



Jerash WATSAN project: Preparing for final reinstallation of the street ©SDC

Context

Jordan is a constitutional monarchy with a population of more than six million people. The UNDP Human Development Report classifies it as a country of “medium human development” and an emerging market. Despite continuous demonstrations demanding political, financial and social reforms, Jordan has remained relatively calm in a region that has been challenged by a wave of unrest since the beginning of 2011.

Jordan hosts more than two million Palestine refugees, who are registered with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) and are defined as “persons whose place of residence was Palestine from 1 June 1946 to 15 May 1948, and who lost both their home and means of livelihood as a result of the 1948 conflict.” Ca. 370,000 Palestine refugees (18 %) live in 13 camps across Jordan, while the remaining 82% are integrated in Jordanian cities. In addition, approximately 14,000 Palestine refugees from Syria have sought refuge in Jordan. The situation of these refugees, who suffer from lack of adequate shelter and marginalisation, is particularly precarious.

Since the outbreak of the Syria crisis, Jordan has become host to more than 600,000 Syrian refugees, equaling almost 10% of the entire Jordan population. While 16% live in camps, the vast majority are so-called “urban refugees”, scattered across villages and towns, seeking shelter wherever available. Scarce resources and pressure on public services are fuelling tensions between the refugees and host communities.

Moreover, Jordan has witnessed an increase in Iraqi refugees with the increased violence and fighting in Iraq over 2014. Currently, ca. 40,000 Iraqis are registered as refugees in Jordan.

Swiss Cooperation Strategy Middle East 2015-2018

The overall goal of the Swiss Cooperation Strategy Middle East 2015-2018 for Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria is to contribute to safe, viable and peaceful living conditions for the conflict-affected and vulnerable people, reducing fragility, preventing and transforming conflicts. The Strategy was developed in a “whole-of-government” approach, involving the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the Directorate of Political Affairs (DP) and the State Secretariat for Migration (SEM).

In order to achieve its overall goal, Switzerland focuses on three domains of interventions: Basic Needs and Services; Protection; Water. To contribute both to the transformation of relationships and the promotion of inclusive mechanisms within the societies, the transversal themes Gender Equality, Good Governance and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) are inherent parts of the strategy.

In Jordan, SDC aims primarily at meeting the urgent needs of refugees as well as mitigating tensions between local communities and refugees, while also addressing more generally migration related challenges.

Jordan Population:	6.4 million
Refugee Population:	
- Syrian refugees:	629,883 (UNHCR 31.07.2015)
- Palestine refugees:	2,097,338 (UNRWA 1.7.2014)
- Palestine refugees from Syria:	15'000 (UNRWA 15.05.2015)
- Iraqi refugees:	49,638 (UNHCR 31.07.2015)

SDC planned Contribution 2015: CHF 19.2 million

Domain of intervention 1: Basic Needs and Services

Switzerland seeks to save lives, reduce vulnerability and enhance resilience through improving access of the vulnerable populations to the basic needs and services. Self-reliance and coping mechanisms are to be enhanced while preparedness, response and rehabilitation mechanisms are to be fostered for addressing natural and man-made disaster risks.

Under this domain, Switzerland is involved in the following projects:

- SDC direct implementation - *Rehabilitation of Public Schools in Jordan*: as part of the concept of burden sharing, SDC is supporting the Ministry of Education in the rehabilitation and refurbishment of public schools. Since 2012, 29 schools were rehabilitated in different governorates, including Amman, for around 25,000 students out of which 4,330 from Syria. The third phase started

early 2015 with 28 schools being rehabilitated, benefiting 24,000 students, of which 2,400 Syrians.

- Medair - *Cash and Health Assistance*: basic needs of 31,000 Syrian refugees and vulnerable Jordanians in Zarqa, Mafraq, Irbid, Ramtha and Amman are met through providing cash and shelter assistance, livelihood training and health services in collaboration with UNHCR and other agencies.

- UNRWA – *Assistance to Palestine Refugees*: Switzerland's annual contribution of CHF 21 million to the UNRWA General Fund supports the Agency in providing basic services to Palestine refugees in the region.

