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Stories from the Field

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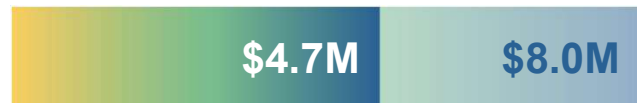
2nd Cycle 2018-2021

USD MILLIONS

Allocations
/ Contributions



Disbursed
/ Contributions





Economic Analysis of Refugee Returns in Syria

Grant amount: \$300,000

Timeline: March – December 2018

The first comprehensive and data-driven assessment of refugee returns has been completed with the support of the MENA MDTF and in collaboration with the UNHCR. It analyzes the spontaneous return of 103,090 Syrian refugees to better understand how changing conditions in Syria might affect return decisions.

The report used innovative analytical approaches to study the complex set of factors that refugees navigate as they consider a return home. With machine learning and other statistical techniques, this group of Syrian refugees who returned between 2015 and 2018, were compared with millions of others in Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon who chose not to return. The results were then compared with other refugee situations around the globe, ranging from Iraqi refugees in pre-war Syria, to the Balkans, and Somali refugees in Kenya. The report also employed simulations to generate scenarios of security and service restoration in Syria and how that would influence spontaneous returns. Overall, the extensive analysis of data, review of international experience, and forward-looking simulations allowed for a comprehensive, evidence-based study of the return patterns of Syrian refugees.

The report finds that security conditions in Syria are the single greatest factor determining the potential return of Syrian refugees. Access to basic services in Syria, such as health and education, along with the conditions of basic infrastructure are also important drivers of returns. An additional 10 percent of the refugee population studied by the report could return to Syria, if the rate of security improvement doubled and the restoration of services tripled within the next five years.

"One result that surprised us, was that harsh conditions in exile do not always translate into increased returns. For example, the data shows that Syrian refugees who have access to an extra meal per day are 15 percent more likely to return to Syria. This is in line with the complexity we saw in our study of international experiences. Whereas poverty was a major driver of Iraqi refugees' return from pre-conflict Syria, in Liberia it was high-income refugees that were the first to venture home."

**Harun Onder,
World Bank Senior Economist and Task Team Leader**

The report's insights, and the extensive consultations around it, have already begun to reach the international community. Numerous consultation events have been held with the key bilateral and multilateral actors engaged with the Syrian Refugee Crisis. Most recently, these findings were discussed in a side-event and panel discussion during the Brussels-III Conference on Syria (March 2019), where more than 300 policy makers and civil society representatives attended the session.

Going forward, the World Bank will utilize the results and framework of this study to develop a regional strategy on forced displacement, which will focus on the development challenges around forcibly displaced populations in the MENA Region.

Link to Report: [**The Mobility of Displaced Syrians: An Economic and Social Analysis**](#)



Mobilizing private funds for the public good

Grant amount: \$150,000

Timeline: December 2018-December 2019

While the MENA region lags the other regions in its ability to mobilize private sector finance in support of capital investments and in the delivery of public services, one group of countries is seeking to change that. The Mashreq Region (Jordan, Lebanon, Iran, Iraq and Syria) had an ambitious goal to bring about a step-change in the number of projects and volume of private funding mobilized in these countries. To that end, it developed a comprehensive Maximizing Finance for Development (MFD) Strategy in July 2018 and a special fund to provide “Just-in-Time” expertise, the Mashreq Accelerator Facility (MAF).

The MENA MDTF is supporting the Facility’s provision of:

- Technical support to identify policy constraints to conducting Public-Private Partnerships in Mashreq countries and help Bank project Teams find the appropriate solutions to these constraints;
- Support to enable dialogue with investors on investment climate and governance factors; and
- Support transaction and Project Finance activities.

The activity supports the development of projects that enable or enact MFD solutions across different sectors in the Mashreq region. It encourages increased private sector engagement in financing and job creation with the aim to improve service delivery and social stability, results that bring growth and jobs to a region that is in urgent need of both.

The MAF has an additional learning objective – to draw on track record of its implementation and determine design modifications that would improve performance, should a scale-up be envisioned. The impact for Clients are realized through the more robustly designed MFD operations that meet government objectives of crowding in greater private financing in service of their development objectives.

