

# JORDAN INGO FORUM NEWSLETTER



JORDAN  
INGO  
FORUM



## AUGUST Update JIF SECRETARIAT

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Continuing to coordinate with government entities and United Nations agencies in Jordan, (JIF) members are working and coordinating in developing the Jordan Priorities Response Plan (formerly known as Jordan Response Plan) for 2026-2024. JIF members are actively collaborating with all partners to progress towards the desired goals for positive change.

This issue of the Jordan INGO Forum (JIF) newsletter demonstrates how our members have worked tirelessly to adapt to increasing humanitarian needs with declining humanitarian assistance, how services are being provided -ranging from remote learning to improving health infrastructure, to finding new opportunities for livelihoods. Some of our contributions in this issue also include ongoing stories of the resilience of vulnerable children and adults and how they continue to exhibit strength in face of enduring challenges.

These contributions stand as a testament to the valuable work that JIF members engage in daily and how they have partnered with marginalized communities to innovate new ways of operating combined with routine approaches to address immediate and long term needs and strategic priorities aligned to government policies and frameworks.

## *Women in Jordan are Protecting Agriculture and Water Infrastructure while Breaking Gender Barriers*

The King Talal Dam is essential for strengthening agriculture and livelihoods in the northern region of Jordan along the Zarqa River. With farmers and communities relying on the dam, Blumont, with the support of men and women from the community, is working to preserve and rehabilitate sections of the dam in the Zarqa region. Their efforts ensure that water flows to irrigate fields without causing floods and destroying surrounding land.

The PROTEKT program, funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH in partnership with Blumont, aims to preserve the dam while engaging local Jordanians and Syrian refugees through cash-for-work opportunities. Program participants alongside Blumont engineers and construction workers are rehabilitating this critical piece of infrastructure through the construction of water control structures, such as check dams and gabion walls. The program is also raising community awareness about water conservation and erosion.

Women in Jordan are engaged at all levels of the cash-for-work program and make up 20 percent of participants, taking on roles in management, training, and tree planting.

“I am a city girl and this program taught me how to work in the agriculture sector and gain new skills and experience in growing different types of vegetables,” said Salwa, a Jordanian woman who is on the tree-planting team that is restoring the environment around the waterways. Salwa, like other women participating in the program, did not originally work in agriculture, but saw the PROTEKT program as an opportunity to expand her skills and pursue a new livelihood.

Salwa is the breadwinner of her family as her husband is unable to work due to illness. The cash-for-work opportunity helped her cover her husband’s medical bills in addition to their daily needs.

Similarly, Anwar, a Jordanian woman who led community awareness sessions with the program, was able to pay her bills, including rent and the cost of food during Ramadan.

With a degree in civil engineering, Anwar had long dreamed of using her skills to address water scarcity issues in Jordan. “I am very passionate about the water and environmental issues in our area, especially the King Talal Dam in my hometown of Jerash,” said Anwar. “Through awareness sessions, we try to encourage the community to play their part in protecting this important resource.”



*Female workers prepare the area around King Talal Dam for tree-planting*



*Anwar led an awareness-raising session with a group of local farmers.*

Anwar's experience through the program opened new career opportunities for her. She was hired for a position with the Jordan River Foundation shortly after completing her work with PROTEKT. With her new role, she is not only building a secure livelihood but is also building her self-confidence.

"As a woman working in a conservative society, it was hard for me at first to stand in front of older men and train them. They underestimated me because of my age and gender," said Anwar. "Once they saw that the information I shared was valuable, they realized they can learn from me and started to be more accepting."

Maha, a Jordanian woman, had a similar experience of overcoming gender norms as part of the community awareness team.

"My family and community were the biggest challenges at first, but when I showed them that I can work, accomplish new things, and

support myself and my family financially, they became my source of inspiration to continue working," said Maha.

With newfound confidence in themselves and their skills, these women are breaking social barriers and advocating for gender equity in the workforce. They are encouraging other women in their communities to challenge the status quo by seeking employment in all sectors.

"When women see other women working in non-traditional fields and refusing to feel ashamed, they do the same," said Maha.

"There were pictures before and after our work and when we saw the pictures, I felt proud of what we had achieved. It was a message to us that we can achieve anything," said Salwa. "Never say, 'I don't know,' or 'I can't.' Just take the chance and try."

