



This situation report on the Syrian refugees is meant to convey the latest developments on the crisis that triggered many to leave their country seeking a safe haven in Jordan, as well as to cast a light on Caritas' activities pertaining to this issue.



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Evolution of the context and of the current humanitarian situation

Over 4 million Syrians living as refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq are increasingly starting to move to Europe.

This is not because people want to move, but because the quality of their asylum has deteriorated in the past year and they see no other option as the funding crisis affecting the already fragile host economies is reaching a breaking point. Increasing legal restrictions and limitations on self-support opportunities that are pushing refugees

further into destitution, adding the international community has failed to adequately respond to the Syrian crisis in the Middle East region.

The international community committed to only \$1.67 billion (37 per cent) of the total pledged funding needs of \$4.53, according to the Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan (3RP) Syria Crisis progress report of 2015.

Eighty-six per cent of Syrian refugees living outside of formal refugee camps in Jordan are below the Jordanian poverty line and there is a growing need to address the “growing legal restrictions and limitations on self-support opportunities to reduce the risk of more refugees sliding into poverty.

Refugees are continually raising concerns about not being able to access healthcare, education for their children and an income due to restrictions on entering the local labor market. Europe is increasingly being seen as the only alternative.

Syrian refugees in Jordan have split over the issue of immigration to Europe, with some saying they are willing to risk a dangerous journey

just to push their way into the old continent, while others preferred to be the closest to home.

Jordan hosts over 1.4 million Syrians, of whom some 650,000 are registered refugees and 85 per cent live among host communities.

However, migrating to the north is not the cherished aspiration for all.

Due to difficulties in obtaining jobs and also due to cut in humanitarian aid to refugees and despair of finding a solution to the Syrian crisis, many are thinking of what's next and everyone wants a better future for their families. They see that in Europe.

UNHCR:

Head of the UN refugee agency Communication in Jordan has revealed that unprecedented number of refugees voluntarily return to Syria from Jordan.

In an interview with Al Arabiya Satellite Station, he added that 150 Syrian refugees are returning to Syria on a daily basis, as this number used to be the monthly average of Syrian returnees.

He added that these procedures take 24 hours, 5 day a week.

He attributed this return to lack of cash and relief aid, in addition to WFP subsidies' cut to 229,000 refugees and reducing the monthly aid to \$7 per person, stating that these categories of people are characterized as extremely poor and live under local and international poverty line.



Some 25,000 Syrian refugee families in Jordan receive monthly cash assistance, whereas some 7,000 families are on the waiting list.

For many refugees going to Europe is not an option they prefer but a desperate attempt to protect their families. The drowning of the young boy at the Turkish shores has proven that the international community is putting an end to this deadly war, and Syria's neighboring countries

is providing enough safety and security to refugees, according to UNHCR in Jordan. Perhaps the European countries say now that if they had made more effort to support the neighboring countries, they have not seen refugees pouring to their countries looking for security, health care, education and food. Hundreds of Syrian refugees in the Zaatari Camp in Jordan are willing to return due to lack of work chances and decreasing level of assistance, the same source added.

UNHCR annual report issued in June 2015 said that the number of world refugees and displaced people victims of various types of conflicts reached 60 million in 2014, more than half of them are children. This record and unprecedented number indicates a tremendous increase compared with 2013 when the number was 51.2 million refugees. The report has also added that during the past five years, at least 14 conflicts took place in many parts of the world, including 3 in the Middle East (Syria, Iraq and Yemen) with Turkey that hosts 1.8 million Syrian refugees. Meanwhile, some 127,000 refugees were able to return to their countries in 2014, the least during 31 years.

The UNHCR representative to Jordan warned that there will be an increase in number of Syrians returning to camps due to the announced food cut affecting those living in host communities.

Lifeline Campaign:

UNHCR has embarked on providing cash assistance to 22,500 Syrian families in Jordan. The agency keeps lists of names of 12,000 Syrian families and their living conditions, keeps them on a waiting list as those families are in a daily urgent cash assistance.