To date, six Bank lending projects have benefitted directly from the MDTF-funded support to the Facility (listed below), and an additional 17 projects are in the pipeline to receive MFD-expertise and support. A second phase is under discussion to further expand the Facility beyond Mashreq, making this activity a truly regional one.

		MFD Policy Reform / Dialogue	KPI
Electricity Services Reconstruction and Enhancement Project (US\$ 200 million)	Iraq	The due diligence will inform joint WBG support to enhance the role of the private sector in the electricity sales revenue management services in addition to job creation as most of the firms are local SMEs. The MAF will also support joint WBG missions are aimed at deepening the policy/operations engagement with the various GoI stakeholders to bolster the proposed private sector led investments related to: (i) increased gas-to-power generation and (ii) reduced gas flaring; (iii) sustainable energy value chain.	Access and Quality of Service
Iraq - National Agriculture Reform and Competitiveness (Advisory Services & Analytics)	Iraq	To maximize SOE potential to support an MFD agenda, existing assets and infrastructure could be incorporated into a future market-orientated system. To this end, MAF funds will be deployed to identify and advocate for business models that support the vertical integration of wholesale and retail functions. This would lead to a more compatible planning and decision-making system throughout the supply chain, resulting in fewer transaction costs.	Private Capital Mobilized, Access and Quality of service, jobs created and policy reform.
Early Childhood Education – Education Reform Support Program (US\$ 200 million)	Jordan	Expanding service delivery of Early Childhood Education through private sector participation. The funds requested undertake a joint WBG scoping of private sector participation options for K1 and, subject to outcome, recruit specialist consultancy to assist in the design of alternative PPP modalities, including impact bonds and other market development interventions for KG1 private provision.	Access and Quality of Service Private Capital Mobilized
Digital Economy (US\$ 200 million)	Lebanon	This funding will be used to undertake key analysis on private financial sector appetite and public policy constraints in line with evolving "Maximizing Finance for Development (MFD) and "Disruptive Technology" (DT) priorities in Lebanon.	Private capital mobilized, access to and quality of services, jobs created and policy reforms
Lebanon Energy Sector Reforms (SOP, first project) (US\$ 300 million)	Lebanon	Improving revenue generation and collection in the sector is central to improving its financial sustainability and support planned private sector operations in fuel supply and power generation. The proposed work would focus on reviewing experience in implementing private sector service contracts focused on addressing distribution network challenges; recommending revisions to address those challenges; and support the government in negotiating the changes	Access and quality of service. Policy Reform
Jordan DPL (US\$ 1.45 billion)	Jordan	A key objective of the government’s new growth strategy is the strengthening of capacity to deliver key infrastructure investments through PPPs. The WB DPF series, which has as a major focus support to MFD enabling policy and institutional reforms is looking to identify Prior Actions (PAs) and Triggers within the second and third DPL in the series that will ensure new legislative and institutional framework is in place to accelerate the deliver of priority capital investments presented at the London Conference in February 2018	PPP reforms, access and quality of services and private capital mobilized, jobs created

