

# JORDAN Humanitarian Partnerships and Capacity Exchange Analysis 2021







This analysis was undertaken with the support of the extensive project level partnerships data generously shared by donor, United Nations (UN), International and Local Non-Governmental Organization (INGO / LNGO) partners, to understand key baselines of partnerships in Jordan, particularly around the two issues of humanitarian financing and capacity exchange, in line with the work of the Localization Task Team of the Humanitarian Partners Forum, to support advancing the strategic localization agenda in country.

#### **Overview of Humanitarian Partners**



10 UN agencies
working primarily on humanitarian affairs

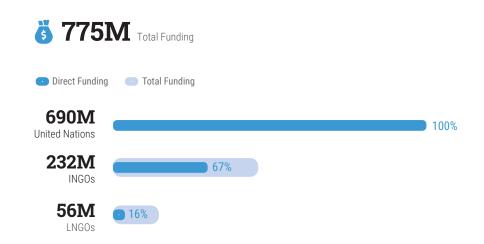


**54** International NGOs



Local NGOs
which partner with
INGOs/UN actors

#### **Funding in Partnerships**



The overwhelming majority of the US\$775 million of humanitarian funding entering Jordan is first channeled through the UN. All of this comes directly.

US\$232 million goes through INGOs. 2/3 of INGO funding comes directly from donors, the rest from partnerships with the UN.

Of the US\$56 million of humanitarian project funding coming to Jordanian

NGOs from UN/INGO/international donor partnerships assessed,<sup>1</sup> the overwhelming majority (83 per cent) comes indirectly through bilateral partnerships with the UN agencies.

A significant minority (12 per cent) of LNGO funding mapped comes directly. The overwhelming majority of direct LNGO funding comes from pooled funding (the Jordan Humanitarian Fund, managed by UNOCHA) while the rest comes from bilateral donors. Longer term, the goal is to reach greater equity in funding between national and international partners, and also the greater efficiency of funding which comes from decreased sub-granting.

Partnerships with INGOs accounted for another (five per cent) of funding LNGO partnerships receive.

### **Direct Funding to Local NGOs**

in millions



### **Budgets of Partnerships**

Most partnerships are operationalized with small to medium project budgets: seven of every 10 are <250k each.

All INGO-LNGO partnerships were in the small to medium sized <250k category.

Bilateral donor grants are largely concentrated in the smallest budgets range: six of eight <25k each.

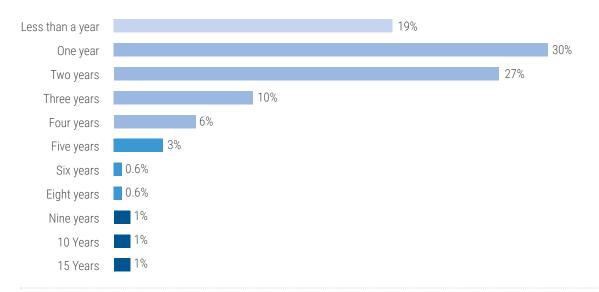
Nevertheless, a substantial minority of LNGO-IO partnerships (nearly one out of 10) include successful LNGO absorption of individual project funds of US\$1 to US\$5 million range. For comparison, such project funds are larger than the average annual budget of most INGOs in country. These large project



partnerships are all UN-LNGO partnerships although UN agencies have partnerships in all of the project budgetary size categories.

### **Length of Partnerships**

between International and Local Partners



### Organisations which have as their primary mandate and core focus the promotion of women's rights\*

Prolonged gender inequalities have strongly impacted the political, social, and economic status of women and girls in Jordan. Women's rights activists and advocates in Jordan have long recognized the necessity of addressing these inequalities through dedicated activities and programs. For this reason, a particularly substantial portion of LNGOs in this analysis have as a core focus the promotion women's rights, including the Co-Chair of the Localisation Task Team, and at HPF representation level.

Individual organizations promote women's rights through different programs: providing legal aid, livelihood support, education and protection from gender based violence, early marriage etc. However local womens' rights organizations often share a particularly thorough knowledge, rooted in local realities of legislation, social and cultural barriers to gender



equality. This is an important element of effectively serving affected populations impacted by overlapping vulnerabilities. Even though there is one dedicated/specialized entity working on gender equality and women's empowerment within UN system, many UN agencies have strong focus on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls that should be acknowledged and further deepened. Further analysis is required to determine the extent to which all UN agencies, INGOs and local NGOs are gender-responsive even if they are not dedicated/specialized women's rights organisations.

 $<sup>\</sup>hbox{$^*$ UN Women Jordan agency assessments as women's rights organization}\\$ 

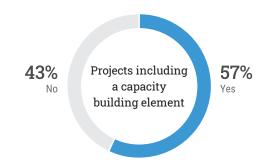
### **Capacity Exchange in Partnerships**

Capacity exchange is two directional. Capacity exchange is not only limited to trainings and can include more informal mentorship, joint advocacy etc. though capacity building trainings, for example on financial oversight, are an equally desirable and core element of many partnerships.

