





UNDEF launches two new projects to empower refugee women in Lebanon and Jordan

The latest UNDEF Project Zeytuna for Syrian refugee women was launched in Lebanon at an opening ceremony in Beirut in December 2017.

This project is modelled on earlier UNDEF initiatives empowering Syrian refugee women. The earlier Project Zeytuna in Turkey provided the participants opportunities to develop skills in project management and communication as well as educating them about their rights.

The Lebanon project – also run by [Mandat International](#) – aims to empower Syrian women currently refugees in Lebanon to develop their own projects that will allow them to more fully participate in democratic and economic processes.

The Beirut event brought together nearly 100 refugee women and representatives from national and regional human rights and legal organizations. A representative of the Minister of State for Women's Affairs, Government of Lebanon, Mrs. Nada Makki addressed how to rethink women's empowerment within a refugee setting and the right to education for Syrian refugees.

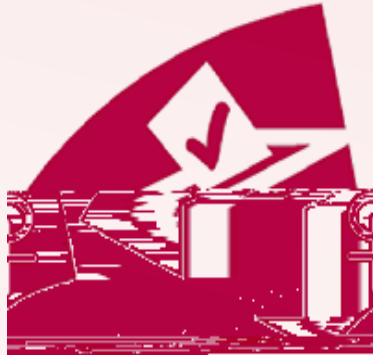
The women participants learned about opportunities for participating in politics and decision-making and actions to involve women in peace processes. The opening ceremony also launched the process for the women to develop their own empowerment projects in Lebanon.

Also working within the region, a project to increase Syrian refugee women's ability to create positive change for their communities. The project, implemented by the [Women's Learning Partnership](#), will work to empower individual Syrian women in Lebanon and Jordan, and with local organizations providing services to them.

Building on their work with refugee communities the project will conduct culturally adapted training programmes for Syrian refugee women on leadership, human rights, and community organization. Some Syrian women will be given the opportunity to be further trained as advocates for refugee populations in Jordan and Lebanon.

In the shadow of recurring attacks on schools in North East Nigeria where over 105 girls are feared to have been kidnapped, an UNDEF project has been working with the Nigerian government to improve school safety and security for girls.

The project – implemented by the [Women Advocates Research and Documentation Centre](#) – recently held a national dialogue on safety and security in schools. At this dialogue the Nigerian Minister of Education, Mr. Adamu Adamu, confirmed the government was



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