



مؤسسة نهر الأردن
Jordan River Foundation

Newsletter

December 2018

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Official Visits

Queen Rania Chairs JRF's Annual Board of Trustees Meeting



Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah chaired the annual meeting of JRF's Board of Trustees. Board members discussed the foundation's major achievements this year and its strategy for the next.

Held at the Queen Rania Family and Child Center (QR FCC) in Jabal Al Nasr, the board meeting began with a presentation by JRF's Director General Enaam Barrishi, who updated Her Majesty on the progress of the foundation's key programs: the Jordan River Community Empowerment Program (JRCEP), the Jordan

River Child Safety Program (JRCSP), and Jordan River Designs (JRD).

The meeting also addressed the status of JRF's various handicrafts projects, including the foundation's recent partnership with IKEA, which has created jobs for Jordanian women and Syrian refugees. Barrishi also shared JRF's expansion plans for 2019, under which the foundation aims to extend its Community Empowerment and Child Safety programs across the Kingdom.

Following the meeting, the Queen visited Al Karma Kitchen, where she

met with a number of full-time female chefs trained by JRF. Established in 2006, Al Karma Kitchen offers a wide variety of catering services and food products, generating unique economic opportunities for the women of East Amman.



First Lady of Bulgaria Visits Al Karma Center



The First Lady of Bulgaria Desislava Radeva during a field visit to Al Karma Embroidery Center where she was briefed about the production stages of the Jordan River Designs Project, which empowers local community

women by offering sustainable income generating jobs in handicrafts. The First Lady also reviewed a series of items produced by Jordanian women and Syrian refugees under the JRF/IKEA Handicrafts Project.

Taiwanese Ambassador Visits QRCEC



The Ambassador of the Republic of Taiwan Ismail Mae and his wife during a visit to the Queen Rania Al Abdullah Community Empowerment Center in Aqaba (QRCEC), where they were briefed about the services

and activities implemented within the Center's facilities under JRF's Child Protection and Community Empowerment Programs.

Sweden's Princess Victoria, Prince Daniel, Visit Al Karma Center



Crown Princess Victoria and Prince Daniel of Sweden touring JRF's Al Karma Embroidery Center, which houses the production of the Jordan River Designs and IKEA line of products. During their visit, the Royal couple learned

firsthand about the project's positive economic and social impact on the lives of women working in the center.

First Lady of the Republic of Macedonia Visits JRF Showroom



The First Lady of the Republic of Macedonia Maja Ivanova during a visit to the JRF Showroom, where she was briefed about an array of handcrafted products produced by community women under JRF's Bani Hamida Weaving

Project (Madaba), Al Karma Embroidery Center (Jabal Al Natheef) and Wadi Al-Rayyan.



UN Representatives at QRFCC

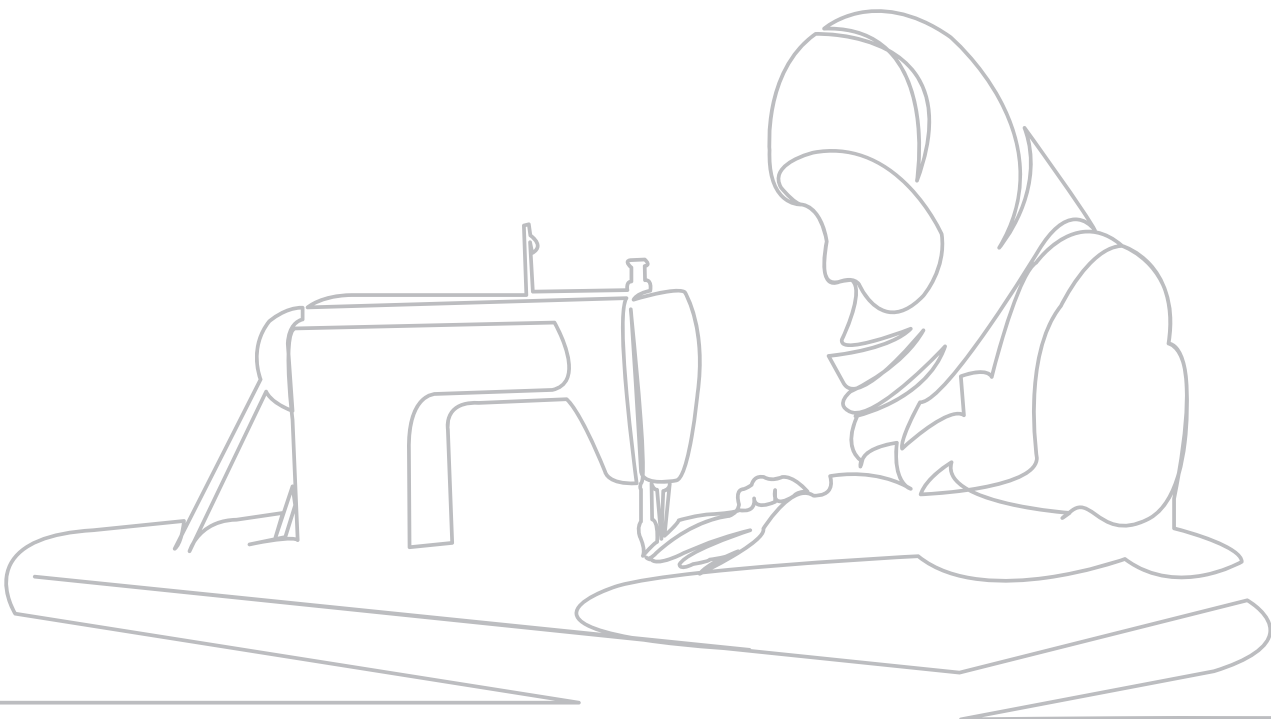
UN representatives during a field visit to the Queen Rania Family and Child Center (QRFCC), where they were briefed about the center's various activities and programs including Safe Spaces and Access to Protection Services for Families and Children, funded by the United Nations Office for

