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# UN Jordan in the News

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## Government extends grace period for Syrians to obtain work permits

Published on 7 January 2017 in the Jordan Times: <http://bit.ly/2jdiQ5q>

The grace period granted to Syrian workers to obtain permits has been extended until April in a bid to encourage more employers to rectify the situation of labourers, according to an informed official.

The government had given employers until the end of 2016 to legalise the status of Syrian workers serving at their establishments.

“We want to give another chance for the Syrians to legally engage in the labour market,” Labour Ministry Spokesperson Mohammad Khatib told The Jordan Times on Saturday.

“By the end of last year, more than 37,000 Syrian workers had received work permits,” noted Khatib. He reiterated that Syrians only receive work permits in fields open to the non-Jordanian workforce, such as in agriculture, services and transformative industries.

The Labour Ministry carries out inspection campaigns to track down violators and refer them to court. The government embarked on issuing work permits for Syrians last year, exempting employers who hire Syrians from the required fees.

Employees do not bear any costs for the permits they obtain.

“We would like to stress that Syrians who obtain work permits do not lose any assistance or salaries they receive from the UNHCR,” Khatib highlighted.

Last April, the UNHCR said government measures towards the employment of Syrian refugees would help them become more self-sufficient, and would significantly ease the way for them to work legally in Jordan.

Under an agreement the Kingdom signed in July 2016 with the EU to simplify the rules of origin for Jordanian exports to Europe, at least 15 per cent of the manpower in the exporting factories must be Syrian, and the percentage should rise to 25 per cent after three years.

However, Maher Mahrouq, director general of the Jordan Chamber of Industry, told The Jordan Times in previous remarks that Syrians prefer informal jobs for several reasons, but primarily because they fear losing the financial assistance they receive from the UN.

“They also fear losing the flexibility the informal market gives them, which allows them to work multiple jobs and frees them from legal obligations when they are allowed to immigrate to Europe,” Mahrouq explained.

He added that Syrians find jobs easily in the informal market without the need to commit to working in factories in remote locations.

## 16 municipalities to benefit from \$10.8 million grant provided by UK, Denmark

Published on 7 January 2017 in the Jordan Times: <http://bit.ly/2iReYaF>

On behalf of the government, Planning and International Cooperation Minister Imad Fakhoury on Thursday signed a grant agreement with the World Bank (WB) for additional financing.

The grant, worth \$10.8 million, is part of a project to support the host communities of Syrian refugees, according to a statement released by the ministry on Saturday.

It was provided by the UK and Denmark through the WB's credit fund, increasing total international financing for the project to \$67 million, which will help bolster the resilience of municipalities affected by the Syrian refugee crisis, in line with the Jordan Response Plan.

The project aims at helping several municipalities and host communities address the direct impact of the refugee influx, the statement said.

It empowers municipalities to support domestic economic development by implementing several projects in addition to boosting their existing services, such as waste management, revamping roads and infrastructure, street lighting, pest control and social aid, according to the ministry.

Also within the project, the municipalities will receive technical aid to help them plan, manage and implement these projects.

Sixteen municipalities — in Irbid, Mafraq, Zarqa, Maan, Ajloun, Madaba and Balqa — will benefit from the fund. They were chosen in accordance with WB criteria, the ministry said.

It is expected that Jordan will receive more aid to include more municipalities, according to the statement.

The project will be implemented by the WB and the ministry, in cooperation with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and various concerned government institutions.

## Mafraq mayor lauds support of int'l organisations in refugee crisis

Published on 9 January 2017 in the Jordan Times: <http://bit.ly/2i8Uey4>

Mafraq Mayor Ahmad Hawamdeh on Sunday stressed the importance of the role played by international and humanitarian organisations in supporting the public through services and projects, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

Speaking at a meeting with representatives from the International Labour Organisation (ILO), Hawamdeh said that Mafraq Governorate has "shouldered much of the burden" brought on by the influx of Syrian refugees and the increased demand for services.

Hawamdeh said an agreement was reached with the ILO to implement its recommended projects to safeguard the Mafraq valley, which he said will protect the governorate's residents from the dangers of flooding and soil erosion.

## Project to boost food security for Irbid rural women

Published on 9 January 2017 in the Jordan Times: <http://bit.ly/2iYQb6Q>

The National Centre for Agricultural Research, supported by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, on Sunday launched the first stage of a project to boost food security for rural women in Irbid, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

The project's first stage in Irbid includes areas in Ramtha, Aidoun, Rahaba and Kufursum. It aims at enabling rural women to establish small enterprises able to create jobs and generate income, Petra quoted the project coordinator in Irbid, Majid Abandeh, as saying.