This assistance comes as a result of the difficult decisions concerning the decrease or complete cut of financial assistance provided to Syrian refugees in Jordan.

The Jordanian government:

Jordan said that the world community's failure to aptly address the refugee plight has led to the ongoing crisis, when Europe is facing a dilemma caused by floods of Syrian and other refugees seeking better lives in the free world. At a time the world is struggling to address the security and political aspects of the refugee crisis, several world countries are not providing enough assistance to sustain the World Food Programme, the UNRWA or any other concerned international programs.

At a time the world is struggling to address the security and political aspects of the refugee crisis, several world countries are not providing enough assistance to sustain the World Food Programme, the UNRWA or any other concerned international programs. What started in Jordan as an emergency camp management operation has evolved into a protracted crisis affecting nearly every sector and threatening to undermine the development gains achieved in the last decade," the statement said.

The Regional Refugees and Resilience Plan (3RP):

At the end of 2014, a wide range of national and international partners launched the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) to address the most challenging needs of refugees and host communities, as well as the longer-term socio-economic impact from the ongoing crisis in Syria. As a broad regional platform, the 3RP brings together plans developed under the leadership of the governments of Syria's neighbors — Jordan, Turkey, Lebanon, Iraq and Egypt — which house 98 per cent of the 4 million refugees resulting from the crisis. The 3RP was conceived and planned based on valuable lessons learned from four years of effective humanitarian assistance work in the sub-region. It represents an unprecedented shift in the way that the international community responds to a multidimensional crisis. Neighboring countries have been the first donors in addressing the demographic and economic shock generated by the conflict.

The 2015 Jordan Response blue print Plan to the crisis was prepared by Jordan and the international community with a budget of \$2.9 billion to finance top priority projects for 11 sectors, including health, education, energy and water.

“The plan is currently funded by only 34.5 per cent; two-thirds still need funding”

The plan is currently funded by only 34.5 per cent; two-thirds still need funding. If international support is not provided, the negative effects will not only include the Middle East but also extend to European countries and the whole world.

The final draft of this plan is expected to be ready by the end of October 2015, responding to the urgent needs of 2016 through 2018, in cooperation with the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC), government sectorial ministries in addition to UN agencies and donor countries.

The 2015 Jordan Response Plan includes a whole chapter on social protection to enable vulnerable segments affected by the crisis to receive services that sustain levels of safety, particularly in the governorates most affected by the crisis.

Moreover, \$388.6 million was estimated as what the social sector needs and only \$44 million has been secured, which shows even more the importance of increasing efforts from the international community to shoulder its responsibility towards refugees and hosting communities.

The international community is urged to perform its role through development aid and programs concerned with social care and

protection as part of enhancing Jordan's role.

“The aim of the Jordan resilience-oriented programming is two-fold: first to ensure that shocks and stresses do not lead to a long-term deterioration in the well-being of a particular individual, household, system or institution; and secondly to build capacity to absorb future shocks and deal appropriately with related stresses,” the minister explained.

By providing assistance equally to refugees, national institutions and host communities, with the aim of strengthening public services and enhancing social cohesion, the Jordan Response Plan (JRP) is bridging the gap between humanitarian aid as a rapid response measure in crisis situations and more medium- and long-term development action required to support the country's communities and institutions in coping and recovering from the crisis.

Employment Among Jordanians:

The unemployment rate among Jordanians has increased from 14.5 per cent prior to the Syrian crisis in 2011 to 22.1 per cent at present, according to a recent report by international organizations.

Conducted by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Norway-based FAFO institute, the “Impact of Syrian refugees on the Jordanian labour market” study showed that the employment situation for Jordanians prior to the Syrian crisis was characterized by a labour participation rate of 67 per cent among men and about 18 per cent among women.

However, at present the labour force participation rate for Jordanians is similar to what it was before the Syrian crisis, while the unemployment rate has increased from 14.5 to 22.1 per cent.

The rate stands at 42 per cent among Jordanian youths and 40 per cent among women alone, according to the report.

However, these figures are higher than the “official” figures the government announced early this year.