# CHAINE DE LESPOIR

## *From Struggle to Hope: Nour's Journey of Healing and Resilience*



*Nour's father said: "My wife and I felt trapped and overwhelmed with guilt as we couldn't afford the high cost of treating our child"*

In the midst of turmoil, Nour's birth brought a glimmer of joy to her family in war-torn Syria. However, their world crumbled when conflict drew near, compelling them to seek safety in Jordan. Life became a constant struggle, moving from one place to another in search of work, barely making ends meet.

Amidst the financial strain, Nour's mother faced heartache during her pregnancies, with limited access to medical care. Little did they know that Nour's arrival would be marked by a daunting challenge obstetric brachial plexuses paralysis – OBPP.

Determined to find help, Nour's family embarked on a tireless quest, knocking on doors with hopes of relief. Tears welled in her father's eyes as he recounted the sleepless nights, agonizing over how to aid his daughter. Their hearts sank as each door remained closed, leaving them feeling trapped in a whirlwind of despair.

However, fate had a different plan. A glimmer of hope emerged when they were directed to

al Maqassed hospital, known for its charitable work. There, they found an orthopedic doctor who referred them to the CDE medical team. Hope was reignited through La Chaîne de l'Espoir - France, supported by the European Union - Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid. Nour's chance for a brighter future came with the skilled hands of Professor and Surgeon Dr. Francisco Soldado, whose surgical intervention on Sep. 18th, 2022, changed her life forever.

Nour's condition had broader implications beyond physical limitations. It threatened her social life and self-esteem, making integration into society a challenge. The weight of judgment was real, but Nour proved she was stronger than her condition.

Today, the echoes of Nour's laughter reverberate with a sense of triumph and resilience. Her journey stands as a powerful testament to the impact of compassion and support. It reminds us that even in the darkest times, the commitment to improving access to quality healthcare can illuminate the path to a brighter tomorrow for those in need.

## Jordan. Pathways to professional growth for inclusive economic development.

Amneh Qasem is 47 years old and of Syrian descent; he now lives in Jordan. Amneh took the plumbing training course, which gave him the opportunity to learn a valuable skill and build a career in a high-demand sector in Jordan. In the project “Saql: Pathways to professional growth for inclusive economic development in the Governorates of Zarqa and Irbid” implemented by COOPI - Cooperazione Internazionale with funding from [the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation \(AICS\)](#) is bringing great results.



Amneh explains:

“I heard about the course through a friend who saw the ad on Facebook. I always wanted to learn something that would allow me to be more self-sufficient. I enrolled and, to my surprise, it was much more interesting than I expected, and I also learned the main tasks in a relatively short time. Through the course, I gained practical experience and knowledge of plumbing systems, as well as the

soft skills needed to succeed in the industry, such as communication and problem solving”.

Thanks to the course, **Amneh is now a reference point in his neighborhood**. His business has made him expand his clientele by leading him to solve any domestic plumbing problem in his city. The project, which aims to improve socioeconomic conditions by fostering access to the world of work in an inclusive manner while generating new income opportunities, has enabled Amneh to **build a career to become economically self-sufficient in the short term and he is very proud of his commitment to his work**.

Indeed, the project, with funding from AICS and in collaboration with the Italian Association of Women for Development (AIDOS), Education for Employment Jordan (EFE) and Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development (ARDD), addresses livelihood needs and fosters the creation of decent work opportunities for Syrian refugees and the Jordanian community, focusing on the most vulnerable population. Supporting the creation or strengthening of micro or small businesses promotes inclusive economic growth while meeting decent work standards.



## Saif-Aldeen Story

The Magic of Inclusion Coming from an “Invisible Community”, Saif-Aldeen finally feels included and able to share his thoughts and opinions, whilst dreaming of a better future.

Being born into the Dom (Gypsy) community, as it is commonly known in Jordan, -14-year-old Saif-Aldeen often found himself either unseen or unheard; “To be born in a minority that has a bad reputation in Jordan was not my choice, yet I live the stigma and all the stereotypes.” Said Saif-Aldeen.



The Dom community are an Indo-Aryan, formerly nomadic people who number around 70,000 in Jordan. They are a persecuted minority who face prejudice and enmity. They are often referred to as ‘Nawar’ or ‘tramps’ due to popular stereotypes associating them with witchcraft, fortune-telling and criminality.