## Jordan, donors endorse new refugee response plan

Published on 12 January 2017 in the Jordan Times: <http://bit.ly/2jerjK>

The government and the international community on Thursday endorsed a \$7.6-billion three-year Jordan Response Platform (JRP) for the Syria Crisis.

The JRP for the Syria Crisis 2017–2019 is a call for further collective action to respond to the crisis, and it builds on the paradigm-shift and resilience-focused approaches adopted to proactively respond to the protracted humanitarian and development challenges, according to the plan's literature.

The platform was approved during a two-hour meeting that was attended by Prime Minister Hani Mulki, ministers, ambassadors, diplomats," as well as high-level officials and civil society representatives.



*Prime Minister Hani Mulki addresses a meeting where a new refugee response plan was agreed with donors in Amman on Thursday (Petra photo)*

Mulki reiterated during the meeting Jordan's commitment to upholding its moral obligations towards Syrian refugees, even though it carries "more than its fair share of the response".

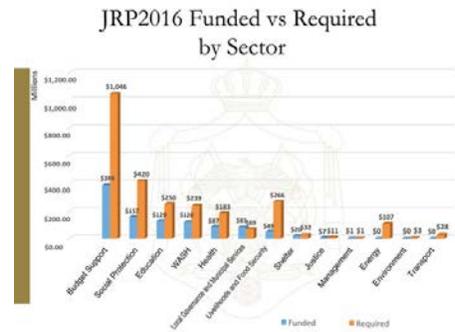
"Jordan has been pioneering a resilience-based approach as outlined in our rolling response plans that we jointly developed and in adopting a paradigm shift in dealing with Syrian refugee by turning the refugee challenge into an economic opportunity as proposed in the Jordan Compact," Mulki told the gathering, referring to a document issued during the London refugee conference in February last year outlining commitments by Jordan towards Syrian refugees and pledges by donors to help in the mission.

The premier stressed the importance and "invaluable" support of the international community in shouldering the impact of the Syrian crisis on Jordan because it helped Jordan remain resilient "in a very difficult regional setting". "The situation in Syria and the unprecedented refugee crisis have been globally recognised as the worst humanitarian disaster the world has faced since the World War II, posing an increasing threat to global security, development and economic growth," Mulki said.

"It is a crisis whose magnitude continuously demands a collective response equal to the scale of the challenge," the premier added.

But Mulki was quick to add that the Kingdom needs the continued support of its partners because it has reached its maximum capacity with no fiscal space remaining under the new International Monetary Fund programme, nor in terms of resources, existing physical and social infrastructure or government services.

“Without the continued support of our key partners, it will negatively impact our overstretched ability to continue providing basic services to Syrians whilst maintaining service levels without adversely affecting Jordanian citizens or risking our hard earned development gains,” the premier said. The new JRP also represents a further step towards a comprehensive response that effectively links short-term coping solutions with longer-term initiatives aimed at strengthening local and national resilience capacities. The objective of the JRP is to upscale critical capacities of the central, regional and local authorities, mitigate pressures on Jordanian host communities and to foster the resilience of the service delivery system, municipal services and infrastructure in areas critically affected by demographic stress, according to the plan, which also aims to meet the needs of Syrian refugees in and out of camps as well as vulnerable Jordanians affected by the Syria crisis. Other objectives include expanding employment and livelihood opportunities for Syrian refugees and Jordanians, ensuring that all Syrian children have access to education and supporting the government’s budget to cope with the additional financial burdens. Also addressing the international community was Planning and International Cooperation Minister Imad Fakhoury, who said that his ministry has taken “bold steps to improve aid coordination, enhance transparency and strengthen accountability as means of improving overall aid effectiveness, thereby ensuring that humanitarian and development aid channelled to the Syrian crisis are efficiently used by all implementing partners”. The 2017-2019 JRP outlines a coherent, sequenced, and sustainable response to the multifaceted impacts of a complex crisis, Fakhouri explained, whereas the JRP 2016-2018 represented a major paradigm shift in the way to respond to protracted humanitarian and development challenges. Fakhouri highlighted some of the achievements that were accomplished over the past year, guided by the JRP goals. “Access to education has been improved, with almost 170,000 Syrian refugee boys and girls enrolled in public schools, and 50,000 Syrian boys and girls provided with remedial education,” Fakhouri said. Furthermore, Fakhouri added, communicable disease control has been strengthened, with over 1 million Syrian refugees and Jordanian children under five vaccinated against polio.



