

# THE SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS IN JORDAN

Categories: Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)/ NFI-Distribution/ Community Building

## BE A PART OF THE PROJECT: PARTNER WITH JEN AND CONTRIBUTE

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### Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

#### WASH Committee Inspires Community Members to Keep Their Camp Clean

As the population continues to exponentially grow in the Zaatari Syrian refugee camp, increased vigilance in terms of sanitation is necessary to prevent the spread of disease. In order to combat this issue, JEN, in conjunction with UNICEF, continues to assist the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) committees. These committees are comprised of refugees who are representatives of water related-issues in each of their ten blocks of camp. Committee members help their communities keep their WASH facilities clean and help them improve their hygiene consciousness. At the committee meetings, they discuss issues of water and hygiene, activities of each block, and new ideas for the improvement of their environment. While JEN field staff currently chair these committee meetings, it is hoped that the refugee committee members will soon begin to lead the meetings themselves.

It has now been three months since JEN established the first WASH committees. In light of recent looting and vandalism, an ongoing issue has been how to maintain and clean the WASH facilities. As committee members take on more leadership pertaining to WASH, JEN will continue to provide several trainings to members about hygiene education, organization, and finances to increase sustainability and efficiency.

JEN expects the WASH committees' activities will strengthen the community within the camp and motivate refugees to support and actively improve their environments.



*Above: WASH committee meeting.*

### Community Building

#### Spreading Hygiene Awareness through Art

As a part of the WASH campaign, JEN promoted hygiene education in ten schools in Marraq and Irbid where Syrian refugee children attend. JEN trained teachers to give hygiene lessons to students using materials created by JEN. After each lesson, JEN provided students with basic hygiene kits.

Depending on the age level of the students, different methods were used to present the material. For younger children, JEN created a booklet about two children, Sarah and Ahmed, who learn about hygiene issues through engaging games. This booklet was written by the JEN staff not only to present crucial hygiene information but also to introduce fun ways for children to learn good hygiene techniques.

The story about Sarah and Ahmed was so popular with the children that later, when the students played together, they would often imitate Sarah and Ahmed's actions. At one school, students

**COUNTRY: Anman, JORDAN**

even put on a play for the other classes and taught the hygiene lesson they learned earlier.

At the secondary school, students created colorful collages with pieces of paper where they wrote information about diseases (definition, symptoms, methods of transmission, and prophylaxis) inspired from JEN's secondary school hygiene booklet. The resulting colorful collages are now used in school hallways to quickly provide information to those walking by.

Not only did the students benefit from this education effort, but so did their families and communities. One girl said, "My ambition now is to be a model in increasing awareness in water conservation and health care especially in hygiene care in my home and school." We have also heard that children receiving the booklets have shared it with their siblings. In addition, one student said, "I now teach my father and mother to wash their hands."

JEN's hygiene promotions were conducted in schools and targeted school children, but at the same time we expect that the information they learned will spill over into families, who will then help improve their own community's hygiene environment.

This project is being executed thanks to the support of Japan Platform, and all our members and contributors.



***Above: Students using JEN materials to learn a hygiene lesson.***

***Building and Maintaining Self-Reliance***

JEN promotes self-reliance of those people in need. In that light, JEN's programs take a long view and employ mechanisms that maximize the use of people's abilities and the will of humans to live. The experience and expertise of JEN make this possible. (Project Management Policy)

**NFI- Distribution**

**Giving Comfort through Coats**



***Above: Refugees receiving clothing from JEN.***

As temperatures fell in the winter, JEN, in partnership with UNHCR, carried out three winter clothing distributions for 5,242 families in the Zaatari camp. The team worked around the clock to sort out and prepare packages of clothes for each household. Since January 2012, Jordan has become home for more than 300,000 Syrian refugees. Fleeing Syria with what little they could carry, many refugees arrived at the Zaatari camp with only a single pair of clothes.

JEN has prepared and dispatched packages of clothes for around 1,500 new refugee arrivals at the border. As the number of Syrian refugees in Jordan increases, JEN continues to distribute clothes to those who have not yet received any assistance.

JEN would like to thank our partners, including UNIQLO, Felissimo, JICA, and each one of you for supporting our humanitarian mission for the Syrian refugees in Jordan.

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