



مؤسسة نهر الأردن
Jordan River Foundation

2022 Annual Report



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JRF at a Glance

The Jordan River Foundation (JRF) has been a major player in Jordanian community development, bringing forth over 25 years of experience in local community empowerment, and supporting homegrown solutions that engage communities and address local challenges.

Driven by values of social justice, impactful interventions to alleviate poverty, and empowering the community with a focus on women and youth, JRF implements various programs to achieve its mission of transforming Jordanian communities. The Jordan River Child Safety Program (JRCSP) and the Jordan River Community Empowerment Program (JRCEP), together with the Training and Consultancy Division (TCD), tackle areas of economic empowerment, wellbeing, capacity building, entrepreneurship, sustainable community livelihoods, and family and child protection.

JRF addresses challenges affecting the everyday lives of Jordanians, and has received support and recognition locally, regionally and internationally. It has also partnered with key local and international entities to create sustainable livelihoods for communities.

Through its relentless work, JRF was able to:

- Build trust with local communities across the Kingdom.
- Increase outreach to local communities in all governorates.

JRF hopes to make an impact through its work all over the Kingdom. By constantly assessing the progress and impact of its work in the past 27 years, JRF has managed to create a reliable formula with the community in mind.





Governance

Since the establishment of the foundation, Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah has been involved in all aspects of its growth and development. In her role as Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, Her Majesty chairs board meetings and provides visionary leadership to ensure the continuity of long-term, impact-oriented programs.

The Foundation's Board of Trustees is comprised of individuals from the public, private, and non-profit sectors, working hand in hand to provide guidance and expertise towards the strategic development of JRF.

Among the board's key responsibilities is the utilization of sound fiscal and ethical accounting and management practices to ensure that the foundation maintains full transparency and accountability at all times.

In their capacities, they oversee and monitor the implementation of all JRF projects, whilst ensuring the proper implementation of required administrative and financial systems and procedures.

The board meets on a quarterly basis to oversee the smooth execution of all JRF activities and legal responsibilities. It also lays down strategies and approves annual development plans.

Board of Trustees

Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah
Chairperson

Mr. Amin Khlaifat
Vice Chairperson

Mr. Sa'ed Karajah
Board Secretary

Mrs. Suzanne Afanah
Board Member

Mr. Ammar Al Safadi
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Mrs. Reem Goussous Fakhoury
Board Member

Mrs. Taima Khoury Kawar
Board Member

Dr. Nawal Al Faouri
Board Member

Mrs. Enaam Barrishi
Director General

The Power of Self-Belief

As we mark another year of hope, resilience, and transformation, we are reminded of every obstacle, every setback, and every triumph we have encountered along the way, remaining united in our commitment to make a lasting difference in the lives of those most in need.

Within the pages of this annual report, and behind every difference we've made, are remarkable individuals whose lives have been touched by the tireless efforts of the Jordan River Foundation. They are a testament to the immense impact we have created together, reaching over 94,890 beneficiaries all across the Kingdom under JRF's Community Empowerment and Child Safety Programs.

In the face of adversity, and in our pursuit of improved safety for our children, equal opportunities and sustainable growth, we continue to act as catalysts for the socio-economic well-being of our Jordanian communities. Together, we advance the safety of our children, and the entrepreneurial prosperity of youth and women.

Our work, however, extends far beyond program development and implementation to realizing something much more important and vital: the power of self-belief.

From social innovation, to handicrafts, to culinary arts, to agricultural development to robotics and tinkering, JRF has succeeded in bridging the skills gap through entrepreneurial, vocational and financial literacy trainings, job placement interventions, and micro-business support services.

Our partners, donors and believers in our mission:

this journey has been made possible because of your unwavering support and commitment that continues to fuel our determination to help the most vulnerable realize their potential as shapers of their presents and tomorrows.

While we celebrate our achievements, we also recognize the challenges that lie ahead. Graduation Into Sustainable Livelihoods, gender-based violence, children's rights, vulnerable refugees and host communities, remain at the crux of our mission as we eye another year of self-resilience.

The journey is far from over, as we poise to reach more beneficiaries through our all-encompassing models of protection, prevention and economic empowerment.

And as you pursue the following pages, may you be inspired by our collective efforts to change lives and shape futures. This report is a testament to the immense impact that we can make when we stand together as a society forging its way into a sustainable tomorrow.

Sincerely,
Enaam Barrishi
Director General



Vision

A Jordan where solutions are homegrown, where the opportunity to prosper is for all, and where the well being of our children shapes our future.

Mission

To engage Jordanians to realize their full economic potential and overcome social challenges, especially child abuse.

