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Title: Impact of Syrian Refugees in Jordan on Education Outcomes for Jordanian Youth



This paper examines the impact of Syrian refugees during the Syrian Civil War on the educational outcomes of Jordanians. Sixty-five million people are currently displaced from their homes by conflict, the highest number on record. Eighty-five percent live in developing countries, and twenty-five million have crossed an international border (UNHCR, 2018). Many of these host countries and communities fear a large influx of people will harm the host population, in terms of the labor market and access to public services. Since more than half of the displaced are under the age of 18, education is one sector where crowd out is feared most.

The education outcomes we examine include school entry, school enrollment at various levels and advancement from one level to the next. The project employs a unique data source, the 2016 Jordanian Labor Market Panel Survey that records retrospective educational outcomes for a nationally representative sample of Jordanians. We employ a difference-in-differences strategy that exploits cross-locality variation in exposure to Syrian refugees across cohorts before and during the influx of refugees.

We find no evidence that greater exposure to Syrian refugee has affected the attainment of Jordanians. Evidence from the Ministry of Education's Educational Management Information System (EMIS) suggests that Jordanian schools responded to the influx by adding a second shift in schools in high-Syrian areas, and that teacher-to-student ratio and classroom size are both unaffected by the influx.

There is growing concern about the impact of refugees on host communities, a concern that is engendering growing resistance to receiving refugee population in various parts of the world. Our results for Jordan, a country where the refugee influx relative to the native population is among the largest in the world, should serve to place these concerns in perspective and contribute to the policy debate on the issue.