

Agricultural Livelihoods for Syrian Refugees in Jordan



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

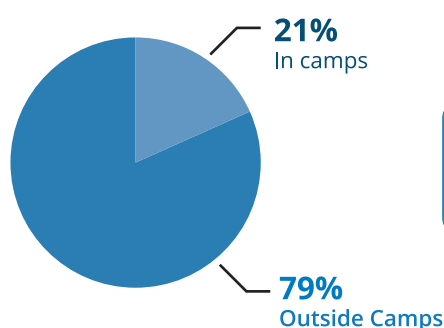
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Defining Context and Options

The present study conducted in the governorates of Amman, Irbid, Mafraq and Madaba, analyses the current socio-economic and livelihood context of Syrian refugees working in the agricultural sector in Jordan. It is aimed at providing an up-to-date understanding of the living and working conditions of Syrian refugees.

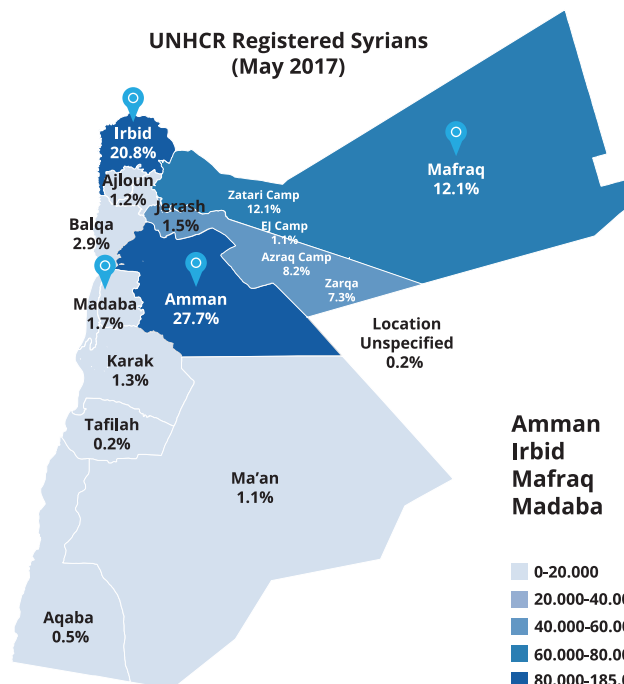
The Syria crisis, now in its 6th year, has brought about a large influx of refugees in Jordan: 659,953 are registered by UNHCR (UNHCR 2017). Around 80 percent of them live outside the camps.



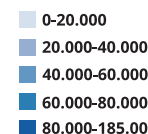
Age Breakdown (18-59)



297.960
45.3%



Amman	182.039
Irbid	136.903
Mafraq	76.673
Madaba	11.230



Context

The majority of the Syrian Refugees living outside the camp works in the agricultural sectors. Agricultural activities are mainly concentrated on vegetable farming, and livestock.

Approximately 12,000 were having an official work permit in the agricultural sector in January 2017. Despite this fact, the access to work permit remains an issue for many Syrian refugees and women in particular (UNHCR, 2016).

Up to 26 percent of Syrian refugee households are Female Headed Households. 66 per cent have basic education levels.

Recent registration data (February 2017) shows that around **31 000 Syrian refugees** aged between 18 and 59 years old have a background or are working in sectors related to **agriculture**. The majority of this population are residing in Amman (34.5%), Mafraq (22.3%), Irbid (19.2%) and Madaba (3.7%) governorates.

“Although agriculture is the main sector of employment, it does not have the capacity to absorb the work demand for all Syrian refugees.”

Methodology

Scope: The aim of the study was to better understand refugees agricultural livelihoods (assets, strategies, and shocks/risks) and to identify best options to improve their agricultural livelihoods for guiding interventions targeting refugees.

Most refugees live below the official poverty line in Jordan estimated to be **2.23 JD/person/day**.



The study was conducted in February-March 2017 in the governorates of Amman, Irbid, Mafraq and Madaba.

A total number of **16 focus group** discussions were conducted with Syrian refugees working in agriculture. Key informants selected by the livelihoods unit of UNHCR-Jordan were interviewed. These informants comprised leaders of Syrian refugee communities, the Ministry of Agriculture, private agribusiness companies and the International Labour Organizations (ILO). Household surveys were additionally carried out with a representative sample of **365 Syrian refugee households**. Participatory wealth group identification was performed during focus group discussion (FGD). The results were triangulated by clustering quantitative data from household surveys. The entry variables considered for the clustering were variables from the FGD, literature review and expert knowledge.