

EVENT REPORT

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V.

JORDAN OFFICE

FEBRUARY 2017

DR MANUEL SCHUBERT

IMKE HAASE

BARBARA SABITZER

www.kas.de/amman

This event was hosted by:



T20 Task Force on Forced Migration (TFFM)

“Their Future is Now – Education, Skills Development and Labour Market Integration for Youth Affected by Forced Migration”

Amman, Jordan, 14 – 16 February 2017

Leading up to this year's G20 Hamburg Summit, Task Force on Forced Migration (TFFM) meetings have been held in Berlin and Amman. They seek to develop evidence-based policy advice and solutions for the current refugee situation, especially in terms of robust funding, distribution, education, and labour market integration. Following the framework of other TFFM, an Outreach Event was hosted in Amman (Jordan) from the 14th to the 16th of February 2017. Representatives from both the Jordan and Syria/Iraq offices of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung participated in this session.

Goals of the TFFM

In addition to the central topics of economy and finance, climate change and development, the German G20 Presidency explicitly highlights displacement and migration as one of its focus areas. In order to achieve the best possible results, the insight of political consultancies will be included in the “T(hink)20” process. Think20 (T20) is a network of research institutes and think tanks from the G20 countries, co-chaired by the Kiel Institute for the World Economy (IfW) and the German Development Institute (DIE). The T20 provides research-based policy advice to the G20, facilitates interaction among its members and the policy community, and communicates with the broader public about issues of global importance. The Task Force on Forced Migration (TFFM) is one of the nine official Task Forces of the T20, and aims at stimulating debate and providing innovative, dispassionate and evidence-based policy options on how to empower migrants and meet their basic needs globally.

The TFFM Outreach Event from 14th to 16th of February 2017 in Amman, Jordan, specified their efforts towards refugee youth aged 12-25. The event was hosted by the Economic Policy Forum, which is part of Emerging Market Sustainability Dialogues, implemented by GIZ. TFFM is co-chaired by Güven Sak (TEPAV), Matthias Lücke (IfW), and Astrid Skala-Kuhmann (GIZ). The 41 participants were mainly representatives of research institutes and think tanks.

Content & Conclusion of the TFFM Outreach Event

The resilience and socioeconomic development of the respective countries of first asylum, as well as reconstruction after refugee repatriation into their countries of origin, are based on education and labour market integration.

There are currently over 65 million displaced individuals. Their respective first asylum countries, such as Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon, are currently showing the opposite symptoms of resilience and healthy socioeconomic development. The

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host countries suffer from partly drastic funding gaps, substantial capacity shortages in first aid, infrastructure, teaching and assistance personnel, and have systematic barriers to formal education and the labour market.

This deviation is caused by an insufficient economic performance and a lack of crisis resistance in the national economies. The regional conflicts heavily affected sales and tax losses in the business, tourism and logistics sectors. Additionally, the raised military and security expenditures have further burdened the national budgets. The consequences have been an increase in poverty, inequality, and youth unemployment. Current national projects that seek to solve these problems have therefore focused primarily on education and employment of nationals. This national focus has understandably led to a significant lack of incentives to educate and integrate refugees in the respective first asylum countries. Although there have been some reforms regarding this issue, the pilot projects in the host countries have yet to live up to expectations.

Despite the issues regarding incentives and implementation, it is important to recognize that first host countries carry the main burden of displacement and forced migration. The initial host countries act as natural buffers and crucially absorbing, “sponge” societies, thereby reducing the impact in the “second”-host countries. Should the first host countries be unable to carry the economic and social weight, it would have a significant destabilizing effect on larger, neighbouring regions, as well as the potential for serious global consequences. The TFFM's core question is therefore the following: How can a global burden sharing system stabilize, regulate, and sustainably improve the economic situation of the first asylum countries? The focus of this question is the present asym-

metry of burdens carried by countries of first asylum and the following host countries. The goal would be for the latter to voluntarily take up a portion of the burden, without increasing the pull effects of displacement and migration. The main obstacle to date has been the heterogeneous and particular interests of the various nation states. A global solution is therefore impeded by a lack of a global asylum, labour and education policy for migrants; incompatible registration and surveillance structures; financing gaps due to the specificity of projects; and inefficient coordination mechanisms between governments and humanitarian organizations. The participants of the TFFM Outreach Event¹ strongly advise the G20 to garner binding commitments to an institutional financing and distribution mechanism.

¹ The final TFFM Policy Briefs can be downloaded here: http://www.g20-insights.org/policy_area/forced-migration/