



**MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION  
HUMANITARIAN RELIEF COORDINATION UNIT**

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**10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Jordan Response Platform for the Syria Crisis  
Opening Remarks by H.E. Minister Imad Fakhoury  
1 February, 2018**

**H.E. Prime Minister Al-Mulki,  
Excellences,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Welcoming Remarks:**

- Welcome all to the 10th meeting of the Jordan Response Platform for the Syria Crisis.
- I am honoured to have here today H.E. the Prime Minister Dr. Hani Al Mulki, whose presence reminds us of the importance and priority accorded by the Government of Jordan to the work implemented through this multi-stakeholder platform. Your Excellency the Prime Minister, thank you for joining us as we present the 2018-2020 Jordan Response Plan for the Syria Crisis.
- I am also delighted by the presence of our key partners (the donors), whose support has been essential for Jordan to continue providing humanitarian and development assistance to both Syrian refugees and vulnerable Jordanians. The presence of the UN RC/HC Mr. Anders Pedersen here on the main table with me and the Prime Minister shows the close partnership that the JRP process was able to build between Jordan and our international partners.
- I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all line ministries' representatives, who have professionally and efficiently served as Chairs of the JRP Task Forces as well as to the UN agencies that supported the work of the Task Forces throughout 2017. Your commitment has been essential for the preparation of the successive JRPs and their implementation.

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### 2017 Stocktaking and JRP Achievements

- In 2017, MOPIC has taken bold steps to improve multi-stakeholder planning and aid coordination, enhance transparency, and strengthen accountability as means of improving overall aid effectiveness in Jordan and ensuring that international grants channelled to the JRP are tracked and accounted for. In particular:
  - ✓ The recent policy decisions taken by the Government related to livelihood and education issues were integrated in the Plan, thus making the new JRP the only comprehensive Plan for the Syria crisis in Jordan.
  - ✓ All budget requirements for refugee and resilience programmatic responses were disaggregated into detailed project summary sheets annexed to the Plan. Each summary sheet provides information related to project objective and activities, including cost, location and beneficiaries.
  - ✓ As in previous years, the JRP was developed based on the updated findings of the Comprehensive Vulnerability Assessment, which analyses vulnerabilities of both refugees and Jordanian host communities as well the impact of the crisis on key social services, namely education, health, solid waste management and water.
  - ✓ We have upgraded our information management system – JORISS – to include all funding received by NGOs, UN agencies and bilateral agreements in 2017, thereby making our JORISS system a real holistic database and a tracking system for all project implemented within the JRP. All this information, which can be reviewed by donor, sector and implementing partner is now publicly accessible online, thus enhancing JRP transparency and accountability.
  - ✓ Finally, we have undertaken an important exercise of collection and analysis of all development and humanitarian results achieved in 2017 by all implementing partners working within the JRP. This includes NGOs, UN agencies and line ministries. The results of this analysis will be shared with all sector Task Forces to inform the implementation of the JRP2018-2020 in the months to come. A JRP Annual Report of 2017 Results will be also prepared and made available to the international community in the coming weeks.
- Broadly speaking, we have been successful in transitioning from a state of affairs wherein the aid architecture for delivering humanitarian and development assistance was fragmented, with multiple planning tools and

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coordination structures, to a nationally-led resilience framework that integrates humanitarian and development support that is more transparent and accountable as we have been witnessing over the past few years.

