



SEPTEMBER 2018



**INNOVATIVE CAPACITY
BUILDING TO
STRENGTHEN THE
VOICE OF COMMUNITY
BASED ORGANISATIONS**

BY ACTED



LOCATION

Mafrq and Irbid, JORDAN

TIMELINE

Jan 2017- Jan 2018

TARGET AUDIENCE

Women in host communities

TYPE OF ACTION

Training and advocacy
campaigns

KEYWORDS

Gender discrimination

ABOUT THE ORGANISATION

Founded in 1993, ACTED is an international non-governmental organisation active in 35 countries, with more than 450 projects running each year targeting 11 million beneficiaries.

Through its coordination office in Amman, ACTED is working in Jordan to meet the needs of the refugee populations in the country, with a shift from lifesaving activities to long-term livelihoods programming.

ACTED provides support to Jordanian host populations and local actors, also affected by the challenges faced by the country, ensuring all can access basic services.

In Za'atari camp, Azraq camp and Mafraq, ACTED teams play a key role in the management and coordination of refugee camps, support to informal tented settlement populations and provide emergency assistance to ensure people's access to food, water and hygiene and sanitation facilities.

ACTED works with municipalities and community organisations to build capacity and promote sustainable solutions.

IN BRIEF

Name: ACTED

Creation: 1993

Location: Jordan

CASE DESCRIPTION

BACKGROUND

Enabling civil society to act for change is critical in Jordan, particularly in the face of the current Syrian crisis and its impact on displacement-affected populations (i.e. Syrian refugees and Jordanian host communities).

Social cohesion is challenged, and vulnerabilities are growing – especially for groups that were already vulnerable such as women.

Women’s organisations are at the heart of community and policy change for women rights and refugee rights; however, in Jordan, they often lack capacity and technical and financial resources to fulfil their role of powerful advocates for human rights.

As the Syrian crisis enters into its sixth year, Jordan, as a neighbouring country and host to 655 831 refugees*, is facing important challenges: the influx of refugees increased demand and pressure on the country’s services with a significant impact on the economy, access to infrastructure and natural resources.

Overall, the wellbeing of the displacement-affected populations in Jordan is at stake, and while economic stability is a priority, guaranteeing the respect of their fundamental freedoms and rights is essential.

In this regard, displacement-affected populations in host communities need improved economic resilience, social stability and access to the public debate. Moreover, an emphasis has to be put on women and youth as they are the most vulnerable to economic and social exclusions.



DESCRIPTION OF THE GOOD PRACTICE

The action focused on four community based organisations (CBO) which work on women's empowerment in Mafraq and Irbid northern governorates, where populations have been significantly impacted by displacement and economic vulnerability.

Designed with inputs from the organisations and implemented as much as possible by them the project ensures effective organisational and advocacy capacity building, as well as long-term improvement of the organisations' capacities to act as actors of change in their communities.

This intervention was specifically designed with a view to social accountability and inclusion, engaging women as active members of CBOs.

The linkages between local authorities and CBOs resulting from the action will create a platform where issues can be discussed and opinions of the CBOs are taken into account in decision making processes.

Policy themes, exchange of best practices and training selections focus on the identified priority sectors, namely relating to women. The training of 12 CBO focal points has enhanced the capacity of these individuals to understand advocacy campaign preparation, accountability to vulnerable groups and particularly women.

TYPE OF ACTION

- ✓ Training
- ✓ Human rights-based approach
- ✓ Capacity building
- ✓ Advocacy campaigns



MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

- ✓ Implementation of a women circle committee in each of the four community based organisations that focus on women's empowerment
- ✓ An advocacy initiative is conducted by each of the four community based organisations, led by the committee, on women's empowerment in the community
- ✓ Establishment of a Forum to serve as a platform for communication, exchange and cooperation between community based organisations (CBOs) organisations and public authorities

STAKEHOLDERS AND PARTNERS

Direct beneficiaries: 431 (CBOs members)

Indirect beneficiaries: 1.224.000 (population living in the area where the beneficiaries operate and put in place advocacy campaigns)

Partners: four CBOs which work on women's empowerment field in the Irbid (2) and Mafraq (2) governorates of Jordan:

Sama Albadyeh Charity (Qasbet AlMafraq, Mafraq)

Al Youser charity (Rawda, Mafraq)

Al-Takaful charity (Ramtha, Irbid)

Idoun (Idoun, Irbid)

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