

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF SYRIAN REFUGEES AND VULNERABLE JORDANIANS IN THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

The AFD-funded Grow Economy project, led by a consortium of actors including Acted, Action Against Hunger (ACF), Terre des hommes (TDH), Phenix Centre for Sustainable Development, ECO Consult, The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN), and National Agricultural Research Center (NARC) aims to promote sustainable and inclusive economic opportunities for Syrian refugees and vulnerable Jordanians in the agriculture sector. Over a period of three years (May 2023 to April 2026), the project targets vulnerable small farmers and agricultural laborers in Ajloun, Irbid, Madaba, and Balqa Governorates, aiming to improve their livelihoods and working conditions while promoting gender inclusion and child protection.

BASELINE ASSESSMENT OF LABOURERS ROUND I

Under **Specific Objective 2**, the **GrowEconomy** Consortium aims to improve employability and access to year-round income of **1,500 agricultural labourers**. More specifically the Consortium will select **710** out of the 1,500 targeted labourers to provide them with a **business development training** as well as support to develop business plans. This baseline factsheet focuses on the first round of labourers. In this round, both Acted and ACF each selected 150 farmers, bringing the total to 300. In a later stage, the second and third round will follow a similar process, with both Acted and ACF selecting an additional 205 labourers each, ultimately reaching the target of 710 labourers for the project.

Baseline data was gathered on household income, employment situation, access to resources, and vulnerability indicators. This data will serve as a reference to measure the project's progress and impact, helping to track changes over time and assess the effectiveness of interventions.

The quantitative baseline survey utilized a mixed approach of phone calls and field visits. Sampling was designed at a 95% confidence level with a 5% margin of error, resulting in an initial **sample size of 169 farmers** from a total pool of 300 farmers in the first round. The final sample size slightly increased to two groups of 87 respondents each, randomly selected from two larger pools of 150 small farmers identified by Acted and ACF. This approach ensured representative data for both groups.

Round	Sampling frame	CI	MoE	Planned Sample size overall	Planned Sample size per round	Actual Sample round 1 Acted	Actual Sample round 1 ACF
1 of 3	300	95%	5%	338	169	87	87



In the sample, 29% of respondents are from Ajloun, 21% are from Balqa and 50% from Irbid.



Of the 174 labourers surveyed, 44% were men, 56% women, 51% Jordanian and 49% Syrian.



The average labourer household consists of 6 members, 2 being the smallest and 15 being the largest in the dataset.



Among the 174 households analysed, 74% are run by men and 26% have women as head of the household.

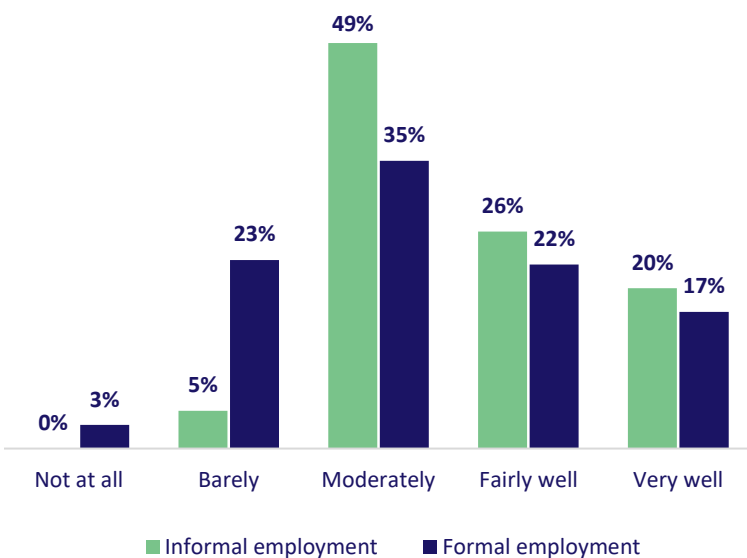
CURRENT WORKING SITUATION

Regarding their current employment as agricultural labourers, the majority of respondents (63%) work as **daily wage workers**, **34% are employed seasonally**, and **only 2% have permanent formal or informal agreements for their labour**.

In terms of experience, over one-third (36%) are relatively new to the field, with 1 to 5 years of experience. Meanwhile, 28% have 6 to 10 years of experience, 29% have worked between 10 and 20 years, and 7% have been labourers for more than 20 years.



