

# ISHRAK PROJECT



## CONTEXT

- 79,305** Syrians reside in Za'atari refugee camp
- 36.5%** Of them are children (14,830 males and 14,116 females)
- 42,681** Syrians reside in Azraq refugee camp
- 40.7%** of them are children (8,920 males and 8,408 females)

## IMPACT

### Children participated in structured activities:

924 (697 in Zaatari, 227 in Azraq) 424 males and 500 females  
*1,160 children participate in structured activities - target*

### Caregivers participated in structured activities:

1103 (687 in Zaatari, 416 in Azraq) 451 Males and 652 Females  
*1,000 caregivers in structured activities - target*

### Children benefited from the open spaces (recreational):

12,000 (250 on average each month for 24 months 2018 and 2019)  
*15,000+ children benefit from the open spaces - target*

### Youth participated in educational courses:

139 (74 males and 65 females) all of them from Zaatari camp  
*200 youth in educational courses - target*

## CONTEXT

In Za'atari and Azraq Camps, refugee households are experiencing severe restrictions in movements, shortages in essential goods and services, a spike in unemployment, which has led to a recent increase in child labor and a twin pandemic of psychological distress and domestic violence as a direct result to COVID-19 situation. A recent protection survey report revealed that 82% of female respondents reported declined psychosocial wellbeing as a result of the pandemic.

## PROGRAM BRIEF

Mercy Corps' long standing ISHRAK (إشراك) meaning 'engagement', is a family strengthening project that provides psychosocial support to fortify bonds between family members in stressful situations. Within the ISHRAK program, there are three integrated pillars: (1) Empowering Individuals; (2) Family Integration; and (3) Community Support. It is designed to address the interlinked problems of toxic stress, domestic and gender based violence, and the lack of agency enjoyed by women and girls. Within this iteration of this program, ISHRAK partners with refugee girls and caregivers to promote behavior change strategies that reaffirm gender equality, norms change, and girls' empowerment.

## INTERVENTIONS

### EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS



ISHRAK supports the physical, emotional, and social wellbeing of individuals through a wide variety of activities. These include a safe space to play, cultural heritage lessons, art, filmmaking, and parenting programs. These programs are designed to spark creativity; build confidence, skills, and positive relationships between children and older family members, and ensure young Syrian refugees have a connection to their homeland that is a source of pride and strength. Furthermore, ISHRAK program serves in providing sexual and reproductive health (SRH) awareness raising, gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and mitigation for adolescent girls.

## LOCATION



**Mafraq  
(Zaatari Camp)**

**Zarqa  
(Azraq Camp)**

## DONOR

**Source of Hope: budget 1, 453, 404**

\$\$ | start date January 2018- end date  
July 2021

**O'Neil Foundation: budget 85, 000**

\$\$ | start date January 2018 - end date  
December 2019

**ING Foundation: budget 260, 000**

\$\$ | start date January 2018 - end  
date December 2019

**Taipei Economic and Cultural  
Office in Jordan**

Budget \$\$ 295,000 | start date:  
August 2020 - end date July 2021

**Trip Advisor: budget 400, 000 \$\$**

| start date August 2018 - end date  
July 2021

**LDSC: budget 66, 800 \$\$ | start date**

August 2018 - end date August 2018

**BPRM: budget 800, 000 \$\$ | start date**

September 2020 - end date September 2021

## FAMILY INTEGRATION



To ensure that the skills learned by individuals are transferred to the rest of the family, ISHRAK trains parents and caregivers on psychosocial theories and activities related to child development so they can facilitate activities in their own homes and family spaces. The aim of this approach is to empower caregivers, strengthen relationships and support the wellbeing of the whole family.

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT



Graduates from the individual and family focused programs form peer support groups and lead activities for the wider community. This increases the reach and ensures skills and knowledge formed at the individual and household levels are being transferred to the wider community. By leading and facilitating different activities, members of the peer support groups can increase their own confidence and strengthen their understanding about child protection issues. This can lead to strengthened social networks, improved wellbeing and new pathways for skill-building.

In addition, in order to strengthen girls and families' connection to the full range of camp services, ISHRAK activates a referral system through strong referral pathways to GBV case management, health services, and other offerings from partners throughout Za'atari and Azraq Camps.