Sameh Group and Jerash Factory partner with Sahab Municipality, Jordan, for refugee employment

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The Municipality of Sahab was administratively separated from the Greater Amman Municipality in 2013. Shortly after that, it received a number of migrants and refugees, and currently half of its 170,000 inhabitants are Syrian refugees or migrants from South Asia and Egypt.

To face the challenge of lack of job opportunities for all inhabitants – refugees and Jordanians alike – the Municipality of Sahab partnered with companies to hire Syrian refugees and vulnerable Jordanians.

A commercial building was constructed with joint funding from the World Bank, Gulf Fund, and the Sahab Municipal Budget. After construction, the complex was leased by the Sameh Group, based on conditions to foster local employment, such as employing the residents of the area only and privileging vulnerable groups as employees, including Syrian refugees.

On another occasion, a vocational training course provided by the Terres des Hommes (TdH) organization targeted Syrian and Jordanian women. After that, Jerash Factory, the biggest garment factory in the industrial zone, signed a partnership and cooperation agreement with the Municipality of Sahab to manage a sewing factory, carry out workforce training for local Syrians and Jordanians, and identify customers. Although some projects were halted due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 270 Jordanian and Syrian women and men concluded training up to September 2021, and a second MoU between Jerash Factory and the Municipality was signed.

Link: www.samehgroup.com and www.jerashholdings.com

PS4R Charter Alignment

This case corresponds to the ‘employment’ theme of the PS4R Charter of Good Practice, reflecting in particular on principle 14 on skills and 15 on socialization. By partnering with the municipal public body, the examples of Sameh Group and Jerash Factory also correspond to the ‘investments’ theme, however marginally, specifically reflecting on principle 7 on resilience.