“Unemployment rate in 2014 stood at 11.9%”

According to the government, unemployment rate in 2014 stood at 11.9 per cent, going down by 0.7 per cent compared with 2013, when it was 12.6 per cent.

As for the participation of Syrians in the Jordanian labour market, report findings showed that “at present, about 51 per cent of Syrian men living outside camps participate in the Jordanian labour market”.

Meanwhile, only about 10 per cent of employed Syrians have obtained

formal work permits, and “practically all Syrian refugees working outside camps are employed in the informal economy and outside the boundaries of Jordanian Labour Law”.

Between 160,000 and 200,000 Syrians are illegally working in the Kingdom, according to Labor Ministry Secretary General. A total of 5,700 Syrians obtained work permits during 2014, according to the official, who noted that the ministry does not give work permits to Syrians who enter Jordan as refugees. Illegal Syrian workers are sent to security centers where they sign a pledge stating they will not repeat the violation, but are not sent back to Syria because of the political and security situation there.

The largest numbers of Syrian refugees are located in the northern governorates of the country, according to the report, that was officially launched and posted on the ILO website.

The ministry conducts inspection campaigns around the Kingdom and takes legal measures against employers that commit violations which include a fine of between JD200 and JD500, referral to court, and warnings to rectify their legal status.

Moreover, if the status of guest workers is not rectified, the ministry closes the institution and does not allow it to reopen until it does.

Guest workers need work permits to own mobile phones or send money out of Jordan through banks or exchange stores, adding that companies are not allowed to employ them illegally in projects financed and supervised by the government. Moreover, ministries and public institutions are not allowed to employ guest workers for cleaning or food services, the official said.

Amman, Irbid and Mafraq governorates alone are hosting more than 76 per cent of all the Syrian refugees in Jordan. Syrian refugees constitute 52 per cent of the total population of Mafraq, 12 per cent of Irbid's residents and 7 per cent of the total population of Amman. The study showed, more than 40 per cent of employed Syrians outside camps in Amman, Irbid and Mafraq work in the construction industry, while 23 per cent work in the wholesale and retail trade and repair industry, 12 per cent in manufacturing, and 8 per cent in the accommodation and food service industry.

Child Employment:

Economic activities carried out by children are substantially more prevalent among Syrian children living outside camps than among Jordanian children. Only 1.6 per cent of Jordanian boys in the age group 9-15 are economically active, while more than 8 per cent of Syrian boys in the same age group are economically active. In the age group 15-18, about 37 per cent of Syrian boys are economically active, compared to about 17 per cent of Jordanian boys.

Child employment among Jordanian boys in the age group of 9-15 is less than 1 per cent, while the corresponding figure for Syrian boys is 3 per cent. Almost 14 per cent of Syrian boys in the 15-18 age group are employed, compared to 8 per cent of Jordanian boys of the same age.

Close to half of all Syrian refugee children in Jordan are now the joint or sole family breadwinners in households surveyed by UNICEF and Save the Children. The conflict and humanitarian crisis in Syria are pushing an ever increasing number of children into exploitation in the labour market, and much more needs to be done to reverse the trend, the survey said.

An estimated two million children are now living outside Syria as refugees. As families become increasingly desperate, children are working primarily for their survival. Whether in Syria or neighbouring countries, they are becoming main economic players.

The survey finds that a spiraling number of children are employed in harmful working conditions, risking serious damage to their health and well-being.

“Child labour hinders children’s growth and development as they toil for long hours with little pay, often in extremely hazardous and unhealthy environments,” said UNICEF regional director for the Middle East and North Africa.

“Carrying heavy loads, being exposed to pesticides and toxic chemicals and working long hours — these are just some of the hazards working children face every day around the region.”

Three out of four working children surveyed in the Zaatari Refugee Camp have reported health problems at work, according to the survey.

A further 22 per cent of children casually employed in the agricultural sector in Mafraq and the Jordan Valley have also been injured while working. Children who work are more likely to drop out of school — adding to fears of a “lost generation” of Syrian children.

Education:

Official data shows the number of Syrian refugee students in the Kingdom increased from 121,000 at the beginning of the year to 141,000, with many other school-age children not attending classes.

