

Regional Development and Protection Programme in the Middle East

- Challenges and achievements.



The RDPP - in brief



- **What:**

A three-year, 27 mio. Euro programme managed by Denmark to support refugees, local communities and authorities in Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq in terms of protection and livelihoods and to prepare the ground for durable solutions in the longer-term.

- **Who:**

A platform of eight donors (EU/DEVCO, Denmark, Ireland, Netherlands, UK, the Czech Republic, and now also Norway and Switzerland (tbc))

The RDPP - in brief



- **Why:**
 - a) Syrian displacement will be protracted
 - b) Syrian displacement is not only a humanitarian crisis. It entails profound challenges in terms of both development and security – and must be dealt with in this perspective.

- **How:**

Work with national and international actors on the basis of agreed strategies, within a coordinated framework

Objectives



- To support socio-economic development in host countries to the benefit both the host populations and refugees
- To ensure that refugees are fully able to avail themselves of a durable solution (voluntarily return, local integration or resettlement).

Components



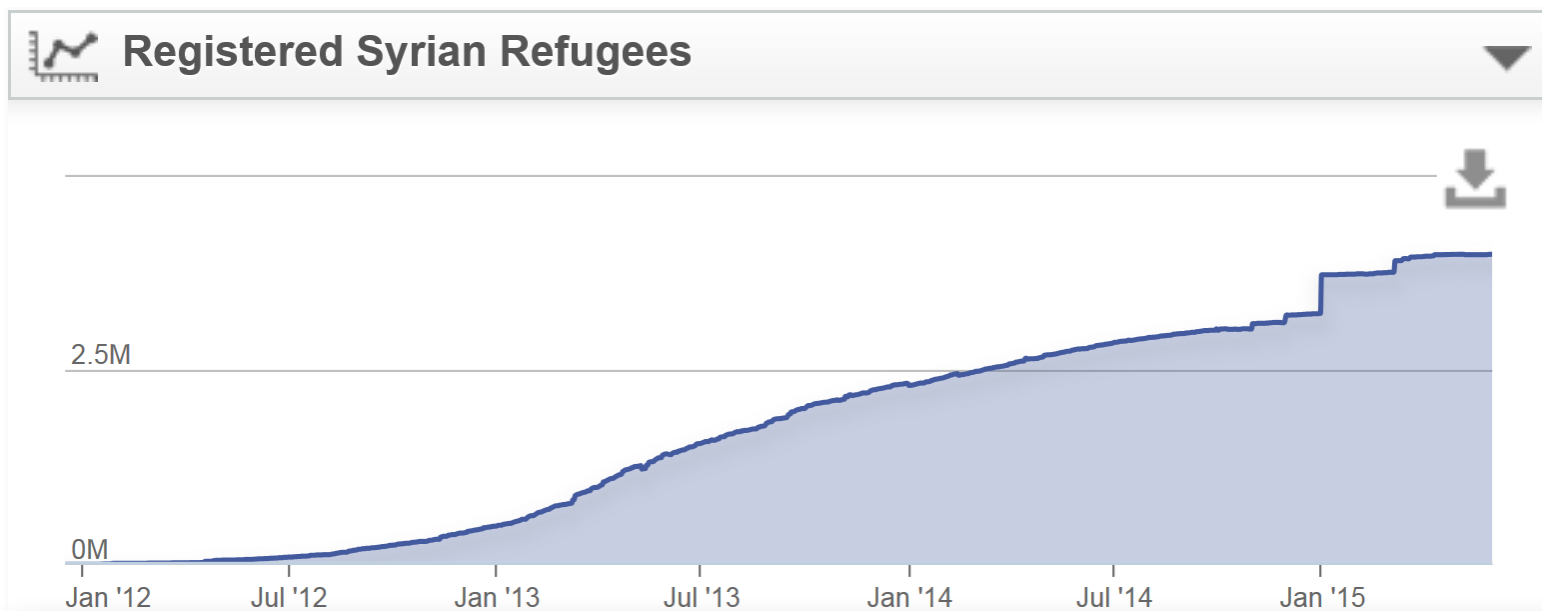
- Research – To assess and analyse the impact of displacement on refugees and host communities and provide inputs for long-term planning.
- Protection – To strengthen the protection of refugees through legal support, community empowerment and conflict mitigation, better capacities of national institutions for protection and asylum, and combating child labour
- Advocacy and Political Dialogue – To protect and improve access to rights for refugees
- Socio-economic development – To enhance economic opportunities and livelihood capacity of vulnerable populations (both refugees and host communities)

Development of the programme



- **September 2012:** Conceived by the European Commission (EC)
- **April 2013:** Denmark agreed to assume overall responsibility for management
- **October 2013:** The legal base for the programme approved by the College of the EC
- **January 2014:** Mapping and meta-analysis of existing studies of costs, impacts and protection concerns around the Syrian displacement crisis finalised as a key input into planning
- **June 2014:** Programme document and delegation agreement approved and signed by DK and EC
- **July 2014:** Implementation started.

Almost 2 years passed from idea to realisation...



Key challenges

- Protection space is becoming more and more limited, in terms of both access and stay
- Access to basic social rights is becoming more and more limited
- Socio-economic vulnerability is rising sharply

Focus on rights and development



RDPP is seeking to address these challenges by

- Building local capacities for protection
- Seeking to support enhanced social dialogue and inclusion
- Documenting that refugees are not only burdens but may also constitute assets for local development, if allowed
- Through this, seeking to exploit longer-term opportunities for enhanced self-reliance

Status to date



STATUS	TOTAL NO.	THEMATIC PROGRAMME	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER
Projects signed and completed	2	Research	FMR, CLDH Lebanon
Projects signed and started/pending implementation	6	Livelihoods :3 Protection: 1 Advocacy and Political Dialogue: 1 Research: 1	UNDP Lebanon (two), UNDP Jordan, UNHCR Lebanon, ABAAD Lebanon, World Bank
Project proposals pending signature.	4	Protection: 4	,AJEM Lebanon, Mercy Corps Lebanon, ILO Lebanon & Jordan.
Project proposal under review	3	Protection: 3	JCLA Jordan, Lebanese NGO, UNHCR Jordan
TOTAL PROJECTS: 14			



Achievements to date

Too early to document direct effects of the RDPP – but:

Framework: Agreements signed with 8 donors and 13 implementing partner organizations so far – and more are coming

Protection: i) 11,000 refugees and locals receive awareness and legal services;

ii) CSOs advocate with governments on i.a. administrative detention, torture, movement restrictions, etc.;

iii) municipal police in Lebanon and Mol in Jordan receive training on refugee protection;

iv) more than 1,000 working children are better protected and institutions better equipped to deal with child labour.

Livelihoods: 1,700 beneficiaries are receiving livelihoods support in the form of cash for work, job placement opportunities, or support to establish micro or small businesses.



Lessons learned

- **Build on the unique comparative advantage of the RDPP:** a multi-donor platform with shared objectives combining protection and socio-economic development
- **Build ownership and dialogue** – continuing consultations with governments and other stakeholders are crucial
- **Be credible** – limit time from planning to actual implementation as much as possible
- **Be realistic** – manage expectations and remain flexible
- **Be ambitious, yet patient** – focus on comprehensive, long-term approaches and link to development actors and policy dialogue
- **Be sufficiently big** – without sizeable budgets, visibility and influence will be less
- **Be relevant** – the programme must be driven by local needs and possibilities, rather than European challenges.

Regional solutions and resettlement



- The RDPP does not include a resettlement component – but could clearly benefit from increased resettlement of Syrian refugees from the region. Even symbolic gestures matter in policy dialogue!



Thank you!