

We explored if and how, Arab refugee women create sustainable community based solutions to poverty alleviation in their host nations of Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. We used mixed methods to collect data from both stakeholders and Iraqi, Palestinian and Syrian refugee women living in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey as follows:



- 1 Stakeholder Focus Group Discussions in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey: January 2017
- 2 Individual Interviews with 150 Iraqi, Palestinian and Syrian refugee women in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey: April - July 2017
- 3 Follow up Stakeholder Focus Group Discussions in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey: September 2017
- 4 Follow Up Survey with 150 Iraqi, Palestinian and Syrian refugee women in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey: April - July 2018

PROJECT FUNDER



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THE ARAB REFUGEE WOMEN'S ENTERPRISES

Without exception, all 125 enterprises within our sample operated within typically feminised sectors such as **baking, catering and food production, traditional crafts, tailoring, embroidery, cosmetics and hairdressing.**

At the start of the data collection in **April 2017**, only **12.1%** of the overall sample reported that their businesses were registered. However, a year later, this had **grown to 17.3%**. Overall, **34.2%** of participants in **Turkey** had registered businesses, **15%** in **Jordan**, and **2.5%** in **Lebanon**. Despite this, **57.8%** of all participants believed they did **not have the right to register their businesses because they are refugees**. As such, the majority of enterprises within this study were operating with the informal economy of their host nation.

FLEEING TO

JORDAN

"We were threatened and my brother was kidnapped, and beaten up. We used to come to Jordan on holidays because we like the atmosphere. It's a difficult thing to leave all your possessions, house and even your money and property and leave your home with only a bag in your hand. We were threatened with a gun shots and they mentioned [our daughter's] name, that she would be kidnapped if we didn't leave the country within 48 hours ... We wondered how are we going to reach Jordan? ... But God destined safety for us."

LEBANON

"When I decided to come to Lebanon, there was no hesitation. I had a main goal in mind because war happened in my own house. Bullets fell on my bed then the balcony. The balcony was gone. All signs of life were gone. Electricity was cut off, I did not have any water. When the [conflict] events first started, they started near my house ... I used to see dead bodies of young men all over the place ... There was a butcher in the area, [during the explosions] all his lambs flew everywhere. Imagine getting a piece of meat right on your balcony. I started screaming. I became hysterical ... I thought it was dooms day or an earthquake. You feel that the world has come to an end ... There were a lot of stories that affected me. You hold a piece of flesh in your hand. You see an arm or an eye or a leg. I started crying, I had a reaction."

TURKEY

"We got smuggled here with my kids ... It was very difficult. We suffered ... We suffered. When rockets started falling in our neighbourhood and everywhere, we were afraid. I was not afraid of death, but I was afraid to lose one of my children. That was the only thing that controlled us. We had to come here. It was not our choice; we had nowhere else to go. The situation was bad even in the suburbs of Aleppo ... There was no stability ... For a year rockets were falling on our houses. It was the worst time ever. At the end we were very scared to lose the children and to stay alive. That thought stayed in my head. It doesn't matter, if we die, we die together. But the idea of my husband and children to die in front of me was the thing that pushed me. From the moment I left Aleppo for Turkey I cried for a year, daily. Because life is tough here and no one has mercy on you or your feelings"