In his remarks, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator David McLachlan-Karr praised the JRP saying that its cornerstone is a programme built under a resilience umbrella that covers the needs of refugees, the needs of affected vulnerable Jordanians and the structures and services of the government of Jordan.

“We believe the JRP 2017-19 builds on the successes of the past years and on the confidence that all stakeholders have gained in the JRP,” McLachlan-Karr said. The UN representative applauded the Kingdom for its “steadfast commitment, spanning almost six years, to respond with agility and with creativity to the effects of the Syria crisis in Jordan”.

Meanwhile, US Ambassador to Jordan Alice G. Wells said that following the vision set by His Majesty King Abdullah, the government of Jordan has led the international community from a JRP that focused on emergency “response”, to the current document that emphasises building long-term resilience. “The United States embraces the government’s focus on the urgent and immediate needs of the communities hosting refugees, and its forward-looking goals of tackling investment promotion, trade expansion, and job creation, as articulated in the Compact,” Wells said. Jordan’s current situation calls for “all of us to re-conceptualise the crisis to one that emphasises long-term resilience for Jordanians and their Syrian guests... and I urge my fellow donors and international partners to follow the government of Jordan’s lead in rethinking and retooling how we fund and implement our programmes with the goal of channelling assistance increasingly through host institutions,” Ambassador Wells added. Speaking to The Jordan Times, British Ambassador Edward Oakden said: “Ensuring Jordan’s continued stability and resilience is a priority for the UK.” “The London Conference a year ago set the basis for a new way of approaching the partnership between the international community and Jordan, and the latest version of the JRP is a strong example of this partnership in practice, working together to improve Jordanians’ and Syrians’ lives. Now we need to sustain this momentum in the year ahead,” Oakden said. “When we work together,” the envoy added, “we achieve real results: already 23,000 additional children are in school and thousands of jobs have been formalised”. “When all contributions to date are factored in, we will also see around 70 per cent of the London commitments met by international donors. By the standards of most international appeals, that is an extraordinary scale of response, befitting the extraordinary nature of the crisis,” Oakden added. The UK provided almost quarter of a billion dollars in 2016 alone, and almost three quarters of a billion since the start of the Syrian crisis, “partnering with you to maintain Jordan’s security, stability and economic sustainability”, according to Oakden.

## UNESCO celebrates graduation of 350 vocational training students

Published on 14 January 2017 in the Jordan Times: <http://bit.ly/2jLmNOM>

UNESCO project “Sustaining Quality Education and Promoting Skills Opportunities for Young Syrian Refugees in Jordan” has concluded recently with the graduation of over 350 young Jordanians and Syrians, according to a statement released on Saturday by the agency’s office in Amman.

The EU-funded project consisted of one year of vocational training, qualifying students to earn the BTEC Level 3 international accredited diplomas at Al Quds College in Amman.

The project aligned with the government’s 2016-2018 Jordan Response Plan aimed at providing post-basic education opportunities for vulnerable Jordanian and Syrian refugee youth, according to the statement.

## Delegation checks on Finland-funded UNDP project in Jordan

Published on 18 January 2017 in the Jordan Times: <http://bit.ly/2k2VXBn>

A Finnish parliamentary delegation on Wednesday had a firsthand look at projects and activities the UNDP has been implementing since 2013 under the Finland-funded project “Alleviating the repercussions of Syrian refugee influx on host communities in Jordan”.

The delegates met with UN representatives in the Kingdom, who briefed them on the humanitarian services provided by UN agencies in Jordan, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

## 250 workers in food industry receive training to prevent waste

Published on 18 January 2017 in the Jordan Times: <http://bit.ly/2jNXSul>

More than 250 workers in food cultivation, handling and retailing in Jordan have been trained on reducing food loss throughout the supply chain.

