

**SIXTEENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION**
Population Division
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations Secretariat
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**CONTRIBUTION
TO THE SIXTEENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION¹**

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

¹ The views expressed in the paper do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the United Nations Secretariat.



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UNIDO's contribution to the Sixteenth Annual Coordination Meeting on International Migration

a) Recent data initiatives and recent findings relevant to the implementation of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants

Between 2013 and 2014, UNIDO provided two training programmes in Liberia with the objective of facilitating the process of economic reintegration of forced migrants returning from neighboring West African countries. The first training programme, an Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP), was designed to provide 120 hours of training consisting of two modules. The first module was Introduction to Entrepreneurship, Work and Life Skills and the second was How to Establish and Manage Your Business. In total, the EDP trained 685 beneficiaries between November 2013 and May 2014. The second training programme, the Skills Training Programme, offered a wide range of vocational skills and techniques such as plumbing, beauty care, catering, computer hardware servicing, auto mechanics, baking and hair braiding. In total, the project trained 327 beneficiaries between March and July 2014.

Following these trainings, and based on their results, UNIDO, in collaboration with the University of Oxford, implemented two research projects examining their impact after their conclusion in 2014 and then conducting a follow-up study in 2016. Initial research in 2014 showed mixed findings about the impact of the aforementioned programmes, since it revealed that, despite generally providing a positive response to them, many beneficiaries were not engaged in any income-generating activity after completing the trainings. The trainees identified the impact of the Ebola virus on the local economy as one of the main reasons for their challenging reintegration, even after acquiring the skills. Given this context, UNIDO carried out a follow-up study in 2016 to allow for more adequate conditions for the assessment of the impact of the programmes. This study showed that the overall employment conditions and the socio-economic status of training beneficiaries significantly improved, with 76% of all study participants engaged in a job or an income-generating activity (2014: 40%). The trainees reiterated the positive role of UNIDO's programmes in building their current economic foundation and many of them were able to capitalize on their acquired skills and knowledge.

b) Recent and future activities to support the implementation of the migration-related commitments of the 2030 Agenda.

The following examples illustrate how UNIDO contributes to building the resilience of communities and addressing the drivers of migration, including poverty, lack of livelihood opportunities, and regional inequalities, by creating jobs, developing human capital and skills, and strengthening local institutions:

- *Creating employment and improving food security in the host communities of Syrian Refugees in the Northern and Central Badia in Jordan (2016 – 2017)*



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The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is one of the main destinations of Syrian refugees, with 655,624 Syrian refugees hosted as of 2 January 2018 according to UNHCR data. In line with the priorities of the Jordan Resilience Plan (JRP) and based on UNIDO's extended experience and expertise in creating sustainable and inclusive livelihoods for crisis affected rural communities, the project aimed to articulate the impact of the Syrian Crisis on local industry and livelihoods in the affected Northern and Central Badia through livelihood support. It equally aimed to improve food security and income-generating opportunities for vulnerable people in the local communities, women and youth in particular. In summary, UNIDO carried out value chain assessments, provided entrepreneurship trainings, facilitated the establishment of collective producer groups, launched technical skills trainings (i.e. on HACCP, organic farming, processing, packaging and labeling), strengthened the branding of products by developing a unified logo and prepared a three-day exhibition (Amman, 7-9 November 2017) to link the products of project beneficiaries with domestic and international buyers.

A total of 490 trainees (60% of which women, 15% Syrian refugees, 12% youth of 18 to 24 years) completed the training in eleven local Community Based Organizations (CBOs) located in Irbid, Mafraq and Zarqa. Quantitative analysis of pre- and post-training data revealed that measured by their confidence, the trainees drastically improved their skills and knowledge. Because of their high confidence, they also envisage their future situations of sales, income and welfare very positively. The training also provided good opportunities for social cohesion between Syrians and Jordanians, creating friendships and even business partnerships.

The project was funded by the Government of Japan and ran from April 2016 to December 2017. In line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, it addressed specifically Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all and Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

- *Creating employment and improving food security for Syrian refugees, Iraqi internally displaced persons and host communities in northern Iraq (2016 – present).*

In the context of the escalation of armed conflict in the central governorates in Iraq and the pervasive humanitarian and political crisis affecting the whole country, UNIDO is currently implementing two projects addressing internally displaced persons (IDPs) and Syrian refugees in northern Iraq, with a focus on the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. A significant amount of support has already been channeled into the region in order to facilitate the integration of the considerable influx of refugees, returnees and IDPs. However, with increasing numbers, and the protracted conflict, the conditions have affected institutions and services that are overwhelmed with the increase in demands. Host communities are also struggling to safeguard their livelihoods and are affected by increased competition for income-generating opportunities. In light of these challenges, UNIDO's two projects are



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promoting self-reliance of IDPs and Syrian refugees through improving food security and livelihoods in northern Iraq. Concretely, UNIDO is providing agro-processing and entrepreneurship training as well as support in establishing or scaling up agribusiness and market promotion. The projects follow a strategic plan defining how IDPs and the Syrian refugees can contribute to the promotion of local agriculture and agri-business by placing them in the value chain of agricultural products.

So far these projects jointly count for a total of 485 beneficiaries, 40.8% of which are women. An interesting data is that 45.15% of trainees stem from host communities, IDPs amount to 29.9% of beneficiaries and Syrian refugees make up 24.95% of the group. 158 trainees are youth aged 18 to 24, equivalent to 32.58%. The beneficiaries receive training in various sectors: factory work (185 trainees), farming (160 trainees), house hold matters (82 trainees) and small and medium-sized enterprises (58 trainees).

The projects are funded by the Governments of Austria and Japan and are running from November 2016 to May 2018 and April 2017 to March 2018, respectively. They specifically address Sustainable Development Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture and Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation of the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Agenda.

The aforementioned projects are fully in line with the current trends on addressing migration through their focus on job creation in host communities and employability of IDPs and refugees. These technical cooperation activities showcase and emphasize the importance of acting on the local or sub-national level when addressing migration issues and involve various stakeholders in the process.