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A Statistical Portrait on Migration in Jordan from a Gender Perspective

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Not only has migration become an increasingly noticeable phenomenon arising across the world today, but it has also triggered the discussion on how deeply particular migration trends and the causes of migration are influenced by gender. To really understand the migration marvel, it is important to acknowledge a profounder understanding of this correlation and include a gender perspective to compare and contrast.

This paper analyzes the migration population data available by the Population and Housing Census conducted by the Department of Statistics in Jordan for the year 2015 and focuses on migration in Jordan from a gender perspective, as Jordan is considered one of the top 10 countries receiving migrants from Arab countries. Also, migrants received in Jordan have increased by more than 700% between the years 2004 and 2015, where they constituted a significant one third of the population of Jordan in 2015, 42% of which are females.

The analysis showed female migrants in Jordan are mostly economically inactive; and one of every six females is a head of household and illiterate. The paper also highlights that more than half of the migrants in Jordan are due to forced migration, where 86% of which consider themselves as refugees. Additional studies were conducted on the refugees' data showing that almost 90% of the refugees migrated to Jordan in the past 5 years only; more than one third are located in Amman, the capital city; and also half of the refugees' population is female. The paper also touches on other types of migration in Jordan, like labor migration and their details from a gender perspective, and different comparisons between migrants' and non-migrants' data are analyzed as well.

It is hoped that this paper will inform field practitioners about migration in Jordan and its implications on both migrants, non-migrants, and the government, from a gender point of view.