UNESCO puts the number of dropouts at 180,000, counting Jordanian and non-Jordanian children.

More than 60,000 Syrian refugee children are out of school, according to UNICEF.

41 per cent of children under the age of five years who are supposed to be in kindergarten are not enrolled in these levels, which is dangerous because they are “very important”. Family problems, high divorce rates and parents’ focus on work and neglecting their children are all factors that lead to children dropping out of school. Some dropouts are people with disabilities who do not go to school due to lack of accessibility. Schools merge students with disabilities with other students when there are no specialized teachers qualified to deal with them. Only 5 per cent of the gross domestic product is spent on education, which is not enough, according to a senior academician in Jordan.

One of the reasons that made education in Jordan is the scale down of government support and lack of international community's support consequently having poor academic acquisition and low quality of education. Schools have become alarmingly crowded; a zero number of students in 68 schools in the northern areas of Jordan succeeded due to poor infrastructure, full classes, and a limited number of educators.



The vast majority of Syrian students live in the northern and middle areas of Jordan. 46% of public schools are overcrowded in the two regions. 98 schools are running two shifts and the ministry of education needs to build 5707 new classrooms to absorb the unprecedented number of Syrian refugees.

Health:

Health services are stretched to the limit, some medicines are running short and long-eradicated diseases are reappearing.

In addition to the Jordanian ministry of health, which is lacking enough support and funds to carry out all health care cases and surgeries and had to impose fees on Syrians who seek medical care, UNHCR, likewise and because of funding constraints, stopped securing health care to thalassemia and hemophilia Syrian patients. These serious and lifesaving diseases are costly take long time treatment. The ministry of health receives in its center 110 patients of all ages, despite high costs of treatment.

The cost of medical tests undergone to Syrian refugees, who come to Jordan and obtain the Jordan government's service cards, is a burden imposed on Syrian refugees. That's why the majority of Syrians did not obtain the service cards. Both UNHCR and the ministry are unable to cover the costs of these examinations due to lack of funding.

The recent arrivals of Syrian refugees have seen many injured and people who received gun shots. These cases are subject to infection and complication. The duration of treatment for war-wounded patients is longer and is continuous as patients usually undergo more than one reconstructive surgery; war wounded patients are younger than typical patients. Physiotherapy sessions also differ, as war wounded patients hope to avoid amputation or disabilities, while average patients seek to minimize pain.

WASH:

The 2015-2017 Jordan Response Plan for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, prepared by the ministry and UNICEF, seeks to enhance the capacity of the government and host communities to meet the increased demand for water and sanitation services.

The three-year plan was launched at the National Conference on Water and Sanitation, organized by the ministry in cooperation with UNICEF.

“A total of \$750 million is needed to sustain water and sanitation services alone for Syrian refugees and host communities”

“A total of \$750 million is needed to sustain water and sanitation services alone for Syrian refugees and host communities. So far, only 8 per cent or \$25 million of the required amount has been secured,” the minister said.

He stressed that the sustainability of water and sanitation accessibility will be at stake unless funds are received from the international community.

“If the required funds [\$750 million for 2015-2017] are not secured, there will be a negative impact on Syrian refugees' health, security and environment. In addition, tensions may arise between refugees and host communities,” the minister warned.

“The magnitude of the water and sanitation problem is very huge, and we might not notice a substantial improvement in many areas, but the implemented projects are keeping the problem of water and sanitation from reaching the level of a crisis.”

The addition of hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees to an already vulnerable water, sanitation and hygiene situation has resulted in severe pressure on the entire system of these services in Jordan.

“Refugees' daily per capita share of water stands at 40 liters provided via wells. Moreover, 2,500 cubic meters of wastewater is generated daily at the Zaatari Refugee Camp, which requires \$2,500 per day for its handling and treatment,” he indicated.

The Jordan Response Plan for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene focuses on a refugee response and resilience strengthening project that links resilience objectives with short-term refugee assistance, particularly in communities hosting Syrian refugees.

