array of interventions to stimulate the economy and provide additional job opportunities for both Lebanese and Syrians (an estimated 300,000–350,000 jobs, 60 percent of which could be for Syrians). This includes investing in municipal-level projects that create job opportunities, strengthening value chains and ensuring that Lebanese products can reach international markets, as well as addressing urgent national-level infrastructure needs.<sup>89</sup>

The London conference co-hosts agreed to 'share a joint commitment with the Government of Lebanon to work with the international community to support implementation' of this vision.<sup>90</sup>

### Progress

- As of 26 August 2016, donors had indicatively assigned \$1,121m for Lebanon.<sup>91</sup>
- Limited progress on job creation, affecting not only the livelihoods of Syrians and poor Lebanese, but also social cohesion. Employment is the main concern for Lebanese youth,<sup>92</sup> and unemployment is a driver of tension between communities.
- Livelihoods remains the second most underfunded sector (at 9 percent) of the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) and 'Social Stability', which includes many municipal support projects, is the most underfunded sector (at 6 percent).<sup>93</sup>
- Less than \$1m has been invested in public works projects under the LCRP<sup>94</sup> and large-scale interventions, such as the UNDP-ILO programme of labour-intensive infrastructure projects and the Subsidised Temporary Employment Programme, have yet to be implemented.
- However, there are indications of significant increases in development financing from 2016 onwards (approximately \$607m committed this year)<sup>95</sup> particularly for job creation through labour intensive public works projects, MSME development and the agricultural sector.

## What is needed

In addition to the changes to residency regulations as recommended under 'protection' above:

- **Expand decent employment opportunities for refugees and Lebanese alike** by implementing labour-intensive public infrastructure programs – especially for agricultural infrastructure and community assets – linked to Ministry and municipal strategies.
- **Ensure decent working conditions and limit abuse and exploitation.** Monitoring and enforcement of labour safeguards should be included as minimum requirements in donor funding agreements for large-scale employment creation programs and infrastructure projects funded by donors or supported by international financial institutions, for example, by supporting employers in applying labour protection measures and informing labourers of their rights.
- **Enhance financial and programmatic coordination between humanitarian and development actors** in the livelihoods sector to ensure coherent support and to maximise benefits.

“ If people don't have money to buy bread, how can we get the money to buy a car to drive our kids to school? Most of our kids have to work in dangerous conditions and they carry heavy loads and work under the sun all day long ”

Saed, a Syrian refugee in Lebanon

# Improving access to education

Despite strong advances in enrollment numbers, over 50 percent of Syrian children – more than 220,000 – were out of school in Lebanon at the end of the 2015/16 school year.<sup>96</sup> Enrollment of adolescent Syrian children is particularly low, with less than one-quarter in school. Over 92 percent of 17-year-old Syrian refugees are out of school compared with 28.5 percent of Lebanese children of the same age.<sup>97</sup>

Major barriers to enrollment and retention in formal education include large gaps in education created over years of displacement, language of instruction other than Arabic, transportation costs, distance to schools, lack of adequate psychosocial support and support for children with special needs, and drop-outs attributed to discrimination, bullying and violence. Poverty is also forcing many parents to send children to work (especially once they reach 13).<sup>98</sup>

Lack of valid residence makes many parents fear sending their children to school (especially if this means crossing checkpoints). This is particularly problematic for Syrian children turning 15, as they are required to have valid residence, but face significant challenges obtaining it as they often do not possess and cannot obtain the required passport or individual identification card, having entered Lebanon with a family passport.

## State of play

### Commitment



Getting 'all children aged 5 –17 into quality education by the end of the 2016/17 school year' and providing 'Early Childhood Education for all 3-5 year old children.'<sup>99</sup>

### Progress

- The 2nd Reaching All Children with Education (RACE II) strategy covering 2017–20 has not yet been finalised, and the public school enrolment targets and costing for the 2016/17 school year are still to be announced as of mid-August.
- Only 39 percent of the \$388.2m education ask under the LCRP 2016 has been received; although this represents more than double the education funding mobilised by the same time in 2015.<sup>100</sup>
- The World Bank announced \$100m in concessional financing to improve the quality of the education system in Lebanon and to contribute to enrolling all children.<sup>101</sup>



'Expand[ing] access to education opportunities for the most vulnerable out of school children through quality and regulated Non-Formal Education (NFE).'<sup>102</sup>

➤ The NFE Framework was released by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) in January 2016, but the content and Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) needed to operationalise it were still not developed at the start of the 2016/17 school year.

➤ MEHE announced in June that NGOs can implement NFE with NGO-developed content until MEHE has approved content. However, after a full school year of NFE being discouraged, capacity will have to be considerably scaled up to reach the thousands of children who are unable to access formal education.