the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The project expands and strengthens child protection efforts in vulnerable communities, mainly in areas mostly affected by the Syrian Refugee Crisis. The visit coincided with this year's World Humanitarian Day.

Chobani Foundation Director at Al Karma Center

Chobani Foundation Director Hamdi Ulukaya during a field visit to Al Karma Embroidery Center, where he was introduced to the center's handmade items manufactured by local community women and Syrian refugees in

partnership with IKEA. The event was attended by IKEA Foundation CEO Per Heggnes and a group of representatives from international organizations, including the World Bank.



Events

Graduation Ceremony for Community Empowerment in Aqaba Beneficiaries



JRF held a graduation ceremony for a group of Community Empowerment in Aqaba Program beneficiaries. Implemented by JRF in partnership with the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), and funded by the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM), the program aims to mobilize vulnerable Jordanians and Syrian refugees in

Aqaba; empowering them economically and socially through a series of life skills, entrepreneurship, workforce readiness programs and access to micro funding. The ceremony was attended by private and public sector representatives including Chief Commissioner of the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA) Nasser Shraideh.

TEDx Arar Street Women



JRF's Director of Strategic Partnerships and Development, Fairuz Taqi-Eddin participated in TEDx Arar Street Women where she highlighted her professional experience in adopting best practices for developing impact-driven strategic partnerships with companies and NGOs during her remit at Care International and Qatar Foundation.

Global Entrepreneurship Week



JRF held several youth activities under the UNICEF-funded Social Innovation Labs Project celebrating this year's Global Entrepreneurship Week.

The International Arab Youth Congress



The Social Innovation Labs Project team participating at the International Arab Youth Congress in Amman. The UNICEF-funded event addressed the importance of youth participation in social justice and sustainable development, bringing together youth (14-16) from 12 Arab and foreign countries. The Congress was held at the King Hussein Foundation.

Against Gender-Based Violence



JRF participated in the launch of a 16-day Campaign of Activism against Gender-Based Violence held at the Ras Al Ain Gallery & Hangar. The event was launched by the Jordanian National Commission for Women

(JNCW) in collaboration with the United Nations in Jordan, in an effort to raise awareness on harassment and other forms of violence committed against women.

Projects & Partnerships

Cooperation Agreement for Community Empowerment in Balqa



JRF signed a cooperation agreement with Allan Charitable Society in Balqa under the Tamkeenoha Initiative. Funded by The Royal Hashemite Court, the initiative aims to empower local authorities to facilitate zero interest loans for local community women across Madaba and Balqa, which in turn would create sustainable income-generating projects that would leverage livelihoods of families and individuals across the two governorates. JRF's mandate revolves around enhancing the developmental role of women's associations by managing loan portfolios as well as building institutional capacities, mainly in portfolio and project management, as well as monitoring and evaluation.

New Educational Spaces at QRCEC



JRF inaugurated a new series of educational spaces at the Queen Rania Al Abdullah Community Empowerment Center in Aqaba (QRCEC), in partnership with the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA). The new educational zones encompass key community empowerment and child safety programs and activities, targeting youth, children and women. These include: Makani, Social Innovation Labs, Youth Capacity Building and Employment, Case Management Support, Beit Sgheir, Art Oasis, and Salhoof (interactive children's theater).

Women Empowerment in Aqaba



JRF has launched the Case Management & Women Empowerment Services for Women & Girls Project at Queen Rania Al Abdullah Community Empowerment Center in Aqaba (QRCEC). Funded by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the project aims to strengthen national and sub-national protection systems that address the international and social protection needs of vulnerable groups across Jordan's southern governorates affected by the Syrian Crisis, where the number of refugees exceeds the current capacity of services offered by development and humanitarian institutions.



