The conflict in Syria has triggered the world’s largest humanitarian crisis. Refugees from Syria are the biggest refugee population from a single conflict in a generation, with over 5.6 million Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries and the wider region.

Jordan hosts an estimated 662,010 registered Syrian refugees\(^1\) and has one of the largest per capita refugee population in the world.

The EU Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian Crisis currently supports 20 projects in Jordan, benefiting both Syrians and Jordanians.

As well as having a direct impact on the lives of Syrian refugees, Palestinian Refugees from Syria and vulnerable host communities in Jordan, EU Trust Fund projects have a common emphasis on pursuing a longer-term resilience agenda that has a transformative effect on public service delivery systems across a range of sectors.

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**Sectors covered by the EU Regional Trust Fund (current values\(^2\))**:

- **Basic Education**: 45,509 girls & boys have access to primary education
- **Livelihoods & Local Development**: 56,252 Syrians & Jordanians are benefiting from livelihoods & resilience support
- **Higher & Further Education**: 1,097 young women & men have access to higher education or vocational training
- **Water & Sanitation**: 31,099 Syrians & Jordanians have access to improved water services & infrastructure
- **Health Services**: 81,385 Syrians and Jordanians have access to medical care & health services
- **Protection**: 14,995 Syrians & Jordanians are benefiting from protection services
- **Social Cohesion**: 115,268 Syrians and Jordanians have access to social cohesion services

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\(^1\) Source - UNHCR (last updated: 4 July 2019)

\(^2\) EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis - 4th Results Report - June 2019
Khaldoun Mahmood Ali is a 43-year-old Jordanian who lives in Al Russayfah, northeast Amman, with his wife and four children. Thanks to LEADERS, a project funded by the EU Trust Fund, he recently opened his own shop and has substantially increased his income.

Eesra Fathallah is a bright 11-year old Syrian girl who fled the war and sought refuge in Jordan, together with her family. She now lives in Amman and regularly attends a school where she is well liked.

Over the summer, Eesra joined other Syrian and Jordanian classmates to decorate the walls of their schools with beautiful painted murals. This is the ‘Happy Walls’ initiative, part of the QUDRA project that increases social cohesion and dialogue between Syrian refugees and local community children.

Eesra explains: “What I learnt from the project is that we need to help each other out. Like we say, in Arabic, we should become as indispensable to each other as the five fingers to the hand.”

“I like the feeling of the pencil in my hand when I draw. My ambition is to become a professional fashion designer,” she confesses with a sparkle in her eyes.

Basem Al-Zabani, from Deraa in Syria, crossed the border into Jordan at the end of 2012.

Basem struggled with reliable access to water and a defect piping system. Through an EU Trust Fund supported project, he got help from the French Development Agency (AFD) to revamp his water installations.

He explains: “They visited the house and did an assessment. Then, they did the water installations, hot water tank and water taps. Our situation improved a lot afterwards.”

Though he is very grateful for this, Basem remains very preoccupied as to the decreasing level of aid made available to Syrian refugees.

“We received signals that aid will decrease soon. I keep hoping that donor countries won’t forget the Syrian people and bring back the support we so desperately need. Every day, I pray for the Syrian people.”

Khaldoun first came across the LEADERS project through his volunteer work. “I do voluntary teaching for orphans and children with special needs,” he says. “During one of the meetings in Russayfah, I was told that the LEADERS project was selecting organisations for projects and offering grants. I was a bit hesitant at first, but then I decided to apply.”

“After my application, I had an interview during which I detailed the project, the implementation steps I had in mind, the products needed for it and the way I planned to source these products. My project was approved and I got the grant. Then, I went on several training sessions that helped me shape and develop the project further. I learned how to preserve my existing capital, spread the workload, manage my time and manage my expenditure.”

“I received €1,800 of the total grant money once I completed the training, which I used to rent and refurbish a workspace. I then bought raw materials with the remaining €1,200 of the grant money, and began producing. I also started selling my pieces at the local market and I hired a young boy with special needs to help.”

“I would like to see greater resolve among the local community to employ deprived members of society. Specifically, orphans and those with a disability who live in the area,” Khaldoun shares. “My greatest ambition is to expand my business and ensure that more local orphans and youths with special needs are amongst the beneficiaries of this project.”

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