



HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN  
MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

# NATIONAL RESILIENCE PLAN

**2014 - 2016**

Brief on the Impact of the Syrian Crisis by Sector

1 June 2014

**HCSP**  
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Host Community Support Platform





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## **BACKGROUND**

The National Resilience Plan (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. 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.

## **EDUCATION**

The GOJ has allowed all those who have missed less than three years of schooling to enroll in Jordanian schools, unburdened by school fees. There are 100,000 Syrian children attending school in host communities; 21,000 in camps; and a further 8,000 placed on waiting lists. In order to respond to the increased demand for education, second shifts were introduced in 78 schools, over 7000 additional teachers hired, three new schools built in refugee camps and additional prefab classrooms installed in 28 schools. The introduction of double shifts in schools reduces the instructional time available to both shifts; larger classes and heightened levels of conflict and bullying in schools also affect the quality of the learning environment as do the many newly recruited teachers.

### **NRP PROGRAMMATIC RESPONSE IN EDUCATION: USD 538,480,000**

The overall objective of the NRP in education is to provide access to quality inclusive education for all children – particularly the most vulnerable – through formal, non-formal and informal opportunities.

## **ENERGY**

Jordan has been facing a convergence of supply disruptions of energy imports from Egypt, alongside rising local demands in Jordan owing to a large influx of Syrian refugees and forced migrants. While not a primary driver of systemic energy sector challenges in Jordan, the Syrian crisis is a significant exacerbating factor. Rising energy costs contribute towards decreased fiscal space available to respond to overall development challenges.

### **NRP PROGRAMMATIC RESPONSE IN ENERGY: USD 117,690,000**

The Plan advocates the acceleration of energy efficiency and renewable energy measures in buildings and residences across Jordan to offset increased power demands from the Syrian crisis (short-term coping). While in the medium-term, the establishment of new renewable energy power supply capacities to bolster pressures on the power grid.

## **HEALTH**

The Government of Jordan grants Syrian refugees free access to national health care services however the refugee influx has placed significant additional pressure on an already under-resourced MOH healthcare delivery system and has overwhelmed the capacity of the Jordanian health sector to deliver quality services to all. The greatest challenges relate to meeting the heightened demand for health services through the extension of services and/or expansion of facilities.

Ramtha Government Hospital, 5 miles from the Syrian border, reports having received 25,000 war wounded Syrian refugees in 2013. Seven thousand were admitted to the hospital, while 19,000 were referred to other hospitals in the Kingdom.

### **NRP PROGRAMMATIC RESPONSE IN HEALTH: USD 468,926,600**

The NRP focuses on increasing the absorptive capacity of MOH hospitals; strengthening existing primary and comprehensive healthcare programmes; and maintaining appropriate staffing levels and bed density in affected communities in order to ensure quality health services for all.

## HOUSING

The Syrian crisis is unfolding amidst a chronic shortage of affordable housing in Jordan. As a result of increased demand, rental prices have reportedly increased in the north by up to 300% from pre-crisis levels, depleting household savings of vulnerable families. While no quantitative data are available, anecdotal reports suggest a rise in the eviction of tenants by landlords in search of higher rents. Competition for affordable housing and jobs represent the two chief sources of tension between refugees and host communities. The two issues are related. High rents compel refugees to seek work in the informal sector. This surge in labour supply is lowering salaries. As families' savings are depleted, they compromise on their choice of shelter solution, resulting in over-crowding, unhealthy living environments, and further straining urban infrastructure and services.

### **NRP PROGRAMMATIC RESPONSE IN HOUSING: USD 5,256,000**

The NRP advocates: Expanded support for humanitarian shelter, particularly those initiatives that bring additional housing units onto the market; a large scale affordable housing programme involving private-public partnership; and institutional reform to address structural weaknesses in the housing market.

If properly supported, the housing sector has the potential to contribute to a wide range of positive outcomes, including: physical security, reduced social tension, increased employment and economic growth, and increased tax revenue for the Government of Jordan.

## LIVELIHOODS AND EMPLOYMENT

Vulnerable Jordanian households are the most impacted with regard to livelihoods and employability; particularly, in the four governorates of Amman, Mafrqa, Irbid, and Zarqa. The percentage of working poor was already high, and the total number of poor households has been steadily increasing.