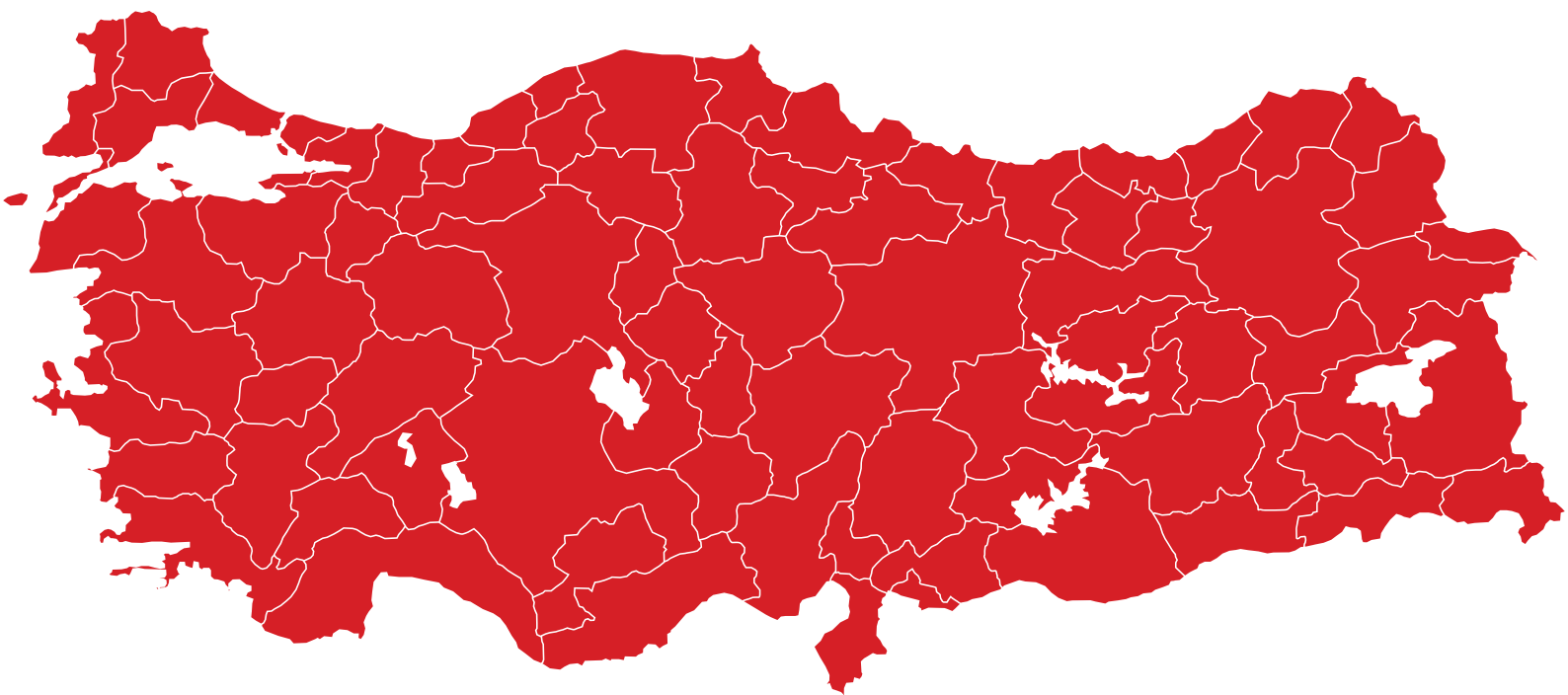
'Improv[ing] the the quality and inclusiveness of the teaching and learning environment, including through curriculum reform.'

➤ There is still limited focus on retention or quality of education, and the quality of education for Syrian children in public schools is not currently monitored or evaluated.

## What is needed

In addition to the recommendations on the residency regulations and livelihoods above:

- **Ensure that learning outcomes are the measure of success in education.** Access to education must go beyond the number of refugees enrolled in schools, to ensure that refugee children are able to both access appropriate education opportunities and achieve learning outcomes. Donors should insist on monitoring and evaluation of retention and quality.
- **Rapidly operationalise the NFE Framework with approved content and SOPs.** NFE programmes, supported by NGOs, are critical for addressing many of the barriers that currently prevent Syrian children from accessing formal education, to provide pathways to re-enter formal education, and to ensure all children have access to learning.
- **Ensure that NGOs are engaged as collaborative and supportive partners for meeting education targets, in particular for NFE,** and included in the coordination and decision making structures of the RACE strategy.



**Turkey**

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# Protection as a precondition for success

The Government of Turkey (GoT) included the Syria crisis in the agenda of the G20 meeting it hosted in November 2015, and was instrumental in including a collective commitment in the G20 Leaders' Communiqué on ensuring refugee access to basic services and livelihoods opportunities.<sup>103</sup> The country's commitment was further reinforced at the London conference and within the contentious Turkey–EU cooperation framework that includes commitments by the EU to financially support Turkey's efforts in addressing needs of refugee women, men and children.

Turkey currently hosts more than 2.7 million Syrians, as well as a quarter of a million refugees of other nationalities, more than any other country in the world.<sup>104</sup> The GoT has led the response to protect and assist persons in need.<sup>105</sup>

Since 2014, most Syrian refugees in Turkey have formally received protection within the framework of 'temporary protection' (TP), which grants de facto legal status to Syrians, guaranteeing multiple rights and access to services.<sup>106</sup>

However, given the sheer scale of the challenge, gaps remain. Practical challenges prevent refugees from accessing education, healthcare and livelihoods opportunities. Furthermore, delays of up to six months in registration for TP mean<sup>107</sup> that some refugees are unable to get basic services and live in fear of being forced to live in a camp or being deported.