They live with limited access to education and high levels of unemployment. Saif-Aldeen was yearning to find a space where he can be himself and accepted. Through friends he was introduced to the Danish Refugee Council’s Centre in East Amman. He immediately sought the opportunity and enrolled in the “Protected Today and Tomorrow” Project, implemented by the Danish Refugee Council, in partnership with Jordan River foundation and Humanity and Inclusion Organisation, funded by UK Aid. Although, Saif-Aldeen was present from the very start of the sessions, he did not actively participate; he was quiet, timid and very insecure. Throughout the sessions, Saif-Aldeen started to speak out and was happy to be heard, to have an opinion and be accepted and respected by his peers. Learning about Gender-based Violence (GBV), and understanding it better, Saif-Aldeen took charge to raise awareness amongst his community about this important matter. The impact of these sessions led Saif-Aldeen to plan, for the first time, for his future and what he wanted to be when he grew up; “These sessions opened my eyes to the change I can make not only in my community but in the whole world.” He concluded with a smile of a better future on his face.

# HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



On June 20th, Habitat for Humanity - Jordan organized a heartwarming event to celebrate World Refugee Day in collaboration with Faith Spring Association, an organization supporting vulnerable populations. The event aimed to showcase the resilience and strength of refugees while fostering unity and understanding between them and the host community in Jordan.

The event took place at Faith Spring Association's premises and featured a vibrant blend of cultures, as Syrian refugees and Jordanians engaged in various activities. Children and families enjoyed playing games, sharing personal stories, and witnessing lively music and dance performances by a talented musical and activity band. The atmosphere was filled with joy and laughter, symbolizing the strength found in unity.

Mousa Nafaa, Manager of Jordan Country Program & MENA Region for Habitat for Humanity - Jordan, expressed their intention to create a meaningful and joyful celebration that highlighted shared values and aspirations between refugees and the host community.

One of the highlights of the day was the artistic face-painting session, bringing excitement and creativity to the event. Children proudly exhibited their transformed appearances, reflecting the spirit of togetherness and acceptance. A delectable feast, prepared in Faith Spring Association's productive kitchen, delighted all attendees, and showcased the richness of various cuisines. The shared meal emphasized the power of breaking bread together to strengthen bonds and create lasting connections.

As the event concluded, each child departed with happiness in their hearts and meaningful

gifts in their hands. The thoughtful parting gifts included refillable portable water bottles, promoting sustainable practices, and toys that encouraged their dreams and creativity. Beyond the festivities, the event provided a platform for meaningful conversations with the mothers of the children. Participants discussed the fundamental rights they believed their children should have, emphasizing the importance of a safe environment, access to quality education, and medical services for their well-being.

Moh Salem, Program Manager for Shelter and Infrastructure at HFHJ, highlighted the significance of World Refugee Day in recognizing the strength and courage of refugees and promoting understanding and compassion within communities.

The event demonstrated the power of unity and collaboration in building inclusive communities that embrace diversity and provide refuge and hope to those in need. Habitat for Humanity -Jordan remains committed to its mission of creating a world where every individual, regardless of their background, has a place to call home.



# HUMANITY & INCLUSION

## *A Remarkable Journey of Empowerment: Khadijah's Success Story*

Khadijah, a 46-year-old Syrian woman, embarked on a transformative journey of healing and self-discovery. Through the support of Humanity & Inclusion (HI) in Zarqa Camp in partnership with the Community Development Center (CDC) and funded by the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM), Khadijah found comfort and empowerment, overcoming the challenges posed by knee osteoarthritis and its associated psychosocial impacts.

Khadijah's journey began when she sought assistance for the debilitating effects of knee osteoarthritis. The pain, swelling, and limited joint movement greatly hindered her daily life, making simple tasks like climbing stairs difficult. In addition to the physical challenges, Khadijah carried the weight of psychological pressures, experiencing anger, tension, and fear about the future without reason.

### Discovering Support and Embracing Change

Khadijah's encounter with HI in Zarqa Camp marked a turning point in her life. The center's comprehensive assessment identified her need for physiotherapy and psychosocial support sessions. Initially hesitant, Khadijah decided to give the services a chance, hoping for relief from her worsening knee pain that was significantly impacting her daily life.



Through approximately 15 sessions of physiotherapy, Khadijah witnessed a remarkable transformation. The pain diminished, the swelling subsided, and her joint flexibility improved. This newfound physical well-being translated into her everyday life, allowing her to carry out daily tasks, care for her family, and navigate stairs without

pain. She does not need pain medications and injections anymore and feels more independent.

