

*The Conditional Cash for Education program* is a protection program which aims at eliminating child labor, and early & enforced child marriage. The program targets out-of-school children and children at risk of dropping out, girls at risk of early and forced marriage, and returns them to school.

The Conditional Cash for Education program helps to support identified “at-risk” households, and encourage them to keep their children in school with the avoidance of engaging them in (forced) child labor, early marriage, enforced marriage and any other anticipated protection situation that may result from the displacement situation or lack of services. The program is implemented in close collaboration with families and parents, key community leaders and CARE’s community committee members, Civil Society local partners and the Ministry of Education. The program consists of a well-structured set of program stages; starting from the needs assessment stage, providing essential information, the case management, psychosocial program and delivering the monthly cash assistance (\$100/month for 10 months/ household). Monthly payments are made via an ATM card, or exchange bureau vouchers, to support the families as the child returns to school. The monitoring system is built in a robust way to ensure that children’s parents support their children, and that children are able to perform well at school and cope positively within the education system. Not only attendance of children is closely monitored, but also their achievements and grades at school. In addition, CARE’s team conducts regular home visits, school visits and individual interviews are held with children, their teachers and parents/guardians.

*>> The key goal of the Conditional Cash for Education program is to address the critical needs for children to return to school, fulfill their right to education and attain its long-term benefits, while helping their extremely vulnerable families meet their urgent financial needs.*



Ghozlan

*Ghozlan, 11, is one of the children who benefited from the conditional cash program. She had dropped out of school in order to provide for her family by working in a hair salon, where she was paid an amount of one Jordanian Dinar per day (\$1.4 USD). CARE Jordan helped Ghazlan to return to school, and paid her family 70 Jordanian Dinars (\$100 USD) per month with the condition that she remains in school. Her attendance and grades are still being monitored by CARE staff members to ensure that she and her family are continuing to benefit from and remain eligible for the assistance.*

Families eligible for conditional cash assistance are also referred to other types of services within CARE, such as resilience and livelihood programs, psychosocial programs, and regular cash assistance programs. This is to help beneficiaries focus more on other positive coping mechanisms, allowing them the opportunity to receive more assistance, such as development of income-generating activities based at home. In addition, the parents/



guardians of conditional cash beneficiaries attend psychosocial sessions on children's rights including education, and the harms of child labor and early marriage. All of these interventions are designed to ensure that families receiving conditional cash for education become more resilient.

CARE ensures sustainability and lasting impact, through a close and meaningful partnership with local partners who work closely with CARE's staff. In addition, CARE has designed awareness-raising campaigns, mass information campaigns and different community events to focus on the importance of education and on the negative implications of early marriage and child labor. Furthermore; CARE activates the role of the community committee members and community leaders to participate in conveying the messages about the importance of sending children to school. The psychosocial activities "focusing on protecting girls from early & enforced marriage, and child labor, and boys from child labor", are held during the whole scholastic year and during school summer breaks.



Riham

*Riham, a Syrian refugee living with her family in Jordan was just 13 years old, and due to the dire economic situation they faced, her parents were about to marry her off so that they would have one less mouth to feed. CARE learned about her story, and was able to enroll her in the conditional cash for education program, so she delayed marriage, and stayed in school. Her family now receives \$100/month during the school year to meet their needs, and Riham is now an activist against early marriage at school.*

Among the 655K Syrian refugees living in Jordan, 85% are living in urban areas (outside of camps), and have to fend for themselves and compete for increasingly limited resources. 4 out of 5 refugee families are living below the poverty line. Their main needs are rent, food, health and education, and people are struggling to make ends meet. Early marriage, while it is not preferred by most families, is perceived as one last resort way to reduce the economic burden on the family. We have seen rates of Syrian girls getting married before age 18 rise from about 13% before the war to 27% today.

CARE is providing a comprehensive approach for girls and their families at risk of early marriage and those already in early marriages that includes access to education and health services, psychosocial support, vocational training and providing access to finance, to ensure that the incentives for early marriage are far outweighed by the benefits of education and improved work opportunities for the families. CARE works with individuals, communities, and even at the national level on advocacy to protect girls from early marriage, by working to ensure that, where they exist, laws against early marriage are enforced, exceptional clauses in the law that allow early marriages with parental or religious leaders' consent are removed, and new laws are passed.

