
“Responding to Mother and Child Fundamental Needs in Jordan”

Situation

Jordan started to receive an influx of Syrian refugees since the outbreak of the Syrian refugees in March 2011. Currently, there are around 1.400.000 Syrian refugees in Jordan, 80% of them are residing in urban areas.

The Jordanian Government has repeatedly asked the international community for more aid, saying the influx of refugees is putting a massive strain on already overstretched water and power supplies as well as demands for housing and education.

As of the beginning of the crisis, Syrian refugee children have come to Jordan academically and emotionally distressed. They have left schools that have been turned to military camps and rubble, lost their academic years and schooling documents.

They have further faced difficult coping mechanisms and poor integration as a result of traumatized experiences and difference in the curricula between the two countries, along with expensive and unaffordable school kits, uniforms and transportation costs for families who are prevented from work legally and provide for their families, apart from congested public schools, poor capacities and weak infrastructures, with no available services for children.

As the crisis continues, the future of a whole generation of children is at stake; according to UNICEF figures, 53 per cent of the Syrian refugees registered in Jordan are children, while UNHCR figures indicate that 10,370 Syrian babies were born in Jordan in 2013 alone.

Preschool (kindergarten-KG) education is not easily accessible for Syrians in Jordan, as most of these schools require fees

and are already in short supply for Jordanians. The pre-crisis enrolment rate for pre-school in Syria was around 9 per cent, and parents expressed a need for this option in Jordan. Children who attend pre-primary school are better prepared to start primary school and tend to enroll in higher rates compared to their peers. In addition to demonstrating higher cognitive skills, children also feel more integrated socially and are more familiar with structured learning environments, making them more likely to remain in school.

Despite the large numbers enrolled, not all children are pursuing their education, dropping out or attending irregularly, a phenomenon that is due to various reasons, as transportation costs, access, and lack of space but also child labor.

More than 30,000 Syrian refugee children work in Jordan, most of them taking jobs on farms, but also in auto-repair shops and more hazardous labor, according to recent UNICEF estimates.



Justification of the Project

Mothers and children are the most vulnerable victims of war. The residues of war and displacement penetrate to the roots and affect the well-being of persons on the short and long term.

Refugees and Jordanian hosting communities suffering severely from the crises are in dire need of humanitarian assistance to cover their basic needs for food, shelter and personal hygiene as well as they have the right to be protected and have access to health and education to be able to rebuild their lives.

This project contributes in bridging gaps, healing and protecting most vulnerable persons in times of crisis.

Caritas Jordan is implementing this project “Responding to Mother and Child Fundamental Needs in Jordan” in 6 areas of Jordan (Amman, Madaba, Balqa, Mafraq, Irbid & Karak) with the support of Caritas Germany and Sternstunden. The project aims to enhance mothers and children coping strategies and promote their resilience.

This is being fulfilled through providing pre-school early learning, awareness and counseling activities & life-skills training.



Project Overview



1. A total of 240 preschoolers aged (3 -5) are equipped with KG learning in different areas of Jordan. The activities of each KG comprise:

- 100 Hours KG Classes according to Jordanian Educational Curriculum
- All educational material needed (books, folders, pens, color pencils, etc)
- Proper nutritional snacks during school hours
- Proper clothing as winter jackets
- Transportation from houses to school and vice versa
- KG graduations after completing the courses in each area
- Extracurricular activities as: mother's day celebration, awareness hygiene activity, educational trip, art therapy, etc.



2. A total of 240 Vulnerable Mothers are provided with:

- Counselling sessions covering topics like: How to deal with children, stress management & good parenting during crises.
- Awareness raising sessions on: mothers' health, children's health and first aid.
- "Support group" sessions, bringing together (5-7) mothers per session, having similar concerns, to address their issues intensively.



3. A total of 200 females receive Life-skills training which will increase their personal and professional capacities, including topics as:

- Personal Hygiene and the importance to create good habits since childhood
- Healthy Nutrition according to age and especial children's needs
- First Aid information and tools to attend basic emergencies at household level
- Emotional Intelligence: How to promote resilience and emotional technics to deal with stressful situations
- General aspects of housekeeping and babysitting



4. A total of 150 adolescents receive awareness sessions were psychologist and counsellor create a trustful atmosphere and important topics for them can be discussed as:

- Puberty & Sexual Education
- Personal Hygiene & Nutrition
- Time management
- Bad habits
- Early force marriages

I

n addition, other activities of the project include training for teachers which give the Jordanian Educational Community innovative tools in the field of preschooling; follow up of children future enrolment on schools with referrals to other INGOs working on primary education. Printed material as the Booklet "My Parents Understand Me" includes practical tools and methods to help mothers to deal with their children in the difficult conditions they are facing as refugees.



Changing People's Lives - Positive highlights of the project

Caritas staff and volunteers approach is highly appreciated by beneficiaries, as they feel confident and comfortable, trusting their children to Caritas and actively participating in all project activities. Benefit on children's behavior is noteworthy at different levels, after attending KG classes they are more active and joyful.

Children affected by war are usually isolating themselves. Progressively with KG classes they become engaged and act like children again: playing and learning.

Mothers feel confident of the future of their kids seeing them smiling and with hope. Parents meetings help them to understand their children better as the counselling sessions give tools to understand the traumatic situation they are facing and how they can communicate better with their children to overcome the adversities.

The project distinction is the unique combination it provides to create a better environment between Syrians and Jordanian Host Communities to collaborate together for a better future.