### Psychological Resilience and Self-Empowerment

At the same time, Khadijah engaged in psychosocial support sessions. Working in partnership with her therapist, an action plan was developed to alleviate her symptoms and enhance her self-esteem, social interaction, and social involvement. Through various therapeutic techniques, such as deep breathing, problem-solving training, positive self-talk, and self-care, Khadijah gained the tools to navigate her emotional challenges.



### Continuing the Journey

As Khadijah progresses on her journey to well-being, the following steps involve adhering to home exercises and instructions, ensuring she doesn't strain her knee or engage in activities that could exacerbate her condition. Psychosocial support will focus on daily task scheduling aligned with her action plan objectives, engaging in group support sessions, and fostering positive self-dialogue.

Grateful for HI's support, Khadijah has experienced remarkable improvements. Physically, her mobility and sleep quality have significantly improved. Psychosocially, her self-confidence is boosted, and her stress levels are reduced. Despite financial challenges, she finds solace in family time and her passion for handicrafts.





*Leila wearing the glasses she received from IOCC, after screening and diagnosis from IOCC Optometrist at IOCC's visual clinic in Azraq Refugee Camp.*

Leila,\* a mother of six, arrived at Azraq Refugee Camp in 2015, after fleeing the conflict in Syria.

Prior to the conflict, Leila had a secure life in Syria; she reflected, “At that time, all family members were alive, and life was safe and simple. After the crisis, our lives became unsafe, and we no longer had basic necessities, such as food and water. Azraq Camp was like heaven for us when we first arrived.”

Leila described her travel to Jordan as one of the worst things she has experienced. After leaving Syria, she and her family stayed in Rukban (a remote area on the Syrian border near northeastern Jordan) for 90 days, where they faced difficult conditions, including

running into dogs, scorpions, and snakes. Once they left, they stayed in a nearby area for a short time, and then traveled to Azraq Camp.

“When we arrived at the Jordanian border, we felt the area had become secure,” Leila said. She continued, “In the beginning, life was difficult since there was no electricity, water, or work, and we had to deal with strangers. Nevertheless, as time went on, life improved, and new marketplaces opened, offering job opportunities and a secure life.”

Currently, Leila is studying business and administration, online, via Luminus College in Amman, while also supporting her husband and taking care of her children. While studying, Leila started to experience migraines and began having difficulties concentrating. She also noticed her vision was declining.

Leila’s neighbor informed her about IOCC’s visual clinic and suggested she visit. “When people told me about IOCC’s project, I was in real need of glasses to be able to study,” she said.

Once Leila registered with IOCC, she underwent screening and assessment, which indicated that she did indeed need glasses. With support from Diakonie ACT Austria (DAA), Leila received glasses, personalized for her—from the specific lens prescription to the frames that she selected herself. After receiving and having used her glasses to continue her studies, Leila said, “I have greatly benefited from the glasses; my eye pain and headaches stopped, and I can study today without any problems.”

After having such a positive experience with IOCC, Leila frequently advises others, including her family, friends, and neighbors, to get visual examinations if they feel they might have any vision issues. She concluded, “Thank you to everyone. Their efforts will always be appreciated. There are a lot of people in the camp in need of IOCC’s services.”

## *(Jesuit Refugee Service) MHPSS Program Growing, healing and inspiring others through rap*

Lujain is a 14-year-old girl from Syria, living in Amman. She used to face social anxiety and struggled with public speaking. In 2023, she became a participant in the Music, Art & Sport Project of JRS MHPSS Program. The project offers music classes in rap, Sudanese drums, oud, Jordanian flute, and choir singing, provided by volunteers from refugee communities talented in music. The group of around 50 students created an intercultural orchestra by the end of the courses. Through music, the project aims at creating a safe and nurturing environment for children and youth to heal, grow, and develop positive connections with their peers and mentors. The activities empower them with the tools they need to overcome challenges, embrace their potential, and thrive despite the adversities.

Lujain enrolled in the Rap classes, conducted by Yassin and Mudhi, two rappers from Sudan. Yassin and Mudhe, AKA First Impression K-Boyz, guided the students to understand what rap is, and showed them the power of rap as a channel to share messages of hope and solidarity. During the program, Lujain took part also in psychosocial support group sessions tailored for children and adolescents. During the sessions, she managed to open up about her challenges, and started to address gradually her concerns with the help of JRS psychologists facilitating the sessions.