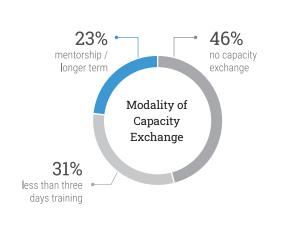
Risk is the most often sited obstacle to localization by international partners, but only one in five partnerships have a more serious capacity building element. International and national partners both identify mentorship, embedment or other longer-type capacity building element, delivered by a native Arabic speaker with the technical expertise, in Arabic, in a mutually identified area, as the most impactful variety.

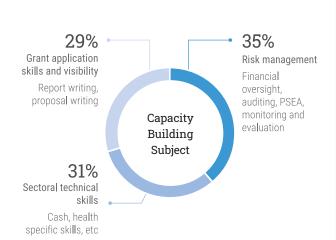
The durability of partnerships suggests an unseized opportunity. The overwhelming majority (4:5) of international-local partnerships are multi-year and 2:5 are long-term (three to 15 years), which should allow sufficient time for joint identification of areas to target for capacity exchange/training and implementation thereof in the modality of preference.

Partners identified both



lack of funding for capacity building budget lines and lack of acquaintance with best practices in delivering capacity building as key impediments to expanding capacity building, rather than a lack of partner interest.





## Models From the Field

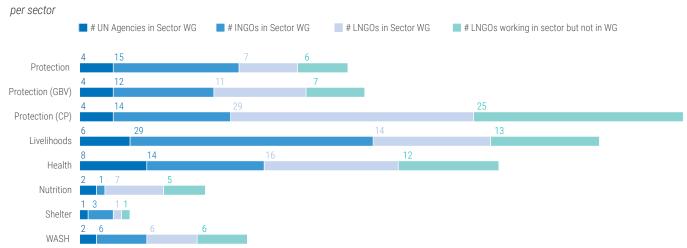
- · GBV Sub-Sector coordination lead agencies have funded sector-specific group capacity building for which all sector partners, international and local, are eligible (in GBV case work), with a follow-up facility of a further six weeks of one-on-one mentoring with individual organizations upon request with the same bilingual trainer, a Jordanian specialist in the field.
- The Jordan River
   Foundation has a
   dedicated center for
   capacity building of its
   own centers as well
   as smaller CBOs with
   which it partners.
- UNICEF has partnered with the local branch of its own international auditor (PWC) from the private sector to hold a multi-month bilateral capacity building in enhancing financial oversight mechanisms for one of its long-term strategic local NGO partners in this mutually identified area of desired focus.
- JIF-JONAF joint high-level advocacy on Brussels V.

### Coordination

LNGOs are numerically well represented in the sectors and sub-sectors working groups (WGs) in Jordan, alongside UN and INGOs. Ever increasing access to meeting translation services, LNGO WG co-chairship, and Area-Based Coordination will continue to make quantitative participation in coordination even more qualitatively meaningful. To note, membership of sectoral working groups in Jordan are limited by definition to agencies working with Syrian refugees, as

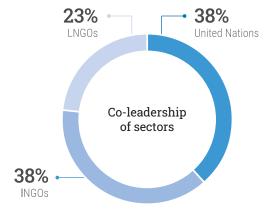
these working groups were established under the Syria Crisis Refugee Response Coordination Mechanism. The number of LNGOs working in the sector but not coordinating in the Working Group is not due to oversight or exclusion related to being local. Rather these LNGOs are working on projects in the sector exclusively with humanitarian caseloads other than Syrian refugees, e.g. Jordanians alone, Palestinian refugees, other non-Syrian refugees or stranded migrants.

### **Refugee Sector Working Group Participation**



Humanitarian sectors globally, by design, have one standing lead, held by the specialized UN agency, while co-leadership is rotating, by election from within the sector membership. Among the sector co-leads local NGOs have strongly stepped up to fill such roles taking three of the 13 sector and sub-sector leadership positions in Jordan just slightly under the five held by UN agencies and five by INGOs respectively.





At the strategic decision making level of humanitarian coordination, four out of six of the Humanitarian Partner Forum's meetings in 2021 included strategic discussions led or co-led by Local NGO representatives.

<sup>1.</sup> UN, INGO total funding in Jordan is taken from FTS/JIF and represents comprehensive complete figures and derived statistics. Regarding mapping of LNGO funding, all 10 UN agencies with humanitarian programs provided complete project level budgetary data on partnerships. In addition data was collected from six bilateral humanitarian donors (DFID, PRM, Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany, ECHO and 14 of 42 JIF INGOs. As such the precise NNGO-INGO partnership data in particular is still preliminary although the trends noted remain accurate (aka even if INGO funding was say 3x that registered, it would still be the smallest contributor to NNGO funding, after bilateral donors).