



# PRESS RELEASE

Zarqa, 19<sup>th</sup> of August 2014

For immediate release

## European Union to Assist 1,200 Jordanians and Syrians to Cope with the Crisis

**Amman – European Union donated 1.2 million JOD (1.3 million EUR) to support Jordanians who suffer from the impact of the current crisis in the region and Syrians who found refuge in the Kingdom. A total of 1,200 people will be trained in life and practical technical skills across the country. Representatives of the European Union together with Caritas Jordan and its partners from the Czech Republic and Switzerland officially launched the project on 19<sup>th</sup> of August.**

The project goal is to help Syrian refugees and local Jordanian population to cope with the impacts of the crisis by means of provision of informal education opportunities and psychosocial services. Since the start of the civil unrest in Syria, the EU has been supporting families that have been fleeing the violence in Syria and the communities that are hosting them. This project is no exception helping both refugees and their hosts to better cope with the difficulties they are facing and maintain sense of hope and purpose to build a better future. Creating opportunities to improve their livelihoods through informal education and, in case of Syrians, relieving them of their psychological burdens they often brought to Jordan from war-torn Syria are the cornerstones of future healing process that will bring hosts and refugees back to their normal lives. Yaser, a Syrian man who found his temporary home in Jordan about a year ago, said: *“To be frank, I have faced a lot of trouble when I moved to Jordan; life is not easy when you don’t have a home to return to and don’t know what will come tomorrow. But when I started meeting Jordanians and working with them in the Caritas centers, I understood that I am not the only one in trouble and that we need to stick together to go through these troubled times.”* Lukáš Voborský, representative of Caritas Czech Republic working with his Jordanian counterparts, follows on Yaser’s thoughts during the ceremony: *“Tensions between Jordanians and Syrians are increasing as more and more Syrians are fleeing to Jordan, but what we see is also a big potential for Syrians to bring their specific know-how, exchange and share it with their Jordanian hosts and build new opportunities together.”*

- More follows -



This project is implemented by the Contractors:

Caritas Jordan  
Caritas Czech Republic  
Caritas Switzerland

This project is funded by the European Union:

Delegation of the European Union to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

The European Commission is the EU's executive body.

“The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders”.

The launching ceremony took place at one of Caritas Jordan centers located in Zarqa city. Besides the staff of the Caritas consortium providing the assistance, representatives of the European Union Delegation to Jordan and of the Embassy of the Czech Republic to Jordan took part in the event. Officials met Jordanians and Syrians in need of assistance and discussed the current situation in the country and their everyday challenges and problems. Taghreed, Jordanian lady who participated in the discussion and who went through a cooking course with Caritas, told the officials: *“I wanted to improve my cooking to be able to provide full catering to people here in Zarqa, but I didn’t expect that I would learn new recipes from my fellow Syrian training-mates. The people love the pastries I make now!”* After the discussion with Jordanians and Syrians who take part in Caritas training, Ibrahim Laafia, the first counsellor of the EU Delegation to Jordan, concluded: *“The welcome of the Jordanian people has a great impact for the lives of traumatized Syrian refugees and can pave the way to their rehabilitation. The crisis is affecting a whole generation of people in Syria. Many have been exposed to high levels of violence and trauma and will need psychological support to help build resilience and to restart a 'normal' life.”*

The assistance will be provided till the end of August 2015 and a total of 1,200 Jordanians and Syrians will be assisted in 7 Caritas centers across the country.

**- Ends -**

### **About EU**

The EU (the European Commission and EU Member States) has contributed over € 2.8 billion to the region since the start of the crisis, making the EU the largest donor. Of this amount over € 1.5 billion has come from EU Member States – mainly in the form of humanitarian aid – and € 1.3 billion from the European Commission, of which € 615 million has been humanitarian aid and € 670 million for development, stabilization, and macro-finance assistance. There is consensus that this multi-dimensional and protracted crisis requires a simultaneous humanitarian aid and development/resilience-based response, and that over time the development/resilience-based response is likely to become increasingly important. The support has focused mainly on education, health and livelihood sectors.

### **About Caritas Czech Republic**

Caritas Czech Republic is a respected member of the Caritas Internationalis network, and enjoys a strong relationship with global Caritas partners. In line with the vision of Caritas Europa, Caritas Czech Republic works in the Czech Republic and abroad to realize a vision of a civilization of love and justice where every human person can flourish and live in peace and dignity as part of one human family. Caritas Czech Republic has been working in Jordan since 2011 in response to the Syria crisis working mainly in livelihoods and psychosocial sectors.

[www.caritasczech.org](http://www.caritasczech.org)

### **About Caritas Jordan**

Caritas Jordan was established in 1967 to respond to the humanitarian crisis caused by the Six Days War. Since the first Arab-Israeli war in 1948, Jordan has been considered the safest (and closest) shelter for the Palestinian refugees coming from the West Bank. Hundreds of thousands have crossed Jordanian borders, with the inevitable effect of destabilizing Jordan, both on the social and political levels.

Since the early years, Caritas Jordan has evolved into a broader organization that makes its contribution to the fighting of poverty to the social development of the Jordanian society in different domains. In fact, Caritas has to face many challenges. The political stability of Jordan encouraged a massive influx of immigrants and refugees.

[www.caritasjordan.org.jo](http://www.caritasjordan.org.jo)

### **About Caritas Switzerland**

Caritas Switzerland is an association, which operates as an independent, multi-functional relief agency with its head office in Lucerne. The aid agency is a member of the international Caritas network and active in more than 40 countries mainly focusing on emergency relief and reconstruction as well as development cooperation in areas such as food security, water, the environment, human rights and education for children and adults. In Switzerland, Caritas Switzerland works closely with the Regional Caritas Organisations.

[www.caritas.ch](http://www.caritas.ch)

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