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THE SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS IN THE MEDIUM-TERM: WHAT SOLUTIONS ARE POSSIBLE?

Paris, February 15, 2016 – Representatives from Middle Eastern and European hosting countries as well as humanitarian and development organizations, academics and researchers concluded today a pivotal cross-regional event on the analytical findings, and policy implications, of the World Bank/UNHCR study “The Welfare of Syrian Refugees: Evidence from Jordan and Lebanon”.

The report sheds light on the socio-economic situation of Syrian refugees in both countries, and highlights the consequences of refugee poverty. An understanding of the socio-economic situation allows to better understand the welfare of refugees and to look towards creating a more sustainable system to address their needs.

It is also important in order to identify ways of turning elements of the crisis into opportunities. International experiences have shown that refugees can contribute to their host countries' economies by becoming consumers, workers, and even investors.

The event was organized by the Center for Mediterranean Integration, the World Bank Group and the United Nations with the support of the French Development Agency. It allowed participants to share strategies and best practices for creating economic opportunities for host communities and refugees, based on the experience of countries in the Mashreq and Europe. Discussions revolved around:

- Combining humanitarian and development work for a short- to mid-term vision to support both Syrian refugees and local communities.
- Policy recommendations pertaining to the poverty situation of refugees and ways of turning elements of the crisis into opportunities.
- Mashreq/Europe knowledge sharing on creating conditions for shared prosperity and economic growth for the benefit of refugee and host communities.
- Addressing the financial gap through mobilizing resources and strengthening multi-partner collaborations towards supporting refugee and host communities welfare.

More info on the meeting and discussions can be found [here \(http://bit.ly/1QarwpT\)](http://bit.ly/1QarwpT).
WB/UNHCR “The Welfare of Syrian Refugees: Evidence from Jordan and Lebanon” is accessible [here \(http://bit.ly/1Z7G366\)](http://bit.ly/1Z7G366)
White Paper “The Syrian Refugee Crisis in the Medium-Term: What Next?” accessible [here \(http://bit.ly/20LOSdA\)](http://bit.ly/20LOSdA)

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The Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI) is a multi-partner platform where development agencies, Governments, local authorities and civil society from around the Mediterranean convene in order to exchange knowledge, discuss public policies, and identify the solutions needed to address key challenges facing the Mediterranean region. Members of the CMI include Egypt, France, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Tunisia, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region, City of Marseille, the European Investment Bank and the World Bank Group, and the European External Action Service (EEAS) as an observer. Web: www.cmimarseille.org; Facebook: CMI Marseille; Twitter: @cmimarseille