



PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

Over the past years, Jordan has been setting a model for the world and a paradigm shift by carrying out a global public good in terms of hosting 1.3 million Syrians (of which less than 50 percent are registered refugees and only 10 percent are in refugee camps), providing the needed services and also in turning the refugee challenge into an economic opportunity. Our external environment continues to be challenging, where spillover from conflicts in the region continues to pressure Jordan's resilience, security and stability.

The protracted nature of the Syrian crisis now in its seventh year has pushed the country's absorptive capacity to its limits. Spillover from the regional crisis has resulted in growing needs, regressed hard-earned development gains, impacted economic growth and increased public debt. We are in a situation that has exacerbated poverty (increased by 30 percent) and unemployment (increased by 50 percent) in many host communities nationwide posing serious risks to social cohesion and national security.

The existing economic situation is increasingly undermining social peace and creating discontent that extremists may take advantage of to widen their support base. In spite all that, the Government of Jordan has issued about 54,000 work permits to Syrian refugees in camps and host communities; absorbed about 90 percent of Syrian refugee children in public schools to addition to providing training and skills building opportunities to refugees.

Jordan has also reached its maximum carrying capacity whether in terms of available resources, fiscal space, existing physical and social infrastructure, or capacities in providing basic services. Without the continued support of our key partners this will negatively impact our overstretched ability to continue providing necessary services to Syrians whilst maintaining service levels without adversely effecting Jordanian citizens or risking our hard-earned development gains.