

The international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia.

CONFRONTING INJUSTICE TOGETHER
THROUGH THE ACT OF ALLIANCE**ACT FOR PEACE**

A LIGHT OF HOPE FOR REFUGEES FLEEING SYRIA

VOLUME 11 • ISSUE 8

PEACE MAILIf not delivered please return to:
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You may recall the work of our partner DSPR (the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees) in the Gaza strip helping Palestinians through child and maternal health care and vocational skills training. Since the crisis in Syria started almost four years ago, DSPR has been actively working with refugee populations who have fled conflict and are now living in urban areas in neighbouring Jordan.

Through your generous monthly gifts, Act for Peace supports our partner DSPR-Jordan's 'Start your own business' program. The program was first launched in two locations: Talbiah Camp in October 2014 and Husn Camp in November 2014, both of which are located outside of Jordan's capital, Amman. The goal of the 'Start your own business' program is to generate economic and social empowerment amongst refugee women, to build confidence and to encourage women to think beyond their limitations. With new skills these women can generate an income to support their families. The program accommodates 26 Syrian women at a time and runs for four months.

Beyond the 'Start your own business' program, your generous gifts support work to reduce vulnerability of the Syrian refugee population in Jordan through humanitarian assistance, healthcare and psychosocial support. In 2015 alone, DSPR's work with refugee populations in Jordan helped more than 7,000 families receive essential food and non-food assistance.

Your support is making a difference:



Can provide blankets for an entire family who have left their home without belongings



Can enable a Syria woman to attend and complete the four month 'Start your own business' training course, providing her with an income for her family and skills for the future.

All gifts of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

Thank you for your generous support that makes this transforming program possible. What a privilege it is to help those, who have fled their homes for fear of violence, find a purpose in each day while they are living through their displacement. Thank you, again.

Take the Act for Peace Ration Challenge this June and eat the same rations as a Syrian refugee for one week. Raise money and awareness to support people who have lost everything. The money you raise will help provide food rations, healthcare and education to help give the people of Syria the strength they need to cope. It will also help many other refugees around the world to build safe, just and dignified lives, now and in the future.

Last year's ration packs sold out. Pre-register today to guarantee your place.

Visit actforpeace.org.au/rationchallenge or call 1800 025 101

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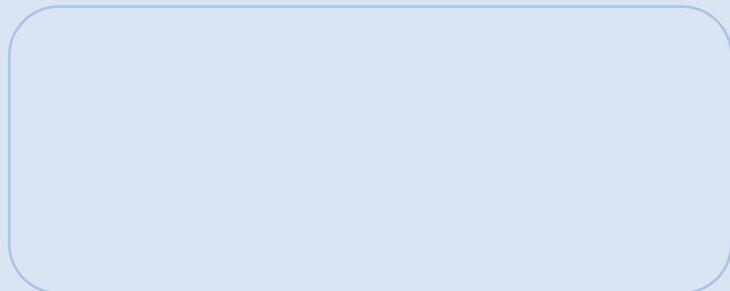
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Dear Friend,

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your support. You have made possible the work I'm doing for Syrian refugees in Jordan. Your generous gifts have had a tremendous impact on the lives of the women I work with.

My name is Mujdellen and I work for Act for Peace's partner, DSPR – Jordan, in the camps for Syrian refugees who have fled their homes for fear of violence. My job has two parts and I am always busy! Firstly, I am in charge of registering some of the newly arrived families in the camps for their rations of food and blankets. Most of those who make it to the camp arrive with little as they have had to leave in a hurry.

While I'm meeting and registering new arrivals I get the chance to tell them about the training courses we freely offer and how this can help while they are displaced. The other part of my job is teaching Syrian women new skills so they can earn an income. We run a 'Start your own business' course which provides training in various skills to provide a livelihood.

When I first started our courses for women we focused on carpentry and weaving but demand for these skills was limited so we investigated the market to see what was needed by the local population. We found that local Jordanian women were paying for beauty services. After examining the feasibility of this service, we built our capacity to run courses in beauty care.

Our beauty care course runs for four months and the students learn the essentials of providing beauty treatments. It has been a huge success! We have already had several classes of women complete the course, begin their services and start earning an income to support their families.

The women I teach have been through so much just to reach the camps. When they get the chance to take part in our training they are excited and proud and give it their best. With these new skills, many are able to work from home which means they don't face the societal problems of leaving the home without a male to accompany them.

The women tell me that having a job to do each day and being able to contribute to the family income transforms their time here. For me, it is a privilege to be able to provide a light of hope in their lives. I am so thankful that because of your kind support we can do this.

Mujdellen

Prayer Points:

- Give thanks for the work of DSPR in Jordan in providing hope for refugees.
- Pray for an end to the conflict in Syria so those who are displaced can return safely home.



Refugees collect rations for their families



Mujdellen teaches training courses to new arrivals from Syria