Groundwater is being unsustainably exploited, and the remaining

usable sources are gradually diminishing. The refugee burden has also exacerbated pressure on public finances, increasing government expenditure on subsidies for bread, water, electricity and gas, and further inflating the budget deficit, according to the statement. The overall financial impact to date of the direct and indirect costs of the crisis is estimated to be in the range of \$7.9 billion. This is excluding the cost of humanitarian or resilience interventions, and accounts for the additional expenditures in education, health, subsidies and income losses incurred by the government since 2011 as a result of hosting refugees.

WFP:

A reduction in resources and financial aid for the UN World Food Programme (WFP) regarding Syrian refugees in Jordan has meant worsening conditions and decreasing opportunities for the migrants settling in the Kingdom, Executive Director of the WFP has said.

WFP would continue to provide JD20 food vouchers for the refugees in Al Zaatari, Al Azraq, King Abdullah Park and Cyber City until November 2015, per each individual, besides distributing daily bread needs. It will also provide reduced food vouchers of JD10 or JD 5 per person for less afflicted brackets who are living within the local community.

“The financial assistance needed to cover the Syrian refugees’ inside the camp will be available until November 2015”

The financial assistance needed to cover the Syrian refugees’ inside the camp will be available until November 2015 as WFP received \$21 million out of \$55 million, an amount needed to maintain its assistance to Syrian refugees in Jordan until end of this year.



WFP provides e-cards financial assistance to Syrian refugees enabling them to purchase food to 535,000 Syrians out of 629,000 registered

refugees. The available amounts can cover 211,000 Syrian refugees living outside the camps for JD 10 monthly per person until end of November 2015 to persons classified as extremely vulnerable, while 229,000 Syrian refugees who live in less vulnerability and used to receive JD 5 per day per person according to August 2015 vouchers system stopped completely to do this as a result of budgetary constraints as of beginning of September 2015. In the event that \$38 million is received, the program will resume assistance to this category of people until the end of 2015.

“85% of Syrian families are living under food insecurity”

According to WFP, 85% of Syrian families are living under food insecurity or subjected to, in comparison with 2014 when the percentage was 48%.

69% of Syrian refugees living outside the camps in Jordan live under poverty line; 90% families had to apply some strategies to promote their resilience such as reducing daily meals, purchasing the cheapest food items and sending their children to labour market.

More than 3,000 Syrian refugees have returned to Azraq Refugee Camp from urban areas in the first half of the year.

“With Zaatari at full capacity, the number of urban refugees seeking shelter in Jordan’s second camp, Azraq, increased fourfold in the first six months of this year,” UNHCR Spokesperson said.

In the first half of 2015, 3,658 people returned to Azraq, some 100km east of Amman and 20km west of the town of Azraq in the Zarqa Governorate, from urban areas, compared to just 738 in the second half of 2014, the statement added.

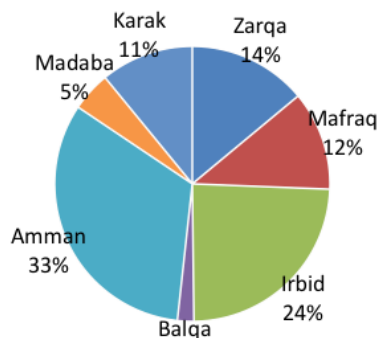
This trend, the agency explained, is driven by increasing vulnerability of urban refugees in Jordan whose savings are depleted after years in exile, and who are unable to find secure legal livelihoods.

Return:

an ex-government official called on the government to study the return of Syrian refugees whose areas in this country are safe in an aim to salvage the Jordanian economy from further deterioration as some Jordanian experts warned that whenever the Syrian puts an end and refugees start to go back to their country, it will take 10-15 years to complete their country’s reconstruction and security prevails before they decide to do that, noting that at least 30% of refugees are expected to remain in Jordan. They also urged the Jordanian government to set a future vision to deal with this crisis and benefit from Syrian skilled labour to fill the gap that is left by reluctant Jordanians who refrain from taking some jobs, which will positively contribute to economy enhancement.