- It is, therefore, not a surprise that according to international researchers, the JRP is the most sophisticated response to the Syrian refugee crisis of all the major neighbouring host countries.
- In terms of JRP results, much has been achieved over the past year. For example, access to education has been improved and over 130,000 Syrian refugee boys and girls are currently enrolled in public schools across the country. Furthermore, more than 211,000 primary health care assistance services and 91,930 maternal and child health assistance services have been provided to Syrian refugees and vulnerable Jordanians. Cash assistance programming has reached an average of 143,000 Syrian refugees and 5,800 Jordanians per month, while 18,225 Syrian households received non-food item kits.
- Within the framework of the JRP, the Government of Jordan – in cooperation with its international partners – has pioneered some innovative solutions to very concrete problems. In Zaatari camp, a solar plant has been established thereby allowing people to access clean energy. Since 2014, an innovative iris-scan system has also been introduced to streamline refugee registration process. This system is now also been used by refugees to purchase food from camp supermarkets using a scan of their eye instead of cash, vouchers or e-cards.
- The JRP has also shown to be an effective tool to engage with foundations and the private sector on a very concrete partnership that has helped both Syrian refugee and Jordanian women getting an income by producing textile furnishing that is being sold in IKEA Amman and soon in New York
- These important results could have not been obtained without the critical financial and technical support of the international community, which has provided actual contracted funding to the JRP for about USD1.7 billion in 2017 at about 65% of funding requirements compared to 62% in 2016.
- Although this is a record amount in JRP history, unfortunately the needs and requirements of Syrian refugees and Jordanian host communities still vastly outpace the financial support received. This has caused that any deficit in financing the JRP has been borne by the Government of Jordan, hence

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worsening our fiscal space, which has in turn negatively affected the life quality of Jordanians and Syrians alike.

- While I sincerely thank you for the support received and committed in 2017, we continue to call on all of you as representatives of international community to sustain and increase your generous support to Jordan in 2018 and beyond, since the country alone will not be able to sustain its assistance to refugees without risking regression in our national development gains after decades of hard work.
- The deepening of the partnership between government and the international community is critical, and must continue to focus on protecting people in need and enhancing Jordan's stability, whilst promoting its economic and social stability. We must ensure that collective action reinforces national capacities, and complements and aligns to the country's development agenda.

## Looking Forward to Another Paradigm-Shift

- For the past three years, the JRP has served as the only planning and budgeting framework to respond to the impact of the Syria crisis in Jordan. As part of a fluid process that started with the National Resilience Plan in 2014, the JRP has undergone improvements and changes, and has widened into a comprehensive approach that responds to the needs of refugees, as well as reinforcing the resilience of vulnerable Jordanian households, communities and institutions. We have been able to make the JRP a living document that is regularly updated based on new emerging needs, information and policy decisions.
- The JRP has further evolved with the endorsement of the Jordan Compact in February 2016 by incorporating important commitments on education, stemming from our joint belief of leaving no one behind, as well as on the livelihood front by linking trade and investment to work permits, where to date we have issued cumulatively about 87,000 legal work permits since the London Conference.
- The Government of Jordan is open to explore ways to further improve the JRP, for instance by streamlining its activities within the relevant sector specific plans that constitute the Executive Development Programme (EDP).
- However, the process to align and unify planning and budgeting processes will not be without challenge and should occur incrementally and further to internal and external government consultation. With multiple stakeholders

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responding to widespread needs across multiple sectors, it will be essential to ensure that the existing coordination structure led by MOPIC with UN's technical support through the JRPSecretariat is not just maintained but further enhanced.

- The role of national partners, including government bodies is also expected to be enhanced in transitioning towards a more developmental response. This must result in further utilising government structures and national capacities or progressively transferring operational responsibility to capable national providers. Empowering local and national capacity is a key Grand Bargain commitment and key priority for Jordan.

### **JRP2018-2020: Key features**

- Although the Government of Jordan is keen to look into new innovative options to strengthen our country's resilience, it is no doubt that the 2018-2020 JRP outlines a coherent, sequenced, and sustainable response to the multifaceted impacts of the Syria crisis. Whereas the previous JRP 2017-2019 represented a major paradigm shift on the way to respond to protracted humanitarian and development challenges, the JRP 2018–2020 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.
- Recognizing the need to continue strengthening the plan implementation, the JRP also addresses the need to further capacitate line ministries and Task Forces to ensure that they have the full ability to engage in sector-wide multi-stakeholder planning, with greater alignment to government policies and systems.
- Moreover, the JRP was designed under the overall framework set by the Jordan 2025 and in alignment and coordination with the Executive Development Programme and the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Finally, cognizant of the funding constraints and challenges in absorption capacity, I would like to highlight that the annual budget of the plan was reduced by around 110 million US dollars; from USD 2.65 billion/year in the 2017-2019 period to an average of USD 2.4 billion annually for the period 2018-2020.

