Jordan

March 2022

UNHCR launched the **2022 Vulnerability Assessment Framework**, which for the first time includes data from both in and out of camp settings. Findings indicate overall high levels of resilience among refugees and improving living conditions, but also rising levels of poverty.

After 5 months of operations, medical teams have been discontinued from **vaccination stations** in UNHCR premises, amid an improving epidemiological situation. Since November 2021, some 15,500 refugees have been vaccinated in UNHCR premises.

Over 1,600 refugees have departed on **resettlement** and over 50 on **complementary pathways** since January 2022. UNHCR continues to explore opportunities for the most vulnerable refugees in Jordan to be relocated to third countries.

KEY INDICATORS

761,059

Refugees in Jordan as of 15 April 2022

82.6%

Refugees living outside camps in **urban areas**

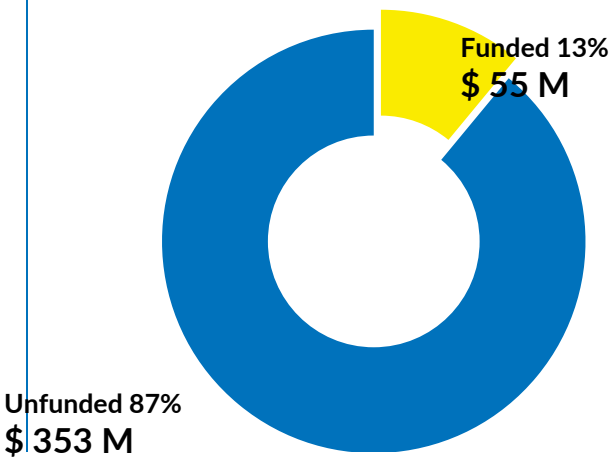
46.1%

Refugees are **children** (under 18 years)

2022 FUNDING (AS OF 15 APRIL 2022)

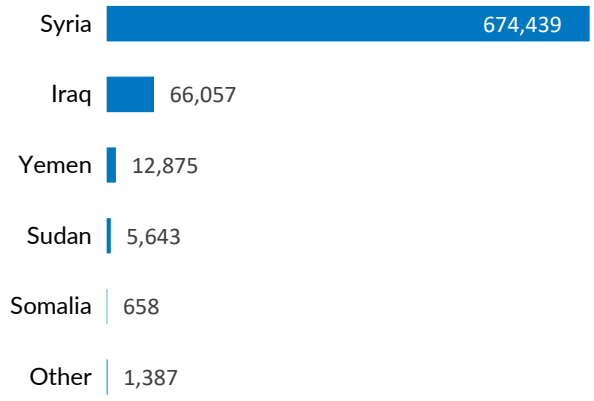
USD 408 M

UNHCR Jordan's financial requirements in 2022



POPULATION OF CONCERN

Countries of Origin



Raghda, a Syrian refugee living in Zaatari camp, puts her wish up on a wishboard in an event celebrating International Women's Day in the camp's community centre.

PROTECTION

- In March, UNHCR Registration Centres (RCs) continued to provide registration services through a combination of in-person and remote processes. Some 80% of the over 30,000 people who underwent documentation renewals did so through in-person procedures at UNHCR's RCs across Jordan.
- UNHCR continued to share information with refugees and asylum seekers through different means, including the Jordan Help site, the Helpline and social media pages, with some 20,000 visitors on the Help site and over 200,000 calls handled on the Helpline. During this month, UNHCR and legal partners continued to provide legal assistance in the form of counselling, mediation, representation, and protection follow up and advocacy.
- UNHCR conducted three mobile registration missions to southern governorates (Karak, Tafieleh, Ma'an and Aqaba) for in-person rapid renewal interviews and distribution of renewed asylum seeker and refugee certificates. In collaboration with SRAD, similar missions to distribute documentation were also conducted to cover Irbid, Ramtha, Zarqa, Zaatari camp and Mafraq.
- The annual data updates and document renewal exercise in camps started in March, with some 15,500 families living in Azraq and Zaatari camps having gone through verification as of early April. The exercise is aimed at ensuring accurate and reliable registration data for refugees living in the camps.
- During March, UNHCR's child protection/gender-based violence (GBV) teams counselled and supported some 210 individuals, who benefited from case management, legal, psychosocial services and mental health, resettlement, and cash-based intervention services through UNHCR or implementing partners in the field. UNHCR Jordan continues to operate protection hotlines that enable refugees and asylum seekers to contact UNHCR staff directly with any protection concerns they may have.