Suitability of Current Skills for Agricultural Employment



EMPLOYABILITY

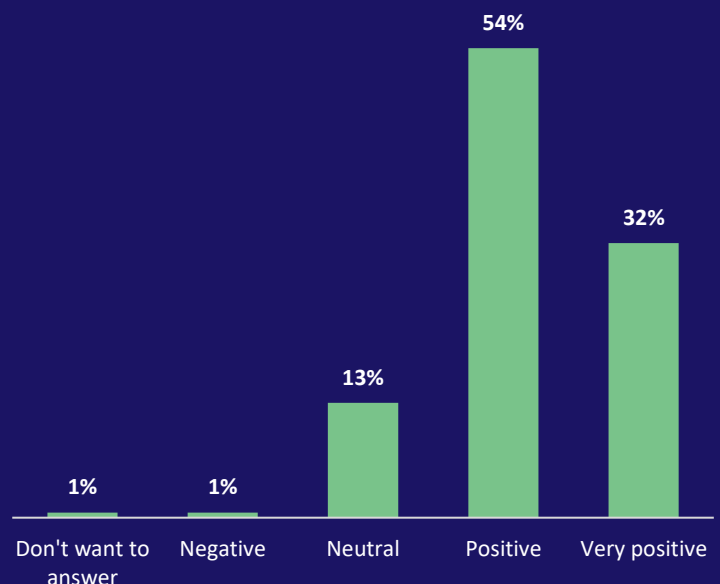
When asked about their ability to maintain employment in the agricultural sector, 45% reported moderate confidence, 34% felt highly confident, 13% were very confident, while 8% expressed low or very low confidence.

Regarding their ability to secure formal or informal agricultural employment with their current skills, respondents appeared **more confident about finding informal opportunities**. 26% believed their skills were not or barely suitable for formal employment, compared to 5% who felt the same about informal employment. However, this raises the question of whether these responses reflect a general trend in the sector, where most labor opportunities are informal, rather than a genuine lack of skills for formal employment.

SOCIAL COHESION

When asked about their relations and interactions with individuals from other nationalities, the **majority of the selected labourers (51%) reported having daily interactions with Jordanians or Syrians**, while 18% noted weekly interactions, 16% monthly, and 4% less than monthly. However, 11% of respondents stated that they never interact with people from other nationalities. Regarding their perception of these interactions, the **responses were mostly positive**. A significant majority (86%) described their interactions as either positive or very positive, while 11% viewed them as neutral. Only 1% of the labourers expressed negative perceptions of their interactions, and another 1% chose not to answer.

Perception of the Interactions Jordanians/Syrians



Monthly Income per Household Member



MONTHLY INCOME

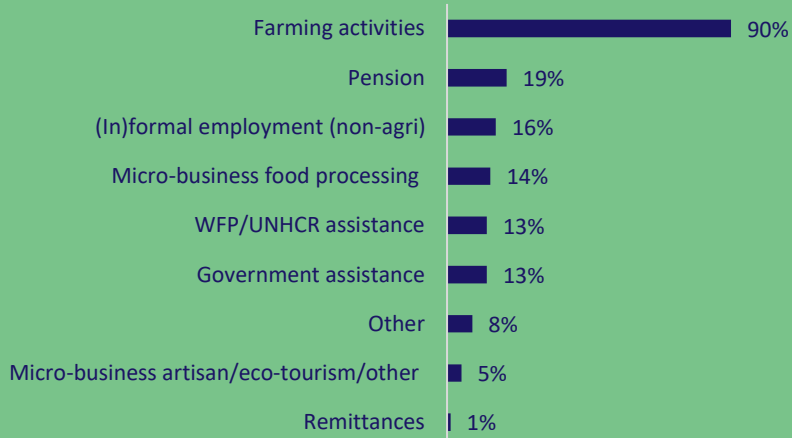
The average monthly household income stands at **259 JOD**, translating to approximately **45 JOD per family member**. When broken down, the monthly income per family member falls into the following categories: 26% of respondents earn 25 JOD or less, 48% earn between 26-50 JOD, 22% earn between 51-100 JOD, and only 4% earn more than 100 JOD. This data highlights that **86% of the respondents are living below the poverty line**, while just 14% manage to live above it.

SOURCES OF HH INCOME AND DEBTS

The primary sources of Household income reported by respondents include farming activities or employment (90%), pensions (19%), formal or informal employment in no agricultural sectors, and micro-businesses in the food processing field.

A significant financial challenge is evident, as **97%** of labourers reported having **no savings**, and **99%** stated having **debts**. On average, respondents carry a total debt of 3,327 JOD, with 2,004 JOD attributed to asset-related expenses and 1,324 JOD to essential needs.

Main Reported Sources of Income



ESSENTIAL NEEDS

When asked how they manage to meet their household's essential needs with their income, the majority of respondents reported that they either **barely meet their essential needs (48%)** or **cover about half of them (42%)**. This aligns with earlier findings on debt, as 95% of respondents stated that their debts are directly related to essential needs. Furthermore, financial burden remains significant, with **44%** of respondents reporting a **high financial burden** over the past 30 days, **27%** indicating a **moderate burden**, 24% experiencing a very high burden, and only 2% reporting a low burden.

The baseline assessment reveals that agricultural labourers in Jordan, both Syrians and Jordanians, face significant challenges related to income generation. As a consequence, they undergo high financial burden and struggle to meet their essential needs. With many living under the poverty line and heavily reliant on agriculture, the GrowEconomy project is well-positioned to address these issues by providing them with trainings and support to improving their employability and to diversify their income sources.