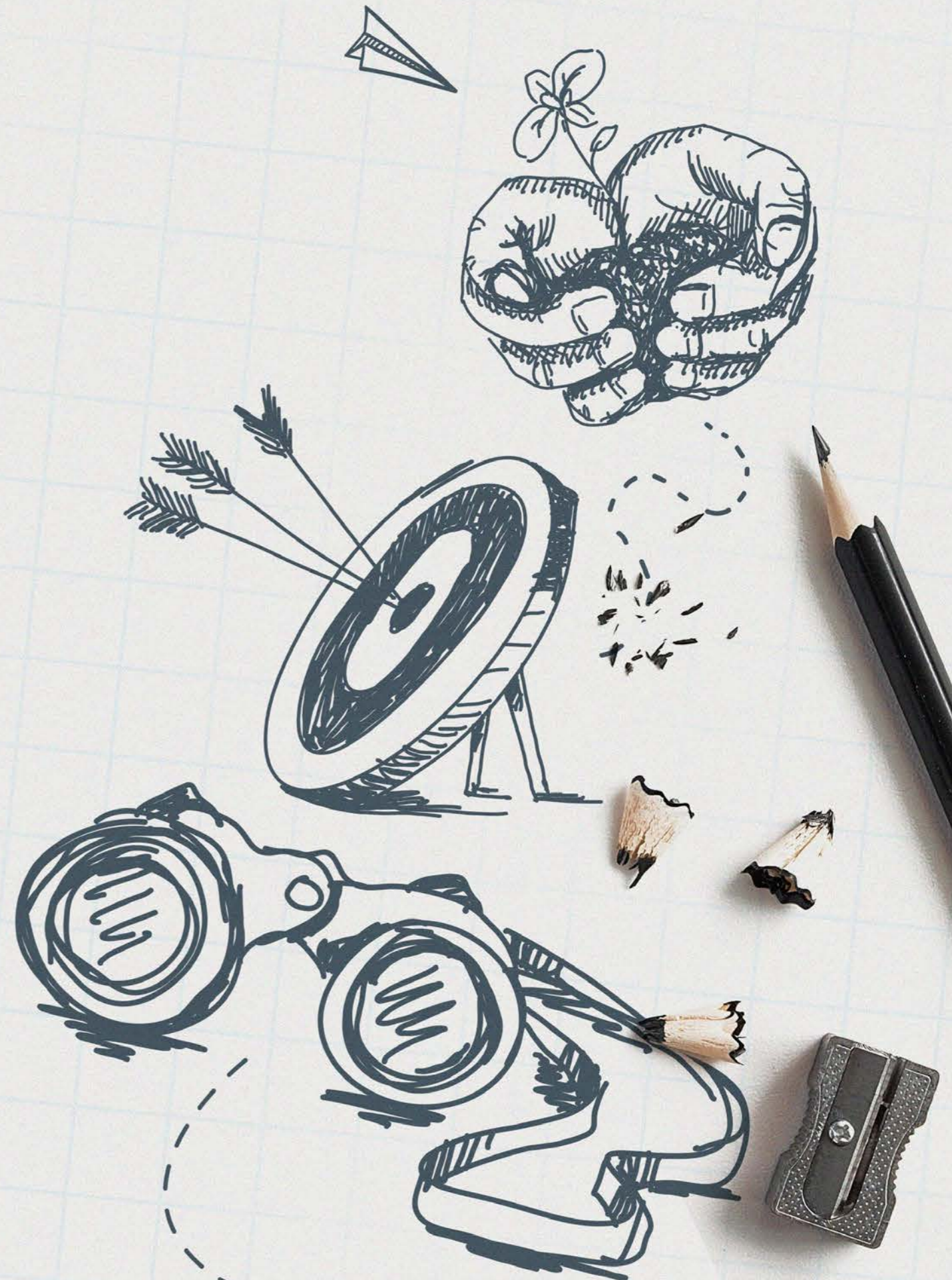
Values

Social Justice

Participation

Responsibility

Sustainability



2022 in Numbers

JRF (unique)

94,894

Female

64,551

Male

30,343

Jordanian

64,195

Syrian

28,500

Other Nationalities

2,199



Community Empowerment Program

30,534

Business Enabling Tools

3,558

Employment (Job placement)

569

Capacity Building Trainings

6,083

Mentorship

4127

Saving and Credit Groups

2097

Civic Engagement

5147

Enabling Youth through Technology

8,549

Community-Based Organizations

158

Entrepreneurship, Social Innovation Incubators and Community Initiatives

404

Impact

Employment

- 76% of beneficiaries who were referred to employers retained their jobs for at least 3 months.
- 56% of beneficiaries who retained their jobs reported improved household financials.
- 40% of beneficiaries reported positive change in the use of coping mechanisms.

Micro Businesses

- All established businesses have been in operation for at least 3 months.
- 77% of micro-business beneficiaries reported improved household financials due to increases in income generated by their businesses.
- 54% of micro-business beneficiaries reported positive change in the use of coping mechanisms.

Child Safety Program

85,697

Helpline
11,315

Case Management
5839

Psychosocial Support Services
571

Women Empowerment
22,430

Children Empowerment
25,653

Adolescent Empowerment
19,889

Social Enterprises

829

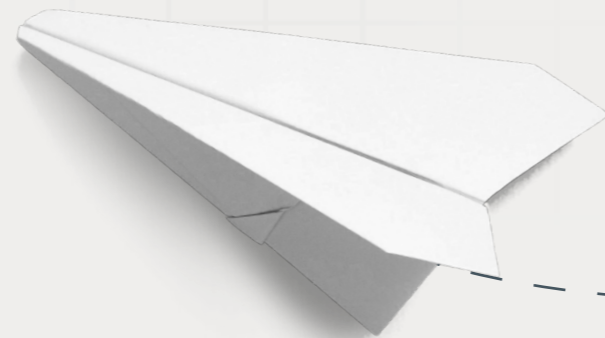
Al Karma Kitchen
200

Jordan River Designs
219

IKEA Project
410

Impact

- 99% of parents reported improved parental care.
- 70% of children were empowered to protect themselves from abuse.
- 86% of case-management and PSS beneficiaries have improved their social and emotional well-being.