When she performed at JRS Festival of Encounter (an intercultural festival in the occasion of World Refugee Day), she surprised everyone and confidently performed on the stage, in front of an audience of hundreds of people. She sang a rap song that was created under the guidance of her rap teachers, together with her classmates, talking about her life and challenges as an adolescent. Her performance showed the improvement in expressing herself, her improved psychological situation and strengthened self-esteem, that let her express herself effectively in front of a public. Here is the rap song that Lujain sang:

*“Life is a school, and we learn from it. We walk on the sand and speak up while doing so.*

*We work our way up the educational ladder one step at a time. We start in kindergarten, then go to school, then university, until we eventually graduate. We begin the process of change and destiny determination.*

*In this life, we draw the lines of our journey and fly. You dream of becoming a minister, you dream of becoming an engineer.*

*You dream of becoming a teacher, you dream of establishing a family and completing, having your faith and get married.*

*Your choice is unique to you and belongs to you only. Face your fears and never let it crush you. In every step learn and focus, comprehend your learnings. Be always a role model and let the success follow you in every step”*



24 June 2023, Lady of Nazareth School. Lujain performs at JRS Festival of Encounter, as conclusion of the Rap Classes part of Music, Art & Sport Project part of MHPSS Program. Photo by Hussam Hasan for JRS.



21 March 2023, Salesians Center. Lujain and other adolescents attend a rap class with Mudhi and Yassin, AKA First Impression K-Boyz, in the Music, Art & Sport Project part of JRS MHPSS Program. Photo by Silvia Mazzocchin/JRS Communications and Advocacy Manager

## *From Struggle to Triumph: Areej and Hadeel’s Path with LWF’s Project” A rights-based Local to Global approach to women’s Social and Economic Rights in Jordan- RBA”*

The RBA project implemented by LWF, is a transformative initiative empowering individuals, particularly women, by promoting their rights and creating a fairer society. It provides advocacy training and support to participants like Areej and Hadeel, enabling them to engage with their communities, raise awareness, and advocate for policy changes. By developing critical skills like communication and problem-solving, participants become effective advocates for their beliefs and rights. The project aims to create lasting transformation and leave a positive legacy of progress and empowerment within the community.

**Areej**, a -27year-old pharmacist from Irbid. She faced challenges with a meager salary, lack of benefits, and no employment contract. After marriage, Areej’s job opportunities dwindled due to low salaries in the area. Despite her struggles, she hesitated to speak out, fearing retaliation.



However, Areej’s life took a positive turn when she found the RBA project. Embracing the advocacy training, she became passionate about fighting for employee rights and inspiring others to create a fairer society. Areej actively joined the advocacy team for women’s labor rights and effectively shared her knowledge with her community to empower other women and raise awareness. She courageously rejected job offers that violated her labor rights and engaged with community leaders to highlight the significance of the labor rights advocacy campaign.

**Hadeel**, a -26year-old pursuing her PhD in Nutrition Therapy. Having served as a nutrition volunteer with LWF, Hadeel saw the RBA project an opportunity to continue her advocacy efforts. Actively participating in debates and training sessions, she honed her communication skills, critical thinking, and problem-solving abilities.



Hadeel joined one of RBA project’s advocacy working groups. Hadeel’s group aims to raise awareness through a policy paper they aim to draft and through engaging decision-makers for policy changes. Confident in their research, they seek improved transportation safety and more opportunities for women in Irbid.

Hadeel skillfully utilized her debating skills to negotiate and discuss with her peers, effectively advocating for her beliefs and structuring her arguments. As part of the policy paper team, she met with local governors and decision makers in several meetings to address the issue of unsafe transportation for women and girls.



*Advocacy working Groups Debates*

# MERCY CORPS

## FOSTERING PEACE AND GOOD GOVERNANCE: MERCY CORPS JORDAN'S APPROACH AND INITIATIVES

Jordan stands out as a beacon of stability in a region marked by persistent conflict and political volatility. Leveraging a solidly established legal framework and actively implementing reforms aimed at enhancing the rule of law and countering corruption, the government is making efforts to maintain stability and promote good governance. However, high levels of poverty and unemployment are still driving social and political tensions.

