



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)
LEGAL AID BOARD

Jordan - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Thursday 14 September 2017

Information Syrian asylum seekers including: available protection; discrimination; discrimination/racism towards perceived anti regime supporters such as family, Al Almsalmeh tribe; access to education; & conditions at Za'atari/Zaatari camp

A document released in February 2017 by *UNICEF* notes:

“The Za’atari refugee camp, the second largest in the world...Za’atari Camp has 12 districts with 2 market streets providing an adequate amount of goods and services” (UNICEF (February 2017) *Out of the Cold, UNICEF Winterization Cash Transfer in Refugee Camps – Jordan*, p.3).

A document produced in February 2017 by the *European Parliament* states:

“Noting that all services in Jordan had been adversely affected by the inflow of refugees, the Jordan compact singled out education as a crucial area of international community intervention. Speaking of the danger of a 'lost generation' of refugee children, both for Jordan and post-conflict Syria, the government made a landmark commitment to ensure that, by the 2016-2017 school year, every child in Jordan would be in education” (European Parliament (7 February 2017) *Syrian crisis: Impact on Jordan*).

In February 2017 the *Borgen Project* states that:

“Regarding access to education for Syrian refugees, the Ministry of Education has opened a number of additional school spaces and relaxed barriers to registration. Consequently, there are now approximately 170,000 refugee children enrolled in the current school year. The Ministry of Education also created an action plan to open 102 additional double-shift public schools. Thus, the plan will accommodate 50,000 new enrollment spaces. The plan initiated a "catch-up program" administered through public schools. In addition, the plan will operate in conjunction with education ministry teachers and will offer informal education to 25,000 children between the ages of eight and 12. One thousand of these children have already enrolled. The primary issues regarding access to education for Syrian refugees surround legal status and documentation, restrictions on business ownership and school dropout rates among migrant populations. The Ministry of Education seeks to address each of these issues through its reformed action plan. To provide some support, UNICEF's 2017–2018 No Lost Generation initiative promises to promote equal access to integrated child protection, education, youth engagement and livelihood programs. The initiative is meant to strengthen the quality of education for Syrian refugees. Still, almost 91,000 Syrian children registered with the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees remain without access to formal education. A 2016 UNICEF survey conducted within Amman, Irbid and Mafrq found that 10 percent of Syrian refugee families removed their children from school to save educational expenses. Six percent had sent their children to work, and three percent had their daughters married in childhood. Childhood marriages are a common occurrence because they help bear the

economic burden and safety concerns associated with refugee status” (Borgen Project (10 February 2017) *Education for Syrian Refugees in Jordan*).

A report issued in March 2017 by *IRIN News* notes:

“Syrians caught working illegally can be arrested, detained, sent to Azraq refugee camp, and, in some cases, deported back to Syria” (IRIN News (21 March 2017) *Jordan looks to turn refugee crisis into economic boon*).

In April 2017 *Human Rights Watch* states that:

“...data published in April, compiled through an improved enrollment-tracking system managed by the Jordanian government, found that only 125,000 Syrian children were enrolled in formal education in Jordan in December, and some 40,210 children had no access to education...” (Human Rights Watch (5 April 2017) *Remove Barriers to Syrian Refugee Education*).

The *Associated Press* in May 2017 states:

“Deportations from Jordan have spiked in recent months, with entire Syrian families sent back for the first time, including large numbers of children, said two international aid officials” (Associated Press (12 May 2017) *Aid Groups: Jordan Departs Thousands of Syrian Refugees*).

In June 2017 the *European Commission* states in a report that:

“Overall, Jordan's basic public services in the sectors of health, education, water and sanitation, municipal services, solid waste and electricity supply have been put under considerable pressure to respond to the increasing demands. Despite that pressure, Jordan has made progress with support of the EU and other donors in setting a model to address the needs of both host communities and Syrian refugees. As agreed at the London Conference on Syria and the Region of 4 February 2016, the Government of Jordan has started to open up livelihood opportunities for Syrian refugees in Jordan (including derogation periods for requesting residence, delivery of 42,000 work permits to Syrian refugees by April 2017 and implementation of the relaxed Rules of Origin) and has now enrolled 125,000 Syrian students in the formal education system. It has also hired 3,200 new trained teachers employed in double-shift schools and around 2,500 new teachers in single shift schools” (European Commission (13 June 2017) *EU-Jordan Partnership: Country Report (March 2015 – April 2017)*).

