

SAFE, INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC SPACES FOR



Janna 'a NEIGHBORHOOD (ZARQA MUNICIPLAITY)

As the conflict in Syria enters its seventh year, Jordan is hosting 1.26 million Syrians, of whom 655,217 are registered refugees¹.

Approximately 85% of these Syrian refugees are living in non-camp settings and 14% of Syrian refugees have settled in Zarqa Governorate according to the latest national census in 2015. The continuous pressure on municipalities to deliver services has been affected by their already limited capacity to address basic municipal service deficiencies, induce local economic development, and support social cohesion within communities.



The sudden increase in population has contributed to the increase of local tensions, particularly from Jordanian citizens in host communities that are starting to demand a more effective response to their own needs from state institutions and local authorities, as a result, municipalities face the threat of extremism that some youth are looking to as an alternative to their frustration.



Zarqa City is known to be highly urbanized with dense population. Zarqa major challenges include; weak service delivery, lack of open spaces and green areas. Youth are being marginalized and radicalized, they resort to violent acts to express their frustration , the Syrian crisis has aggravated the situation. Some citizens blame refugees for the sharp rise in prices, houses rent, unemployment, they also blame Syrians for taking their jobs at cheaper rates, this has made social cohesion a challenge and increased conflicts among Syrian refugees and host community.





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Project's Objective:

The project aims to promote the creation of an open public space that enhance community cohesion and inclusiveness in Janna' a Neighborhood, and promote health, , and well-being for all citizens including Syrian refugees and vulnerable groups. The project will work on creating an enabling environment that supports community's right, particularly women's and youth's right, including Syrian refugees to participation and leadership in social cohesion in Janna' a Neighborhood/Zarqa City on the one hand, and to have access to adequate urban environment on the other hand.

The project will be focusing on the following strategies:

- Adopting a comprehensive community engagement process that is based on an active and inclusive participatory approach throughout the project targeting Syrian Refugees and host community , with a full representation for women, men, adolescents, the elderly and the disabled.
- Focusing on youth engagement. Digital technology will be used to involve youth in the design of urban public spaces.



□ Supporting the national and local governments to:

- 1) adopt participatory approach and community engagement strategies in the planning process and at the different scales,
- 2) contribute to the national priorities to eliminate violence against women especially in public spaces,
- 3) raising the importance of adopting national legislation on urban safety and security guidelines in physical planning for public spaces



- Building the capacity of the local community members to better manage and maintain public spaces.
- Empowering women to participate in economic development and governance issues in their neighborhoods.
- Raising awareness on the importance of public spaces among local authorities and better understand the scope of safety for women and girls at neighborhood level .
- Supporting youth to achieve economic empowerment through creation of job opportunities.



Janna' a Neighborhood is considered as one of the most heavily populated, dense neighborhoods. It was inhabited since the fifties, its population have increased dramatically reaching (75,000) living within a total area of approximately 272 denim and is suffering from countless socio-economic problems . Janna' a Neighborhood was the result of urban sprawl of the Zarqa Camp, it first started in the form of metal booths which later transformed into permanent buildings.



- Janna' a is known as low-income neighborhood with the highest level of unemployment and poverty. Development that occurred over the time didn't abide by the set planning framework, nor with the zoning regulations resulting in the creation of poorly built environment with meandering paths and corridors.



The neighborhood suffers from overcrowding and a poor quality of shared infrastructure and lack of public spaces .The proximity of the buildings and the reduced setbacks leave no proper access to daylight and fresh air. With few open spaces left and the vehicle dependability, the residents use every vacant space left as parking lots. Pedestrian paths, if there is any, are used as informal public spaces where people sit and kids play.



- Given the lack of public spaces, children resort to playing in areas that pose health and safety risks, such as dark and closed off alleyways. Vendors use streets and alleyways to sell wares and generate income.



Collaborating Partners :

The project will be carried out by Zarqa municipality, the local community and Zarqa city youth council. The project will work closely with other well established NGOs active in Janna' a in conducting awareness raising activities, enhancing the culture of dialogue among the youth ,and in increasing the competitiveness of the young people in the labor market through equipping them with the necessary skills and expertise that fulfill the labor market's requirements8

