Context
The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is among the main destinations of more than 4.9 million Syrians, who have fled the protracted conflict in Syria. The kingdom currently hosts more than 660,582 Syrian refugees as of 6 August 2017 according to UNHCR, more than 10% of its pre-crisis population. The influx of refugees has had a tremendous impact on the local economy as well as on livelihoods and has taken a heavy toll on the vulnerable population in the host communities that not only faces the inflation of basic commodities, goods and services, but also is challenged by intense competition in the labour market, particularly after the border closure with Syria and Iraq.

Jordan’s working poor in the Northern and Central Badia, who mainly work in farming and the informal sector with high-density of refugees are amongst the most vulnerable population. It is from this perspective that generating employment and securing job opportunities for low skilled jobseekers, very often women and youth, have been emphasized as one of the highest priorities of the Jordan Resilience Plan (JRP), which seeks to improve the resilience of the vulnerable crisis affected communities.

Strategy
In line with the priorities of the JRP and based on UNIDO’s extended experience and expertise in creating sustainable and inclusive livelihoods for crisis affected rural communities, the project has undertaken the following activities in collaboration and coordination with its government counterpart, the Ministry of Agriculture:

- Value chain assessment to identify three agricultural produces – pomegranate, medicinal herbs, and tomato as to be targeted for further interventions;
- Provision of training on Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) to 500 farmers – mainly from Jordanian host communities at 9 locations in Irbid, Mafraq and Zarqa Governorate;
- Strengthening the branding as part of marketing through the development of unified logo and label in consultation with producer groups;
- Launch of technical skills training on HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point) and organic farming, post-harvest, processing, packaging and labeling to 500 farmers at 10 locations in the same governorates as the EDP training on 6 August 2017;
- Facilitation of establishing collective producer groups;
- Procurement of tools and equipment for the technical training as well as to the producer groups;
- Preparation of 3-day-exhibition (Amman, 7-9 November 2017) to link the products of project beneficiaries with domestic and international buyers.

Outlook
The impact of the Syrian Crisis on local industry and livelihoods in the affected Northern and Central Badia will be mitigated and socio-economic resilience of vulnerable women and youth in the local communities will be strengthened through livelihood support.

At a glance

**Goal:** To mitigate the impact of the Syrian Crisis on local industry and livelihoods in the affected Northern and Central Badia and to improve food security and income generating opportunities of vulnerable population, women and youth in particular, in the local communities through livelihood support.

**SDGs:** Goal 5: Archive gender equality and empower all women and girls; Goal8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all; Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

**Donor:** Government of Japan

**Project counterpart:** Ministry of Agriculture

**Budget:** USD 1.89 million

**Duration:** April 2016 to December 2017