Amid these challenges, Mercy Corps has taken on a pivotal role in promoting peace and good governance in Jordan. Driven by a profound commitment to fostering stability and empowering local communities, Mercy Corps has been actively working on several projects such as Tawazon, Sawt, Mirsah and ISHRAK, aiming at addressing the root causes of conflict and laying the groundwork for more resilient, inclusive, and economically independent communities.

*Our Goal: Enhance community resilience, inclusivity, and economic independence to mitigate threats to cohesion and prevent drivers of conflict.*

Now, let us take a deeper look at Mercy Corps Jordan's vital projects and programs that promote peace and good governance:

**\*USAID Strengthening Civil Society and Media Systems Activity - Sawt (2023-2027):**

USAID Sawt is dedicated to improving civic engagement and participation in Jordan by creating opportunities for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and individuals to engage in regular constructive civic dialogues, political and media participation. Over the next five years, the project will focus on developing CSOs and citizen advocacy capacity while providing support to intersectional CSO coalitions. By fostering increased trust and government accountability, Sawt aims to build resilience in partners operating within the challenging political and legal environment.

**\*Inclusive Security and Resilient Youth Project - Mirsah (2022-2024):**

Mirsah project is a community-based development program that supports at-risk youth in Jordan between the ages of 16 to 30. Emphasizing a positive youth development approach, Mirsah provides psychosocial support interventions aimed at promoting learning, co-existence, and inclusive security. By enhancing the psychosocial resiliency of youth and their families, Mirsah seeks to foster stability and empower young individuals to become agents of positive change. Additionally, the project focuses on strengthening the role of women and youth representation in the Youth Peace and Security (YPS 2250) coalition through close collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and other stakeholders at the national level.



*Photo1: Youth from Al Karak engage in an outdoor session as part of Mirsah's nature club activities. (Location: Al Karak, Jordan)*

**\*Promoting the Voice and Leadership of Women Activity - Tawazon (2027-2023):**

The Promoting the Voice and Leadership of Women (Tawazon) is designed to create transformative change by enhancing women’s voice and agency. By strengthening legislative frameworks and enforcing gender equity, promoting gender-equitable social norms, and enhancing women’s skills and opportunities for leadership and engagement in decision-making processes, Tawazon works towards gender equality in Jordan. Working with a consortium of five organizations, Tawazon aims to increase the voice and leadership of women in Jordan, thereby contributing to stability, economic prosperity, and effective governance. In addition, Tawazon fosters data driven decision-making norms through data collection and analysis on gender issues, social norms, and right violations.

**\*ISHRAK Project (2024-2018):**

Mercy Corps’ ISHRAK is a family-strengthening initiative that provides support to community members facing daily challenges and stressors. By engaging individuals with the host community, ISHRAK strengthens social

cohesion and fosters a sense of belonging. The project offers safe spaces and psychosocial support services to all generations, including mental and physical activities, as well as sexual reproductive health services for adolescent girls. ISHRAK also conducts parenting sessions to strengthen family relationships. Moreover, the project enhances employability for vulnerable youth impacted by conflict by emphasizing transferable skills and building social capital to access job opportunities.

Mercy Corps Jordan’s unwavering commitment to promoting peace and good governance serves as a testament to our dedication to creating a brighter future for communities in Jordan. Through active community engagement, empowering the youth, and strengthening governance structures, we are making significant strides in reducing conflicts and enhancing social cohesion. As we continue to drive positive change in Jordan, Mercy Corps sets an inspiring example for those striving to build a more peaceful and inclusive world.



*Photo2: Farah smiles as she gets closer to the top of the bouldering wall. This wall is built as part of ISHRAK’s nature-based engagement activities and it’s the first of its kind in Zaatari Camp and all of Jordan’s refugee camps. (Location: Zaatari Refugee Camp, Jordan)*

## Medair moves to Partnerships (small article)

To increase partnership efforts, Medair Jordan has introduced a hybrid approach within its Social Protection programme, which combines direct implementation and collaboration with local partners. Medair will work closely with three selected local NGOs/CBOs, to provide comprehensive training and support in areas including finance management, human resources, MEAL, logistics, fundraising, and reporting.

Through this project, Medair is committed to enhancing partner's eligibility to receive funds and implement projects successfully, whilst meeting donor and compliance requirements. Medair will provide a unique funding opportunity for partners to design and implement their own projects, under the guidance of Medair.