Mapping of Caritas Jordan interventions

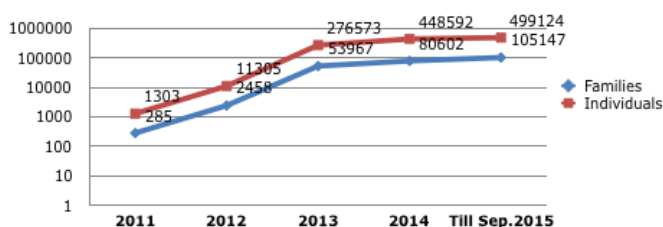
The following chart clarifies Caritas accumulative fields visits within areas:



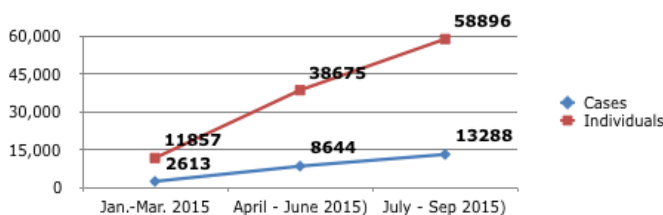
CJ-Registration:

499,124 making 105,147 households registered at CJ Registration System across its seven countrywide centers namely Mafrqa, Irbid, Zarqa, Amman, Balqa, Madaba and Karak.

The following chart clarifies Caritas accumulative Registration process until Sep.2015.



The following chart clarifies Caritas Registration process from Jan. until Sep.2015.



CJ-Field Visits:

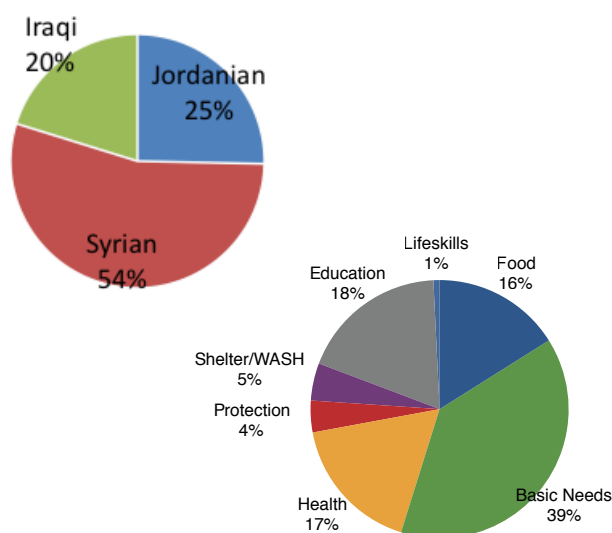
10,603 households visits that Caritas strives to reach the most vulnerable persons in a crisis situation through its field teams' visits that are carried out by 7 field teams who visited all parts of Jordan including Amman, Zarqa, Irbid, Madaba, Balqa, Karak and Mafrqa in urban, outlying and surrounding areas. The following chart clarifies Caritas accumulative field visits until Sep.2015.



Humanitarian Response:

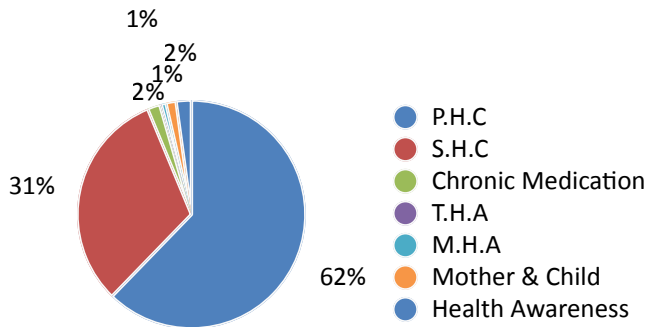
The summary sheet clarifies the Emergency projects and the number of beneficiaries from Jan.-Sep. 2015