Financial Summary

2nd Cycle 2018-2021

USD MILLIONS

Allocations
/ Contributions

\$7.6M

\$8.0M

Disbursed
/ Contributions

\$4.7M

\$8.0M

2nd Cycle Active Portfolio

March 31, 2019

PROJECT	DISBURSED / ALLOCATED (\$)				
Jordan on-the-Job Program	Jordan	250,000	/	250,000	100%
Transforming the Road Sector in Tunisia	Tunisia	909,000	/	909,000	100%
Catalyzing the Private Sector Role in Recovery and Reconstruction in Yemen	Yemen	269,280	/	300,000	90%
MENA Regional Youth Platform	MENA	333,511	/	445,000	75%
Support to Deepening Decentralization and Improving Inclusion	Tunisia	206,403	/	300,000	69%
TA for an Incremental Home Improvement Program	Djibouti	150,000	/	150,000	100%
Understanding Child and Adolescent Skills Development	Tunisia	267,848	/	325,000	82%
Women Economic Empowerment - EmpowerHer	Tunisia, Morocco	191,683	/	325,000	59%
Developing Innovative Practices for Improving Social Cohesion between Lebanese and Syrian Refugees Living in Host Communities	Lebanon	210,113	/	250,000	84%
Women and Jobs for an Inclusive Labor Market in KRG	Iraq/KRG	324,000	/	330,000	98%
Addressing Health Needs of Syrian Refugees	MENA	268,209	/	280,000	96%
Water Scarce Cities Initiative	MENA	109,614	/	120,000	91%
World Development Report 2018 Regional Events	MENA	100,000	/	100,000	100%
Household Expenditure & Income Survey 2017/2018	Jordan	100,000	/	100,000	100%
Supporting the Implementation of Key Economic Reforms in Tunisia: Thinking and Working Adaptively	Tunisia	203,549	/	360,000	57%
Economic Analysis of Refugee Returns in Syria	MENA	288,151	/	300,000	96%
Preparation of Emergency Electricity Supply Improvement	Libya	42,781	/	250,000	17%
Iraq Natural Gas Market Framework TA	Iraq	35,935	/	350,000	11%
Iraq Emergency Housing Reconstruction and DNA Iraq	Iraq	265,521	/	350,000	76%
Iraq Education Development Support Operation	Iraq	57,300	/	200,000	28%
TA on Peacebuilding, Security and Development	Iraq	15,524	/	50,000	31%
Modernizing Targeting and Delivery Systems for Social Protection in Tunisia (New)	Tunisia	7,386	/	350,000	2%
MENA Human Capital: Education and Future Work (New)	MENA	91,538	/	100,000	91%
Third Party Monitoring Agent Services in Iraq (TPMA) (New)	Iraq	0	/	260,000	0%
Maximizing Finance for Development – Know How Accelerator Facility (New)	Regional	10,886	/	150,000	7%
Accelerating Private Investments and Job Creation (Finance4Jobs) (New)	West Bank & Gaza	14,850	/	150,000	10%

2nd Cycle Status of Outputs

March 31, 2019

Activity name	OP1: Analytical Reports		OP2: TA Products		OP3: Events	
	Actual	Projection	Actual	Projection	Actual	Projection
Jordan on-the-Job Program	1	1	1	1	0	0
Transforming the Road Sector in Tunisia	2	2	2	2	4	6
Catalyzing the Private Sector Role in Recovery and Reconstruction in Yemen	3	3	0	0	2	3
MENA Regional Youth Platform	7	7	8	8	11	11
Support to Deepening Decentralization and Improving Inclusion	2	2	2	3	1	1
TA for an Incremental Home Improvement Program	1	1	0	0	2	2
Understanding Child and Adolescent Skills Development	0	1	1	1	2	2
Women Economic Empowerment - EmpowerHer	0	0	0	0	1	3
Developing Innovative Practices for Improving Social Cohesion between Lebanese and Syrian Refugees Living in Host Communities	3	3	1	3	0	1
Women and Jobs for an Inclusive Labor Market in KRG	5	2	4	2	4	2
Addressing Health Needs of Syrian Refugees	5	5	0	0	5	7
Water Scarce Cities Initiative	0	0	0	0	1	1
World Development Report 2018 Regional Events	1	1	0	0	1	1
Household Expenditure & Income Survey 2017/2018	0	0	1	1	4	4
Supporting the Implementation of Key Economic Reforms in Tunisia: Thinking and Working Adaptively	3	9	5	7	0	2
Economic Analysis of Refugee Returns in Syria	1	1	1	0	10	10
Preparation of Emergency Electricity Supply Improvement	0	0	0	3	0	1
Iraq Natural Gas Market Framework TA	0	0	0	2	0	1
Iraq Emergency Housing Reconstruction and DNA	0	1	1	1	0	1
Iraq Education Development Support Operation	0	1	0	0	0	1
Iraq TA on Peacebuilding, Security and Development	0	1	1	2	0	1
Modernizing Targeting and Delivery Systems for Social Protection in Tunisia	0	2	0	2	0	2
MENA Human Capital: Education for Future Work	0	0	0	0	4	4
Third Party Monitoring Agent Services in Iraq (TPMA)	0	1	0	0	0	0
Maximizing Finance for Development Know How Accelerator Facility (MENA)	0	3	3	4	0	3
Accelerating Private Investment and Job Creation (West Bank & Gaza)	0	0	0	3	0	0
Total	31	47	30	45	52	70