



Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation

10th Meeting of the Jordan Response Platform for the Syria Crisis
Remarks of H.E. Prime Minister, Dr. Hani Al-Mulki

1 February 2018

***Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,***

It gives me great pleasure to address you all today and I am pleased to be joined by representatives of the international community as we present the new Jordan Response Plan for 2018-2020. Your partnership and support in shouldering the impact of the Syria crisis on Jordan are invaluable and has helped Jordan in staying resilient in a very difficult regional setting.

The situation in Syria and the unprecedented refugee crisis have been globally recognized as the worst humanitarian disaster the world has faced since the Second World War, posing an increasing threat to global security, development and economic growth.

Seven years into the Syrian crisis, the prospects of an impending return to Syria for the four million displaced around the globe are still remote. Even if a peaceful solution materializes, it will take years to rebuild Syria and for Syrians to resettle. This means that Jordan will have to continue bearing the mounting costs of the crisis and facing the ever-increasing challenges to the social and economic fabric of the country for 2018 and beyond.

We are in the throes of a humanitarian and developmental crisis of global proportions wherein the fates of refugees and the countries that host them are fundamentally intertwined. A safe and dignified future for Syrian refugees tomorrow requires that proportionate investment in the resilience of host countries today.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Jordan remains committed to uphold its moral obligations especially towards Syrian refugees and in carrying more than its fair share of the response. Jordan has been pioneering a resilience-based approach as outlined in our rolling

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response plans that we jointly developed and in adopting a paradigm shift in dealing with Syrian refugees by turning the refugees challenge into an economic opportunity as proposed in the Jordan Compact.

The Jordan Response Plan 2018–2020 is a call for a further collective action to respond to the crisis. It represents a further step towards a comprehensive response that effectively links short-term coping solutions with longer-term initiatives aimed at strengthening local and national resilience capacities.

Moving forward, Jordan has reached its maximum carrying capacity with no fiscal space remaining under the new IMF program nor in terms of resources, existing physical and social infrastructure or government services whereby without the continued support of our key partners this will negatively impact our overstretched ability to continue providing basic services to Syrians whilst maintaining service levels without adversely affecting Jordanian citizens or risking our hard earned development gains.

It is critical to invest successfully in full coordinated partnership and with sufficient resources in the Jordan model in order to strengthen our capacity and resilience, at the national and community level. I count on your strong cooperation and support to make the JRP a successful planning and implementation tool.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to conclude by reiterating our appreciation to your continued efforts and support. Our fiscal situation remains very challenging. And while I was pleased to learn that funding for the JRP in 2017 was well over 65 percent, I still call on your increased support to the Jordan Response Plan in 2018. Together we must invest in Jordan’s priorities in order to help the Government provide for those who sought refuge within our borders without undermining the needs of our citizens and our development gains. This is also critical for Jordan’s stability, security and resilience.

Thank you...