## What is needed

- **Scale up resources for temporary protection registration** as necessary, to ensure all applications are processed without significant delay.



# Improving access to livelihoods

The majority of Syrian refugees working in Turkey fall outside of the formal economy. Reports have indicated that between 250,000 and 400,000 Syrian refugees<sup>108</sup> work in the informal sector, mainly in the services, manufacturing and seasonal agriculture sectors, with an estimated average monthly almost half the minimum wage in Turkey.<sup>109</sup> In addition, 4,000 new businesses have been set up by Syrians or Syrians with Turkish partners since 2011,<sup>110</sup> paying taxes and providing employment largely to Syrians.

The influx of Syrian refugees has aggravated a number of pre-existing structural problems in the Turkish labour market, including high levels of informality (at 30 percent among the Turkish population),<sup>111</sup> child labour and high levels of unemployment. It has also created negative pressure on wages in the informal sector, stoking tensions between host and refugee communities.

In January 2016, the GoT implemented a reform to labour regulations, granting Syrian refugees with TP of at least six months the right to work in the province in which they are registered.<sup>112</sup> Under the revised regulations, refugees must be sponsored by an employer obliged to pay minimum wages.

## State of play

### Commitment



'The co-hosts recognise the scale of the challenge faced by Turkey (...). The EU and Turkey have already agreed on a joint Action Plan and the need to share the burden'. Participants at the London Conference also 'committed to a step change in assistance.'<sup>113</sup>



Via the Refugee Facility for Turkey, the EU committed to providing 'substantial new financial resources' totalling €3bn to support Turkey in responding to the presence of Syrian refugees.<sup>116</sup>

### Progress

- As of 26 August 2016, donors had indicatively assigned \$799m for Turkey.<sup>114</sup>
- However, the Turkish chapter of the 3RP was only 26 percent funded mid-year, livelihoods (at 5 percent) was the second least-funded sector.<sup>115</sup>
- As of 18 August 2016, of the €3bn pledged by the EU, €2.239bn had been allocated, but only €182m disbursed.<sup>117</sup>
- Of the total funds allocated, about €100m appears to have been allocated specifically to support (non-humanitarian) livelihoods interventions; equivalent to 5 percent of all funds already allocated from the Refugee Facility for Turkey.<sup>118</sup>



The decision to enable Syrian refugees' access to the labour market 'has the potential to help approximately one million working age Syrians to find jobs.'<sup>119</sup>

- As of early July 2016, the Ministry of Labour had granted 5,502 work permits out of 6,586 applications received from Syrian refugees.<sup>120</sup>
- The proportion of Syrians able to apply for work permits in any given sector is generally limited to 10 percent; sectors typically employing large numbers of refugees may apply for an exemption.<sup>121</sup> There is a one-year waiver for seasonal workers in agriculture and animal husbandry.
- New Vocational Training and an On the Job Training Program is being planned for Syrians under TP or with residency in Turkey for six months, with the possibility of employment in the same training site exempt from the 10 percent foreign quota.
- Turkish language courses for Syrians regardless of their status are to be provided via Public Education Centres, municipalities and other institutions, to facilitate access to work placements and training services.



'In the next three months, Syrian teachers will be formally appointed by the Ministry of Education and Syrian health professionals appointed by the Ministry of Health.'<sup>122</sup>

- As of June 2016 4,637 Syrian volunteer teachers received financial incentives via the Ministry of National Education (MoNE).<sup>123</sup> The GoT's three-year education strategy plans to scale up the recruitment of volunteer teachers to 15,000.<sup>124</sup>
- Joint MoNE–UNICEF initiative reported to provide Syrian teachers with training and training of trainers, in order to increase education provision benefiting more than 500 teachers in the initial phase.<sup>125</sup>
- No information is publicly available on the recruitment of Syrian healthcare professionals.

## What is needed

- **Develop an evidence-based plan to foster the economic integration of Syrians and other vulnerable host community groups.** Start by carrying out a thorough labour market analysis; promote innovative investments and mobilise additional resources for job creation for refugees and host communities; explore the potential for multi-sector partnerships and cooperation between government, Turkish and Syrian business, labour unions, and civil society; invest in outreach and awareness raising activities with affected communities and the private sector.
- **Make work permits more accessible to Syrian refugees** by amending the regulation to allow refugees to apply directly for authorisation without having to rely on employer sponsorship and introducing measures to ensure consistent implementation of the new labour regulation across all sectors and government offices. Consider automatically granting work permits to refugees receiving or renewing residency.
- **Ease the implementation of the regulations governing the change of location for Syrians within short periods,** allowing refugees to work outside of the area in which they were first registered for short periods without special permission.
- **Create and support existing income generation programmes for refugee women,** including supporting existing collective initiatives and models.
- **Increase transparency of aid management linked to the Syria crisis,** including funds pledged by the EU under the EU–Turkey Agreement and by other donors during the London conference, to facilitate a more open and informed utilisation of funds and better monitoring.