Jordan River Community Empowerment Program

Launched in 1997, the Jordan River Community Empowerment Program (JRCEP) offers economic opportunities for local communities and refugees to help improve their livelihoods and those of their families.

JRCEP develops and implements projects and training programs that enable communities to articulate their needs and facilitate their contribution to their own economic and social prosperity.

The overall objective is to increase household income through: micro and small enterprises, entrepreneurship, job placement, workforce readiness and access to financial resources.

It also aims to mobilize members of vulnerable communities with the potential to become entrepreneurs or employees of choice.



Resilient Youth, Socially and Economically (RYSE)

Donor | Novo Nordisk Foundation

RYSE is a collaborative project designed to address civic engagement, and economic empowerment via the Graduation Approach Model. Under the project, youth, along with their families, government agencies, private sector representatives, and civil society organizations, have worked together to offer socio-economic involvement opportunities for youth all across the Kingdom.

RYSE has helped thousands of youth through civic engagement and leadership skills adopting best practices in technology and social innovation designed to develop solutions for community challenges, including barriers to education, employment, and entrepreneurship. Over a span of three years, RYSE has been implemented in Amman, Zarqa, Mafraq, Tafleeh, Karak, and Irbid. The project is funded by the Novo Nordisk Foundation through the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), and in partnership with Mercy Corps (MC), Generations for Peace (GFP), JRF and INJAZ, through collaborations with relevant Community-Based Organizations, and under the supervision of the Ministry of Youth (MOY).

Strengthening Refugee Capacity for Self-Reliance through Access to Livelihoods & Financial Inclusion Opportunities

Donor | UNHCR

Funded by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in collaboration with the Jordan Enterprise Development Corporation (JEDCO), the Vocational Training Center (VTC), and under the supervision of the Ministries of Labor and Social Development, the project is designed to offer sustainable livelihood pathways through vocational training and self-reliance for urban refugees and vulnerable Jordanians.

Under the project, JRF has helped beneficiaries hone basic and vocational skills, promote employment and self-employment opportunities, in addition to providing tailored coaching, guidance, referrals, mentorship, and seed funding in Amman, Mafraq, Irbid, Zarqa, and Aqaba.

Social Innovation Incubators (SII)

Donor | UNICEF

Funded by UNICEF under the supervision of the Ministry of Youth, JRF's leading social innovation project has empowered youth all across the Kingdom through trainings in social innovation and human-centered design.

The project has provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Youth by establishing and equipping nine new business incubators in different areas in Jordan, offering social innovation programs for ministry trainers, facilitators, and youth beneficiaries, focusing on entrepreneurship and incubation best practices.

The project has also offered youth trainings in robotics, MOBILE FAB LABs, venture incubation opportunities, as well as mentorship and coaching support. SII's UPSHIFT platform has been designed to empower vulnerable children and youth through access to trainings addressing entrepreneurship and social innovation.



Small-Ruminants Investment and Graduating Households in Transition – SIGHT

Donor | International Fund for Agricultural Development- IFAD

Implemented in Mafrqa, Irbid, Jerash, Ajloun, Madaba, and Amman, the project is designed to empower Syrian refugees and local host communities through livelihood support interventions including access to financial services, vocational and entrepreneurial training in addition to job placement services for agricultural entrepreneurs. Interventions are customized based on detailed socio-economic assessments designed to promote resilience and self-reliance. The project is funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), in collaboration with the National Agriculture Research Center (NARC), the National Aid Fund (NAF), the Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development (JOHOUD), and UNHCR in collaboration with relevant community-based organizations, and under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture.



Reinforcing Self-Reliance and Resilience in Displacement Affected Communities

Donor | Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (BPRM)

The project is designed to address the needs of vulnerable communities in Aqaba, enhancing social cohesion and strengthening community participation, offering support and training to help develop their entrepreneurial and employability skills, in turn increasing access to sustainable income generation and employment opportunities. The project is funded by The Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (BPRM) and implemented through the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) via JRF and under the supervision of the Ministries of Labor and Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship.

Aspirations Versus Reality (AVR)

Donor | Novo Nordisk Foundation

Funded by the Novo Nordisk Foundation through the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and in partnership with the Durable Solutions Platform (DSP), in coordination with the Ministries of Youth, Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship, the two year research initiative was launched in an effort to probe the educational outcomes and livelihood aspirations of youth affected by displacement all across Jordan. The project involved key stakeholders including policymakers, practitioners, and youth representatives with the aim of developing experiential evidence that would help design policies and interventions empowering displaced youth in Jordan.

Development and Support of Saving and Credit Groups and Associations

Donor | IFAD

Funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in partnership with the Jordan Enterprise Development Corporation (JEDCO) and in coordination with the National Agricultural Research Center (NARC), and the Jordan Exporters and Producers Association for Fruit and Vegetables (JEPA), the project aims to address poverty, vulnerability, and inequality in rural areas by offering employment and income-generating opportunities for rural populations, focusing on youth and women. Beneficiaries undergo a series of interventions, having joined Saving & Credit Groups and Associations, in business mentoring, marketing, and special training for farmer associations. The project was implemented across ten governorates: Ajloun, Jerash, Mafrqa, Balqa'a, Madaba, Irbid, Zarqa, Karak, Tafleeh, and Ma'an.

