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Education – Jordan

Creating enhanced learning environments for children

Schools are the public institutions most affected by the Syrian refugee crisis in Jordan. In the school year 2017/2018, more than 140,000 Syrian children in the country attended public schools in Jordan. This puts an extremely high burden on the educational system and leads to many overcrowded schools in the country. In order to be able to teach the high numbers of Syrian children, almost 200 schools run in double shifts. Moreover, the fast-rising numbers of students strongly strain the schools' infrastructure.

To improve the learning environment and to support the provision of high quality education for all children, KfW, on behalf of the German Government, supports the Jordanian education sector.

most critical areas within the educational system in Jordan, such as the education infrastructure. Because of the increased number of school children, more than 90 million EUR were committed by the German

Context

With a primary school enrollment rate of 97 % and 75 % at the secondary level, Jordan has reached an adequate level of educational provision. However, at the same time the educational system faces many challenges. Due to the influx of Syrian refugees and growing population numbers, the Jordanian Ministry of Education stipulated a need of additional 600 schools within the next 10 years. The quality of education remains uneven and not competitive by international standards, especially in poorer urban and rural areas.

For this reason KfW financed the construction of 37 schools for about 23,700 school children since 2001.

Project approach

The Financial Cooperation programmes address the

Project name	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Construction Programme (I - IV) Financing of salaries in support of accelerating access for Syrian refugee children to formal education (Phases II, III, IV) EUTF MADAD mandate for school construction UNOPS : Labor-Intensive Maintenance in Public Areas (Phase I) UNICEF No lost Generation, Makani Center UNICEF Jordan, Support of the Education Sector Through Syrian Refugees
Commissioned by	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), European Union (EU)
Country/Region	Jordan
Lead executing agency	Ministry of Education, Ministry of Public Works and Housing, UNOPS, UNICEF





School children in Khadijah Bint Khwalid School, Jordan. Source: KfW photo archive, photographer: Paul Hagemann

Government as well as by the European Union through MADAD for building additional school infrastructure, to be implemented via KfW. Within these school construction programmes, up to 30 additional schools are being built and fully equipped. Further school construction programmes, aiming at further increasing the quality of education, are under preparation.

Since 2016 the infrastructure investments are complemented by a program through which salaries of (double shift) teachers and administrative staff are financed. About 50% of all Syrian children integrated in the formal educational system are taught in double shift schools, and this programme particularly allows access to formal school education for these children. The programme measures, which amount to approx. 20 million EUR per school year, are coordinated with the projects of other donors in Jordan within the Accelerating Access to Quality Formal Education Initiative.

On behalf of the German government, KfW also cooperates with UN organizations in educational projects. As such, the German Government through the special initiative “tackling the root causes of displacement, reintegrating refugees” has made available funds for a cash for work project being implemented by UNOPS. The project aims to generate short-term employment opportunities for vulnerable Jordanians and Syrian refugees through labor-intensive maintenance and cleaning works within public schools. This creates employment opportunities and sustains the conditions of public schools at the same time. With funds from the same special initiative, KfW on behalf of the German Government finances the salaries of currently around 1.400 Syrian volunteers to support educational institutions such as schools and youth centres in Jordan. This supports the capacities of the institutions and creates em-

ployment opportunities for Syrian refugees. Moreover, German Government through KfW supports the work of UNICEF by financing the full operation of 32 Makani Centres (“My Space”) are non-formal education centres providing learning support services and community-based child protection for vulnerable children and young people in Jordan, irrespective of their nationality.

Impact

The provision of additional and qualitative appropriate infrastructure through the newly built schools contributes to an improvement of the learning environment. It increases access to inclusive and child-friendly quality education for children in Jordan, including both refugee and host community children. Since the schools are built in municipalities with a high percentage of Jordanian as well as Syrian children in need, children of both nationalities benefit likewise from the implemented measures. This will help to balance the increased strain on the educational infrastructure.

Moreover, due to the financing of teacher salaries, the capacities of teaching personnel have increased significantly. In the school year 2018/2019, about 54,000 children could benefit thereof. This allows for access to education and an adequate learning environment in up to 200 double-shift schools. By financing the salaries of up to 7,000 teachers, the program also creates a direct employment effect in line with the Partnership for Prospects Initiative.



Contact

KfW Group
KfW Development Bank
Employment and Education Middle East
Palmengartenstrasse 5-9
60325 Frankfurt am Main, Germany
Phone +49 69 7431 0

KfW Office Amman
Mohammad Baseem Al-Khammasch Street No. 13
P.O. Box 926 238
11190 Sw eifieh, Amman
Jordanien
Kfw.amman@kfw.de