# Improving access to education

Despite efforts to maintain access to education opportunities for Syrian refugee children by the GoT, at the end of the 2015/16 academic year, approximately 325,000 Syrian children aged 3–17 were enrolled in education in Turkey,<sup>126</sup> representing approximately 35 percent of all school-aged Syrian children. This left approximately 600,000 children out of school.<sup>127</sup>

Of the total number of in-school children in Turkey, 250,000 were enrolled in Temporary Education Centres (TECs), which teach a modified version of the Syrian curriculum in Arabic, run by community organisations and NGOs and accredited by the MoNE. Around 75,000 attended Turkish public schools during the last school year.<sup>128</sup> This approach presents risks in the long-term of creating a parallel education system, with challenges to students' integration and their progression to higher education or employment in Turkey.

The main barriers keeping children out of school are poverty, with parents unable to pay school-related fees such as transportation costs, or depending on their children to work rather than go to school. Other challenges include language barriers in Turkish public schools and a lack of accelerated language programmes, misinformation about school registration and enrolment procedures and requirements, non-implementation of a MoNE circular easing school enrolment requirements for Syrians, and social integration difficulties, particularly in Turkish public schools.

## State of play

### Commitment



The EU included as a priority in the joint action plan 'improved access to education at all levels.'<sup>129</sup>

### Progress



To date, €552,650,286 has been allocated to education projects, amounting to approximately 25 percent of all allocated funds from the Refugee Facility for Turkey.<sup>130</sup>



'The Republic of Turkey and its international partners committed to the aim of providing education to every Syrian refugee child by the end of the school year 2016/17 (...) and enrolling 460,000 Syrian children by the end of this school year.'<sup>131</sup>



Photo credit: Sera Marshall/Save the Children

“ In September 2013, I started going to school. I hated it. The classrooms were very crowded. Each class had children from different ages. The teachers were not good and some of them were more interested in their phones than teaching us. I didn't feel comfortable there and I was bullied. After two months, I told my grandmother that I didn't want to go to school anymore. I didn't feel I was learning anything at school. My grandmother was a teacher back in Syria and she would teach me at home.”

Hassan, 12 years old

- Approximately 325,000 Syrian children were enrolled at the end of the school year, a remarkable 50 percent increase compared with the 2014/15 school year,<sup>132</sup> but short of the GoT target of 460,000.
- The education sector of the Turkey chapter of the 3RP had received \$46m, only one-third of the requirement.<sup>133</sup>
- Following the London conference, the GoT developed an ambitious three-year strategy for accelerating progress towards universal schooling for Syrian refugees.<sup>134</sup> This includes:
  - working to design distance learning for secondary school-aged children;
  - working to update Turkish language training for foreigners;
  - planning to employ Syrian teachers on a substitute basis for a course fee and as assistance teachers in public schools;
  - planning to increase infrastructure, such as building 26,615 classrooms before 2017 to make a second shift in public schools available to Syrian students;
  - planning to support the provision of casual clothing for students and subsidising operating expenses of school buildings;
  - supporting 50,000 students with transportation fees to schools between 2016 and 2018;
  - setting up a new department under MoNE responsible for Syrians' educational needs, as well as the new department 'Lifelong Learning Unit' with the sub-units 'immediate support services' and 'migration'.
- In June 2016, the MoNE conducted a Grade 12 validation examination for Syrian students who had completed Grade 12 through TECs, a significant milestone in ensuring Syrian refugee children receive official certification.<sup>135</sup>
- A growing number of 'community centres' run by civil society organisations creating additional opportunity for Syrians to access education, such as catch-up classes to reenrolment in formal education.

## What is needed

- **Increase donor funding and technical support for the implementation of the ambitious MoNE plans**, including periodically reviewing policy implementation and adapting plans accordingly, as well as ensuring that all provinces and public schools comply with the national regulation guaranteeing Syrian children's access to the public school system.
- **Address language barriers by investing further in Turkish language training opportunities for all Syrians**, in order to support increased enrolment in state schools, as well as providing extracurricular opportunities for refugee children in public schools to learn their mother-tongue.
- **Put provisions in place to ensure the most vulnerable and marginalised children benefit from education policy initiatives**, such as improving existing monitoring mechanisms to track school drop-outs and encourage attendance; providing accurate information and specific support to refugees in harder to reach areas about school registration; increasing alternative quality learning opportunities catering to the needs of refugees.
- **Support Turkish teachers in public schools to be better equipped to address the specific needs of refugee children** and scale-up the recruitment and professional training of Syrian teachers.
- **Develop a sufficiently resourced and locally implemented national plan, facilitating the gradual transition of the children currently learning in TECs into public schools** to improve learning outcomes and integration of Syrian students. In the interim, **standardise the quality of education in TECs** and ensure a proper MoNE oversight on education interventions provided by civil society and private service providers.



A class in a temporary education centre in Antakya, Turkey. The school runs off private donation. According to Ahmad, a Syrian teacher at the school, "We have always tried to be like any regular school. But we don't have an area for sports, a music classroom or educational materials. We try to come up with different solutions; for example, since we don't have a play area for the children, we take them to public parks with swings and slides."

