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EuroMed Feminist Initiative
المبادرة النسوية الأورومتوسطية
Initiative Féministe EuroMed



Press Release

Syrian female refugees' contribution to economic development in Jordan is highlighted in EU-funded study

Amman, 28 November – Underlying the important contribution of Syrian women to economic development in Jordan, Tamkeen for Legal Aid and Human Rights launched the European Union (EU)-funded study “**Status of Syrian Women Refugees in the Jordanian Labour Market and their Contribution**” on 27 November, 2020.

The study is part of the Madad for Women gender regional programme “Strengthening access to protection, participation and services for women refugees, IDPs and host communities”, through the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis, the EU Madad fund. It provides an analysis of the Jordanian labour market since the beginning of the Syrian crisis and assesses the contributions of Syrian refugees, in particular women.

The study revealed that refugees represent imported intellectual capital, and the skills they bring from their homeland to the host community are an asset. It also showed that Syrian workers, who had been part of Jordan’s migrant labour force before the start of the conflict, do not seem to overlap with Jordanian workers as they mostly compete with other migrant workers for jobs.

The study also addresses the status of Syrian women workers in the labour market, the working conditions and challenges they face.

The event gathered former senators and members of parliament, as well as representatives of international and national organisation, who were presented with the main findings of the study and recommendations for the way forward.

The EU Ambassador to Jordan, H.E. Maria Hadjitheodosiou, said in her opening remarks that “human capital is one of the most important resources in Jordan; 100% of the population living in Jordan, men and women, Jordanian and Syrian refugees, should be in position to contribute to the economic growth and prosperity of this country.”

Ms. Linda Kalash, executive director of Tamkeen, said that “Since the beginning of March, 2020; Tamkeen has modified its services to fit with the community needs that emerged from the outbreak



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Business Development Center
مركز تطوير الأعمال



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of Corona Virus, where beneficiaries were able to reach Tamkeen’s services through e-platforms and phone calls.”

Also, through the EU Madad Fund, the EU together with EFI, the Business Development Center (BDC) and Tamkeen are working to create opportunities and suitable conditions for women in Jordan to access the labour market and contribute to economic development.

On 18 and 19 November, the BDC organised a two days online job fair, linking Jordanian and Syrian women with job vacancies in the private sector. The job fair provided an opportunity for over 100 women from East Amman, Jerash, Ajloun, Azraq city and Deir Alla to meet over 20 private sector companies and business owners covering different sectors including; tourism, services, food and beverages, and marketing and sales. Interested participants also received personalised career guidance, while employers conducted interviews in complete privacy.

This job matching event is in line with the Madad for Women programme objective to increase access to livelihood and job opportunities for women in Jordan, refugees as well as Jordanians, by offering training and employment prospects and matching them with available opportunities.

About the EU Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis:

Since its establishment in December 2014, a significant share of the EU’s non-humanitarian aid for Syria’s neighboring countries is provided through the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis. The Trust Fund brings a more coherent and integrated EU aid response to the crisis and primarily addresses longer term economic, educational, protection and social needs of Syrian refugees in neighboring countries such as Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq, and supports overstretched local communities and their administrations. For more information about the EU Trust Fund, please visit https://ec.europa.eu/trustfund-syriaregion/content/home_en.

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