Dear Zontians and friends,

These days, Zonta members all over the world are celebrating Zonta's Centennial Anniversary. For 100 years, Zonta has supported and encouraged countless women and girls and, through effective projects, addressed human rights violations and a wide range of challenges that women are facing.

One big challenge is the impact of migration, especially when caused by conflicts and crises. Today, about 70 million people have been forcibly displaced, nearly half of them women. The civil war in Syria caused an estimated 1.4 million citizens to seek refuge in neighboring Jordan, making this country the one with the second highest share of refugees per capita in the world.

In Zonta's centennial biennium, we are partnering with UN Women to support women in this vulnerable region through the Eid bi Eid (hand in hand) project. The aim is to give them access to paid work along with empowering them through services that range from childcare to legal advice.

Together with three Zonta members from three countries I met with the UN Women team in Amman, with civil society agents and Syrian and Jordanian beneficiaries of our project. We saw that providing transportation was crucial to get them to the centers and their workplaces. Overall, and were deeply impressed by the difference this initiative makes to the women and how it contributes to build their resilience in this difficult situation.

Thank you for your support!

Cordially,

Dr. Susanne von Bassewitz, President

## Field Notes – Building Resilience of Women in Jordan

Since 2011, more than 700,000 Syrian refugees, of which 49 percent are women, have been registered in Jordan. With almost nothing left from their previous lives, they take on new responsibilities in an environment with unfamiliar challenges.

- As a means of empowerment, UN Women and the Jordanian Ministry of Development, in partnership with Zonta International, has created training and cash for work opportunities for women in the

camps, and also for refugee and Jordanian women in eight communities outside the camps. IN the hours the women spend at the centers, their small children can play and enjoy educational activities.
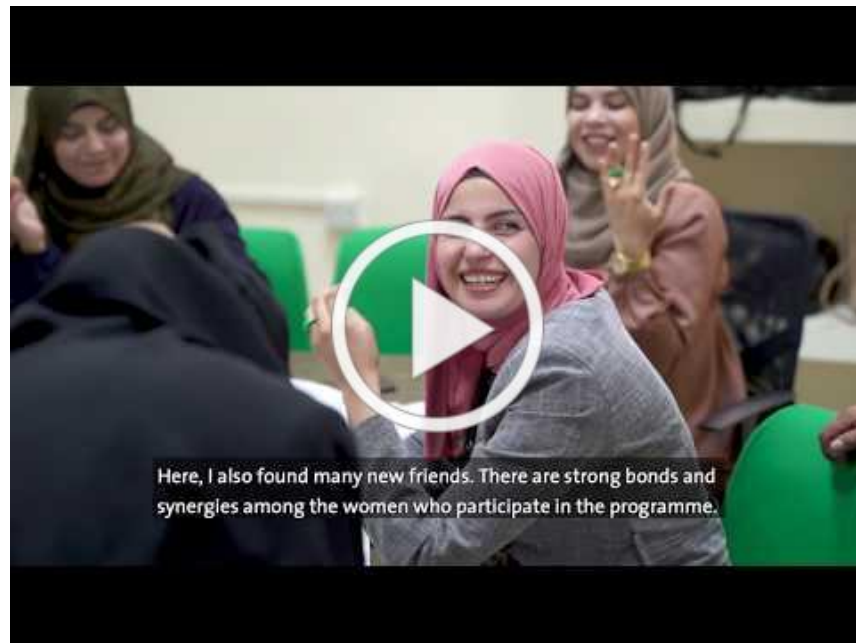
Ahlam Nesheweye, a 40-year-old tailor, shared her feelings about the stages of rebuilding she went through during her time at the Oasis center.

"When I became a widow, I felt like my life shattered around me," she said. "Not only did I lose my husband, but my strength and soul for life. I found work at the Oasis during this desperate time and it is here that I have begun to restore my life. I have found a sense of purpose by providing for my children on my own and ensuring a better future for them and myself."

**—— Click to Read More ——**

To learn more about the centers and the training provided, please watch the video below.



Here, I also found many new friends. There are strong bonds and synergies among the women who participate in the programme.

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## The Journey Toward Resilience

Marta Garbarino, partnership and advocacy analyst, UN Women Jordan, has witnessed the personal journeys of the women of the camps.

*"To me, resilience is a shift. It is both aspects of their capacity to cope with this new responsibility and the willingness to support the family, to have a better future for their children," she said. "But it is also, this very personal journey of healing and realizing that you have to find the strength to move ahead with your life, and that sometimes takes many years and many different stages."*

*"Before joining the Oasis Center, I did not know what my rights were as a woman. Now I feel empowered to make my own decisions to better my life without fear."*

- Nabila Turki AlHariri, 54, handicraft supervisor



*"Despite achieving high grades at university, I was unable to find work. But now I believe I can start my own business through the technical skills I gained at the Oasis Center."*

- Rema Fayez Albtoush, 28-year-old home-maintenance trainee

## Did You Know?

- Jordan's current population is 9.95 million (World Bank DataBank).
- 700,000 Syrian refugees are registered in Jordan.
- Thirty percent of the women in the Za'atari camp live as single mothers.
- 4,600 baby kits were produced for the newborns in the camps by tailors trained from the project.
- An average of 679 children benefited per month from childcare services.



To learn more about Zonta's efforts to empower Syrian refugee and Jordanian women in partnership with UN Women, please visit our website.

**Read more**

## Your Support Makes a Difference

- **60 Jordanian Dinar (US$85)** a month can provide a vulnerable woman with access to transportation to her workplace.
- **120 Jordanian Dinar (US$170)** can support a survivor of gender-based violence to access protection services for one month.
- **200 Jordanian Dinar (US$285)** can provide a woman with three months of vocational training to learn new job skills.



To support projects please click the button below.

**Donate**

# Thank you!

Thank you to all who gave for our centennial anniversary giving event. Your gift empowers women and girls.

## You were part of something special

**US$135,250** raised

All **32** districts/region participated

**814** gifts from **742** donors

**123** first-time donors

## Together, we reached our goal

US$135,250

Zonta International Strategies to end Violence Against Women Fund
$67,230    49.7%

Endowment Fund
$54,375    40.2%

Other Funds
$13,645    10.1%

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# Zonta at CSW64: Be at the center of change

SAVE THE DATE
CSW64 ZONTA INTERNATIONAL
9-20 MARCH 2020

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**Main focus:**
Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly including assessment of:

- current challenges that affect the implementation of the Platform for Action.
- achievement of gender equality.
- empowerment of women and its contribution toward the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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