Photo Credit: Ahmad Baroudi/Save the Children

# Conclusion

With no prospect of a resolution of the Syria crisis in sight, addressing the needs of refugees, host communities and refugee-hosting governments cannot wait. Failing to act now could further perpetuate the loss of hope and deepen the spiral of poverty and desperation for refugees and their host communities, increasing the threat of destabilisation in Syria's neighbouring countries. The ongoing crisis of displacement across the region and in Europe is an example of the continued spill over effect of the Syrian conflict in the immediate region and beyond.

The London conference offered a rare convergence of interests between refugee-hosting countries and donors, presenting an opportunity which must be consolidated and built on. Third countries need to honour the pledges made in London and to engage in technical collaboration with host governments, supporting them to step up the pace of policy reforms and strengthening national systems as a bare minimum. They also need to make good on their promises and significantly increase resettlement places, sending the much-needed signal of a genuine respect for refugee rights and full sharing of international responsibility.

# Notes

All websites accessed 26 August 2016 unless otherwise stated.

- 1 Co-Hosts Declaration from the Supporting Syria & the Region Conference, London 2016. <https://www.supportingsyria2016.com/news/co-hosts-declaration-of-the-supporting-syria-and-the-region-conference-london2016/>
- 2 According to the 3RP mid-year review, there are 4.8 million refugees from Syria registered with UNHCR living in neighbouring countries, 4.35 million of which in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, and approximately one million in Europe. The total numbers are not fully known however, as some refugees are unable to register with UNHCR or choose not to register. According high-end estimates of registered and un-registered refugees, Turkey is hosting 2.7 million Syrian refugees, Lebanon 1.5 million and Jordan 1.3 million. <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>
- 3 Co-Hosts Declaration from the Supporting Syria & the Region Conference, London 2016. <https://www.supportingsyria2016.com/news/co-hosts-declaration-of-the-supporting-syria-and-the-region-conference-london2016/>
- 4 OCHA. Update on Supporting Syria and the Region: London 2016 (as of 26 August 2016).
- 5 United Nations. Record \$10 billion Pledged in Humanitarian Aid for Syria at UN Co-Hosted Conference in London. <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=#53162.V678Af9600>
- 6 OCHA. Update on Supporting Syria and the Region: London 2016 (as of 26 August 2016).
- 7 The scheme applies to 52 product groups for 10 years. See [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP2570-16\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP2570-16_en.htm)
- 8 Information provided by UNHCR on 29 August based on Jordan's Ministry of Labour data.
- 9 ILO presentation to livelihoods working group in June 2016 based on Jordan's Ministry of Labour data.
- 10 There are two UN-led appeals for the Syria crisis: the Syria Response Plan (SRP) for inside Syria with \$1.07bn committed out of \$3.19bn requested (33 percent), and the Refugee Resilience and Response Plan (3RP) covering Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, with \$2.16bn committed out of \$4.54bn requested (48 percent), see OCHA Financial Tracking Service <https://fts.unocha.org/pageloader.aspx?page=home>
- 11 Université Saint-Joseph Institut des Sciences Politiques. August 2015. Survey on Perceptions of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon, Full Report (V.1.0).
- 12 Shared by UNHCR during humanitarian coordination meetings (14 August 2016).
- 13 607,163 in Turkey, 223,487 in Lebanon and 59,016 in Jordan, although the Jordan Ministry of Education puts that figure up to 83,000. UNICEF. Syria Crisis Education Fact Sheet: Syria. [http://www.oosci-mena.org/uploads/1/wysiwyg/Syria\\_Crisis\\_Education\\_Fact\\_Sheet\\_May\\_2016.pdf](http://www.oosci-mena.org/uploads/1/wysiwyg/Syria_Crisis_Education_Fact_Sheet_May_2016.pdf)
- 14 Supporting Syria and the Region Conference. <https://www.supportingsyria2016.com/about/>
- 15 Co-Hosts Declaration from the Supporting Syria & the Region Conference, London 2016. <https://www.supportingsyria2016.com/news/co-hosts-declaration-of-the-supporting-syria-and-the-region-conference-london2016/>
- 16 Joint Announcement from the United Kingdom, Germany, Norway, Kuwait and the United Nations on the Syria Donors Conference 2016. <https://www.supportingsyria2016.com/news/syria-donors-conference-2016joint-announcement/>
- 17 OCHA. Update on Supporting Syria and the Region: London 2016 (as of 26 August 2016) .
- 18 UN OCHA website, <http://www.unocha.org/syria>
- 19 UNHCR website, <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>
- 20 OCHA. Update on Supporting Syria and the Region: London 2016 (as of 26 August 2016) .
- 21 OCHA Financial Tracking Service, <https://fts.unocha.org/pageloader.aspx?page=special-syriancrisis&year=2016>
- 22 Oxfam. 2015. Solidarity With Syrians: Action needed on aid, refuge, and to end the bloodshed <http://oxf.am/ZmmK>
- 23 There are today an estimated 13.5m people in need inside Syria and 4.8m registered refugees from Syria, compared to 12.2m inside Syria in 2015 and 4.1m registered refugees from Syria as of August 2015. With \$4.76bn and \$3.9bn of funding committed respectively, this represents \$261 per person in 2016, compared to \$236 in 2015. See: Syria Humanitarian Response Plan 2016, Syria Strategic Response Plan 2015 and <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>.

