



Refugees from Myanmar

PartnerAid



Newsletter November 2018

Refugees in Jordan

Background: this summer, 660,000 Syrian refugees were registered in Jordan, placing a heavy burden on the country's social and economic systems. Most of them live in cities or villages.

We imagine refugees in camps, but this is not the case in Jordan. Despite significant international aid, many refugees live in extreme poverty because the aid does not reach them. In addition, they are prohibited from working – like in Switzerland. In fact, they are only "guests" who should return home as soon as possible.

Consequences of misery

The financial burden that many families face means that some beg, marry too early, respectively marry their daughters too early, children have to work, or even engage in prostitution to survive. All this often leads to domestic violence. These negative coping strategies have an impact on individuals, families and communities throughout their lives and from one generation to the next.

Inadequate assistance

Jordanian and foreign leaders are keenly interested in creating jobs and opening up markets in Jordan. However, there is a lack of entrepreneurial spirit and action in society as a whole. These problems are exacerbated by the fact that aid organizations often pay compensation to participants in entrepreneurial training courses and promise them a capital contribution to start-ups.

New approach

Our local partner is fighting against these negative trends and hopes to change the attitude of expectation towards aid organisations in Jordan. We would like to present this project to you on the next page.

Donation purpose: **Jordan**

EDITORIAL

Dear PartnerAid friends,

A propos aid to refugees: refugees have always existed and will always exist. We take note of the statistics on the number of refugees, but we don't do much about it. Of course, wherever there are refugees, the misery is enormous. If it were not, the refugees would not need our help. However, PartnerAid is just as incapable of eliminating this problem as other humanitarian organizations. But that is no reason to turn a blind eye and worry only about our own problems – often small problems compared to the plight of refugees. Whenever possible, we therefore try to help individuals, families or groups in a way that fundamentally changes their lives for the better. We are dependent on local partners, but also on you, dear reader.

Thank you very much.

Johny Mumenthaler

CEO



Training module "Dynamic Business Start-up Project" (DBSP)

Our partner is currently conducting a nine-month training course as a pilot project for dynamic business start-ups in Jordan. It is aimed at a target group of vulnerable Syrian refugees and Jordanians with basic business skills. In the future, they might be able to manage a micro, small or medium-sized company.

Successful start phase

The team successfully completed the first phase of the DBSP training with 19 participants in July 2018. First, motivated potential entrepreneurs are identified by using an evaluation tool. These selected individuals, men, women and young people, will then be introduced to the basics of business development. They will be intensively and

practically integrated into the training.

Own business ideas

Experience in the field of microenterprise is a prerequisite. During the training, participants are guided in the development of their own business ideas. Once the course is completed, graduates should be ready to implement their business plans with the help of mentors. These mentors monitor their progress and provide valuable support and advice during the crucial start phase.

The second phase of the three-part programme will be completed in December 2018. The nine-month programme will end in April 2019 and, in anticipation of a positive evaluation of the project, our partner wishes to extend it into

Jordan and possibly to other countries as well.

Objectives of the second phase

- 20 people from vulnerable households (70% Jordanians, 30% Syrians, 50% men/50% women) with entrepreneurial potential will receive basic training in effective business development and learn how to develop and support their own business.
- 20 participants of the training will be accompanied by mentors through coaching visits and follow-up over a nine-month period.
- 70% of participants earn at least 70 USD per month (additional income).
- Two former participants will be trained as trainers in DBSP.
- Relationships between programme participants, local communities and expatriate specialists will be strengthened. We hope that the benefits for participants in this program will be so significant that their relationships with their coaches will be deepened.
- The problems of the world view of dependency and fatalism are addressed through training and coaching, which leads to a change in the mentality of the participants in the program.



Teaching at DBSP

Donation purpose: DBSP

Misery in Chad: Sudanese refugees

Where do they come from and why?

