How to develop an entrepreneurial ecosystem inclusive of women and vulnerable populations?
Adapting to the COVID crisis

A focus on Jordan

Mediterranean Host Municipalities Learning Network
Training webinar series

27 May 2020
The new context: the COVID crisis
Channels of transmission of COVID crisis in the economy

Keeping the lights on: Economic medicine for a medical shock. Richard Baldwin 13 March 2020
The COVID crisis: flattening 2 curves

**Flattening the COVID 19 curve**

- Number of Cases
- Time Since First Case
- Without Protective Measures
- With Protective Measures
- Health Care System Capacity

**Flattening the recession curve**

- Time since first case
- Severity of the Recession
- With accompanying Macro measures
- Without accompanying Macro measures
The COVID crisis: 2 phases

Phase I – Outbreak: Most current scenarios assume this phase can last up to six months until the spread of COVID-19 is contained, although this is subject to the epidemiological evolution of the disease.

Phase II – Recovery: considers the challenges the economy will face once the epidemic is contained and economic conditions gradually return to their pre-crisis level.

➢ In addition to national policies, municipalities have a role to play locally to foster economic recovery in an inclusive way
Findings of the ILO FAO survey of May 1, 2020 in Jordan

- 55% of surveyed workers reported that they had short employment duration. Precarious work (temporary, seasonal, irregular) was more prevalent among Syrians (69%).
- The overall percentage of Syrian respondents with valid work permits was 30% (21% of women versus 38% of men). Furthermore, 60% of female workers as compared to 40 per cent for male workers had never had a work permit.
- 35% of all Syrians who were in employment before the crisis had lost their jobs permanently, only one-half as many Jordanian workers (17%) reported the same.
- 47% of the respondents who were employed before the lockdown, were currently out of work: 13% had been permanently dismissed; 18% had been temporarily laid-off but expected to resume work once the crisis is over; and 16% were on paid leave.
- Only 9% of the respondents reported that their household had savings. Only 13% of all respondents reported that their household received cash assistance.
The 3 pillars of economic opportunities:
- Access to work
- Access to entrepreneurship
- Access to finance

Women-specific economic opportunities

Transport

Childcare services

Decent jobs

Social norms
A few facts about women economic opportunities
A few facts about women economic opportunities

Educated women dominate the labor market in Jordan

Working age and employed Jordanian women (DOS, Labor Force Survey, 2018)
A few facts about women economic opportunities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Women in businesses</th>
<th>Women as employers and own account workers</th>
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Women-owned businesses are:
- 11 times more likely to be home-based,
- 9.4 times more likely to hire women,
- Less likely to operate year-round,
- Less likely to use a vehicle for business,
- Less likely to be registered.

A few facts about women economic opportunities

Home-based businesses geographical distribution by gender

- Greater Amman
- Irbid
- Mafraq
- Karak
- Zarqa
- Jaresh
- Maan
- Madaba
- Outskirts Amman
- Tafielə
- Balqa
- Aqaba
- Ajlun

[Bar chart showing the geographical distribution of home-based businesses by gender across different regions.]

Legend:
- All
- Women-owned
Social Norms influence all aspects of women’s labor market participation in Jordan

Only 38% believe it is acceptable for women to work in mixed-gender workplaces.

44% believe working women are exposing themselves to harassment.

35% believe working women are risking their reputation by working.

Marriage lowers acceptability of women working (to 72%).

Less than 40% believe it is acceptable for married working women to return home after 5pm.

54% acceptable to leave a child with a relative, but mothers should wait until child is 4.5 years old to work.

84% believe families with working women have lower financial status; 51% believe the husbands can’t provide enough and 31% believe the husbands aren’t “in charge”.

Sustaining the development response to the refugee crisis
Sustaining the development response to the refugee crisis

• Improve the lives of both refugees and host communities.
• Create jobs will not only enable refugees to become more self-reliant, but to maintain and improve their skills set to contribute to the economy of the host country.

➢ The economic inclusion of refugees should be sustained despite the COVID crisis, for humanitarian and development reasons.
Role of municipalities vs. recovery from COVID crisis
What?

• **Support recovery** through private sector development and job creation.

• **Foster economic inclusion of vulnerable populations, women and refugees** through access to work, finance, entrepreneurship, social protection, digital finance, childcare and positive social norms enabling women to work.
Role of municipalities vs. recovery from the COVID crisis

How to improve economic opportunities? A menu of policies

• Maintain **social cohesion** and **refugees access to economic opportunities** through dialogue, mediation and anticipation of social tensions (if any)

• **Public-private dialogues** to identify private sector issues at the local level

• Promote **local competitiveness/support cluster initiatives**

• **Streamline licensing of businesses** and reduce red tape

• **Public procurement** for local small and medium enterprises

• Promote **digital financial inclusion** by paying employees and aid recipients digitally.

• **Intensive public works** and cash for work to create (temporary) jobs

• **Identification of vulnerable populations** to facilitate access to social protection
How to improve women empowerment? A menu of policies

- Identification and handling of **gender-based violence** through legal aid
- Foster **childcare** provision, public or private (subsidize childcare for poorer families)
- Provision of women-friendly **transportation** (enforce anti-harassment)
- Support **women-led businesses** through public procurement
- Streamline licensing procedures for **home-based businesses** (mostly women)
- Support **networking/mentoring** activities and **trade fairs** for women entrepreneurs
- Inclusion of women in **skills trainings** and **cash for work** activities
- Campaigns addressing **social norms** and highlighting working women as role models
Thank you