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

- Throughout March, over 650 refugees reached UNHCR's Community-Based Protection teams through the different channels, including Community Support Committees (CSCs), the Helpline, social media platforms, and in-person counselling at UNHCR premises, and were provided with case management services. Main concerns raised during counselling sessions include the inability to cover basic needs, the lack of livelihood opportunities, the need for urgent cash support, the lack of access to disability-specific services and more.
- UNHCR works closely with CSCs to coordinate activity plans, referral mechanisms, and communication with refugee communities. CSCs engage refugees through various activities on a monthly basis, including self-development and learning opportunities. During March, a variety of activities CSC were carried out, with over 3,000 participants, to foster social cohesion, raise awareness on different issues, including continuous sensitisation around COVID-19 vaccination, and promote gender equality and self-reliance.
- In March, as part of ongoing efforts to expand the available work opportunities for refugees, UNHCR met with a number of potential employers to explore available opportunities, while also worked with partners to facilitate job fairs in Zaatari camp and Irbid. UNHCR also continues to update referral lists on job matching services, career counselling, and support to employment services to ensure that refugees have access to accurate and helpful information.
- In partnership with Blumont, UNHCR also co-hosted an event focusing on the economic and community impact of formalising home-based businesses. The event was strongly attended by national entities, such as the Jordan Enterprise Development Corporation, the Ministry of Local Administration, interested Embassies, UN sister agencies, and non-governmental organizations. Since 2019, UNHCR Jordan, has supported more than 400 home business projects with 78 solely owned by refugees.

CASH ASSISTANCE FOR BASIC NEEDS

- In March, UNHCR's regular cash assistance reached some 33,000 refugee families, including 3,000 non-Syrian families. Basic needs cash assistance continues to provide a lifeline for many vulnerable refugees who are unable to rely on other means. Of the families receiving assistance, 40% have been receiving cash for over 5 years and 46% between 2 to 5 years, indicating significant levels of vulnerability for this families, likely hindering them from achieving self-reliance.
- As part of the ongoing efforts to gradually transition refugees receiving regular cash assistance for basic needs to the mobile wallet modality, UNHCR-supported community centres facilitated trainings on this modality for some 1,000 refugees in Zarqa. The transition aims at incorporating financial inclusion opportunities as part of humanitarian payment modalities as well as expanding the cash out/withdrawal network which would decrease transportation cost for refugees. Overall, 18% of refugees living in urban areas receiving UNHCR cash assistance are using the mobile wallet modality, while in Azraq, EJC and Zaatari camps, 42% of families have been transitioned to mobile wallets.

HEALTH

- The epidemiological situation in Jordan continued to improve in March, with a decrease in the daily recorded new cases and deaths. Many COVID-19 measures, such as a need for a PCR test to enter the country or quarantine and isolation requirements, were lifted or reduced on 1 March. Positivity rates in refugee camps remain low while COVID-19 cases remain well below the national average, with 6% of the refugee camp population having tested positive since the onset of the pandemic compared to 16% of the total Jordanian population.
- Over 4.7 million people have been vaccinated as part of Jordan's COVID-19 vaccination programme since January 2021. As of early April 2022, over 51,000 camp-based refugees have been vaccinated. In urban areas, the National Centre for Security and Crisis Management announced their decision to discontinue the medical vaccination teams from UNHCR premises as of 17 March, meaning that refugees can no longer receive a COVID-19 vaccine in UNHCR premises. Over 15,500 refugees have been vaccinated in vaccination stations in UNHCR registration centres and community centres since their opening in November 2021.
- UNHCR continues to work closely with the Ministry of Health (MoH) to ensure access for refugees to public health facilities. In this context, UNHCR and MoH organized four workshops for over 260 health care providers from 12 governorates across Jordan, to provide training on the newly developed policy manual regarding refugee access to public health facilities. The policy manual is supported by the Jordan Health Fund for Refugees.

EDUCATION

- UNHCR works continuously to support Jordan's ministries of education and youth in strengthening existing educational systems for primary and secondary schooling, as well as refugee access to education. In this context, in March UNHCR and partners facilitated meetings and trainings to build the capacity of staff working in Connected Learning Hubs (CLHs), while also inaugurated a new CLH in the Russeifa Juvenile Centre, through which refugee and Jordanian youth will have access to high-tech and innovative educational tools to follow up on their education, explore online resources, and build their skills.

DURABLE SOLUTIONS

- In March, UNHCR Jordan finalised submissions for over 550 individuals for resettlement, with quotas already received by France, Germany, Norway, and Sweden. In addition, some 798 refugees departed to resettlement countries, reaching a total of 1,619 departures so far in 2022.

- In addition to resettlement to third countries, UNHCR is closely engaging with embassies, such as the French and German embassies, to explore additional opportunities for refugees in Jordan to be relocated to third countries through complementary pathways. In this context, UNHCR provides counselling, as well as case management, to families that are identified as eligible for complementary pathways. In addition to those supported by UNHCR, a number of individuals are also departing to third countries on various private sponsorship, family reunification and humanitarian visa programs. So far in the first quarter of 2022, some 53 people are known to have left on complementary pathways, which shows a significant increase from 2021.

