



HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN  
MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

# NATIONAL RESILIENCE PLAN

2014 - 2016

## Brief on Impact of the Syrian Crisis on Jordanian Host Communities & The Host Community Support Platform

1 June 2014

**HCSP**  
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Host Community Support Platform





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## **INTRODUCTION**

Now into its fourth year the Syrian crisis continues unabated. A massive influx of nearly 600,000 registered Syrian refugees has so far occurred, over 50 percent of which are children. Approximately 80 percent of all refugees are hosted within Jordanian communities and the remaining 20 percent are accommodated within camp settings. The sheer volume of numbers has placed a critical pressure on the country's social, economic, institutional and natural resources systems ability to cope.

At the same time as the crisis has exacerbated vulnerabilities for the poorest segments of the population and begun eroding access to quality public services, it has increased pressure on public finance, worsened the trade deficit and caused losses to key economic sectors. In order to sustain adequate levels of service to the combined refugee and hosting populations, there is a pressing need to alleviate the strain on national and local institutions and budgets. Financing such investments now is critical not only to enable national systems to cope and prevent further deterioration of service levels, but is crucial to build national and local capacity to scale-up and sustain recovery efforts into the future.

## **OVERVIEW OF THE IMPACT OF THE CRISIS ON JORDAN**

Jordan has shared significantly in bearing the brunt of the crisis and in shouldering its burden on behalf of the international community. The Government has maintained an open border policy to Syrians seeking refuge from the conflict, and has granted access to local public goods and services to Syrian refugees. This encompasses schooling, health care, municipal and social services, water supply and sanitation, food and fuel/electricity subsidies. The Government incurred additional expenditures of USD 229 million in 2013 to cover the cost of subsidies for Syrian refugees. At the same time, this has placed an additional strain on local services and infrastructure, some of which were previously deficient in quality, or inadequate in capacity, to meet the needs of the local pre-crisis population. In Solid Waste Management alone, there is an additional 340 tons of waste to be collected daily.

At the national level, Jordan's public and private sectors have been significantly impacted by the crisis by virtue of the integrated nature of regional trade, markets and cross-border transit routes, which have been severely disrupted. GDP growth has been directly affected by the crisis, reportedly by about 2 percent in 2013. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has dropped off and is at its lowest for five years. In the past three years the trade deficit widened from JD6 billion in 2010 to JD9 billion in 2012. The annual budget deficit rose from US\$1.05 billion in 2010 to US\$1.8 billion in 2012 and public debt has

now risen beyond the 60 percent stipulated in the Public Debt Law as the debt to GDP ratio; increasing from 61.1 percent in 2010 to 75.5 percent in 2013.



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Jordanians' livelihoods, opportunities, and rightful access to quality public services have been detrimentally affected, in particular with regard to the most vulnerable segments of the population. Furthermore, 14 percent of the population is below the poverty line, an important portion of whom are present in the governorates that are host to the highest numbers of Syrian refugees, namely Irbid, Mafraq, Amman, and Zarqa in the north of the country.

Increased competition within the poorest segments of host communities over informal charitable and relief services, and employment opportunities in agriculture and other irregular jobs requiring unskilled labour has put downward pressure on local wages and caused food, fuel, rent and in some cases, water price inflation, placing a squeeze on household budgets and living standards.

### **GOVERNMENT OF JORDAN RESPONSE**

Faced with a straightened economic outlook and with limited fiscal space in which to manoeuvre, between 2009 – 2012 the Government resolved to reallocate funds from its capital investment programmes to its operating budget to enable it cope with the sudden effects of the crisis. This included transfers for energy and food subsidies to Syrian refugees, and increased financing to offset additional demands for services in respect to education, health, water supply, wastewater and solid waste management. The direct cost of extending these public services to Syrian refugees within Jordanian host communities continues to accumulate. Yet these additional measures still fall considerably short of the level and quality of services that are required to meet all of the basic needs, especially for the poorest and most vulnerable groups (children, women, youth etc.) in the most affected governorates.

### **HOST COMMUNITY SUPPORT PLATFORM**

The Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC) established the Host Community Support Platform (HCSP) in September 2013 - a strategic consultative body comprised of government line ministries, donors, UN agencies, international and national NGOs to ensure coordination and provide advice to the Jordanian Government's response to the crisis.

### **THE NATIONAL RESILIENCE PLAN 2014-2016**

Coordinated by the Ministry of Planning and International Coordination through the Host Community Support Platform, the National Resilience Plan (NRP) is the Government of Jordan-led response to the impacts of the Syrian crisis on Jordanian host communities.

This NRP provides a three year programme of high priority investments by the Government of Jordan (GOJ) in response to the impact of the Syrian crisis on the Kingdom of Jordan. It is intended to generate forward momentum for a considered medium-term response plan seeking to fill the gap and bridge the transition between the emergency assistance carried out by the humanitarian providers on the one hand, and the longer-term development plan, implemented chiefly by development partners and the GOJ on the other.



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The total cost of response interventions contained within the NRP is in the region of US\$2.48 billion. Respectively, US\$704.7 million in 2014, US\$984.4 million in 2015, and US\$796.4 million in 2016. In addition to these investments supplementary budget support totaling US\$758 million, US\$965.4 million, and US\$187.5 million is sought to compensate for additional subsidies and security costs, as well as transport and aviation income losses borne by the government as a direct result of the Syrian crisis.

Given the extent of the impact of the crisis at the structural, governorate and host community levels, there is now a considerable risk that if critical investments in the priority interventions set out within this three year national resilience plan are not forthcoming, Jordan's human development trajectory could be jeopardized.

### **FINANCING THE NRP**

The GOJ is appealing to the international community to increase the levels and accelerate the rates of aid to assist it address the multifaceted challenges set out above. It is widely acknowledged that national ownership of development strategies, such as the Government's recently developed National Resilience Plan - the principle policy and programmatic response of the Government to responding to the Syria Crisis - is the most appropriate response for donors.

Assistance should be channeled primarily to its national and local institutions, as well as through UN and NGO development partners. This will serve to complement the generous humanitarian support being provided. It will also enable the GOJ to take greater responsibility for the planning, implementation and management of response interventions being designed for its own host communities as well as in support of the Syrian refugee populations.