Resilience through Livelihood Support for Vulnerable Syrian Refugees and Jordanian Host Communities

Donor | RDPP

Implemented in Amman, Irbid, Mafrāq, Karak, and Aqaba, the project aims to enhance the livelihoods and socio-economic resilience of Syrian refugees and Jordanian host communities via access to finance, basic life skills training, as well as the development of CBO organizational capacities. Funded by the European Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP), the project is implemented by JRF in collaboration with community-based organizations and under the supervision of the Ministries of Labor and Social Development.

Empowering Low Income Families in Aqaba and Wadi Araba

Donor | Royal Hashemite Court (RHC)

The Royal Court initiative was launched in several governorates to help facilitate access to financial services and self-employment opportunities for Jordan's most vulnerable, especially women and youth. The project also supports the role of women unions and local bodies by offering loan portfolio management trainings and institutional capacity building for CBOs, addressing administrative, technical, and financial support aspects, powered by follow-up and evaluation practices designed to ensure sustainability and continuity. The project is funded by the Royal Hashemite Court (RHC), and implemented by JRF in collaboration with community-based organizations in Aqaba and Wadi Araba, and under the supervision of the Ministry of Social Development.

Women Do Business

Donor | International Labour Organization (ILO)

Funded by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and under the supervision of the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship, and the Jordan Enterprise Development Corporation (JEDCO), the project implements a localized version of the ILO-developed Women Do Business training material, addressing entrepreneurship training designed specifically for skilled Syrian refugees and vulnerable Jordanian entrepreneurs (women) in an effort to promote gender equality and women's economic empowerment in Irbid, Mafrāq, Zarqa, Karak, and Amman. Women entrepreneurs are supported through trainings covering business planning, marketing, financial management, and leadership delivered through a range of interactive tools and methodologies, including group exercises, case studies, and practical sessions.

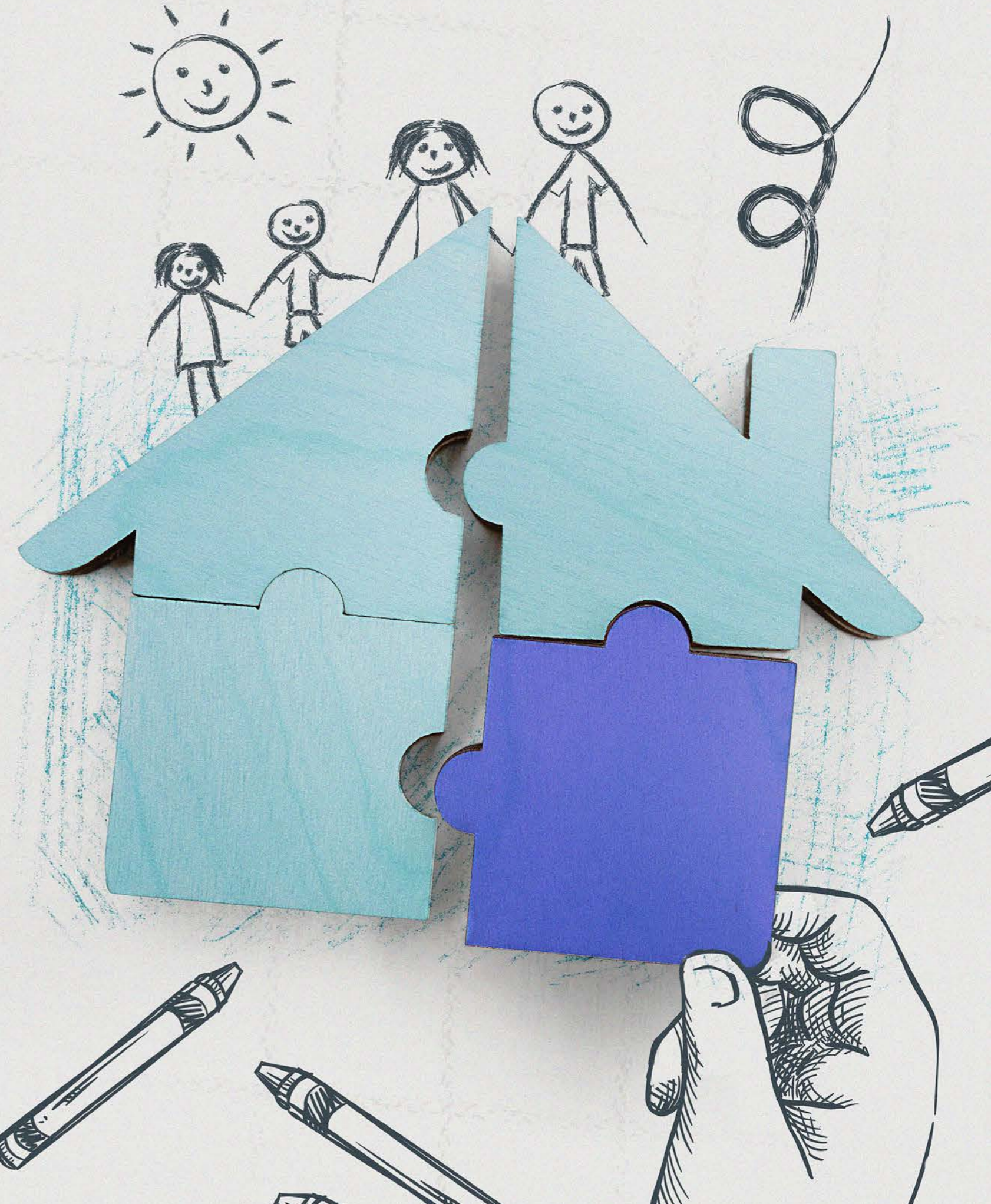


Jordan River Child Safety Program

Launched in 1997, the Jordan River Child Safety Program (JRCSP) is the result of Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah's relentless efforts to place the welfare of children at the forefront of national policy agendas.