- 24 OCHA Financial Tracking Service, <https://fts.unocha.org/pageloader.aspx?page=home>
- 25 Ibid. See also: 'By recipient country' chart in: OCHA. Supporting Syria and The Region: London 2016 (as of 26 August 2016). Of the total pledged in London, \$3,39m have indicatively been assigned to refugee hosting countries and 'regional', whereas \$1,547m to Syria, despite the fact there are nearly three times the number of people in need inside Syria than registered refugees.
- 26 OCHA. Update on Supporting Syria and the Region: London 2016 (as of 26 August 2016).
- 27 <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkeys-bill-totals-8-billion-for-21-million-syrian-migrants-over-last-45-years.aspx?pageID=238&nID=90542&NewsCatID=34>
- 28 3RP Mid-Year Report. June 2016. <http://www.3rpsyriacrisis.org/wp-content/uploads/3/07/2016RP-Mid-year-Report.pdf>
- 29 Ibid.
- 30 K. Watkins. August 2016. 'No Lost Generation: Holding to the promise of education for all Syrian refugees'. Overseas Development Institute (ODI). <http://www.aworldatschool.org/pages/no-lost-generation-the-promise-of-education-for-syrian-refugees>
- 31 The No Lost Generation initiative is an ambitious commitment to support children and youth affected by the Syria and Iraq crises. The initiative was launched in 2013 as a concerted effort by UN agencies, donors, NGOs and others to secure the safety and futures of a whole generation of children and young people whose safety, wellbeing, education and development stand to be decimated by years of war. See <http://nolostgeneration.org/about>
- 32 OCHA. Update on Supporting Syria and the Region: London 2016 (as of 26 August 2016).
- 33 Ibid.
- 34 World Bank. 2016. International Community Endorses New Initiative to Support Refugees, Host Communities, Recovery and Reconstruction in the Middle East and North Africa. Press release 15 April 2016. <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/15/04/2016/international-community-endorses-new-initiative-to-support-refugees-host-communities-and-recovery-in-mena>
- 35 The debt-to-GDP ratio in Lebanon reached 148.7 percent in 2015. <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/lebanon/publication/economic-outlook-spring2016->
- 36 There is a growing body of evidence confirming that the implementation of the EU–Turkey deal is breaching international human rights laws. See for example <https://www.savethechildren.net/article/charity-warns-evidence-eu-turkey-deal-breaching-international-human-rights-laws>
- 37 Amnesty International. Turkey: Illegal mass returns of Syrian refugees expose fatal flaws in EU–Turkey deal. Press release April 2016. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/press-releases/04/2016/turkey-illegal-mass-returns-of-syrian-refugees-expose-fatal-flaws-in-eu-turkey-deal/> Amnesty International regrets Lebanon's decision to overturn its open border policy towards refugees and refusal to address discrimination against women and migrants. Public Statement. 16 March 2016. Amnesty International. Jordan: Syrian refugees blocked from accessing critical health services <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/MDE1836582016ENGLISH.pdf> Jordan: Syrian refugees blocked from accessing critical health services.
- 38 Information provided by UNHCR based on estimates from the ground see also Human Rights Watch. Jordan: 70,000 Syrians Trapped at Border. 1 July 2016. <https://www.hrw.org/news/01/07/2016/jordan-70000-syrians-trapped-border>
- 39 Camp Coordination Camp Management Cluster in Syria. Northern Syria Displacement Tracking Table. 16 August 2016 see also Human Rights Watch. Press release 20 May 2016. UN: Press Turkey to Open Border <https://www.hrw.org/news/20/05/2016/un-press-turkey-open-border>
- 40 United Nations. UN calls for more 'equitable' responsibility-sharing to relieve plight of Syrian refugees. 30 March 2016. <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=#53570.V8WYLP196M8>
- 41 Oxfam. Resettling 10 percent of Syrian Refugees. Briefing Note. 29 March 2016. [https://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/file\\_attachments/bn-resettling-ten-percent-refugees-290316-en\\_0.pdf](https://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/file_attachments/bn-resettling-ten-percent-refugees-290316-en_0.pdf)
- 42 UNHCR. Resettlement and Other Admission Pathways for Syrian Refugees. 31 July 2016. <http://www.unhcr.org/protection/resettlement/573dc82d4/resettlement-other-admission-pathways-syrian-refugees-updated2016-30-.html>
- 43 Oxfam. Resettling 10 percent of Syrian Refugees. Briefing Note. 29 March 2016. [https://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/file\\_attachments/bn-resettling-ten-percent-refugees-290316-en\\_0.pdf](https://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/file_attachments/bn-resettling-ten-percent-refugees-290316-en_0.pdf)
- 44 Shared by UNHCR during humanitarian coordination meetings. 14 August 2016.
- 45 UNHCR. UNHCR Operational Update. August 2016. <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNHCR20%Jordan20%Operational20%Update20%August20%202016%FINAL.pdf>
- 46 Jordan's Ministry of Labour, see Brookings, <http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/future-development/posts/-20/06/2016syrian-refugees-work-permits-karasapan>
- 47 An estimated 3,300 of Za'atari 7-17 year olds (13.3 percent, mostly boys, average age 13) are engaged in labour in Za'atari camp, half of whom work 7 days a week, and 80 percent are reporting extreme fatigue according to Multisector needs assessment/humanitarian needs overview (2016 ,2015 ,2014).
- 48 'Jordan Compact' presented by the GoJ at the Supporting Syria and the Region Conference. 4 February 2016.
- 49 OCHA. Update on Supporting Syria and the Region: London 2016 (as of 26 August 2016) .



