

Grant Number: SM211003

Isle of Man Grant



© UNICEF/Beshad - Jeelan, at the Child Protection Center in the Domiz refugee camp, Dohuk Governorate, Iraq.

Jeelan's Journey: Empowering Adolescence in the Face of Adversity

Dohuk, Iraq, 2023 - In a corner of the bustling Domiz camp for Syrian refugees, a remarkable transformation is quietly taking place. It all starts within the confines of the child protection center, where Jeelan, a motivated girl born in 2010, is changing her life's path thanks to the Adolescent Girls Toolkit course. Despite the difficulties of camp life, Jeelan's narrative demonstrates the immense power of education and personal development.

From Syria to Domiz: A Story of Resilience

Jeelan is an eighth grader at Derin School in Domiz camp, where she is part of a family of six, with two brothers and a sister, all under the loving care of her parents. Originating from the village of Gre Pre in Qamishli, Syria, Jeelan's memories of her early life and the turbulent times of war are somewhat distant. Yet, at the age of 13, she is carving out a future filled with potential and opportunity.

Jeelan's passion for learning is evident, with a particular love for the English language. However, her story goes beyond academic success; it's a tale of personal growth and empowerment, all thanks to her participation in the Adolescent Girls Toolkit course. This program is a joint effort by UNICEF and the Department of Labor and Social Affairs, with support from the Isle of Man Government.



© UNICEF/Beshad – Jeelan and her colleagues, during the Adolescent Girls Toolkit Course at the Child Protection Center in Domiz refugee camp, Dohuk Governorate, Iraq.

Learning Beyond Education

For two years now, Jeelan has actively engaged with the program, and the changes in her life are palpable. She speaks of newfound self-assuredness, the ability to handle psychological pressures, and a liberation from the clutches of depression. "We receive invaluable advice and positive sayings, which I apply in my life to navigate its challenges," Jeelan shares with a confident smile.

Beyond personal development, the course has broadened Jeelan's horizons and skill set. "I've also learned how to develop myself further, and the English language," she exclaims.

However, the program is not solely about learning. It's a place of camaraderie and joy. "This place is far from boring; we have dedicated time for both learning and fun. We indulge in handicrafts like wool work and accessory-making, not to mention the myriad of games they used to play with us when I was younger," Jeelan notes.



© UNICEF/Beshad – Jeelan and her colleagues, during the Adolescent Girls Toolkit Course at the Child Protection Center in Domiz refugee camp, Dohuk Governorate, Iraq.

Jeelan's unwavering support network, consisting of her family and friends, propels her towards her dream of becoming a pilot. With her unyielding determination and the backing of her loved ones, there is no doubt that she is destined to reach for the skies.

Jeelan's story is a testament to the power of education, community, and personal growth. Through the Adolescent Girls Toolkit course, she has not only gained critical skills but also the confidence to pursue her dreams. In the face of adversity, Jeelan serves as an inspiration, reminding us that with the right opportunities and support, one can rise above life's challenges and turn dreams into reality.