



## IN BRIEF



# Resilience and Empowerment of Vulnerable Women: The Future of Jordan's Growth and Stability

OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2023

## Stitching Hope: Taghreed's Oasis Centre Journey

Taghreed Al-Issa's journey of transformation began in 2013 when she moved from war-torn Syria to Jordan, settling in Al-Muwaqqar, a village southeast of Amman. Drawn by affordable rent, Taghreed's life took a significant turn when she joined a sewing course at the Muwaqqar Oasis Centre, part of a broader initiative aimed at empowering vulnerable women in Jordan.

The project, under The Resilience and Empowerment of Vulnerable Women: The Future of Jordan's Growth and Stability, is funded by the European Union through the Regional Trust Fund 'Mada', and in partnership with the Ministry of Social Development. It targets women in rural areas, who often face barriers in accessing resources, education, healthcare, and economic opportunities.

Taghreed's decision to enroll in the course was driven by necessity and ambition. With her husband ill and unable to work, she needed a reliable source of income. The skills she acquired at the Oasis Centre not only provided her with financial stability but also enabled her to support her daughter's university education.

Taghreed said, "Women here are ambitious. I learned many new techniques during the course, which improved my tailoring skills and my business. My personal growth has been remarkable; I feel more confident now."

Despite challenges like the lack of a good public transportation system, which restricts women's mobility and opportunities, Taghreed persevered. She first learned about the centre when she brought her disabled daughter to a course there. Balancing her daughter's needs and her aspirations, Taghreed not only enrolled in the sewing course but became an integral part of the community, eventually becoming a trainer herself.



Photo: UN Women/Bashar Al-Jabari

*Taghreed during a class, giving tips for one of her students.*

From the beginning of 2023 until October, UN Women supported 4,752 women and men through livelihood, empowerment, and protection activities. This includes diverse groups of vulnerable Jordanian, Syrian, Yemeni, Sudanese, and Palestinian refugees.

"I am extremely thankful that I no longer have to rely on my neighbours for financial support. The course helped me become a better tailor, leading to the expansion of my business," she shared.

Taghreed's story is a testament to the resilience and determination of rural women who strive to secure a brighter future for themselves and their families. Her advice to other women "Pursue your passions and find ways to work from home. It's not only a source of income but also a way to release stress, discover self-worth, and foster self-belief."

Looking forward, Taghreed dreams of expanding her business and supporting her daughter's continued education, symbolizing hope and empowerment for many women in similar situations.

## To Influence Change: Initiative to Strengthen Civic Engagement and Social Protection Frameworks between Women and Men



Photo: UN Women/Bashar Al-Jabari

*"Participants in the 'Empowering Each Other' initiative engage in civic engagement training across Jordan."*

After a series of training-of-trainers sessions, participants in the EU-funded project "Empowering Each Other: United for Change" acquired behavioral skills and experiences based on supporting civic engagement among men and women and its role in promoting community protection. The participants recognized the importance of achieving "justice in providing social protection for all, and the need to support women to pioneer and succeed in community campaigns and initiatives and participate effectively in public affairs".

Young people from the governorates of Amman, Madaba, Ajloun, Zarqa, Karak, Tafileh, Ma'an, Balqa, and Jerash participated in the training, in addition to participants from UN Women's Oasis Centers in Azraq and Zaatari camps, who acquired the principles of training of trainers in terms of skills and knowledge that enhance civic engagement and social protection frameworks for them and their communities and motivate men and women to support each other. Thanks to these principles and skills, such as communication and effective facilitation, they can act as ambassadors in their communities through sharing knowledge and training other individuals, as well as positive interaction and effective collaboration.

The "Empowering Each Other" project, implemented in partnership between the Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development (ARDD) and UN Women Jordan and within a project funded by the European Union Trust Fund 'Madad', seeks to equip young women and men with the knowledge and skills to become trained in civic engagement and social protection in their governorates, as well as adopting positive behaviors and raising awareness and participation among men and women alike.

The trainees launched the "Together to Promote Justice towards Real Civic Participation: United for Change" initiative with the aim of connecting with the local community and

raising awareness among women about the importance of community participation, which was achieved through interactive discussions and illustrative examples to improve women's understanding of social reality and civic engagement.