Medair and Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization (JHCO) have launched a livelihoods component toward improving the resilience of refugees and vulnerable Jordanians. JHCO will provide 540 men and

women with vocational trainings delivered by specialized trainers in three different courses; culinary arts, sewing and mobile maintenance, which includes theoretical trainings in digital marketing and basics of commerce. Practical training will be delivered over a three-week period, and ends with participants obtaining accredited certificates and a production kit to facilitate a path for the beneficiary to establish his/her own private economical project.

The ultimate goal is to empower partners to make meaningful and long-lasting contributions to their communities. "Localization is crucial for humanitarian work. By fostering local partnerships, we build bridges of understanding and cooperation that empower communities, amplifying their voices and honoring their unique wisdom. We don't just deliver aid – we unlock potential. Working together, we're creating a world where help isn't about a handout, but a hand up, guided by the compass of local insight and shared humanity." Ali Almaany, Social Protection Project Manager



# PLAN INTERNATIONAL

## *Transforming Education for Resilient Young Minds: Plan International Jordan's Innovative Approach*

We are thrilled to share the incredible strides made by Plan International Jordan (PIJO) in transforming education for children living in refugee camps and Informal Tented Settlements (ITS). The reality of instability and limited access to traditional education often hinders the childhoods and prospects of these young ones. As part of our commitment to quality education for all children, irrespective of their gender, PIJO has implemented 14 projects, two of which focus on educating children in the Azraq Refugee Camp and ITSs within the Jordan Valley area.

Facing obstacles to enroll in formal schools, many children in these areas may resort to child labor to support their families, creating significant barriers to accessing education. In response to these challenges, our E-Learning Specialist at PIJO opted for an innovative solution – teaching children through Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Laboratory Simulations.

AR and virtual laboratory simulations offer unique advantages, particularly in refugee camp and ITS settings, where resource limitations and safety concerns may otherwise hinder learning opportunities. Additionally, research shows that two-thirds of students are visual-spatial learners, benefiting greatly from differentiated instruction that engages multiple senses.

Our AR method employs a cardboard hologram cube, which, when placed in front of a camera through an Instagram filter, provides students with an immersive AR experience. With this technology, children can interact with 3D objects and simulations related to scientific topics like the human body, the solar system, electricity, and more. They can touch, hold, and interact with digital realities, witnessing firsthand the concepts being discussed.



By embracing such non-traditional educational approaches, the children, aged 7-17, can better retain information, making meaningful connections and understanding complex science and STEM concepts effectively. This multisensory learning experience enhances information retention and visualization of complex ideas, empowering these resilient young minds to excel despite adversity.

Leveraging the power of AR and virtual laboratory simulations, PIJO is revolutionizing education for vulnerable children. We are addressing multi-layered challenges that often hinder access to education in such settings. By providing these opportunities, we nurture their curiosity, potential, and hope for a brighter future.

At PIJO, we believe that every child deserves quality education, and through these innovative methods, we are breaking down barriers and building a stronger foundation for their growth and development.

Pictures can be found here: [Science Club](#)

## UMR Jordan: Empowering Lives with Humanitarian Excellence

UMR Jordan, a registered humanitarian organization since 2015, has been actively contributing to Jordan's humanitarian response, making a significant impact on vulnerable communities across various sectors.

In the last few months, UMR Jordan achieved noteworthy milestones. During Ramadan, Eid al fitr, and Eid Al-Adha, they distributed essential food and clothing to 2000 households from the poorest families in Jordan, providing vital relief and showcasing their dedication to alleviating poverty.

Beyond material aid, UMR Jordan focuses on capacity-building. Collaborating with Indian University and Arab Amman Open University, they conducted training on Philanthropic Leadership, empowering locals NGOs and CBOs Employee with skills for community development.

Healthcare is a top priority for UMR Jordan. Recently, they conducted 200 cataract surgeries for the poorest individuals, restoring sight and enhancing their quality of life. They also provided educational and life skills training for 50 autism-affected children in their centers in Irbid and Zarqa, promoting a brighter future for these vulnerable children.

Looking forward, UMR Jordan is preparing a youth and women empowerment project under the livelihood sector. This initiative aims to support orphans and women-headed families, providing them with resources for self-sufficiency through vocational training and business incubator.

UMR Jordan remains proactive in education. Their upcoming "Back to School" campaign ensures that disadvantaged children access quality education with essential supplies and uniforms.

UMR's sponsorship project goes beyond providing simple aid; it is a holistic initiative that aims to improve the lives of orphans and widowed individuals in a meaningful and lasting way. Through this program, UMR offers comprehensive support to address various aspects of their well-being.

