



# ILO SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS RESPONSE: AN RBSA SUCCESS STORY FROM JORDAN

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# BACKGROUND

- Since the onset of the Syrian refugee crisis in Jordan, increased competition over jobs has been affecting livelihoods and social cohesion between Syrian refugees and host communities.
- Since 2013, the ILO has used around **1.8 million** of its Regular Budget Supplementary Account (RBSA) to implement a development-focused, employment-led response strategy to the Syrian refugee crisis in Jordan with three key overarching areas:
  - 1. Supporting evidence-based policy development to ensure an employment-rich national response, embedded in the principles of decent work;
  - 2. Contributing to building the resilience of host communities and refugees by enhancing access to employment opportunities and livelihoods;
  - 3. Strengthening institutional capacities and coordination to combat child labour.

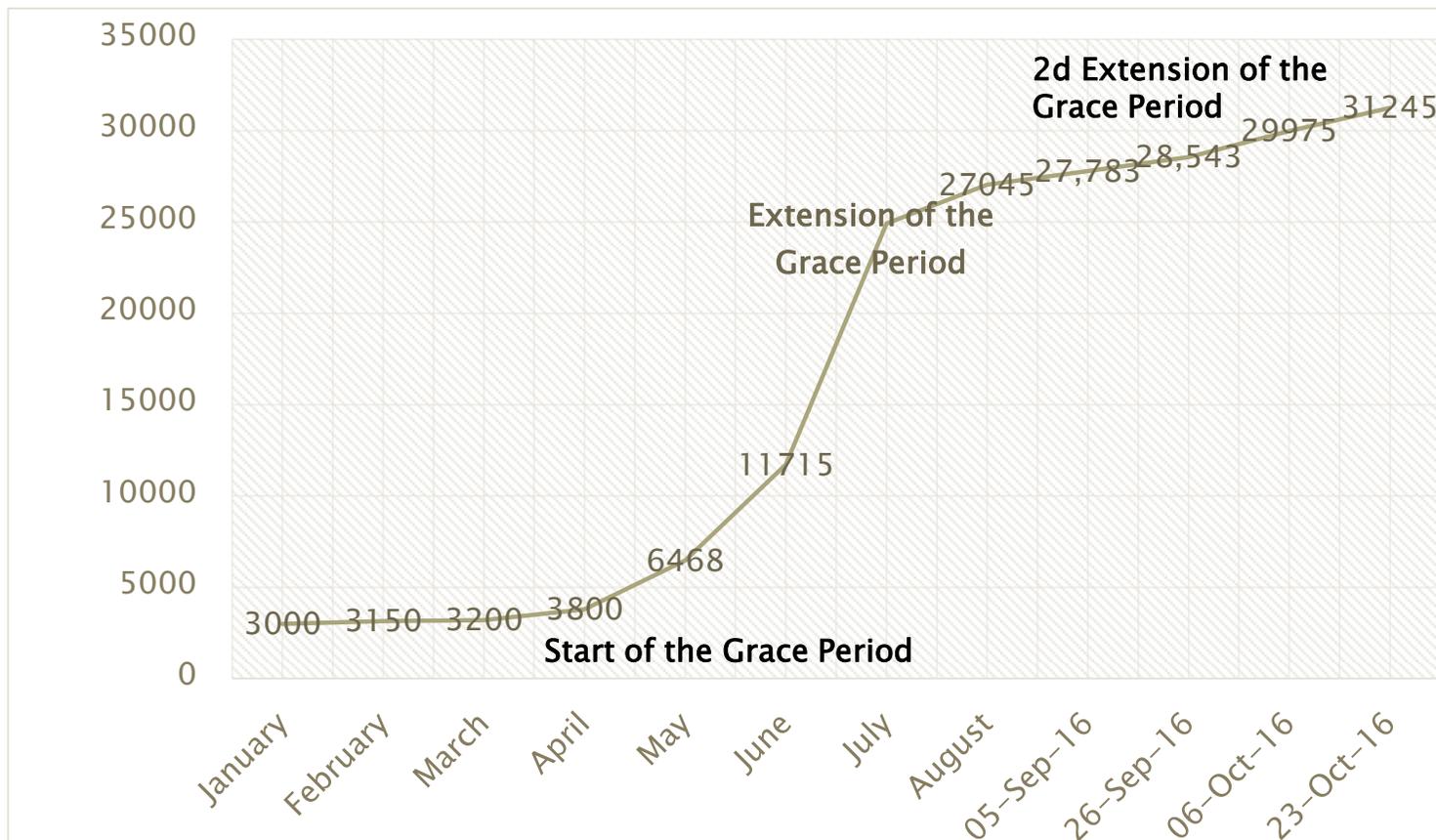


# KEY RBSA ACHIEVEMENTS

- ILO's intensive evidence based advocacy on the right to work of Syrian refugees has contributed to the commitments of the Government presented at the February 2016's *Supporting Syria and the Region Conference* in London.
- Two local economic development plans were developed by the most affected governorates with ILO technical support, which provide a framework for interventions owned by the local development committees at governorate level.
- Demonstration projects were piloted and allowed the ILO to try specific approaches that work in the specific context of this crisis (value chain interventions in agribusiness and employment intensive investment projects).
- In line with the Jordan Compact, ILO designed and continues to implement innovative approaches that allowed for refugees to access work permits.

# ZOOMING IN ON THE POLICY WORK:

## Work permits – towards 200,000



- Ministry of Labour actively seeking ways to increase number of Syrians with working permits.
- Grace period of 3 months (April–July 2016) for fees and no deportation of illegal workers to camps.
- Extension of the Grace period for additional three months (July–October 2016).
- Working permits in agriculture de-linked from employers & active campaign with Cooperatives supported by ILO.
- Extension of the Grace period until the end of 2016.
- 22 September 2016, exemption of medical check up for Syrians holding Ministry of Interior (MOI) card.



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# RBSA FUNDING HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN:

- *Strategically positioning the ILO* within the Jordan Response Platform as a lead agency on issues related to employment and livelihoods;
- *Enhancing visibility of ILO's work and Decent Work approach* vis-à-vis the Government, UN agencies, and funding partners;
- *Reinforcing a relationship of trust* with the government both at central and local levels;
- *Rapidly addressing emerging needs* – through ILO's employment-intensive investment pilot projects (EIIP), the ILO has been able to generate immediate jobs, contribute to rehabilitation and maintenance of infrastructure in the affected governorates, and demonstrate the applicability of the EIIP approach in crisis contexts for further upscaling.
- *Leveraging greater funding from other sources* – the ILO has attracted funding from a range of development partners, including KfW (German Development Bank) providing the first €10 million of a €20 million EIIP programme. The UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office also contributed with £1.2 million to follow-up the work at the policy level and support the implementation of the Jordan Compact. Additional support is currently being negotiated with other development partners in the areas of labour market governance, skills development, livelihoods development, and child labour.