



UNICEF Jordan's Makani programme: supporting students, building resilience

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Introduction

UNICEF Jordan's Makani programme has evolved considerably since it was launched in 2015. It was initially designed to provide informal education and child protection services to Syrian refugees fleeing war in their country. Today, it provides a wide array of age-tailored services for vulnerable Jordanian, Palestinian¹, Syrian and Dom (a marginalised ethnic minority group) children, adolescents and youth living in host communities, formal refugee camps and informal tented settlements (see Box 1). During the 2021–2022 school year, UNICEF piloted a conditional cash transfer for adolescents aged 13–18, of 65 Jordanian dinars (JOD) a month (~\$92), on condition that they attend both school and Makani programming regularly². This brief, which draws on mixed-methods baseline research conducted with adolescents and their parents in early 2022, explores the early roll-out of this cash transfer and the broader adolescent empowerment programming that it complements. Future research rounds (in late 2022 and in 2024) will assess the medium- and longer-term impacts of the cash transfers on adolescent well-being.

1 The Makani programme and the broader GAGE research sample include adolescents from Palestine refugee communities, but this particular study does not due to the sample's geographical focus.

2 To put this amount in context, the minimum wage in Jordan for 2022 was 245 JOD per month (Mustafa, 2022).
<https://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/minimum-wage-increase-deferred-due-covid-crisis-%E2%80%94-labour-ministry>.