Advancing a Joint Evidence base for migration and displacement

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Fulfilling the London Target of 1.1M Jobs:
Multi-Country Economic Opportunity Assessment

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“Lack of economic opportunity is damaging for refugees and their host communities.”

Commitments

“[B]old commitment of host governments to open up their labour markets to refugees, alongside their determined efforts to create new jobs for their own populations, and to improve regulation and the investment climate in their countries.“

“Donors will support employment creation programs”

“Leading private sector partners added their commitment… to bring new investment that will create jobs…”

GOAL:

Explore how host governments, development partners, and private sector partners can best support employment opportunities for Syrian refugees, IDPs, and host communities based on regional-level analysis.

Country-level data collection ➔ regional-level analysis ➔ country & regional findings

- Policymakers and implementers understand what is working in their country, existing research focused at country level
- Approach allows “cross-fertilization” of country-specific “Promising Approaches” across region
Research components

- **Desk Reviews:**
  - Prepare country-specific (one per country) and regional review of existing literature on economic opportunities
  - Include crisis-specific literature and broader discussions of economic opportunities in host countries

- **Fieldwork:**
  - Interviews with businesses, government, NGOs, and international organizations
  - Nearly 120 interviews conducted across Egypt, Iraq (KRI), Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and Turkey

- **ECG consultations:**
  - Verify country-specific findings, explore how regional findings can be applied to country context
“Bottom-Up” Assessment Approach

Challenges:
- Workers
- Entrepreneurs
- Host governments
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Activities:
- Legal Dimension
- Labor market
- Investment/Private Sector
- Government plan
- Development cooperation

Promising Approaches
“What’s working”

Lessons Learned
“What needs to be improved”

Ongoing Activities

Country-Specific

Regional
“Bottom-Up” Assessment Approach

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Promising Approaches
“What’s working”

Lessons Learned
“What needs to be improved”

Recommendations:
- Host governments
- Development partners
- Private sector partners

Country-Specific → Regional

Ongoing Activities

Country-Specific → Regional
Promising Approaches: Sample

- **Host Government**
  - Provide rights to facilitate labour market integration [*Iraq (KRI)*]
  - Government reform of investment climate [*Jordan*]

- **Development partners**
  - Create needed low- and medium-skilled jobs through labour-intensive infrastructure projects [*Lebanon*]
  - Expand resilience programming inside [*Syria*]
  - Facilitate refuge information access [*Turkey*]

- **Private Sector Partners**
  - Allow refugee entrepreneurs access to existing economic infrastructure (e.g., industrial parks) [*Egypt*]
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UNDP in partnership with ILO, UNHCR, and WFP - pragmatic, empirically grounded approaches for achieving the goal of creating 1.1 million jobs for those impacted by the Syrian crisis

Identification of good practices and lessons learned for host governments and development partners

Key Finding: facilitating access to economic opportunities must be a central component for a sustainable response to the crisis.

THE END