

Abstract

This thesis aims to look at the inclusion of the Syrian refugees in the Jordanian labour market. By using a theory of planned behaviour as a framework combined with other development theories, the thesis defines three research questions: What are the livelihood strategies of the Syrian refugees? What are the intentions of the Syrian refugees to obtain a work permit? And what are the obstacles the Syrian refugees face in the Jordanian labour market? After addressing these questions, the thesis looks at the main project of the Jordanian and international cooperation, for including the Syrian refugees into the labour market (“The Jordan Compact”) and examines it through three chosen development approaches that focus on the individual development through different objectives: The Basic Needs Approach, Human-Rights Based Approach, and the Capabilities Approach. The data has been collected through a qualitative research conducted in Jordan in August 2019 and in February 2020. Through 18 interviews with the Syrian refugees and five additional interviews with the local researchers, and UNHCR and ministry workers. The results show that the Syrian refugees asked in the interviews showed a small intention to obtain a work permit and preferred one of the other livelihood strategies, especially staying in the informal sector. The obstacles the Syrian refugees face in the labour market were collected and divided into topical categories.

Key words: refugees, refugee crisis, Jordan, development theories, inclusion