Summary Sheet of CJ Projects throughout 2015 till Sep.				
CJ Projects: 24	\$15, 829,846 USD			
	11, 233,650.21 JOD			
CJ Partners:	Caritas Denmark, Caritas Switzerland, Caritas Czech, Caritas Germany, Caritas Austria, Caritas International, CRS, Caritas Japan, Caritas Italiana, Canadian Catholic Organization, MCC, U.S Department of State,			
Target Groups/ Individuals	Jordanians	Iraqi	Syrian	Total
	52,064	41,545	111,856	205,465
Services	Total	%		
Food	46,250	16%		
Basic Needs	111,595	39%		
Health	49,700	17%		
Protection	11,435	4%		
Shelter / WASH	13,495	5%		
Education	53,205	17%		
Livelihoods	2200	1%		
Total services	287,880			



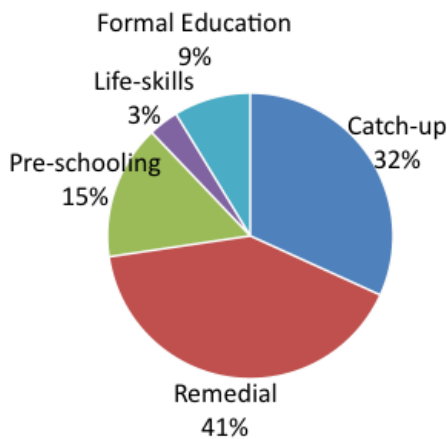
Health

43,191 beneficiaries; 45% Syrians, 40% Iraqis, and 15% Jordanians improved their health status of Syrian refugees and Jordanian host community by strengthening National Health System and Services.



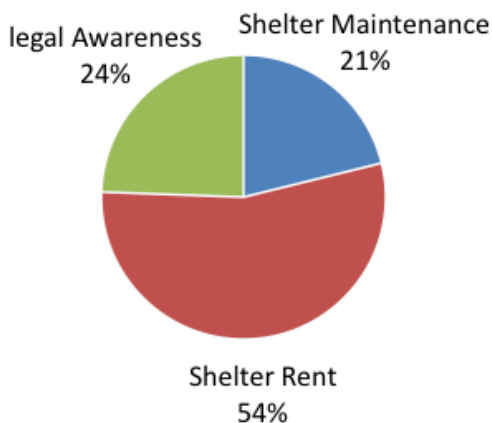
Education:

4404 beneficiaries; 71% Syrians, 22% Jordanians and 7% Iraqis sustained quality educational services for all, particularly the most vulnerable children.



Shelter/WASH

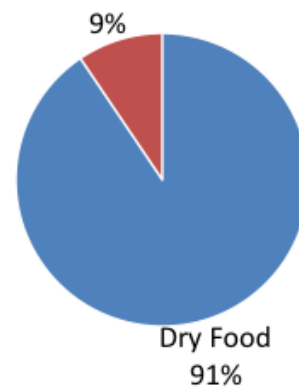
9,246 Households, 35,460 Individuals; 67% Syrian refugees, 21% vulnerable Jordanians and 12% Iraqi households have improved access to adequate shelter.



Food:

10,050 Families, 50,250 Individuals; 50% Syrians, 30% Jordanians and 20% Iraqis have access to quality basic food improved.

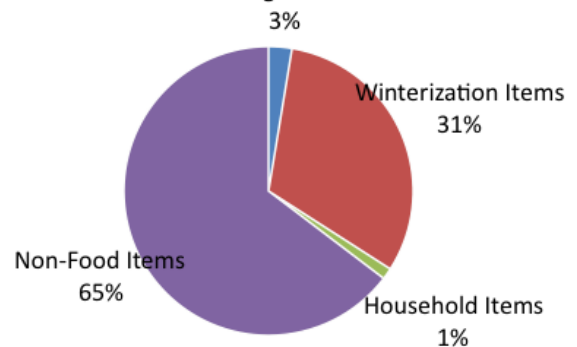
Nutrition Practices



Basic Needs:

