



Gender equality embedded in FAO's projects

Hundreds of Jordanian and Syrian women entered the labor market through three main projects supported by FAO in 2019. These projects fall within the organization's long-term strategy to empower women in a country which ranked 138 out of 149 at the Global Gender Gap scale in 2018. On the regional level, it ranked 12th out of the 19 MENA countries. The three projects targeted Irbid, Zarqa and Mafraq; the most populous governorates in north and north-eastern Jordan

FAO integrates gender issues in all facets of its projects in Jordan. It ensures that gender mainstreaming becomes standard practice in its all country level programs and projects by carrying out technical interventions that incorporate gender analysis, use sex disaggregated data, and pay attention to gender-differentiated impacts.



From FAO technical training on food processing.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Gender equality embedded in FAO's projects
- Women-run businesses gain momentum
- Water-energy-agriculture Nexus in Mafraq... "Grow more with less"
- Too good to waste!
- "Too good to waste" stories

Women-run businesses gain momentum

A pioneering home-based/micro project empowered 3 000 livelihoods of vulnerable people, more than half of them are women, who set up small-scale agri-food enterprises in Irbid, Mafraq and Zarqa Governorates. This Japan-funded project is designed to strengthen food and nutrition security by boosting household income, enhancing development skills and creating employment opportunities

Under this project, women gained the opportunity to contribute to decision making, with equal ability to exercise their rights in accessing and having control over resources. They also won access to retail markets to promote their products in local supermarkets.



Two women during the FAO technical training on food processing.

Growing more with less in Mafraq

Four hundred forty people — more than half of them are women — can now double their agricultural produce and increase their income through a pilot project designed to reclaim and exploit unused land, owned by 51 families in Mafraq. Funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, this project augmented food production, while reducing fuel and water consumption. FAO has developed solutions to rehabilitate the abandoned land through a community-based approach that combines water

harvesting, conjunctive use of groundwater and drip irrigation powered by solar water pumps. The project targeted host communities in northern Jordan and Syrian refugees, with the aim of improving their livelihoods by coping better with water scarcity.



A planted land by FAO farmers.

Too good to waste!

Transforming waste to create jobs, generate energy and support our fragile environment!

More than 53 percent of Syrian women's lives have been enhanced through green jobs creation in a solid waste segregation unit inside the Zaatari Camp, where they are paid and offered "on-the-job training" modality by FAO Jordan. In addition to providing them with a safe and well organized environment, which made it easier for the refugees to have the opportunity to improve their economic conditions without the hardship of working in unsafe condition outside the camp.

The European Union funded project "*Improving Rural Livelihoods and The Environment through Integral Utilization of Organic Solid Waste for the Production of Renewable Energy and Compost in Mafraq Governorate of Jordan*" established a 16 tons capacity Material Recovery Facility where the waste generated inside Zaatari Camp is sorted manually; Syrian refugees have been trained on waste sorting especially to extract organic matter which represents 30 percent and 50 percent of camp waste in winter and summer months respectively.

“Too good to waste” stories

Ghpson, a 33-year-old single mom who fled the crises in Syria with her 4 children, used to work in the farms outside the Zaatari camp, but the farming did not provide her and her children with the required safety and security. She had to start working very early in the morning and then go back home to her kids very late at night, where she couldn't provide the necessary care for her children. “This compost project has provided me with a safe working environment and it's close to my house, which gave me more time to take care of my children,” said Ghpson.

Bassemah, head of the family, could not leave the camp to find a job, due to her sick husband, as there is no one to take care of him if she leaves the camp. “The project gave me an opportunity to work inside the camp with less working hours and better pay, rather than working outside in the harsh conditions and traveling a long distance, which gave me the chance to take care of my sick husband and earn extra income,” said Bassemah.

Sabha is a 56-year-old lonely widow taking care of her granddaughter. “I was struggling for 6 years to find any opportunity to work anywhere due to my age, as most opportunities were given to younger generations. This project has provided me with a good training on sorting and composting. It was also suitable for someone my age in addition to giving me the chance to learn new skills that have enabled me to work in this environment,” explained Sabha.



Syrian women sorting waste to extract organic matter.



Women beneficiaries in the MRF.



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