The program works in two areas: intervention through rehabilitation services for abused children, and prevention; offering comprehensive services that protect children's rights and promote a culture of sound parenting and child safety in Jordan. JRCSP's mission is to mitigate violence against children by raising community awareness, offering capacity building to willing participants, later becoming advocates within their communities, and encouraging holistic and healthy interactions between family members.

This all encompassing approach is the result of a solid record of accomplishments in the field of child and family safety.



Child Protection Services for Jordan's Most Vulnerable

Donor | UNICEF

The UNICEF-funded project is designed to support Jordan's most vulnerable through specialized prevention and intervention services across ten governorates; Amman, Aqaba, Ma'raq, Irbid, Madaba, Karak, Tafilah, Zarqa, Jerash, and Ma'an. Interventions include case management, psychosocial support, JRF's 110 Helpline services, while prevention activities consist of programs including Beit Sgheer, Salhoof's interactive puppet show, and expressive art sessions. The project has launched an online public awareness campaign addressing sexual exploitation in addition to offering support for Al Hussein Foundation and Dar Al Hanan via assessments focusing on case management procedures and practices.

The project is implemented by JRF in partnership with the Ministry of Social Development through JRF's Queen Rania Family and Child Center (QRFCC), and the Queen Rania Al Abdullah Community Empowerment Center (QRCEC) in Aqaba, in collaboration with 12 Community-Based Organizations.



Responding to Child Protection Gaps via Inclusive Prevention and Intervention Services for Refugees and Host Communities

Donor | OCHA

The project offers inclusive prevention and intervention services for refugees and host communities across Jordan's most impacted governorates through services designed to address child protection threats. Implemented by JRF in Amman, Aqaba, Irbid, Karak, and Zarqa, the project offers services covering JRF's 110 Helpline, case management, and referral services. Child protection prevention and awareness-raising activities are also implemented focusing on child labor and child marriage. Activities include QRFCC-based sessions including Salhoof's Interactive Puppet Show, Beit Sgheer, and expressive art, responding to child protection gaps and mitigating child labor and child marriage in Jordan's most impacted governorates. Funded by OCHA, the project is run by JRF in partnership with the Ministry of Social Development and several Community-Based Organizations in Karak and Zarqa.

Strengthening Comprehensive Prevention and Response Services for Children at Risk and Survivors of SGBV

Donor | UNHCR

The UNHCR-funded project, run in partnership with the Ministry of Social Development and several CBOs in Amman, Aqaba, Ma'an, and Ma'raq, aims to strengthen child protection services by increasing access to comprehensive case management and psychosocial support, specialized capacity-building programs, awareness raising, empowerment, and prevention activities, as well as reducing GBV risks and improving national response to GBV survivors. Intervention services for GBV survivors include case management, psychosocial counseling, and services offered by JRF's Helpline. Prevention activities include GBV Prevention Community Groups and awareness sessions, Women Empowerment Trainings and Psychosocial Counseling, as well as tailored prevention activities for children and parents.



She Leads

Donor | The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs through DCI - Netherlands and implemented in partnership with Plan International, the Jordan Woman Union (JWU), and Terre des Hommes (TDH), in Amman, Karak, and Irbid, the project aims to empower girls and young women through gender equality interventions relying on community influencers, youth leaders, and female religious figures. Prevention activities include women empowerment programs through expressive art sessions and youth empowerment programs including awareness raising camps.

Makani

Donor | UNICEF

The UNICEF-funded project is implemented by JRF in partnership with the Ministry of Social Development and 14 Community-Based Organizations across Amman, Aqaba, Mafrq, Irbid, Madaba, Karak, Zarqa, Ajloun, and Balqa. Makani aims to improve the well-being and development of children and youth by providing safe and protected spaces where a range of integrated services are offered, including skill-building programs, child protection support, and learning support services. Makani focuses on providing services to the most vulnerable children, including school drop outs, refugees, child laborers, as well as adolescents, especially females, people with disabilities, National Aid Fund beneficiaries, and those affected by armed conflicts or at risk of harm and survivors of GBV. Prevention activities include Learning Support Services (LSS) that aim to provide children with structured learning, Skills Building sessions that aim to empower vulnerable youth (13-18 years old), Community-based Child Protection (CBCP) activities including adult-supervised and community supported sessions, Early Childhood Development (ECD) and Parenting Support Programs that aim at helping parents adopt sound caregiving skills; in addition to IT literacy courses.