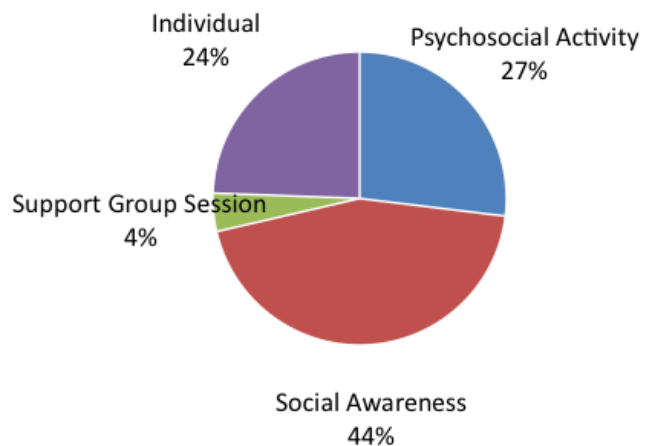
27,549 Households, 138,345 Individuals; 68% Syrians, 29% Jordanians and 3% Iraqis were provided with Basic household needs

Bedding Materials



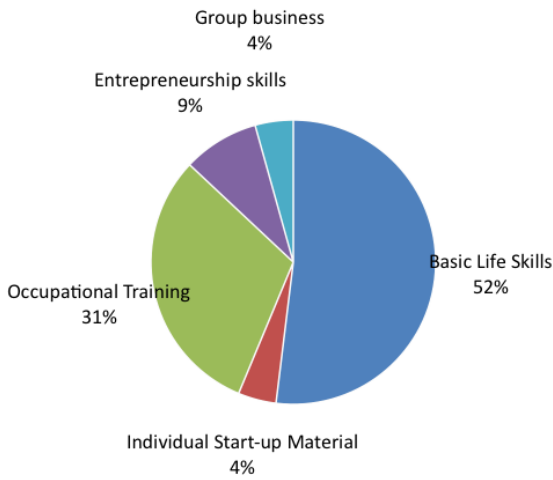
Protection:

3782 beneficiaries; 89% Syrians, 11% Iraqis with access to improved social protection and improved legal and operational protection frameworks



Livelihoods:

2310 beneficiaries; 77% Syrians, 23% Jordanians enabled to cope with and recovered from the impact of the Syria crisis, as well as strengthen the capacity to adapt to future shocks



Humanitarian needs and gaps:

Caritas considers it is important to focus on Health, Education and Humanitarian Assistance among other vital sectors.

Regarding the funding gaps, our financial projection 2015 through the 3RP is **\$17,612,913** and we are gaining **\$15, 829,846** USD till the third year quarter until Sep. 2015, which means 90% of our projection for 2015.



European Union to Finalize Phase II of Reinforced Life Skills Project

Processing”, in addition to one training course at Mafraq on construction and post war reconstruction. Specialized trainers in cooperation with a service provider “Parallel Perspective Management Consulting” conducted these trainings.

The trainings were organized in cooperation with the Municipality of Kura and the parish in Mafraq, which has provided the facilities for the trainings.

The participants expressed their appreciation towards the EU and Caritas that allowed them to be part of this project which helped them learn new skills, and at the same time, may enable them to find a new job or to create their own business and most important to have a vision for a better future in peace.

“I was so happy to be part of this project! It was a new experience for me to know about packaging and labeling... it was really interesting. I hope that we will have more training and not to stop here. Our special thanks go to the EU and Caritas for their support”, says Azzah Al-Badri, a beneficiary and participant in “Packaging and Labelling Training Course”.

(This picture shows the participants in Irbid/Kura with some of the products, furniture produced from reused waste materials)



Irbid, Mafraq – With a grant of JOD1.2 million, The European Union is supporting Syrian refugees and vulnerable Jordanians who suffer from the impact of the current crisis in the region. A total of 1,200 people are trained in life skills and practical, professional and technical skills in six different training locations of Caritas all over Jordan.

The Project “Assisting Displaced Syrian and Vulnerable Jordanians”, implemented by Caritas Jordan in partnership with Caritas Czech and Caritas Switzerland, finalized its second phase with a graduation ceremony of 66 Syrian refugees and Jordanians who received life skills training courses.

This phase included four training courses implemented at Irbid area (Al-Kura): “Soap and Wax Production”, “Recycling, Packaging and labeling” and “Food