The initiative provided special activities to 1,196 men and women in the targeted host communities. These initiatives and other trainings held during this campaign reflect the great ability of women to implement community initiatives in their areas, as well as highlighting the importance of improving women's living and social conditions, in addition to raising awareness among men and women about justice and its importance and the impact of societal customs and traditions on the lives of individuals.

Overall, this initiative has left a profound impact among young women and men, reinforcing the commitment to championing and advancing the causes of their communities, as they expressed their desire to conduct more initiatives that include discussion sessions on various topics, particularly exploring civic political participation among young people, especially since this experience has led to a shift in their perspective towards different issues in society in the hope that they will leave a meaningful impact.

In conclusion, the participants recommended the need to promote integrated training, challenge stereotypes, and enhance the capabilities of women and men in tandem, while generating viable ideas to improve the training of civil society organizations, in addition to providing specialized training in advocacy and how to lead these campaigns, and conducting more awareness and training courses on the topic of civic participation and its forms in our lives, with a focus on volunteering among young people to improve and develop their skills and their characters, as well as the need for active civic engagement in less fortunate areas, and the need to strengthen social protection initiatives and support women's participation in local associations and charitable activities.



*UN Women's Oasis programme embodies the spirit of this year's 16 Days of Activism theme: "UNITE! Invest to prevent violence against women and girls." Nidal Al-Hajjaj, the Programme Manager, and Hadeel Qunaibi, the Protection Officer, along with Najwa Abu-Zaalan, a beneficiary turned trainer, paint a vivid picture of empowerment and transformation. Click [here](#) to read the story.*



Photo: UN Women

October 26, the Ambassador of the European Union to Jordan, Pierre-Christophe Chatzisavas, made a significant visit to the Madaba Al-Janoubi Oasis centre. This visit marks a crucial step in recognizing and supporting the "Resilience and Empowerment of Vulnerable Women" project. The centre stands as a beacon of hope, not only for Jordan's growth and stability but also as a symbol of empowerment for both Jordanian and Syrian refugee women. This project highlights the EU's commitment to fostering resilience and empowerment among vulnerable communities, showcasing a collaborative effort towards a brighter and stable future.

### Voices of Resilience: UN Women Jordan's Trailblazing Women Paving the Way in the 16 Days of Activism



In Jordan's heart, where stories of resilience and empowerment intertwine, three remarkable women embody change, dedicated to gender equality. As we embark on the annual global campaign of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, the spotlight turns to these unsung heroes. Picture a canvas painted with courage, determination, and unwavering commitment of individuals who, against challenges, weave a narrative of progress. This period highlights that violence against women is a major human rights violation worldwide. Click [here](#) to read the story.

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### Celebrating Women's Success in Madaba Through UN Women's Training Initiative



Photo: EFE-Jordan

*Proud graduates of the Madaba Entrepreneurship training program, empowered by UN Women and EFE-Jordan, showcase their achievement in advancing economic independence.*

In this quarter, the "Jordanian and Syrian Women Enhanced Access to Sustainable Economic Opportunities" project has achieved a noteworthy success in Madaba. The project's Entrepreneurship training program, a key component of this initiative, culminated with a group of enthusiastic women receiving their well-earned certificates. This accomplishment signifies their readiness to embark on entrepreneurial ventures and contribute meaningfully to their communities.

This project, implemented by UN Women and EFE-Jordan and funded by the European Union through the Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian crisis (the Madad Fund), in partnership with the Ministry of Social Development, aims to empower both Jordanian women and Syrian refugee women. This project skilfully blended critical learning areas like business plan crafting, communication and soft skills enhancement, and essential marketing and customer service techniques.

This strategy is instrumental in building resilient communities and propelling Jordan towards long-term growth and stability. The training, offered across various governorates, is not just about imparting skills but also about opening doors to employment and income-generation opportunities – a key driver for regional economic development.

The progress made this quarter by UN Women and its partners in this project is a testament to the power of collaborative efforts in enhancing women's economic independence and, ultimately, in fostering sustainable and stable societies.



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