The training was part of a two-year project implemented by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the Ministry of Agriculture with the aim of building the capacity of workers in the agricultural sector on reducing food loss, stakeholders said on Wednesday. Mohammed Hiary, head of the international cooperation division at the ministry, said the project, which concluded this year, is part of a regional programme also implemented in Egypt, Lebanon and Iran. “The implementation of the project came following conducting a study on the problems related to food loss in the supply chain and the needs of workers in the field,” Hiary told The Jordan Times. He added that some of the problems that lead to food loss in the supply chain are related to the way in which vegetables and fruit are cultivated. They could also have to do with the handling and storing of produce, among other factors. Food loss is one of the factors that affects food security in Jordan and is estimated to be one-third of the total production. Worldwide, 1.3 billion tonnes of food is lost or thrown away every year according to FAO. As per the agency’s estimates, food loss and waste within the supply chain amounts to around 30 per cent in cereals, 20 per cent in dairy products, 30 per cent for fish, 20 per cent for meat, oilseeds and pulses and 45 per cent in fruit, vegetables, roots and tubers.



*According to FAO, food loss and waste within the supply chain amounts to around 45 per cent in fruit, vegetables, roots and tubers (File photo)*

A global communication and media campaign has emphasised collaboration and coordination among worldwide initiatives on food loss and waste reduction, FAO said. FAO in a statement urged the establishment of a global partnership of public and private sector organisations, going side by side with policy, strategy and programme development for food loss and waste reduction. According to the 2015 Global Food Security Index, Jordan was ranked 55th among 109 world countries in terms of food security. Regionally it came in eighth place among 12 countries covered by the index. According to FAO, the Near East and North Africa region faces unprecedented challenges to food security and nutrition, especially in the countries that are now under conflict.

## NGOs urge world community to remain engaged in Syrian refugee plight

Published on 22 January 2017 in the Jordan Times: <http://bit.ly/2jDR3fm>

As the one-year mark of the London conference approaches, a report issued on Friday urged the international community and host countries to make good on their long-term commitments made last year to deal with the impact of the Syrian crisis. Released ahead of the “Supporting Syrians and the Region Conference” in Helsinki, slated for January 24, the “Stand and Deliver: Urgent action needed on commitments made at the London conference one year on” report said refugees face similar challenges across Syria’s neighbouring countries, warning that long-term efforts are still needed by the international community and host governments. The report, compiled by 28 humanitarian NGOs, said important steps have been taken to improve the provision of education and livelihoods in Syria’s neighbours: Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. However, “much more remains unaccomplished”, the report said, warning that without technical assistance and further efforts to implement the wide-reaching policy framework agreed in London, there is a risk that the funding disbursed will fail to have a measurable and sustainable impact on people’s lives. In Jordan, and in commitment to pledges made at the London conference, according to the report, the recently adopted EU-Jordan Compact provides an opportunity to fulfil shared priorities for refugees and host communities in the area of peace, prosperity and stability, and must be followed up on. “Despite these positive developments, there is still much more to be done,” the report said, adding that the vast majority of Syrians in Jordan continue to be highly vulnerable, with 87 per cent living below the national poverty line. It added that the average debt for refugee households outside the camps rose to JD715 (\$1,000) each in 2016. In addition, 26 per cent of households reported being dependent on income from family members holding socially degrading, exploitative, high risk or illegal temporary jobs in order to meet their basic food needs.

A recent survey in the urban areas of Amman, Irbid and Mafraq found that 10 per cent of Syrian refugee families surveyed had taken their children out of school to save educational expenses, 6 per cent sent their children to work and 3 per cent had their daughters married at a young age to cope with economic pressures and protection concerns.

As for providing Syrian children with access to education, the report said as a result of an increase in school spaces opened for Syrian refugees and relaxed barriers to registration, approximately 170,000 Syrian refugee children are enrolled in the school year 2016-2017. Despite a commendable commitment to bringing all children to school, almost 91,000 Syrian children registered with UNHCR remain without formal education, the report indicated. In addressing the needs of out-of-school Syrians, the Ministry of Education’s action plan set out a strategy for opening 102 additional double shift public schools — in addition to existing 98 double-shift schools — to accommodate 50,000 new spaces for Syrian refugee children in the 2016–2017 school year in host communities. The plan also called for a “catch-up programme” to be developed to offer non-formal education to 25,000 Syrian refugee children aged 8–12 years, to be delivered only at public schools and by the education ministry teachers.