- 50 The scheme applies to 52 product groups for 10 years, see [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP2570-16\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP2570-16_en.htm)
- 51 The Jordan Times. 10 July 2016. <http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/gov%E9%80%2t-announces-loans-unemployed-youths-start-businesses>
- 52 'Jordan Compact' presented by the GoJ at the Supporting Syria and the Region Conference. 4 February 2016.
- 53 3RP Mid-Year Report. June 2016. <http://www.3rpsyriacrisis.org/wp-content/uploads/3/07/2016RP-Mid-year-Report.pdf>
- 54 'Jordan Compact' presented by the GoJ at the Supporting Syria and the Region Conference in London. 4 February 2016.
- 55 The Jordan Times. 27 July 2016. <http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/jordan-signs-letter-accepting-terms700-m-deal-imf>
- 56 World Bank. Press release 28 July 2016. <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/28/07/2016/concessional-financing-facility-funds-projects-to-support-refugees>.
- 57 'Jordan Compact' presented by the GoJ at the Supporting Syria and the Region Conference in London. 4 February 2016.
- 58 Information provided by UNHCR on 28 August based on Jordan's Ministry of Labour data.
- 59 This includes agriculture, construction and retail/trade services.
- 60 ILO presentation to livelihoods working group in June 2016.
- 61 The Ministry of Labour announced on June 28 that it had stopped the recruitment of new 'guest workers' with the aim of regulating the labour market and pinpointing the exact number of guest workers in Jordan. <http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/jordan-valley-farmers-say-agriculture-sector-needs-guest-workers> See also: <http://ftp.jordantimes.com/news/local/jordanians-replace-guest-workers-gov%E9%80%2t-departments-%E-94%80%2mulki>
- 62 'Jordan Compact' presented by the GoJ at the Supporting Syria and the Region Conference in London. 4 February 2016.
- 63 The World Bank estimates that 80 percent of new jobs in Jordan are created by SMEs.
- 64 HRW. August 2016. "We're Afraid for Their Future". <https://www.hrw.org/report/16/08/2016/were-afraid-their-future/barriers-education-syrian-refugee-children-jordan>
- 65 UNICEF. May 2016. Running on Empty – The Situation of Syrian children in host communities in Jordan. [http://www.unicef.org/jordan/Running\\_on\\_Empty2.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/jordan/Running_on_Empty2.pdf)
- 66 Jordan MoE and UNICEF. April 2016. Catch-Up Classes. Concept Note.
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- 68 Ibid.
- 69 'Jordan Compact' presented by the GoJ at the Supporting Syria and the Region Conference in London. 4 February 2016.
- 70 Jordanian children will attend morning shifts and Syrian children a shorter shift in the afternoon and Saturdays. Ministry of Education. Impact of Syria Crisis on Education in Jordan and Accelerating Access to Quality Formal Education for Syrian Refugee Children. January 2016.
- 71 Ibid.
- 72 Information provided by the Ministry of Education in a roundtable organised by Human Rights Watch. 14 August 2016.
- 73 'Jordan Compact' presented by the GoJ at the Supporting Syria and the Region Conference. 4 February 2016.
- 74 Ibid.
- 75 Ibid.
- 76 EU 22 million JD; Germany 16 million JD; Norway 850,000 JD; U.K. 20 million JD; and U.S. 7 million JD.
- 77 Specified by the MoE in its Accelerated Access to Quality Formal Education plan.
- 78 Jordan Times. Jordan signs grants worth \$97.5m for education sector. 22 August 2016. <http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/jordan-signs-grants-worth975-m-education-sector>
- 79 'Lebanon Statement of Intent' presented by the GoL at the Supporting Syria and the Region Conference in London. 4 February 2016.
- 80 Université Saint-Joseph Institut des Sciences Politiques. August 2015. Survey on Perceptions of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon, Full Report (V.1.0).
- 81 As of August 2016, all Syrian refugees aged 15 or older must pay a \$200 fee (on an annual basis) to renew their residence. Syrian refugees attempting to renew or regularise their legal stay on the basis of UNHCR registration certificates until recently were required to sign a pledge not to work. Syrian refugees who are not registered with UNHCR or for whom GSO has rejected UNHCR certificates as a basis for residence, are required to obtain a Lebanese sponsor. Obtaining a sponsor often has additional, informal costs (as much as \$1,000).
- 82 'Lebanon Statement of Intent' presented by the GoL at the Supporting Syria and the Region Conference in London. 4 February 2016.
- 83 The replacement of the pledge not to work has not been publicly announced but has been communicated to donors, UN agencies and partners, and implementation has started in some General Security Offices.
- 84 The Minister of Education in a 10 June 2016 meeting with NGOs announced that the GoL Crisis Cell had agreed for MOSA to issue a document for Syrians, primarily to enable freedom of movement.

