

# Early Childhood Education for Jordanian and Syrian Children in Jordan – ECE (HEROES)

## Project Overview

The project supports the Ministry of Education (MoE) to increase access to quality early childhood education (ECE) for all children in Jordan. Financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the project aims to create additional capacities for kindergarten spaces, with a focus on reaching children from vulnerable families, displaced children, and children with disabilities. Through its measures, the Heroes project will directly contribute to the national implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially in terms of access to quality early childhood development, childcare, and pre-primary education (SDG 4.2) and gender equality (SDG 5).

## The Jordanian Context

Jordan has made access to early years education for all children a priority in its Education Strategic Plan (2018-2022) and the National Strategy for Human Resource Development (2016-2025). The initial aim is to universalize access to the final kindergarten year before entry into primary school, also called Kindergarten 2 (KG2). To achieve universal access to early childhood education, the Jordanian government aims to create over 2,000 new public and private-sector kindergarten groups by 2025. This means 315 new classrooms are needed per year up to 2025. GIZ supports the Jordanian Ministry of Education to meet its ambitious goals of making kindergarten accessible to all children in Jordan through two main activities: First, through increasing the capacities of public schools by rehabilitating and furnishing unused spaces. Second, through working with private, non-profit providers to increase the sustainability and affordability of early childhood education in the private sector.

## Target Group

The project is targeting children between the ages of four and six in Jordan, their families, and the institutions that serve them. Given the low enrolment of Syrian refugees (according to the

Education Sector Plan, in 2015/16 only 8.8% of Syrians accessed ECE compared to 79.5% of Jordanians), the project will initially focus on refugee-hosting areas. Many of these areas – notably Amman, Irbid, Mafraq and Zarqa – have seen a large increase in their populations over the past years, accompanied with a rising demand for education at all levels. Through its interventions, GIZ will support both host communities and displaced families in accessing quality early childhood education.

Project name	Early Childhood Education for Jordanian and Syrian Children in Jordan – ECE (Heroes)
Commissioned by	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	Amman, Irbid, Balqa, Mafraq and Zarqa
Lead executing agency	Ministry of Education
Duration	10/2019-03/2025

## Activities

- Laying the foundations for creating new kindergarten places at public schools.** The project supports the Jordanian MoE to provide 900 additional places for children aged 5-6 years through rehabilitation measures at existing schools. The measures will create barrier-free, child-friendly kindergarten rooms and outdoor play spaces. Moreover, the project will support schools to convert unused facilities to child-friendly kindergarten rooms through the provision of furniture and learning materials. These measures will benefit over 3,000 kindergarten students.



*L. to r.: Children and families participating in "Design your School" activity as part of the 60-years event; Students at Al-Qasieh School in Irbid participating in cleaning day.*

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2. **Establishing conditions that are more conducive to a lasting increase in the number of places available at private, non-profit kindergartens.** To increase the number of places in kindergartens in line with the current demand and achieve full enrolment by 2021, it is further necessary to engage with private sector providers. HEROES will therefore work with existing kindergartens to help them expand their places and add an additional 1.200 places at nonprofit schools. The project will focus primarily on community-based organizations and community centers that have the potential to serve children from displaced families, whose access to the public kindergarten system remains limited.
3. **Supporting students from disadvantaged backgrounds.** The project team will support children with limited access to public schooling with **accelerated learning programmes**, in partnership with the Ministry of Education (Readiness Programme), with a focus on refugee children. The HEROES team will also support **50 children with disabilities and their families to access the public school system.**

#### Heroes Jordan – Outlook for 2021

- Support the Ministry of Education in expanding access and responding to learning losses through the Readiness Programme.
- Advise the MoE on play-based learning and inclusive education.
- Support the MoE in establishing a child-friendly learning environment in public schools through opening additional classrooms for KG2.
- Partner with non-profit schools and collaborate to expand their current learning spaces at KG1 and KG2 levels
- Support non-profit institutions to meet quality standards and requirements set by the Ministry of Education



*Today 's kindergarteners are tomorrow's Heroes. Investing in their education is an investment in our future.*

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