HIGH-PROFILE VISITS, PUBLIC EVENTS AND DONOR ENGAGEMENT

- In March, UNHCR Jordan presented the latest Vulnerability Assessment Framework (VAF) for 2022. in an event jointly hosted with the World Bank at the UNHCR Registration Centre in Amman. The VAF findings indicate overall high levels of resilience among refugees, despite the impact of COVID-19, and improving living conditions for refugees. Nonetheless, the findings also show rising levels of poverty. The 2022 VAF for the first time also assessed the situation of refugees living in camps and showed that camp residents fare better in areas such as health and education but, due to a lack of employment opportunities, are more reliant on humanitarian aid.

In addition, UNHCR facilitated a number of visits during March, including the following:

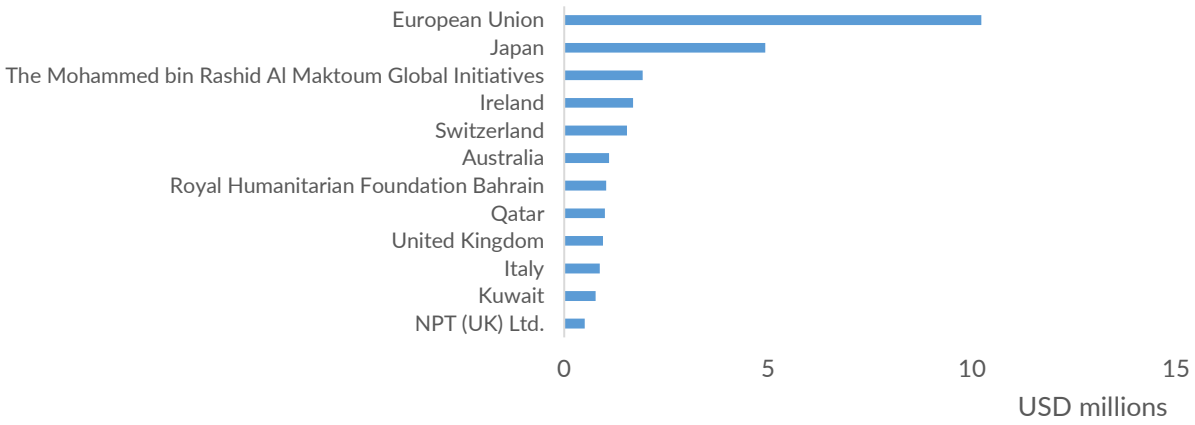
- A visit of UNHCR supporters Toto Wolff (CEO and Team Principal of the Mercedes-AMG Petronas F1 Team) and Susie Wolff (former professional racing driver and CEO of Venturi Racing in Formula E), to the UNHCR Registration centre in Amman and Azraq camp, focusing on UNHCR's work in Jordan, with a specific interest in sports and unaccompanied children, as well as innovation projects.
- A visit of a Prospects partnership delegation from the Hague to Zaatari camp, focused on the three pillars of the partnership (protection, education, and employment), with visits to different projects in the camp, including a school, a youth centre, a community centre, the registration centre and the market street.
- A visit of an Australian Embassy delegation led by the Ambassador, H.E. Bernard Lynch, to Zaatari camp and Mafraq city, with a focus on different aspects of the camp response, as well as refugee response in the host community in in Mafraq city.
- A visit for a delegation from The Big Heart Foundation (TBHF) led by TBHF Director Mariam Al Hammadi, which included a briefing focused on UNHCR's cash assistance and community-based protection activities, as well as a tour of UNHCR's Registration centre and Helpline.
- A familiarization mission of an FCDO delegation, to Azraq camp, including visits to various projects (school, supermarket, employment centre, community centre, market, and home visit) and briefings from UNHCR and several partners.
- A delegation from Saudi Arabia, including the Saudi Ambassador to Jordan and Dr Abdullah bin Rabieh, the Minister and Adviser at the Royal Court and General Supervisor of the King Salman Center for Relief and Humanitarian Works (KSR), to Zaatari camp.
- A visit of USAID Deputy Administrator for Policy and Programming, Isobel Coleman, which included a briefing on the refugee response in Jordan as well as meetings with refugees.
- A field visit for a delegation of European reporters, representing French, Belgian and Italian outlets, to Zaatari camp, as well as the Registration centre in Amman, to gather content on different aspects of the refugee response in Jordan.

Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the operation in 2022 amount to some US$ 55million, covering 13% of overall needs for refugees in Jordan.

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programs with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

Earmarked contributions to UNHCR Jordan in 2022 (over 500,000 USD)



Special thanks to the major donors of softly earmarked contributions in 2022 (in USD)

Norway | Private donors

Thanks to other donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2022 (in USD)

Sweden (95.2M) | Norway (72.5M) | Netherlands (37.2M) | Denmark (35.6M) | Germany (27M) | Private donors Spain (19.9M) | Switzerland (18.4M) | Belgium (11.9M) | Ireland (11.8M) | Italy (10M)

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LINKS

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