Protected Today and Tomorrow: Responding to Immediate Concerns and Preventing Future Protection Threats for Refugees and Host Community Members

Donor | Foreign, Commonwealth, & Development Office (FCDO)

The project, funded by FCDO through the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) in partnership with the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD), Humanity and Inclusion (HI), and several Community-Based Organizations, aims to enhance the capacity of local communities, and national protection systems in an effort to prevent, respond to, and recover from short-term and long-term protection-related challenges in Amman, Aqaba, Mafrq, Irbid, and Ma'an. Services include Case Management, Individual Psychosocial Counseling, and JRF's 110 Helpline. Prevention activities include Expressive Art, Better Parenting, Beit Sgheer, and awareness sessions. JRF has also offered capacity building and self-care trainings under the project for government and CBO frontline workers as well as MoSD's community centers.



Social Enterprises

Culinary arts and handicrafts have helped thousands of females, Jordanians and refugees, earn a living and become financially independent.

Through a series of social initiatives and collaborations, JRF has helped create jobs for local community women across Jordan, while reviving the heritage of traditional cooking, as well as rural and Bedouin community arts.

829
Beneficiaries



Jordan River Designs

Offering an exceptional selection of traditional and contemporary handicrafts created by local community women, the Jordan River Designs project features embroidered products, rugs and special gift items rooted in Jordanian visual arts; produced by over three thousand women artisans empowered by JRF.

Al Karma Embroidery Center

Established in 1996 in Jabal Al Natheef, Al Karma Embroidery Center employs local women artisans who craft traditional and contemporary handmade embroidery products, from home furnishings, to gift items, to fashion accessories.

Bani Hamida Weaving Project

Launched by Save the Children in 1985, the Bani Hamida Weaving Project became part of JRF in 1998. Reviving an otherwise impoverished region, the project revamped the long celebrated tradition of Bedouin weaving, and helped maintain the social fabric of the Makawir area. The project also leveraged the living conditions of the area's local community. Over 1,600 women have benefited from the project since its inception.

Wadi Al Rayan Project

Established in 1997, Wadi Al Rayan revolutionized the use of cattail reeds and banana leaves as raw manufacturing materials, which were previously burnt and disposed of, posing as an environmental hazard to the Wadi's inhabitants. Cattail reeds and banana leaves are used to produce handwoven environment friendly products, including baskets, coasters, mats, among other home accessories.

219
Beneficiaries

IKEA and JRF

JRF's partnership with IKEA has helped empower refugees and local community women through a series of handicraft projects capturing Jordan's artistic heritage. The initiative helps sustain social and economic stability across host communities, offering local and refugee women jobs to produce embroidery items, sold exclusively by IKEA, locally and internationally.

338,856
Pieces produced in 2022

410
Beneficiaries



Al Karma Kitchen

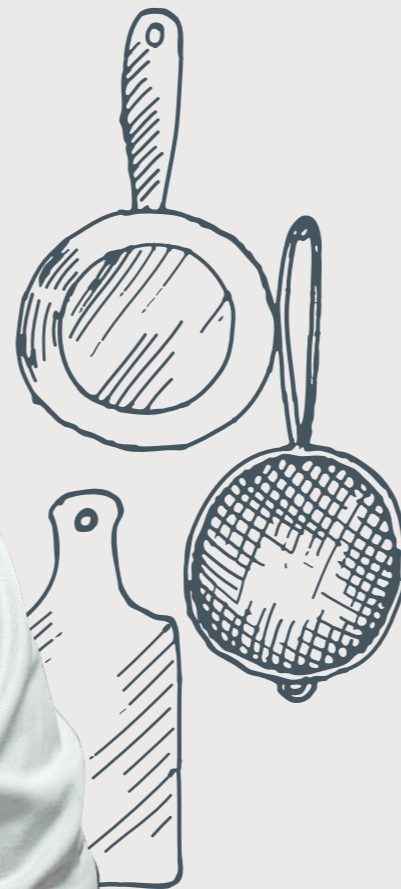
Established in 2006, Al Karma Kitchen offers a wide variety of catering services and freshly cooked foods prepared by local community women. Products include Ma'amoul, date bites, and frozen food items handcrafted with the finest ingredients.

200

Beneficiaries

Daimeh

Daimeh is an eatery experience at the heart of Jordanian and Mediterranean cooking, offering fresh and locally sourced produce that celebrates the timeless traditions of food. The social dining experience supports the community women of Al Karma Kitchen, empowering female chefs who rely on home cooking for a living.



2022 Insights: JRF Studies and Evaluations

Relevance to National and International Priorities

JRF's interventions are aligned with the Government of Jordan's national vision and strategy-2025, with a particular focus on workforce and employment and social protection. The foundation supports the government's commitment to breaking the intergenerational cycle of poverty and establishing a "social protection floor," as outlined in the Social Protection Strategy 2019-2025. This strategy is based on three main pillars, all of which are supported by JRF. At a global level, JRF ensures that its portfolio is consistent with international compacts and agreements, such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Since the adoption of the SDGs in 2015, JRF has increasingly worked towards ensuring and disclosing how its programmatic areas impact and contribute to their achievement.

Resilience through Livelihoods for Vulnerable Syrian Refugees and Jordanian Host Communities: End Line Assessment, Funded by RDPP

The evaluation measured progress made towards achieving the overall aim of the project: improving access to safe and sustainable livelihood opportunities for displacement-affected populations via durable solutions. Findings will be used to inform future JRF programming and will contribute to JRF's donor accountability.

The assignment was conducted in four phases, including a kick-off meeting, desk research, evaluation matrix development, and a sampling framework.

