



INTER-AGENCY ASSESSMENT

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND CHILD PROTECTION AMONG SYRIAN REFUGEES IN JORDAN, WITH A FOCUS ON EARLY MARRIAGE



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PEACE AND SECURITY

UN WOMEN

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This assessment was conducted by the Queen Zein Al-Sharaf Institute for Development (ZENID), a national institute established by the Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development (JOHUD). Their team of researchers worked with Jordanian Community Development Centres, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Jordanian Women's Union (JWU), the Family Awareness and Counseling Centre, and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) to train the data collectors and facilitate the survey, interviews, and focus groups. Special thanks to Wafa Al Amaireh, Jessica Boulet, Maria Carolina Aissa de Figueredo for their central role in the implementation of this study.

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This study was undertaken on behalf of the Child Protection and Gender-based Violence sub-working groups in Jordan, established in February 2012 to coordinate prevention and response to child protection issues and gender-based violence (GBV) against children and adults affected by the crisis in Syria and who are living in camps, sites, and host communities. Co-chaired by UNICEF, UNFPA, and UNHCR, they are a sub-working group of the Community-based Protection Working Group chaired by UNHCR. Members of the sub-working groups include UN agencies as well as international and national NGOs working in these sectors.

Finally, we are grateful to the Government of Finland for its financial support to this study, and to all study respondents – from Syrian refugees to Syrian and Jordanian stakeholders and service providers – for their generous participation.



FOREWORD

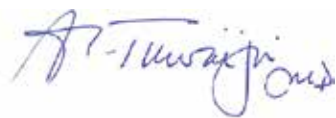


Three years into the conflict in Syria, more than 4 million Syrians have become internally displaced and more than 1.5 million have sought refuge in surrounding countries, fleeing violence. Neighboring Jordan, despite its relatively small territory, has absorbed a disproportionate number of these refugees with admirable generosity and in spite of increasingly limited resources. Yet international, national, and local service providers in Jordan as well as Jordanian communities themselves find it increasingly difficult to find sufficient resources, not only for their Syrian guests, but even for Jordanian communities' needs.

Adding to these tensions over resources, the proliferation of dramatic news reports – particularly regarding child marriage in Syrian refugee communities – brings gender-based violence and child protection issues into the international spotlight. A more nuanced understanding of actual knowledge, attitudes, and practices—in other words, causal factors and how these translate into actions—is necessary in order to address the particular needs and cultural dynamics of Syrian refugees residing in Jordan. Furthermore, with women, girls, and boys making up close to 80% of Jordan's nearly half a million Syrian refugees, it is of paramount importance for service providers and donors to disaggregate the needs of each of these highly vulnerable demographic sub-groups. Regional variations in lifestyle and resources within Jordan also contribute to the varied experiences of urban Syrian refugees and merit close attention when designing interventions.

To that end, this report presents a comprehensive range of perspectives not only from urban Syrian refugees themselves, but also from local Jordanian stakeholders in government, community-based organizations, and the religious and educational sectors. We both hope and believe that this approach has resulted in a 360-degree picture of where and why necessary services and information have failed to effectively reach their target audiences.

I dedicate this report to all those working with vulnerable families in Jordan. Following extensive discussions facilitated by men and women, it presents an analysis of the distinct needs of women, girls, boys and men aiming to cope in difficult circumstances around the country. The celebration of capacities and acknowledgment of vulnerabilities will fuel our collaborative efforts towards meaningful gender equality in humanitarian action.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Dr. Sameera Al-Tuwaijri".

Dr. Sameera Al-Tuwaijri
Regional Director
Arab States
UN Women

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CBO	Community-based Organization
CDC	Community Development Centre
CP	Child Protection
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FPD	Family Protection Department
GBV	Gender-based Violence
GBV IMS	Gender-based Violence Information Management System
GOJ	Government of Jordan
IFH	Institute for Family Health
JNCW	Jordanian National Commission for Women
JOHUD	Jordan Hashemite Fund for Development
JWU	Jordanian Women's Union
KI	Key Informant
NCFA	National Council for Family Affairs
NCHR	National Commission for Human Rights
NFI	Non-Food Items
NHF	Noor Al-Hussein Foundation
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-based Violence
UASC	Unaccompanied and Separated Children
UN WOMEN	United Nations Entity on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UPP	Un Ponte Per
VAW	Violence against Women

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