

Piloting the “graduation out of poverty” approach in urban refugee settings in Jordan

The problem

A series of participatory assessments in 2020 found that the lack of sustainable livelihoods for Syrian and Palestinian refugees in urban settings led to serious protection risks. These risks manifest in a range of negative coping strategies that are adopted by refugees, including skipping meals, taking on debt, early marriage of female youth, and child labor.

Lack of economic opportunities and social protection can also act as a push factor, driving refugees back to Syria without sufficient safeguards or protection.

Many Syrian refugees have moved to live in densely populated Palestinian refugee camps, which are already chronically underserved and lack strong market linkages for livelihood development, which compounds the challenges for refugees living in poverty.

Our approach

The “Forsa” (Opportunity) project utilizes the Graduation out of Poverty approach first developed in Bangladeshi ultra-poor communities, and subsequently trialed in successive refugee communities over the last 20 years.

This holistic approach involves a time-bound set of sequenced interventions which invests in the

Project Name	Forsa Project -pathway out of poverty for Syrian and Palestinian refugees
Implementing partners	Lead agency -Near East council of churches commission for refugee works (Jordan area committee of the DSPR) Technical Assistance-Act for peace(aid agency of the National council of churches in Australia)
Project Area	Gaza Camp ,Jerash government, Jordan
Funding partner	Australian department of foreign affairs and trade- Australian NGO Cooperation program
Duration	June 2022- March 2024
Budget	USD 480,000/340,320 JD
The problem	50HH,282 Individuals /50% Syrian and 50% Palestinian

livelihoods capabilities of participating households while addressing underlying protection risks. The overall goal of the project is to build the self-reliance capabilities of households such that they are not reliant on food assistance and intermittent sources of income. This project responds to the Jordan Response Plan 2020–22, National Social Protection Strategy 2019–2025, and Global Compact on Refugees’ priorities. The approach positions refugees as the main actors in their own protection solutions. NECCCRW has contextualized the Graduation Approach according to the unique



needs of extreme poor refugee and host community households in Jordan.

Key activities included in this approach include:

- Household-level mentorship through fortnightly home visits.
- Linkages with external services, including protection services, social protection, and access to markets.
- Financial literacy training, savings and loan groups, mobile wallet accounts and linkages with financial institutions for credit.
- Monthly cash assistance for the first nine months to meet basic needs.
- Individual protection assistance (IPA) provided on a case-by-case basis.
- Transversal and professional skills development training, including stress management, business planning, labor rights, gender, etc.
- Vocational and technical skills training through external training centers.
- Livelihoods support through business start-up grants or job placement support through wage subsidies to facilitate entry into the labor market.
- Households receive assistance to acquire work permits or register home-based businesses.

Furthermore, the participants receive support and mentorship through Community-based Protection Self-Help Groups to increase awareness of referral pathways and rights, and to receive peer support to access their rights to health care, education for their children, work permits, and advice on how to avoid forced evictions.



Our achievements

Since June 2022-2024:

- 100% of households have been provided consumption support to meet immediate needs through e-wallets.
- 100% households have reported increased number and quality of meals per day
- 84% decreasing in dept in all households until March 2024.
- 95% of households with school-aged children have attended school regularly now and their education process stable.
- 100% increased the participants confidence, self-esteem, and psychological well-being mental health.
- 100% of HH becomes dependent on one sustainable source of income.
- 74% of HH becomes dependent on two sustainable sources of income.
- 76% of HH becomes dependent on three sustainable sources of income.
- 80% increasing in income.
- 100% of HH they were provided with business grants.
- 87% of HH were referred to special places to be provided with their requests and needs.
- 96% increasing in the saving.
- 100% of family improved the role of women in the households (Increasing in women empowerment).
- 100% Increasing in social inclusion in households.
- 88% of HH are linked to vocational or technical trainings.
- One participant from each household has been supported to develop individual Livelihood Roadmaps based on market assessments, their existing skills and experience, and their interest areas.
- 100% of households provided business grants, and 98% of households started generating return from their project.

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