According to UNICEF, 1,000 Syrian children have enrolled in catch-up classes and 200 double-shift schools are now established and functioning. As for the right to work, Jordan pledged to issue 200,000 work permits for Syrians and has been issuing these free of charge to date, the report said, adding, however, that only 37,325 work permits have been issued as of early January, citing figures from the International Labour Organisation, while “some assessments have revealed a continued lack of clarity on the process to obtain a work permit and its benefits”. Thus, the report recommended that the government ensure legal stay for refugees in host communities, remove restrictions on specific sectors of employment, in particular on Syrian-owned businesses and support the development of micro-, small- and medium-sized businesses and implement measures to reach and enrol the most vulnerable and marginalised refugee children who are still out of education, address issues of Syrian school dropouts, and ensure that quality and learning outcomes are the measure of success in education in both shifts.

“A continued lack of legal status and documentation means many refugees cannot access work and education. Moreover, the conflict in Syria continues unabated and without a tangible increase in international support for Syria’s neighbours, including by sharing the responsibility for hosting refugees more equitably,” the report said. “We urge the international community to ensure that the generous commitments made last year mark a new era of collaboration, solidarity and responsibility sharing to respond to the needs of Syrian refugees, internally displaced and host

communities,” said Gerry Garvey, regional director for the Danish Refugee Council in Middle East and North Africa, one of the agencies that developed the report.

According to the authors, who looked into changes in the legal status, education and job conditions of Syrians in Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon one year after the London conference, almost 5 million refugees from Syria, including an entire generation of children, currently face an uncertain future. “If the international community fails to remain engaged and share responsibility for refugees, the consequences could be disastrous for refugee families and countries in the region.”

At the London conference, donors pledged \$6 billion for 2016 and a further \$6.1 billion for 2017-2020. Although over \$6.3 billion had been committed in grants for 2016, exceeding pledges by 5 per cent by September 2016, the UN reported that appeals for the refugee response and the humanitarian response inside Syria were 60 per cent and 49 per cent funded, respectively.

## Terror hits again in Rakban camp, 11 killed

Published on 22 January 2017 in the Jordan Times: <http://bit.ly/2k3aKgg>

A car bomb attack took place on Saturday in the Syrian refugee camp, Rakban, near the Jordanian border, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted an army source as saying.

The bombing was carried out by a small car that drove into the camp, the source added. The blast has left at least 11 people dead, Agence France-Presse quoted the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group as reporting.

The monitor said the toll could rise further because a number of the injured were in serious conditions.

The military source told Petra that 14 wounded people had been taken to a clinic in the border area for treatment, adding that no decision had been taken yet on whether they would be transported to Jordanian hospitals. The source added that there were no Jordanian casualties because the Jordanian staff responsible for distributing food and medication at the camp was not at the camp when the blast took place.

Jordan declared the northern and northeastern border areas a closed military zone in June, 2016, in the aftermath of a terrorist attack that targeted a military post serving refugees near the border, killing seven troops and injuring 13 others.

## Training opportunities available for journalists failing to meet actual demand - study

Published on 23 January 2017 in the Jordan Times: <http://bit.ly/2kcmm0L>

While training programmes are available for journalists and media professionals in the Kingdom, courses tend to overlap due to lack of coordination, and they sometimes fail to meet actual demand in the sector, a study has revealed. The study — conducted by the Jordan Media Institute (JMI), UNESCO and Canal France International — found that there is a lack of coordination among providers of media training, according to a JMI statement released on Monday. Titled “Training Needs for the Jordan Media Sector”, the study covered a sample of 250 journalists, who received training over the past two years, and 40 managers and chief editors.

The study said training sometimes does not meet the actual needs of reporters and the media sector. It also fails to respond to the rapid progress of communication technologies, which requires by necessity conducting regular evaluation of training needs and the effect of training on journalists, the statement said. The study recommends holding panel discussions for heads of large and medium-sized media institutions on topics that include quality standards in management, building successful economic models in the media and planning and managing modern media institutions. Data journalism topped the general training needs of journalists at 91 per cent, followed by fact checking news, coverage of conflict, reporting on social affairs and managing newsrooms, according to the study.

Eighty six per cent of the journalists polled in the study said training should also focus on research skills and data gathering, followed by managing newsrooms, photojournalism, interviews and survey journalism.

## Abu Ghazaleh named special ambassador of UN tourism agency

Published on 24 January 2017 in the Jordan Times: <http://bit.ly/2kri0pN>

Senator Talal Abu Ghazaleh has been named special ambassador of the World Tourism Organisation, the UN specialised agency for tourism, according to a statement released by the Talal Abu Ghazaleh Organisation on Tuesday.

The senator has been granted this honour for his special contributions to the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development (IY2017), according to the statement. The businessman received the ambassador certificate during the IY2017 opening session held in Madrid.