Findings

In terms of Relevance: it was evident that the project's objective was quite aligned with the community's needs and priorities. Furthermore, the project activities and interventions were also aligned and consistent with the project's overall objective.

In terms of Impact: overall, the project achieved an increase in income for 50% of the beneficiaries. Nonetheless, the results varied significantly across the three service categories. The micro-business category harbored the best results, with around two thirds of targeted households increasing their income.

In terms of Effectiveness: overall, based on the various data sources, the project proved to be exceedingly effective in bringing out positive change and benefits to all beneficiaries, regardless of category.

In terms of Efficiency: overall, adherence to the set timeline was highly praised by all beneficiary groups and stakeholders.

In terms of Sustainability: overall, the project also showed strong sustainability in terms of the number of currently active businesses as well as retained employees (for JP beneficiaries). Key reasons for such high sustainability rates include an increase in beneficiary capacity due to received trainings, experience built through employment, running a business, and self-employment.

Comparative Analysis of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, Supported by JRF with Funding from RDPP

JRF conducted a comparative analysis of small and medium-sized businesses supported by the foundation in the past two to three years to identify factors that contribute to or limit the establishment, profitability, and sustainability of these SMEs including gender, nationality, location, and sector.

Findings

The Establishment Phase: JRF's support to businesses was mostly conducted through financial grants (82%) while the remaining 18 percent of beneficiaries received revolving loans through CBOs. For most beneficiaries, financial support ranged between (500-1000) JDs (49%) and (1000-2000) JDs (40%). Furthermore, around two-thirds of supported businesses (60%) were already established prior to JRF's support. Regarding business types, the percentage of nonhome-based businesses (HBBs) established reached (58%) and was slightly higher than that of HBBs (42%).

The Operational Phase: the vast majority (95%) of businesses established remain active and operational. Factors behind inactivity, as reported by micro-business owners, include lack of product demand (24%), COVID-19 repercussions (24%), insufficient grant amounts (18%) and competition (18%).

The Growth Phase: the majority (78%) of businesses supported by JRF's micro-business component reported business growth (defined by increased profits). The main factors enabling this growth, as reported by most beneficiaries: availability of business-dependent tools and equipment (83%) and grant amounts offered by JRF (65%).

Socio-Economic Impact: A third of microbusinesses (29%) supported by JRF were able to offer employment opportunities since receiving JRF's grants/loans, with the majority hiring 1-3 employees.



Situational Analysis of Child Protection Concerns in Jordan's South- funded by OCHA

JRF carried out an OCHA-funded research that aimed to probe a series of risks and hazards facing children residing in the Southern region of Jordan, focusing on socio-economic factors and risk mitigation.

Findings

A survey conducted by JRF showed that technology's impact on the physical and psychological health of children was the main concern for parents, followed by bullying, child labor, and physical violence. The COVID-19 pandemic led to an increase in child labor as families faced financial difficulties, but efforts by organizations such as the Social Development Directorate helped reduce child labor cases. Child marriage, particularly of minor girls, was prevalent due to gender inequality and discrimination, which prevented females from education, healthy living, and feeling protected. However, adoption of this practice was low among female adolescents, with only 2.7% approving of it. Other risks such as sexual abuse, substance abuse, and mental health issues were underreported due to cultural stigmas. To help children cope with these risks, parents, caregivers, mentors, relatives, and society should provide support and a nurturing environment.

Youth Aspirations versus Reality in Jordan: Assessing pathways towards empowerment and self-reliance, Funded by Novo Nordisk

The research report was part of a larger research project titled Aspirations Versus Reality (AVR) run by the Durable Solutions Platform, the Jordan River Foundation and the Danish Refugee Council – exploring the aspirations of displacement-affected youth in terms of educational outcomes and market needs.