In July 2017 *UNICEF* states:

“School enrollment rates have steadily risen, with nearly 21,000 out of the camp's 27,000 children of school going age now attending. Vocational training, social innovation initiatives, computer skills, sports activities are among the many services on offer for children and youth in the camp” (UNICEF (28 July 2017) *The children of Jordan's Za'atari refugee camp, five years on*).

In the *Guardian* a report published in July 2017 pointed out that:

“Thousands of Syrian refugee children in Jordan are missing out on an education despite the provision last year of 75,000 new school places to cater for them. The country pledged to get all out-of-school refugees back into education by September

2017, but charities have warned the current system remains plagued by difficulties. Problems include lack of support for students, a shortage of qualified teachers and alleged bullying. The news comes five years after the Za'atari camp in northern Jordan was opened to cater for the huge influx of Syrian refugees escaping war in their homeland" (Guardian (29 July 2017) *Thousands of Syrian children in Jordan's Za'atari camp missing out on education*).

A report issued by the *UNCHR* in August 2017 generally on Syrian refugees states:

"Despite the support provided by host governments and humanitarian actors, refugees in the region are growing increasingly vulnerable. The vast majority live below the poverty line and face difficulties accessing services and providing food, housing, healthcare and other basic needs for their families" (UNHCR (7 August 2017) *Update: Durable Solutions for Syrian Refugees*).

A publication issued in August 2017 by the *UNCHR* states that:

"From 2015-2016, rates of school enrolment increased by 3.4%. Currently, 20,771 children, 50.8 per cent girls and 49.2 per cent boys, are enrolled in formal schools from an eligible population (5-17yrs) of 28,569. To further the quality of basic education, school expansion, class formation planning, the development of physical infrastructure, together with investment in teaching and supervision practices are seeking to address barriers to enrolment and retention. To compliment formal education, 5,539 children have access informal education and psychosocial support activities via 26 'Makani' centres. While 3500 youth have access to skills training opportunities in the camp, the establishment of quality, relevant, flexible and diverse pathways to certified post-basic and tertiary level learning opportunities is a priority" (UNHCR (14 August 2017) *Zaatari Refugee Camp - Factsheet, August 2017*).

In August 2017 the *Associated Press* states:

"Aid groups have opened an employment center in a sprawling refugee camp in Jordan to provide more work permits for Syrians who have fled civil war. Less than 3 percent of the 80,000 Syrians living in the Zaatari Refugee Camp are allowed to work in Jordan, which is struggling to cope with some 700,000 refugees" (Associated Press (22 August 2017) *UN opens employment center for Syrians in Jordan*).

The *Washington Post* notes in August 2017 that:

"In Jordan, hundreds of Syrian refugees are being deported across the border monthly with little warning and no recourse" (Washington Post (28 August 2017) *Aid agencies fear Syrian refugees may be forced home*).

The *Associated Press* in August 2017 points out that:

"Eighty percent of school-age children in Zaatari are registered in camp schools, said Catherine Philippe, the U.N. protection officer for Zaatari. This exceeds the regional average of two-thirds of Syrian refugee children with access to education" (Associated Press (31 August 2017) *Syrians adapt to exile in Jordan's 5-year-old Zaatari camp*).

A report issued in September 2017 by *Human Rights Watch* notes:

“By the end of the 2016- 2017 school year, there were still only 126,127 Syrian students enrolled in public schools, with another 67,086 children in non-formal education, and a further 2,593 in accredited programs for out-of-school children...” (Human Rights Watch (14 September 2017) *Following the Money, Lack of Transparency in Donor Funding for Syrian Refugee Education*, pp.43-44).

No further information on any of issues could be found among sources available to the RDC.

