SYRIAN REFUGEE YOUTH IN JORDAN: EARLY MARRIAGES IN PERSPECTIVE

CONSORTIUM

• PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

• Dr Katarzyna Grabska, Consortium Partners

• Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, the Netherlands

• Caritas Jordan, a large international NGO, and Ahel Al-Jabal, a Jordanian NGO based in Irbid, Mafraq, Zarqa and Amman. Two development organisations working with refugee youth – Caritas Jordan, a large international NGO, and Ahel Al-Jabal, a Jordanian NGO based in Irbid, Mafraq, Zarqa and Amman.

Mafraq – were involved in the project. In addition to interviews, one of the main methods used was research in Irbid, Mafraq, Zarqa and Amman.

The key objectives of PRIN are to:

• Understand the motivations for early marriage among Syrian refugees

• To design and implement an action research project that facilitates shifting the paradigm related to early marriage from a problem to a solution

• To collaboratively develop a community-based action research project that results in a plan for early marriage among Syrian refugees

• To ensure that the project outputs are appropriate for the context and can be implemented within the community

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Many young Syrian men and women in Jordan have carried a double burden as a result of the Syrian War and the refugee crisis which it has created. They are being educated, yet due to malnutrition and frequent disruptions to their education, many fail to complete their schooling. At the same time, they are faced with a dilemma over marriage, as the traditional values held in Jordan may encourage early marriage, while the practical pressure of finding a job becomes harder to meet as refugees. The motivations for early marriage vary widely. Designing a context-specific and well-targeted strategy and understanding these marriages among Syrians. Contexts, conditions and underlying assumptions are key in both the design and implementation of the strategy. Decisions that marry the receivers are not always made in a healthy and responsible manner. Decision-making in marriage is usually not healthy and responsible. In these contexts, the choice to marry is usually made by family and, especially, the bride. The process of marriage is often a matter of child marriage: Young women, marriage and development aid programmes). Participation and collaboration are key considerations and decisions. Social context and economic conditions may impact the decision to marry and who makes the decision. Decision-making in marriage is often a matter of individual choice and can be influenced by social and economic factors. Social context and economic conditions may impact the decision to marry and who makes the decision. Decision-making in marriage is often a matter of individual choice and can be influenced by social and economic factors.

In the development of the project, she led two Participatory Action Research (PAR) groups with married and unmarried Syrian women in Irbid, Mafraq, Zarqa and Amman. Two development organisations working with refugee youth – Caritas Jordan, a large international NGO, and Ahel Al-Jabal, a Jordanian NGO based in Irbid, Mafraq, Zarqa and Amman.

What did you learn from this experience?

2. We learnt that although we weren't using PAR in its typical form, by being flexible and creative we were still able to bring the PAR process to the Syrian refugees. We found that the PAR sessions gave the women psychological and emotional space, which helped them talk about their experiences and feelings. This built trust among the group.

We learnt that there is a difference between what PAR is supposed to be, namely communities and organisations working together on an issue, and what PAR actually works. Donors typically require a detailed set of research questions, and an outline research design. We learnt that there is a difference between what PAR is supposed to be, namely communities and organisations working together on an issue, and what PAR actually works. Donors typically require a detailed set of research questions, and an outline research design. Participatory Action Research (PAR) is a collaborative research process that involves the active participation of a community in a research project. PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

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What did you achieve?

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