Supporting the future
of Syria and the region
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UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Joint Data Center
on Forced Displacement

POVERTY, LABOUR, AND THE IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON SYRIAN REFUGEES IN TURKEY AND JORDAN

As the Syrian refugee crisis continues into its eleventh year, people's ability to meet their basic needs has decreased as COVID-19 brought significant economic and social distress, compounded with the effects of the ongoing conflict, inflation and other factors.

In trying to assist them, host and donor governments, UN agencies, and non-governmental organizations have developed different methodologies for analysing poverty, welfare and the socio-economic impact of the crises and in responding to their needs. Data and research are key to achieving meaningful solutions by providing an evidence-base on which to better understand these challenges and set priorities, share best practices, raise awareness, and measure progress. For example, poverty analysis and proxy means testing (PMT) enable the improved targeting of assistance necessary to use aid resources effectively and equitably. The likelihood of a reduction of resources as crises continue only increases the urgency for establishing a mechanism by which the most vulnerable among the refugee population can be identified and prioritized for available assistance.

This side event will showcase analysis and responses by a range of stakeholders as a contribution to the collective understanding of poverty, welfare and targeting. Two examples will be presented of collaboration between the World Bank and UNHCR in Turkey and Jordan. The panellists, including host governments, donors, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations, will present some of their own experiences and consider how evidence and analysis serves to inform evidence-based programming and decision-making.

Measuring the impacts of COVID-19 in Turkey

Together with the presentation by the World Bank, the Turkish Red Crescent's insights into refugee poverty levels will highlight how vulnerable people including refugees are coping with the economic hardships caused by COVID-19 pandemic. These studies have the potential to inform policymakers, donors and partners working on Turkey's economic recovery from the pandemic with a view to generating both formal and informal jobs for different populations in an inclusive manner.

Assessing vulnerability in Jordan

UNHCR Jordan and the World Bank MENA Poverty team collaborated to determine a proxy means test (PMT) to improve poverty targeting for basic needs cash assistance for refugees in Jordan. The new evidence (part funded by the Joint Data Centre) generated from this exercise will also help to inform not only UNHCR's new multi-year strategy for 2023-2025, but also wider discussions on the next iteration of the refugee response in Jordan, ensuring support for the autonomy of refugees while continuing humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable.

Co-Chairs

- Regional Director, UNHCR,
  Ayman Gharaibeh
- Regional Director, Mashreq Department, WB,
  Saroj Kumar Jha
- Deputy Assistant Secretary, PRM,
  Scott Turner

Panellists

- Representative of Turkish Government
- Representative of Jordanian Government
- Bülent Öztürk, Turkish Red Crescent
- WFP Jordan

Date:
27 April 2022
15:00-17:00 CET

Event Registration