Women Employment Opportunities with IKEA

JRF has launched a new apprenticeship program in partnership with The International Labour Organization (ILO) aimed at helping Syrian refugee and Jordanian women access employment opportunities with IKEA. Launched in Amman, the two-months program will train 70 women

in sewing and embroidery skills and techniques. The focus of the program will mostly be on providing women with practical on-the-job training opportunities to help them acquire the competencies and skills required by the industry.



Gender Equality via Socio-Economic Empowerment & Protection Services

JRF launched a 2-year holistic project funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to be implemented across Amman, Zarqa, and Aqaba. “Advancing Gender Equality through Economic and Social Empowerment, and Protection

Services targeting Women and Girls” aims to help women and their families overcome protection and livelihood risks hindering their economic and social development.



Supporting Saving & Loan Groups across Jordan Valley

JRF announced the launch of a 2-year project funded by Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA) and Global Affairs Canada offering women and youth across four Jordan Valley governorates access to credit and loans to support their entrepreneurial potential

and create sustainable livelihoods. The Jordan Valley Links Project will primarily focus on economic empowerment through access to credit and loan groups for local communities in the Jordan Valley, including Irbid, Karak, Ajloun, and Jarash.



On the Ground



Rural Economic Development and Employment

A series of training sessions were held in Balqa and Ajloun under the Rural Economic Development and Employment Program, funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in cooperation with the

Jordan Enterprise Development Corporation (JEDCO). The program aims to contain and reduce poverty across rural areas targeting vulnerable families in Ajloun, Jerash, Mafraq, Balqa and Madaba.

Community Empowerment Program in Aqaba



JRF launched the Community Empowerment in Aqaba Program funded by the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, in partnership with the Danish Refugee Council (DRC). The program aims to mobilize vulnerable Jordanians and Syrian refugees in Aqaba; empowering them economically and socially through life skills, entrepreneurship, workforce readiness training and access to micro funding. Phase one will target 30 beneficiaries (18 - 42 years), later linked to job opportunities across various sectors in Aqaba.

Beit Sgheir Activities



Launching a series of Beit Sgheir interactive activities for children at the Queen Rania Family and Child Center (QRFCC) in Amman and Queen Rania Al Abdullah Community Empowerment Center in Aqaba (QRCEC). Activities revolved around awareness concerning protection against abuse. The events were developed under the OCHA-funded project: Case Management & Women Empowerment Services for Women & Girls.





Virtual Reality Display

A team from Zain during a field visit to a Social Innovation Labs project activity showcasing a virtual reality tool at Z Space. The tool offers beneficiaries the

opportunity to learn about human anatomy through 3D simulations.

Child Safety Training Programs



Children and Traffic Safety



JRF Launches Hackathon for 160 Youth



Six training sessions were held at the Municipal Council for Children in collaboration with the Amman Municipality as part of the UNICEF-funded Social Innovation Labs Project. The sessions focused on the development of innovative problem solving through the use of technology as a tool for community empowerment and change.

JRF launched a special community initiative under the Social Innovation Labs Project in partnership with the Amman Municipality, featuring a three-dimensional drawing in front of Marj Al Hamam Public Park as a tool for raising public awareness about children and traffic safety.

In partnership with the Ministry of Youth, JRF launched a Hackathon training camp for 160 youth as part of its continuous efforts to leverage the social innovation skills of local communities under UNICEF's Social Innovation Labs Project. The event featured a series of interactive activities designed to help youth develop out-of-the-box entrepreneurial solutions to socio-economic challenges facing their communities.



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economically and socially through a series of life skills, entrepreneurship, workforce readiness programs and access to micro funding. The ceremony was attended by private and public sector representatives including Chief Commissioner of the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA) Nasser Shraideh.

Adolescents Engagement Training in Partnership with AYLA

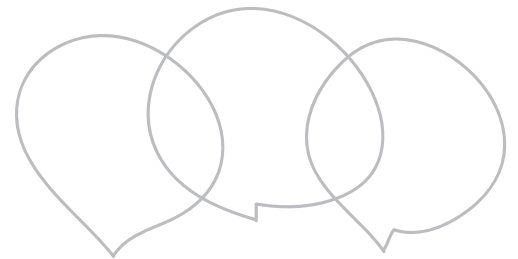


JRF signed an agreement with AYLA launching the Adolescents Engagement Training Program in Aqaba. To be implemented at the Queen Rania Al Abdullah Community Empowerment Center in Aqaba (QRCEC), the one-year program aims to foster awareness and skills in child safety and protection for 600 adolescents and parents. The initiative will help facilitate impactful community participation for youth under JRF's Child & Family Safety Programs. The signing ceremony was attended by Chief Commissioner of the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA) Nasser Shraideh.

Against Gender-Based Violence



JRF participated in the launch of a 16-day Campaign of Activism against Gender-Based Violence held at the Ras Al Ain Gallery & Hangar. The event was launched by the Jordanian National Commission for Women in collaboration with the United Nations (JNCW) in Jordan, in an effort to raise awareness on harassment and other forms of violence committed against women.





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