The Minister of Social Affairs announced on LBC TV on 29 July 2016 the intention to issue 'identification cards' (بطاقات تعريف) that will be accepted at checkpoints.

85 Human Rights Watch. 2016. 'I Just Wanted to be Treated Like a Person' How Lebanon's Residency Rules Facilitate Abuse of Syrian Refugees. [https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/report\\_pdf/lebanon0116web.pdf](https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/report_pdf/lebanon0116web.pdf)

86 Household Profiling Questionnaire (HPQ) data collected between January 2015 and February 2016. Only 27 percent of adults reported at the time of visit as having worked at least one day in the past 30 days. Interagency Quarterly Report Jan–May 2016. Livelihoods.

87 As it is no longer possible for Syrians to register with UNHCR (since May 2015) and UNHCR registration is often not accepted as a basis for residence (especially for men of working age), many Syrians have been pushed into sponsorship.

88 The commitment to 'review of existing regulatory frameworks related to residency conditions and work authorisations...including periodical waiver of residency fees and simplifying documentary requirements such as waiving the "pledge not to work" requirement for Syrians' within the Statement of Intent is directly linked with improving access to livelihoods 'and, by so doing, to ease the access of Syrians to the job market in certain sectors where they are not in direct competition with Lebanese, such as agriculture, construction and other labour-intensive sectors'. The status of this commitment is evaluated in detail in the section 'Improving Protection as a pre-condition'.

89 'Lebanon Statement of Intent' presented by the GoL at the Supporting Syria and the Region Conference in London. 4 February 2016.

90 Ibid.

91 OCHA. Update on Supporting Syria and the Region: London 2016 (as of 26 August 2016).

92 Interagency Quarterly Report Jan–May 2016 Livelihoods. See <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/country.php?id=122>

93 The Livelihoods Sector has received \$12m as of 21 June 2016 (9 percent of the \$143m appeal) (Interagency Quarterly Jan–May 2016 Social Stability). The Social Stability Sector has received \$7.1m as of 31 May 6) 2016 percent of the \$119m appeal) (Interagency Quarterly Jan–May 2016 Social Stability). See <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/country.php?id=122>

94 Interagency Quarterly Report Jan–May 2016 Livelihoods. Op. cit.

95 Preliminary Findings: Mapping of Data and Initiatives on economic opportunities and employment in Lebanon, presented to Lebanon Development Forum 14 July 2016.

96 UNICEF. May 2016. Syria Crisis Education Factsheet. [http://www.oosci-mena.org/uploads/1/wysiwyg/Syria\\_Crisis\\_Education\\_Fact\\_Sheet\\_May\\_2016.pdf](http://www.oosci-mena.org/uploads/1/wysiwyg/Syria_Crisis_Education_Fact_Sheet_May_2016.pdf) In the previous 15/2014 school year only 21 percent of 6-18 year old Syrian children were enrolled in school.

Université Saint-Joseph Institut des Sciences Politiques, Analysis of Child Education Survey. March 2016. <http://www.isp.usj.edu.lb/pdf/Refugees20%Report20%USJ-20%Avril202016%.pdf>

97 UNICEF Baseline Survey 2016. Presented to Interagency meeting 08 August 16. Presentation available at <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/country.php?id=122>

98 Human Rights Watch. July 2016. Growing Up Without an Education: Barriers to Education for Syrian Refugee Children in Lebanon. [https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/report\\_pdf/lebanon0716web.pdf](https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/report_pdf/lebanon0716web.pdf)

99 'Lebanon Statement of Intent' presented by the GoL at the Supporting Syria and the Region Conference in London. 4 February 2016.

100 3RP Mid-Year Report. June 2016. <http://goo.gl/4LX7c0> and Regional Monthly Update: 3RP Achievements – June 2015. <http://goo.gl/j1EIYi>

101 World Bank. 28 July 2016. Press release. <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/28/07/2016/concessional-financing-facility-funds-projects-to-support-refugees>

102 'Lebanon Statement of Intent' presented by the GoL at the Supporting Syria and the Region Conference in London. 4 February 2016.

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104 Ministry of Interior, Director General of Migration Management. [http://www.goc.gov.tr/icerik3/temporary-protection\\_#4748\\_1024\\_915](http://www.goc.gov.tr/icerik3/temporary-protection_#4748_1024_915)

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107 Human Rights Watch. EU: Don't Send Syrians Back to Turkey. Press Statement. 20 June 2016. <https://www.hrw.org/news/20/06/2016/eu-dont-send-syrians-back-turkey>

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population of nearly 400,000 constitutes the province with the single largest number of Syrian firms in Turkey, but the proportional impact of these firms is greatest in provinces near Syria. For example in Gaziantep, an economic hub in the southeast, the number of new Syrian firms rose from three in 2010 to 222 in 2014, which is about 17 percent of the total, and reached more than 600 in 2015. While Syrian firms range widely, they tend to concentrate in the restaurant, construction, trade, textile, real estate, travel, transportation, and foodstuffs sectors. Financial Times. Syrian refugee entrepreneurs boost turkey's economy. 16 May 2016 <https://next.ft.com/content/93e3d11-1826-794e-6b-197a4af20d5575e>.

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