

## 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. The project targets vulnerable small farmers and agricultural laborers in Ajlun, Irbid, Madaba, and Balqa governorates, aiming to improve their livelihoods and working conditions while promoting gender inclusion.

### SMALL FARMERS PROFILE IN MADABA GOVERNORATE



Madaba Governorate is located 35km south of Amman. The area is characterized by its agricultural activity of fruits and olive with suitable climatic conditions and fertile soil. The Governorate hosts 12,645 Syrian Refugees (UNHCR Data Centre), with a total population of 189,192 inhabitants.



76 small farmer households were selected  
(1 Jordanian, 75 Syrian, 10 Females, 66 males)



Acted surveyed a total of 196 small farmers (35 Jordanians, 161 Syrians, those being 172 males, 24 females)



75 of the selected small farmers use green house as the main farming method.



From the selected farmers, strawberry is the main cultivated crop (90%), followed by cucumber (10%)

Ali, a Syrian refugee and member of a family of six, has been living in Jordan for the past 11 years. Starting as an agricultural laborer on farms owned by Pakistani farmers, Ali worked his way up to becoming a partner in these farms. In the last three years, he made a significant leap to becoming the landlord of a small strawberry farm in the Manja village, situated on the border between South Amman and Madaba. This transformation from laborer to landlord showcases Ali's resilience, determination, and entrepreneurial drive as he navigates the challenges of being a refugee and establishing a new life in Jordan. His accomplishments are particularly commendable considering his responsibilities as a father, demonstrating his ability to provide for his family and create a more secure and prosperous future for them in their new environment.

*"I wish I would have more money to replace all soil planted with cocopeat, and increase my strawberry production" – Ali, May 2024*



Building a new life in Jordan, Khaled, a 37-year-old Syrian refugee and father of six, has overcome many obstacles. Arriving 12 years ago, he began as a daily farm laborer but through hard work he became a partner in the Pakistani farms. In a remarkable leap forward, Ali has spent the last six years establishing his small farm in Manja village on the border between South Amman and Madaba. Khaled's journey reflects the challenges faced by many Syrian refugees in Jordan's agricultural sector, caused by climate change, water scarcity, and a complex market system create difficulties. However, Khaled, like others, is finding innovative solutions with the limited resources they have.



He implemented protected agriculture techniques (greenhouses) to conserve water, boost strawberry yields, and improve overall quality. Khaled is looking for ways to improve its techniques for improved production, in particular change to cocopeat, a popular method in the area. One key obstacle faced by Khaled, and many small farmers is getting produce to market efficiently and accessing better markets to maximize income.

*"Transporting the strawberries with a sedan car is insufficient, it is costly and not practical, I and my neighbors wish to solve this challenge" – Khaled, May 2024*

\*Beneficiaries' names have been changed to protect their identity.