Information for the media,

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**Life in refugee camps - IKEA employees from Poland describe their journey to Jordan**

**IKEA employees from Poland traveled to Jordan to see how the funds collected through the IKEA social campaign, which are channeled through the IKEA Foundation, are used on the spot to support conflict-affected communities. The visit was organized as part of the IKEA IWitness employee program in cooperation with the international War Child organization, helping children and their families in conflict areas. The participants of the journey talk about their experiences, memories and reflections in the book "The Right to Play for Every Child. IKEA Retail Poland IWitness Trip to Jordan".** [**Link to publication**](http://www.ikea.pl/iwitnessEN)

In October last year, six IKEA Retail employees from Poland took part in a study visit to Jordan. They visited the two largest UNHCR camps for refugees in the country: Za'atari and Azraq and Local Social Centers in Amman and Zarqa, where support is provided for refugees integrating with local residents. The trip was to see the effects of IKEA Foundation’s partner organizations that receive funding for the implementation of their assistance programs. One of them is War Child (www.warchild.org), which supports children and youth affected by armed conflict in Syria. Thanks to this cooperation, nearly 18,000 children from both Syrian families and those from refugee communities in Jordan and Lebanon received help.

*The trip and meeting with migrants from Syria allowed us, IKEA employees in Poland, to see up close, what life is like in temporary refugee camps. They are ordinary people, just like you or me, who suddenly found themselves in a very unusual and difficult situation. They had to leave their homes, leaving everything they had. In these difficult conditions, they try to lead a possibly normal life. We want the reading of our reflections on the journey, to bring more understanding and empathy for refugees* - says Katarzyna Dulko-Gaszyna, Country Sustainability Manager at IKEA Retail Poland.

Sandra, Magda, Kasia, Paula, Agnieszka and Dominik, employees of various IKEA Retail departments in Poland, gathered their memories, experiences and reflections from the trip to Jordan in the book "The Right to Play for Every Child. IKEA Retail Poland IWitness Trip to Jordan". They describe what everyday life looks like in refugee camps, the typical problems they have to deal with and how they are waiting for a better future but are often completely forgotten by the rest of the world.

*We all share basic needs: a secure home, good health, a regular income, a desire to keep our children safe, to see them get a good education and succeed in life.* - considered Ingvar Kamprad, founder of IKEA. That's why IKEA Foundation has decided to financially support programs for these key needs.

"The Right to Play for Every Child" is the name of the international IKEA social campaign implemented since 2016 in IKEA stores around the world, which aims to help children at risk of exclusion in communities. Awareness of the need to ensure each child’s right to proper development is increased by engaging customers and co-workers in the campaign when selling children's products, including stuffed animals, children's books and furniture. Last year alone, IKEA Foundation donated Euro 144 million in grants with 74 partners supporting 41 countries. The partner organizations with which IKEA cooperates in the implementation of this campaign are: Handicap International, Room to Read, Save the Children, Special Olympics, War Child and UNICEF.

More information:

[Download the book in Polish](http://www.ikea.pl/IWitness)

Download the book in English [http://www.ikea.pl/IWitnesEN](http://www.ikea.pl/iwitnessEN)

**IKEA**

The brand name IKEA is an acronym – a shortcut formed successively from the first letters of the founder’s name and the name of the farm and parish, where he came from (Ingvar Kamprad Elmtaryd Agunnaryd).

IKEA's vision is to create a better everyday life for many people. We offer functional and well-designed home furnishing articles that combine quality and affordable price. We act in accordance with sustainable development, pursuing a People & Planet positive strategy.

IKEA in Poland now has ten stores and manages five shopping malls through IKEA Centres Polska. Located in Jarosty near Piotrków Trybunalski, the distribution centre supplies 23 IKEA stores in central and eastern Europe. The IKEA group in Poland also has six wind farms, which ensure its energy independence.

In the financial year 2017 more than 28 million people visited IKEA stores, and the site [www.IKEA.pl](http://www.IKEA.pl) had about 91 million visits.

**About the IKEA Foundation**

The IKEA Foundation (Stichting IKEA Foundation) is the philanthropic arm of INGKA Foundation, the owner of the IKEA Group of companies. We aim to improve opportunities for children and youth in some of the world’s poorest communities by funding holistic, long-term programmes that can create substantial, lasting change. The IKEA Foundation works with strong strategic partners applying innovative approaches to achieve large-scale results in four fundamental areas of a child’s life: a place to call home; a healthy start in life; a quality education; and a sustainable family income, while helping these communities fight and cope with climate change.

Learn more at [www.ikeafoundation.org](http://www.ikeafoundation.org/) and [www.facebook.com/IKEAfoundation](http://www.facebook.com/IKEAfoundation)

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