## Closing

- Before continuing with the agenda, I would like to further stress that I am very proud of our Jordan Response Plan model and I believe there is much of value in the current response architecture that should be retained. I therefore expect the UN System and the international community to take our best practices into consideration while finalizing their new supporting programme to MOPIC.
- I now kindly ask the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, to deliver his statement, and then I would like to invite H.E. the Prime Minister to deliver His remarks.
- Ms. Feda Gharaibeh will be also presenting the content and process of the JRP 2018-2020, after which we will open the floor for discussion. Assuming no objection, the JRP 2018-2020 will be declared as endorsed.
- Mr. Anders Pedersen the floor is yours...
- Thank you...



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**Closing Remarks of H.E. Minister Imad Fakhoury  
February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018**

**Your Excellency the Prime Minister, Dr. Hani Al Mulki  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

- For decades, and in spite of limited resources, Jordan has consistently set an example for the world by welcoming refugees and sharing its scarce resources with those fleeing conflict and in carrying out a global public good in terms of hosting refugees and providing them with needed services and economic opportunities in spite of the tremendous economic, military, security and humanitarian burdens.
- The Jordan Response Plan 2018-19, as presented today, is another clear sign of Jordan's commitment to build an integrated multi-year framework to respond to the challenges faced by the Kingdom because of the Syria crisis. A framework that is able to appropriately respond to the impact of the crisis in a transparent and sustainable manner and that is fully in line with the principles of national ownership, alignment, mutual accountability and harmonization adopted in the Paris Declaration and reinforced subsequently in Accra, Busan and Addis Ababa.
- The Government of Jordan will continue working towards this objective and we count on the international community to support us in this endeavour.
- As the official outcome of this meeting, I am pleased to declare the Jordan Response Plan for the Syria Crisis 2018-2020 endorsed by this Platform.
- I take the opportunity to thank all donor countries which have so far contributed to the funding of the Jordan Response Plan. Your generosity has allowed Jordan to ensure the provision of life saving protection, assistance and basic services to Syrian refugees and vulnerable Jordanians.

- It is critical that donors, who have not yet done so, quickly translate their commitments into disbursements in order to adequately finance Jordan's response through grants, especially when it comes to bolstering the resilience of host communities.
- As already mentioned before, Jordan is keen to explore new ways of doing business but firm multi-year commitments of the donor community is needed. In particular, we expect the international community to keep up with the Jordan Compact commitments (i) of sustaining grant support to the JRP 2018-2020 at an ever increasing level, and (ii) of providing sufficient concessionary funding to cover Jordan's financing gaps. The launching of the GCFF is just one of the several tools to be adopted to increase concessionary financing for host countries to assist them in bridging their financing gaps. I also encourage the EU to look into further simplifying its RoO procedures in order to maximize its benefits in favor of the Jordanian industrialists and attract investments.
- In keeping with the terms of the Jordan Compact many donors have already adjusted their posture to providing predictable multi-year humanitarian to development support. In adapting the response, we need to convince other donors to follow suit and invest in strengthening national structures and services. Investment in people, institutions and opportunities will ensure greater complementarity between economic, social and security agendas, whilst fostering closer partnership between government, donors and implementing partners.
- I look forward to the smooth finalization of the UN programme in support of MOPIC so that we have the technical and financial means to move towards an harmonized approach that builds upon national plans and policies thereby enhancing impact and delivering greater value for money.
- We are at a moment of opportunity and we collectively need to deliver on the promise of the Jordan Response Plan 2018-2020.
- Thank you for your attendance today, with special thanks to H.E. the Prime Minister, and looking forward to our continued partnership and cooperation over the coming period. We have a lot of hard work ahead of us in 2018.

Thank you.