References

Associated Press (22 August 2017) *UN opens employment center for Syrians in Jordan*

http://www.lexisnexis.com/uk/legal/results/docview/docview.do?docLinkInd=true&risb=21_T26490812843&format=GNBFULL&sort=BOOLEAN&startDocNo=701&resultsUrlKey=29_T26490812847&cisb=22_T26490812846&treeMax=true&treeWidth=0&csi=138211&docNo=743 This is a subscription database

Accessed Thursday 14 September 2017

Associated Press (31 August 2017) *Syrians adapt to exile in Jordan's 5-year-old Zaatari camp*

http://www.lexisnexis.com/uk/legal/results/docview/docview.do?docLinkInd=true&risb=21_T26490812843&format=GNBFULL&sort=BOOLEAN&startDocNo=401&resultsUrlKey=29_T26490812847&cisb=22_T26490812846&treeMax=true&treeWidth=0&csi=138211&docNo=453 This is a subscription database

Accessed Thursday 14 September 2017

Associated Press (12 May 2017) *Aid Groups: Jordan Departs Thousands of Syrian Refugees*

<https://www.voanews.com/a/aid-groups-jordan-departs-thousands-of-syrian-refugees/3849003.html>

Accessed Thursday 14 September 2017

Borgen Project (10 February 2017) *Education for Syrian Refugees in Jordan*

<http://www.ein.org.uk/members/country-report/education-syrian-refugees-jordan>

This is a subscription database

Accessed Thursday 14 September 2017

European Commission (13 June 2017) *EU-Jordan Partnership: Country Report (March 2015 – April 2017)*

<http://www.ein.org.uk/members/country-report/eu-jordan-partnership-country-report-march-2015-april-2017>

This is a subscription database

Accessed Thursday 14 September 2017

European Parliament (7 February 2017) *Syrian crisis: Impact on Jordan*

<http://www.ein.org.uk/members/country-report/syrian-crisis-impact-jordan>

This is a subscription database

Accessed Thursday 14 September 2017

Guardian (29 July 2017) *Thousands of Syrian children in Jordan's Za'atari camp missing out on education*

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2017/jul/29/thousands-syrian-children-jordan-zaatari-camp-missing-education>

Accessed Thursday 14 September 2017

Human Rights Watch (14 September 2017) *Following the Money, Lack of Transparency in Donor Funding for Syrian Refugee Education*

https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/report_pdf/crdsyrianrefugees0917_web_2.pdf

Accessed Thursday 14 September 2017

Human Rights Watch (5 April 2017) *Remove Barriers to Syrian Refugee Education*

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/04/05/remove-barriers-syrian-refugee-education>

Accessed Thursday 14 September 2017

IRIN News (21 March 2017) *Jordan looks to turn refugee crisis into economic boon*

<http://www.irinnews.org/feature/2017/03/21/jordan-looks-turn-refugee-crisis-economic-boon>

Accessed Thursday 14 September 2017

UNHCR (14 August 2017) *Zaatari Refugee Camp - Factsheet, August 2017*

<http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/FACTSHEET-ZaatariRefugeeCamp-Aug2017final.pdf>

Accessed Thursday 14 September 2017

UNHCR (7 August 2017) *Update: Durable Solutions for Syrian Refugees*

https://www.ecoi.net/file_upload/1930_1502351645_updateondurablesolutionsforsyrianrefugees-7august2017.pdf

Accessed Thursday 14 September 2017

UNICEF (28 July 2017) *The children of Jordan's Za'atari refugee camp, five years on*

<http://reliefweb.int/report/jordan/children-jordan-s-za-atari-refugee-camp-five-years>

Accessed Thursday 14 September 2017

UNICEF (February 2017) *Out of the Cold, UNICEF Winterization Cash Transfer in Refugee Camps - Jordan*

https://www.unicef.org/jordan/UNICEF_PDM_Report-WintercashMar2017web.pdf

Accessed Thursday 14 September 2017

Washington Post (28 August 2017) *Aid agencies fear Syrian refugees may be forced home*

<http://www.lexisnexis.com/uk/legal/auth/checkbrowser.do?t=1505392589748&bhcp=1>

This is a subscription database

Accessed Thursday 14 September 2017

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

Sources Consulted

Amnesty International
BBC News
Electronic Immigration Network
European Country of Origin Information Network
Freedom House
Google
Human Rights Watch
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada
Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
International Crisis Group
IRIN News
Lexis Nexis
Minority Rights Group International
Online Newspapers
Refugee Documentation Centre E-Library
Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database
Reliefweb
Reuters
United Kingdom Home Office
United States Department of State
UNHCR Refworld