UMR strives to create a positive impact that extends far beyond immediate assistance, giving these individuals the tools, they need to lead fulfilling and self-sustaining lives. The project aims to break the barriers of poverty, vulnerability, and hardship, bringing hope and opportunity to those who need it the most.

With innovation, impact, and compassionate service, UMR Jordan continues to exemplify humanitarian excellence. Their dedication to empowering lives in Jordan leaves a lasting legacy of positive change in vulnerable communities.

bestowed upon him by the UMR Cataract Project. As his story spread throughout the camp, Ali became a symbol of hope, inspiring others to seek the same gift of sight and independence. In sharing his journey from darkness to light, Ali's resilience and UMR's support touched the hearts of many. His tale echoed as a beacon of hope, reaffirming the transformative impact of organizations working together to change lives.



*Throughout their journey, UMR Jordan has fostered strong partnerships with various humanitarian actors, enhancing coordination and maximizing project impact.*



## Ali's Journey from Darkness to Light: A Beneficiary Story from Zaatari Refugee Camp

In the Zaatari syrian Refugee Camp in Jordan, hope found a new name – Ali. He battled cataracts that slowly stole his sight and livelihood, leaving him in darkness. Thanks to effective cooperation and a strong referral system between UMR ,UNHCR and IMC, UMR was able to locate Ali within the Zaatari camp and extend the much-needed support, leading to an extraordinary transformation in his life.

Since the launch of its Cataract Project in 2015, UMR has worked tirelessly to reach and assist more than 4000 cataract patients like Ali. Through their own strict eligibility criteria, UMR ensured that they targeted the most vulnerable individuals, offering the essential medical care to those in greatest need.

UMR's team, along with their partners, reached out to beneficiaries like Ali, offering eye screenings and a chance for a brighter future. Initially hesitant, Ali was encouraged by the warmth of the UMR team and decided to take the leap. He was diagnosed with cataracts and learned that he could receive a free surgery through the UMR Cataract Project.

With anticipation and fear, Ali underwent the surgery. The skilled medical team operated

with precision, and as the bandages came off, a world of colors and shapes emerged before Ali's eyes. Tears of joy streamed down his face as he gazed at the faces of his loved ones, whose features he had long forgotten.

The surgery not only restored his vision but also rejuvenated his spirit. Ali embraced the opportunity to work again, reigniting his work with newfound purpose. His skills blended with the vision bestowed upon him by the UMR Cataract Project. As his story spread throughout the camp, Ali became a symbol of hope, inspiring others to seek the same gift of sight and independence.

In sharing his journey from darkness to light, Ali's resilience and UMR's support touched the hearts of many. His tale echoed as a beacon of hope, reaffirming the transformative impact of organizations working together to change lives.



As part of a national media campaign aimed at reducing barriers women face in entering and remaining in the workforce, the chatbot (My Voice is Power) was launched on WhatsApp by the World University Service of Canada (WUSC).

Using chatbots as an innovative tool to provide small, digestible pieces of information and an easy-to-use user experience, chatbots can help a targeted audience find exactly the information they need quickly.

We used storytelling to enable us to convey complex ideas, emotions, and experiences in a compelling and relatable way, making the messages more memorable and impactful.



The Whatsapp Chatbot will support current and prospective women workers and business owners in the healthcare sector by identifying key barriers to workforce participation and giving concrete recommendations for addressing or mitigating these challenges. The content of the Whatsapp Chatbot is based on a study conducted by the Health Care Accreditation Council (HCAC) of Jordan, which identified 3 key areas of focus for female health workers: protection from all forms of abuse and harassment, realization of their legal rights, and ensuring equal opportunities for advancement and professional development. Women working in the healthcare sector are encouraged to access the Whatsapp Chatbot's story-based content, which will be tailored to their needs based on their individual responses.

As for business owners, the key messages of the Whatsapp Chatbot are formulated in a way that explains how improving work conditions can be of great benefit to the business and encourages them to take actions for workplace improvement such as revising outdated policies, supporting or creating spaces for childcare, and supporting women to attain leadership roles within the business.

This campaign is part of the WE LEAD Women's Economic Linkages and Employment Development funded by the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada (GAC) and implemented by WUSC (World University Service of Canada) in partnership with CLIC (Canadian Leaders in International Consulting).