In the east of Chad is the Sudanese province of Darfur, which made the headlines around the world in 2003: rebels rose up against the Sudanese government and the behaviour of government-backed militias. The fighting was brutal, with massive destruction of villages, massacres of civilians, looting and rape. The infamous "Janjaweed" (Arab militias on horseback) have been accused of ethnic cleansing. The conflict is still not over nowadays. Many of the 400,000 refugees could save themselves with the clothes on their backs as their only possessions. They were severely traumatized by what they had experienced. The international community has responded by providing food, water and shelter.

And today?

Refugee camps, which were once tent lines and temporary shelters, have become functional small towns with mud brick houses, trees in the streets (they were planted on arrival and now extend beyond the small houses), their own

market, hospital and schools, etc. Despite this encouraging development, a major problem remains the lack of income. A large number of people are economically poor and depend on the assistance of the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR). They are not allowed to work because they are refugees and not Chadian citizens. They cannot farm the land because they do not own it. When they leave the camp to look for work, they lose their support as refugees. They have almost no rights nor prospects. They're really stuck!

And that is not all ...

The local population, itself very impoverished, feels threatened by so many refugees. Unfortunately, this is why there are regular clashes and conflicts between the two groups. In addition, Chadian communities and refugees are facing the fact that international humanitarian organizations are increasingly withdrawing from the region. They, who once provided the resources to help refugees, are now leaving the region to tackle the next global humanitarian crisis.

Hadjer Hadid is located in eastern Chad, as mentioned in the last newsletter: the consequences of climate change and desertification on the region are serious – and have been further intensified by the arrival of large numbers of refugees from Darfur in Sudan. About 400,000 people have fled to eastern Chad and are living in camps along the border. Two of them are located in Hadjer Hadid district.

Our partner association ISA remains in the region

Our partner in the region, the association ISA, mainly deals with the problem of water scarcity. Water is the most precious resource in the desert. ISA leaders are convinced that if there is more water available everyone, refugees and the local population, will ultimately benefit. In addition, ISA is involved in education, in which it provides school and educational materials. One of their objectives is for children in the camps to learn to read and write in their own language. ISA supports two literacy committees initiated by a local partner.

Donation purpose:
Chad, Hadjer Hadid



In a refugee camp in Bangladesh

Life is hard in the world's largest refugee camp. A year ago, the Muslim Rohingya fled Myanmar to Bangladesh. They narrowly escaped a brutal campaign by the Burmese army, qualified by the UN as a "typical example of ethnic cleansing". Since then, about one million Rohingya refugees have been living in bamboo huts and plastic sheeting over an area of nearly 20 km². A million people, a million tragic stories ...

Testimonials

Ahmed is 11 years old. He arrived at the camp a year ago with his parents and two younger siblings. In his native country, he loved going to school and dreamed of escaping poverty through a good education. However, the Bangladeshi government does not allow real schools in the camps. Ahmed is

often bored. Today, he attends a Koranic school where he learns the Arabic verses by heart without understanding their content.

Jamila is 42 years old and has five children. In Myanmar, she was infected with hepatitis C, probably through contaminated canulas at the doctor's office. In addition to persecution in Myanmar, hope for medical help was one of the main reasons for her family to flee to Bangladesh. However, the camp's clinics only treat acute emergencies and not chronic diseases. In addition, refugees are not allowed to leave the camp.

Mahmoud fled a year ago not only with his family, but with his entire village. Mahmoud's family and many other people in his village are Christians. But in the camps in Bangladesh, the pressure on and per-

secution of Christians has increased sharply. They are often discriminated against and threatened.

Help on a small scale

Even if the plight of this huge crowd of refugees is overwhelming, it is often possible to help on a small scale. Our staff were able to provide Jamila with expensive hepatitis drugs and make doctor's visits in the city possible. For the group of Christians around Mahmoud, waterproof huts – resistant to storms and heavy rains – could be built in time for the monsoon season. We were also able to help an association build a clinic in the camp, where up to 100 patients are treated every day.

There is still a lot to do, but for a few people, this help is significant.

Donation purpose:
Bangladesh



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