The fragility of Jordan's agricultural sector, which employs a significant number of Jordanians and is heavily dependent on exchanges with Syria, has been exacerbated by an increased pressure over the natural – including pastoral - resources and productive base, while Syria's has been exacerbated by drought.

Food prices have been affected by pre-existing government austerity measures implemented over the past two years to reduce subsidies on food and fuel. All of the above increases Jordanians' vulnerability to shocks, but especially that of communities hosting large numbers of refugees.

### **NRP PROGRAMMATIC RESPONSE IN LIVELIHOODS AND EMPLOYMENT: USD 136,602,500**

The NRP advocates the generation of immediate job opportunities to absorb the high unemployment among the low skilled jobseekers in poor and vulnerable households, simultaneously supporting local infrastructure, public works, and agricultural initiatives. Likewise, immediate preservation of productive and income generation capacities to access food and basic services while also protecting the natural resource base on which livelihoods depend. In addition, it addresses the serious threat posed by animal and crops trans-boundary diseases and pests affecting assets and productivity through support to the MOA in animal health & production challenges.

## LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES

The pre-crisis challenges confronting governorates and municipalities were already great; however the crisis has ensured that service delivery and local development planning requirements have been far exceeded. There is heightened pressure on municipalities to deliver more and better municipal and social services, address housing deficiencies, induce local economic development, and support social cohesion of communities.

Jordanian citizens in host communities are starting to demand a more effective response to their own needs from state institutions and local authorities, particularly in smaller communities, partly as a result of what many Jordanians perceive as unfair priority being given to Syrian refugees.

### **NRP PROGRAMMATIC RESPONSE IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES: USD 205,853,766**

Interventions will target urgently required investment and capacity building in municipal services and infrastructure, with a particular focus on solid waste management. Options exist to disburse funds through existing or new donor grant mechanisms in the immediate coping phase while, for the recovering phase, the GOJ has committed to a gradual increase in the transfers pool for municipalities during 2014 and 2015. Debt relief may be considered for municipalities facing the biggest service delivery gaps.

## **SOCIAL PROTECTION**

There have been three main impacts in terms of protection services, social protection, and social cohesion. Firstly, national and local protection services, which were previously under-resourced, have been put under further immense strain; secondly, social protection mechanisms have also been put under strain by an increasing caseload; and thirdly, social tensions have led to an atmosphere of increased violence and unrest in host communities.

### **NRP PROGRAMMATIC RESPONSE IN SOCIAL PROTECTION: USD 341,861,133**

Interventions focus on strengthening and expanding national and sub-national protection systems; improving poverty alleviations mechanisms through cash and better-than-cash assistance programmes and housing for poor families.

## **WATER AND SANITATION**

Jordan is the fourth most water country in the world. Even a modest increase in population has a dramatic effect on the supply of water. The increase in demand from the burgeoning Syrian refugee population has impacted the amount and frequency of water available for Jordanians. Almost all Jordanians can access drinking water, but the quantity supplied per capita has recently decreased in some cases even to 30 l/p/d while the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) standard is 100 l/p/d. This decrease in quantity is also manifest through more stringent imposition of rationing. However between 40 and 50 percent of water is lost through network breakdowns, leakages and through illegal consumption and even higher rates of loss occur in parts of the northern governorates.

There are also concerns regarding the potential pollution of the aquifer due to increased quantities of unregulated wastewater discharge.

### **NRP PROGRAMMATIC RESPONSE IN WATER AND SANITATION: USD 670,788,000**

The NRP envisions expanding the existing water and sanitation infrastructure to better serve both the Jordanian and Syrian refugee populations in host communities. Existing gaps in the current water network and larger infrastructure include: the development of additional water resources; restructuring, reinforcement and rehabilitation of water supply infrastructure; extension of sewer systems in towns; and the construction, rehabilitation and expansion of Waste Water Treatment Plants. The water and sanitation sector of the NRP therefore targets those systems which enable critical aspects of the system under most pressure to cope and recover, supported by longer term measures that seek to build greater sustainability.