## JMI trains radio staff in Karak, Tafileh to file 'high quality' report

Published on 24 January 2017 in the Jordan Times: <http://bit.ly/2jd4y3S>

The Jordan Media Institute (JMI) has conducted a three-day workshop for the staff of Tafileh Radio and Karak Radio, within the framework of the EU-funded UNESCO programme for supporting media in Jordan, according to a JMI statement.

The workshop centred on the methodology to prepare and file high quality field reports, with a focus on the skills of writing on topical affairs in the form of news stories that are suitable for broadcasting, the statement said.

JMI is operating a training plan aimed at building the capacities of the staff of seven community radios taking part in the project "Building the Capacities of Local Radios". Some 150 people are expected to benefit from the programme, the statement said.

## New UNDP Country Director assumes duties

Published on 25 January 2017 in the Jordan Times: <http://bit.ly/2j7Jalm>

UNDP Jordan Office on Wednesday announced the appointment of Sara Ferrer Olivella as the new country director.

The newly appointed Spanish director, with a 16-year track record in the UN system and specifically at UNDP, assumed her duties on Monday, succeeding Zena Ali Ahmad, who had held the office since 2012.

In her latest assignment before taking over in Amman, Ferrer Olivella served as the regional adviser for the UN Development Group in New York. She is a development practitioner with a political science background, specifically with expertise in human rights and governance issues, according to the statement.

## Japanese grant supplies CDD with ambulances, medical equipment

Published on 25 January 2017 in the Jordan Times: <http://bit.ly/2j7NP6x>

The Japanese government has presented the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) with an \$880,000 grant in support of the project "Increasing Access to Emergency Response Services for Syrian Refugees in Northern Governorates", according to a statement released by the Japanese embassy.

A ceremony was held on Wednesday at the Jordan Civil Defence Department headquarters to celebrate the receipt of eight paramedic ambulances and medical equipment procured under the project.

The Japanese grant came in recognition of "the negative impact caused by influx of refugees on social services", the Japanese ambassador, Shuichi Sakurai, said at the ceremony. The project aims to strengthen the CDD's capacities for providing urgent and life-saving healthcare services to Syrian refugees and host communities.

## Fakhoury urges world's support for Jordan's role as refugee host

Published on 25 January 2017 in the Jordan Times: <http://bit.ly/2kmj5vM>

Planning and International Cooperation Minister Imad Fakhoury has participated in an international conference in Helsinki to discuss humanitarian issues regarding Syria and the region, a ministry statement said on Wednesday.

Talks led to the launch of the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan for Syria and the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan for 2017-2018, with Fakhoury presenting the 2017-2019 Jordan Response Plan (JRP). Finland Prime Minister Juha Sipilä inaugurated the event, which his country co-organised with the UN, in the presence of senior officials of the international agency, government representatives of affected countries and NGOs.

Fakhoury again called on the international community to increase its support to Jordan to help it face economic challenges, boost its resilience and continue providing services to refugees. The Kingdom hosts over 1.3 million Syrians, according to the latest census. On the sidelines of the conference, the minister held several bilateral meetings to canvas support for the 2017-2019 JRP, holding talks with the US delegation and the Finnish minister for foreign trade and development. The importance of resettling Syrian refugees from Jordan and other regional hosts to other countries was highlighted, so as to reduce burdens incurred by host countries.

The challenges facing the Kingdom are not only related to refugees; they affect all aspects of life in Jordan, Fakhoury said.

He highlighted that the 2017-2019 JRP will focus on both assisting host communities and supporting the budget, according to the statement.

The Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan for 2017-2018, to be accredited by the UN and the international community, will be based on the 2017-2019 JRP, the minister noted.

In this regard, he stressed the importance of balanced interventions by UN agencies in addressing humanitarian needs and boosting resilience, whether by supporting the budget or alleviating the burdens on the Treasury.

The total amount received to support the 2016-2018 JRP reached \$1.436 billion in 2016.

Although significant, the minister noted that this is 54.05 per cent of the aid needed, and he called on the international community to increase its support to the Kingdom.

He said that a recent UNDP study estimated the indirect annual effect of the Syrian crisis on Jordan at between \$3.1 billion and \$3.5 billion, in addition to the direct annual effect of \$2 billion.



*Planning and International Cooperation Minister Imad Fakhoury attends an international conference on the humanitarian dimension of the Syrian crisis in Helsinki in this photo released Wednesday (Photo courtesy of Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation)*