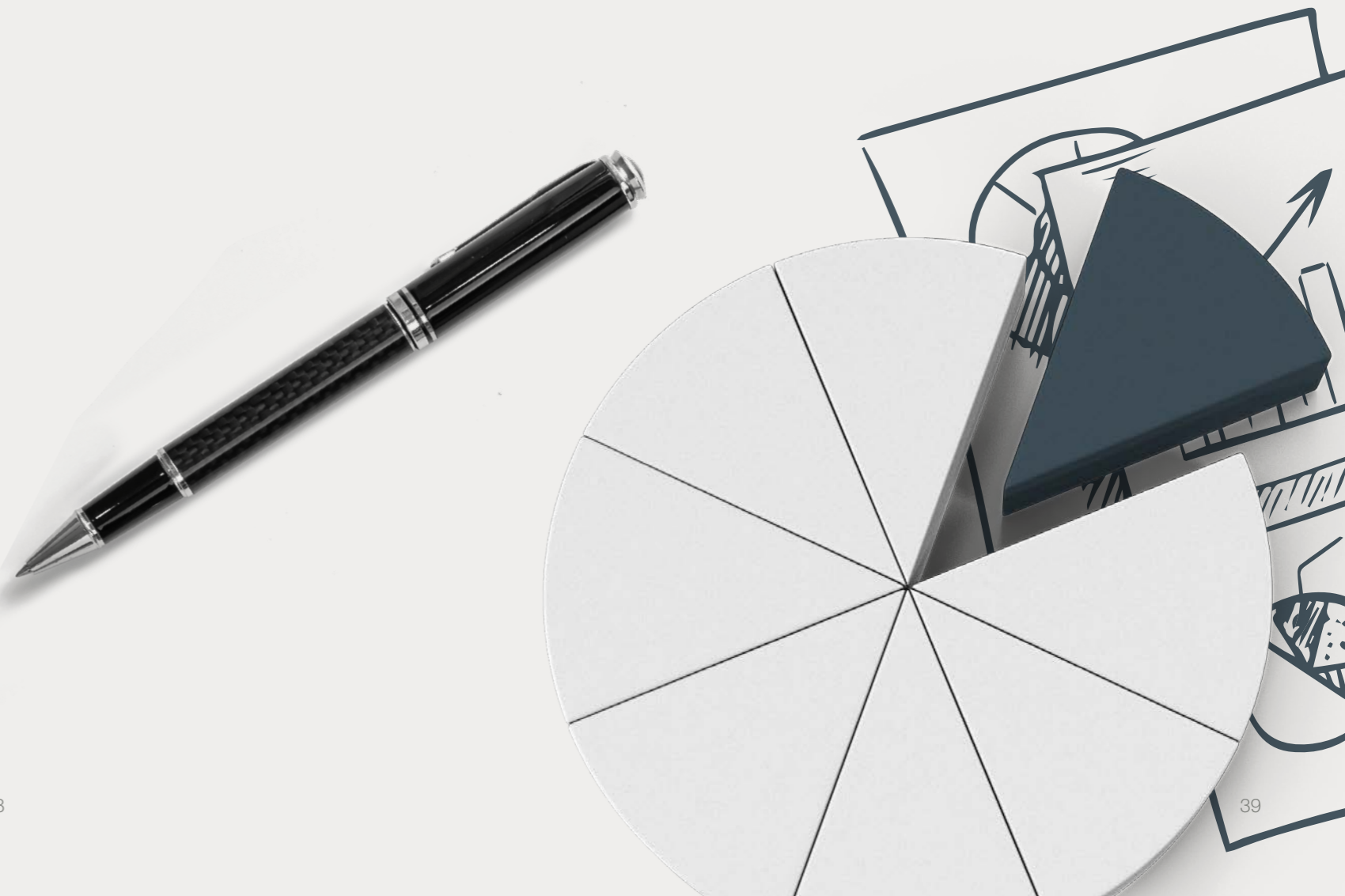
Findings

The primary motivation for youth to pursue education is to access better income-generating opportunities. However, financial constraints hinder many youths from pursuing education, leading to dropout. The COVID-19 pandemic has negatively affected the quality of education across different nationalities. Refugee children have limited access to public schools, affecting their secondary education. Vocational training is being invested in refugees, but there are limited opportunities to equip them with the required skills. High enrollment fees and limited employment opportunities hinder refugee populations from enrolling in universities. Very few youths are aware of career counseling services. The majority of youths prioritize salary over decent work conditions. Self-employment and entrepreneurship are considered challenging for the youth. Refugee youths face additional challenges related to decent work. Refugee youths have lower aspirations for higher education compared to their Jordanian counterparts. Despite high aspirations for sustainable livelihoods, youths struggle to achieve them.

Pathways to Poverty Reduction for Vulnerable Jordanians and Syrian Refugees- Funded by UNHCR

Findings

The project was both efficient and effective, with integrated service delivery and local partnerships resulting in cost savings and high-quality results. Most of the supported businesses were operational and over half of the beneficiaries reported an increase in household income. Additionally, the project improved the standard of living of beneficiaries and decreased tension between households. The project successfully engaged 50% of its female target and reached 26 people with disabilities. Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the project was implemented within the planned timeframe without delays. Overall, the study concluded that the Refugee Capacity for Self-reliance Project had a positive impact on the lives of vulnerable Jordanians and Syrian refugees by providing them with opportunities for employment and economic self-sufficiency.



JRF's Tech Interventions in 2022

Upshiftjordan.com

UPSHIFT was established as a result of JRF's belief in the limitless potential of entrepreneurship and social innovation. The platform offers Jordan's youth the opportunity to hone their skills in entrepreneurial thinking and social innovation via UNICEF's globally acclaimed social innovation curriculum, localized in Arabic by JRF.

Case Management Automation and Consultation Services

A system designed by JRF to provide case management and psychosocial services to beneficiaries in an automated and efficient manner, which complies with national case management policies and regulations.

JRF's IT team has also provided consultation and support services for the Jordanian National Council for Family Affairs to help implement a fully automated case management system to be adopted on a national level.



Upshiftjordan.com

Partners and Donors

JRF is proud of its partnerships with local and international entities, and continuously works towards cultivating these relationships, while exploring new opportunities for collaboration. We continue to evolve and act proactively to cement new partnerships with organizations that share our objectives for social and economic development in Jordan.



Institutional Donors

Danish Refugee Council (DRC)



Novo Nordisk Foundation (NNF)



Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (BPRM)



UNICEF



UNHCR



Jordan Humanitarian Fund



OCHA



Royal Hashemite Court (RHC)



Jordan Enterprise Development Corporation (JEDCO)



International Labour Organization (ILO)



German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)



Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP)



Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)



International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)



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Royal Institute of Traditional Arts (RITA)



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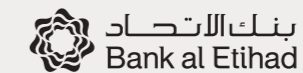
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