



ISHRAK PROJECT

2021-2023

450

parents/caregivers
participate in positive
parenting sessions

500

community members
participate in community
events and activities

1,400

children benefit from open
recreational spaces

PROGRAM BRIEF

Mercy Corps' long-standing ISHRAK meaning 'engagement,' is a family strengthening project that provides psychosocial support to fortify bonds between family members in stressful situations. Within the ISHRAK program, there are three integrated pillars: (1) Empowering Individuals; (2) Family Integration; and (3) Community Support. It is designed to address the interlinked problems of toxic stress, domestic and gender-based violence, and lack of agency enjoyed by women and girls. Within this iteration of this program, ISHRAK partners with refugee girls and caregivers to promote behavior change strategies that reaffirm gender equality, norms change, and girls' empowerment.

Donors:

Private Donors | BPRM | Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Jordan

Target Participants:

Adolescent Girls from Zaatari and Azraq Camps and their Parents/Caregivers

Implementing Organizations:

Mercy Corps Jordan

Geography Focus:

Mafraq, Zaatari Camp
and Zarqa, Azraq
Camp



Contact Information:

- Baha Abu Swelim, Project Manager
babuswelim@mercycorps.org

INTERVENTIONS



EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS

ISHRAK supports the physical, emotional, and social well-being of individuals through a wide variety of activities. These include a safe space to play, cultural heritage lessons, art, filmmaking, and parenting programs. These programs are designed to spark creativity; build confidence, skills, and positive relationships between children and older family members; and ensure young Syrian refugees have a connection to their homeland that is a source of pride and strength. Furthermore, the ISHRAK program serves in providing sexual and reproductive health (SRH) awareness-raising, gender-based violence (GBV) prevention, and mitigation for adolescent girls.



FAMILY INTEGRATION

ISHRAK trains parents and caregivers on psychosocial theories and activities related to child development so they can facilitate activities in their own homes and family spaces. The aim of this approach is to empower caregivers, strengthen relationships and support the wellbeing of the whole family, and it includes (1) [Parenting Activity](#), which is a psychosocial support program for parents that seeks to teach both mothers and fathers new parenting methods as alternatives to aggressive behavior. (2) [Foster Supportive Networks for Caregivers](#) through an online/in-person network that will enable participating parents to promote an empowering environment for girls at the household level and in the wider community.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Graduates from the individual and family-focused programs will form peer support groups and lead activities for the wider community to increase the reach and ensure skills and knowledge formed at the individual and household levels are being transferred to the wider community. To achieve this, Mercy Corps will: (1) [Establish two Community Committees \(CCs\)](#), who will strengthen the activities through their inherent understanding of camp needs and networks through supporting female-led initiative efforts, broadening community events, and reaching out to respond to adolescent and family needs who are at increased risk of SGBV and protection, (2) [Activate Strong, Safe Referral Networks](#) to GBV case management, health services, and other offerings from partners throughout Za'atari and Azraq camps in order to strengthen girls' and families' connection to the full range of camp services. Mercy Corps will first train 20 (CC) members and 10 community volunteers on psychosocial first aid and safe referral approaches, (3) [Launch Community Events](#) associated with the global Sustainable Development Goals in collaboration with adolescent girls, family, and community members, in order to solicit community buy-in, (4) [Support Adolescent Female-led Community Initiatives](#) where targeted adolescent girls will enroll in nine Civic Engagement sessions, providing them with the tools and techniques to engage with the private sector, NGOs, and government actors operating in their area, conduct a needs assessment within their camps and execute community initiatives to address the identified needs.

