



IN BRIEF

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

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### Empowering Women and Communities: The OASIS Model's Impact in 2023

In 2023, the OASIS Model, a transformative initiative, continued empowering vulnerable women in Jordan. The year commenced with International Women's Day celebrations, emphasizing "DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality." This event highlighted the role of technological advancements in achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls.

Throughout the year, the OASIS Centres have been instrumental in changing the lives of women through Training programme and overcoming personal challenges, are prime examples of this transformative impact. These centres have served as sanctuaries, aiding women to overcome challenges and contribute to a more equitable world.

Key initiatives this year included a retreat to refine support programmes, aligning them with national development goals and enhancing the effectiveness of humanitarian efforts. Moreover, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Safeguarding Resource and Support Hub led a significant training programme in Jordan, emphasizing zero tolerance towards Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment.

The "Empowering Each Other: United for Change" initiative, in strategic partnership with the Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development (ARDD), played a crucial role in strengthening civic engagement and social protection frameworks. Participants became community ambassadors, advocating for justice and effective participation.

Furthermore, the "Jordanian and Syrian Women Enhanced Access to Sustainable Economic Opportunities" project, implemented by UN Women and EFE-Jordan, was a



Photo: UN Women

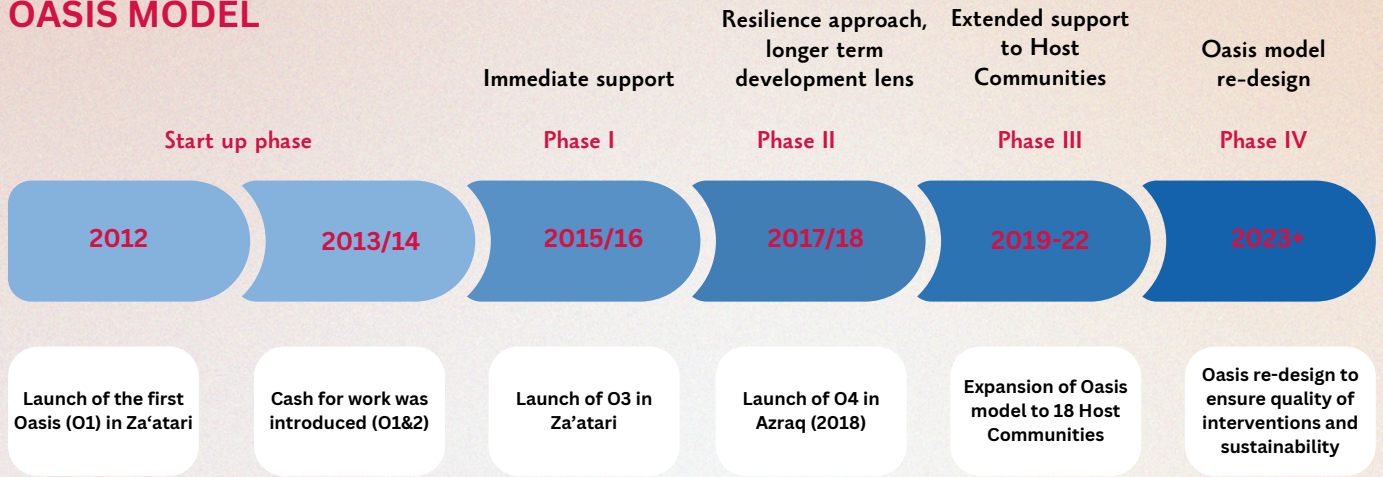
*UN Women, alongside the partners, commemorates IWD 2023 at the Azraq Oasis Center, celebrating the enduring spirit and resilience of refugee women while fostering conversations on their rights, empowerment, and the collective journey towards gender equality.*

remarkable success. This project, blending entrepreneurship training with essential business skills, enabled women to embark on entrepreneurial ventures, contributing significantly to their communities and regional economic development.

The OASIS Model in 2023 has been a testament to the resilience and empowerment of women, driving forward the agenda for gender equality and women's rights. The initiative's impact is a clear indicator of the power of collaborative efforts in enhancing women's economic independence and fostering sustainable, stable societies. The invaluable support of the European Union, through the Regional Trust Fund 'Madad', and partnerships with the Ministry of Social Development have been crucial in this endeavor.



## TIMELINE OASIS MODEL



### Two-Day Retreat Sets Path for Enhanced Impact of Oasis Centers in Jordan



Oasis Centres and Ministry of Social Development strategize at a retreat to further empower Jordanian and refugee women, with funded from the EU Madad Fund.

In an impactful two-day retreat, the 18 Oasis Centres, operating across 11 governorates in Jordan which are funded by EU Trust Fund 'Madad', convened with the Ministry of Social Development (MOSD) to refine and enhance their support programs for vulnerable Jordanian and refugee women.

The Oasis Centres, under the EU Trust Fund 'Madad', are pivotal in empowering women through skill development, psychosocial support, and education. The retreat focused on collaborative strategies to bolster the centres' initiatives, align with national development goals, and improve the socio-economic status of women.

Key outcomes include a commitment to strengthen skill development and awareness raising support. This strategic collaboration underscores the importance of partnership in driving effective social change and paves the way for the Oasis Centres to amplify their positive impact on women's lives in Jordan.

### World Refugee Day 2023! Theme: Hope Away from Home



Photo: UN Women/Bashar Al-Jabari

World Refugee Day, observed globally on June 20 each year, is a United Nations-designated day to honor and celebrate the strength, courage, and resilience of millions of refugees. This day is dedicated to recognizing those who have been compelled to flee their home countries due to conflict or persecution. It serves as an important occasion to foster empathy and understanding for the challenges refugees face and to acknowledge their determination in rebuilding their lives under difficult circumstances. In 2023, World Refugee Day was marked with the theme "Hope Away from Home," encapsulating the spirit of optimism and resilience that refugees carry with them as they seek safety and a new beginning away from their homelands. This theme highlights the enduring hope that refugees hold onto, even in the face of great adversity, as they forge new paths in unfamiliar environments. World Refugee Day 2023 was not only a tribute to their unyielding spirit but also a call to the global community to support and stand in solidarity with refugees in their journey towards a hopeful and dignified future.

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



Photo: ARDD

*"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.



Three women exemplify resilience, advocating for gender equality. Amidst the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, their stories highlight the fight against a critical human rights issue. Click [here](#) to read the story.



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

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.

### OASIS MODEL: NURTURING RESILIENCE, CULTIVATING HOPE



Photo: ARDD

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Photo: EFE-Jordan

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



Photo: UN Women/Bashar Al-Jabari

Discover the story of Abeer Abu-Rizeq, a symbol of resilience in Jordan. After life-altering challenges, Abeer transformed her circumstances through the UN Women-operated Oasis Centre in Madaba. Her journey from overcoming personal adversities to starting a successful home-based tailoring business is a testament to the empowerment and support provided by the Oasis Centre, funded by the European Union and in partnership with the Ministry of Social Development. Click [here](#) to read the story.

Jerash – Islam, from Jerash Governorate, north of Amman, is one of the participants in the training of trainers activities within the project: "Empowering Each Other: United for Change", a strategic partnership between the Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development (ARDD) and UN Women Jordan, funded by the European Union, with the aim of providing 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 behaviours, raising awareness, and increasing participation among men and women alike.

[Click here](#) to read the story.



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