- ICRC - *Emergency Assistance*: In order to respond to the urgent needs of refugees arriving in Jordan and to ease the burden on local communities, the ICRC is providing essential goods and first aid medical assistance to newly arrived refugees. It also provides water and sanitation facilities in reception points and collection points in the border areas. SDC contribution to ICRC operations in Jordan amounts currently to CHF 1.8 million. in 2015.

- World Bank - *Strengthening the Resilience of Municipalities Confronted with a High Influx of Syrian Refugees*: supporting municipalities to provide public services (e.g. solid waste management, rehabilitation of roads, water and sanitation). This project is funded by the Swiss State Secretariat for Migration.

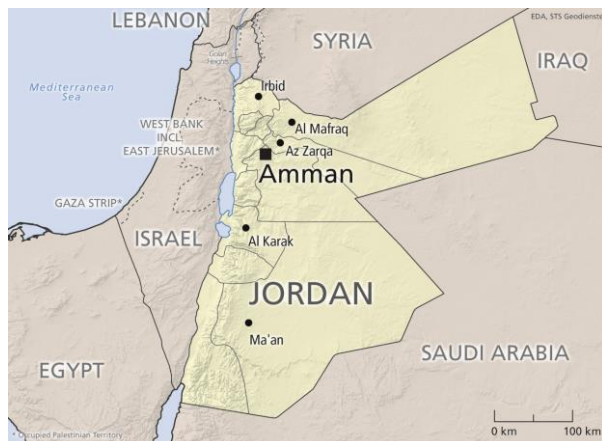
so that universities, national authorities, armed and security forces, the media and civil society institutions understand and respect IHL. (see also Domain 1)

- ILO – *Enhancing the capacity of the Workers' Center to respond to the needs of migrant workers*: SDC supports the first center in Jordan to provide a mix of social, health, and empowerment opportunities for migrant factory workers, incl. skills training, access to legal aid, and support in the event of gender based violence.

UN-Habitat – *Jordan Affordable Housing Programme*: This private sector-driven initiative will help deliver affordable small-sized housing units, thus reducing the pressure facing the Jordanian housing market. Jordanian host communities and Syrian refugees will both benefit from an increased and affordable housing supply. This project is funded by the Swiss State Secretariat for Migration.

Switzerland's Main Partners in Jordan:

- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- International Labour Organisation (ILO)
- Jordan Department of Palestinian Affairs (DPA)
- Jordan Engineers' Association (JEA)
- Medair Switzerland
- Ministry of Education (MoE)
- Ministry of Interior (MoI)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)
- World Bank (WB)



Domain of intervention 2: Protection

Switzerland seeks to strengthen respect for international humanitarian law and human rights and contribute to conflict transformation as well as to a protective environment for conflict-affected and vulnerable populations including IDPs, refugees and migrants.

SDC supports the following protection projects:

- UNHCR – *Country Operations*: UNHCR aims to ensure that international protection standards are maintained for persons of concern and provides the authorities with technical support, including timely registration enabling refugees' access to basic services. The SDC contribution in 2015 amounts to CHF 1 million.

- ICRC – *Promotion of International Humanitarian Law*: The ICRC works closely with the National Committee for the Implementation of International Humanitarian Law

Domain of intervention 3: Water

Switzerland seeks to enhance resilient, sustainable and conflict-sensitive water management. The interventions aim to increase access to safe water, sanitation and the efficient use of water for food production, to improve the basis for integrated water resources management as well as mitigating water-related disaster risks.

- SDC direct implementation – *Construction of sewage and water supply networks*: connecting 2,500 households (25,000 Palestine refugees) to a potable water supply system and an underground sewage network in the Palestinian Refugee Camp in Jerash. This project is implemented in close coordination with the Department of Palestinian Affairs (DPA) and UNRWA.

- Jordanian WANA (West Asia-North Africa) Institute – *Greening WANA through partnership and innovation*: inter-disciplinary network to improve natural resources management, environment good governance and conflict resilience.

Further information

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