Jordan

January 2026

Temperatures have dropped significantly in Za'atari camp this winter, leaving refugees struggling to stay warm. ©UNHCR/Shawkat Al Harfoush

Key Refugee Figures (as of 31 January 2026)

around
437,000
Refugees **registered** with UNHCR

81%
Refugees in **communities**

48%
Refugee **children**

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

In January, UNHCR observed a decrease in the number of refugees returning to Syria. Just over 4,500 individuals returned during the month, making it the second-lowest level of returns since March 2025. This decline is likely linked to refugees' preference to delay return during the colder months due to the difficult housing conditions in Syria.

Following the closure of the UNHCR registration centres in Mafraq and Irbid, UNHCR is relying more on alternative modalities, such as mobile helpdesks, to reach refugees in remote areas. Regrettably, funding constraints have led to less frequent mobile helpdesks. As a result, an increasing number of refugees have been approaching the UNHCR office in Amman for counselling, despite additional travel costs and logistical challenges.

SOLUTIONS

- From 8 December 2024 to 31 January 2026, nearly 182,000 refugees registered with UNHCR **returned** from Jordan to Syria. Over 4,500 refugees returned in January alone. More information about the number and profile of refugees returning from Jordan to Syria is available in UNHCR Jordan's returns dashboard, which includes an interactive section on skills and educational background of returnees.
- During January, UNHCR continued **the cash assistance for voluntary return** programme aimed at supporting refugees in Azraq and Zaatari camps. The cash assistance for voluntary return pilot complements the existing transportation assistance. Overall, in 2025 UNHCR reached more than 55,000 refugees with assistance for voluntary return, including counselling and information sharing, cash assistance, transportation support, and legal aid. Through various digital channels, over half a million received information relating to return.
- In January, 45 refugees departed Jordan for **resettlement in other countries.**

PROTECTION

- UNHCR interviewed over 18,600 refugees in-person and remotely in January to ensure that they have **proper and updated documents** and can access basic services and support, such as education and healthcare. UNHCR's registration and documentation are essential to inform planning and delivery of humanitarian assistance by other actors in the refugee response.
- During the month, UNHCR and its partners **counselled** nearly 260 refugees facing risks to their safety and well-being. In addition, UNHCR provided urgent cash assistance to almost 170 families who were unable to meet their basic needs and were experiencing heightened vulnerabilities, such as disability and old age.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

- In January, UNHCR distributed $3.2 million in **basic needs assistance** benefitting some 30,000 families in camps and host communities.
- UNHCR facilitated referrals for more than 560 refugees from Azraq and Zaatari camps **to receive vital health care treatment**, such as haemodialysis, emergency obstetric and neonatal care, and organ-saving admissions at affiliated public healthcare facilities outside of the camps.
- During the winter months, both Azraq and Zaatari camps continued to face significant challenges due to harsh weather conditions. In Azraq, recurrent electricity cut-offs caused by network overload disrupted essential services, while in Zaatari, heavy rainfall impacted shelters and affected living conditions. Working closely with camp partners, UNHCR responded swiftly to address the issues and implement mitigation measures **to protect refugees and restore services**.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- UNHCR has launched a new collaboration with Bayt.com, the leading job and recruitment platform in the Middle East, **to enhance employment opportunities** for Syrian refugees. The partnership aims to better connect skilled refugees with employers in Syria and Jordan who are seeking qualified candidates in Syria. In January, UNHCR organized a familiarization session on the platform for 75 graduates of the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI), with additional outreach activities planned

for both refugees and prospective employers in the coming months. This partnership forms part of UNHCR's broader catalytic efforts, as the refugee response coordinator, to strengthen refugees' self-reliance.

- In January, nearly 4,000 refugees provided support with community initiatives, education activities and other services in Azraq and Zaatari camps as **incentive-based volunteers**. Incentive-based volunteering enables refugees to demonstrate and develop professional and soft skills while contributing to their community and earning some basic means in the absence of other livelihood opportunities.

HIGH-PROFILE VISITS, PUBLIC EVENTS AND DONOR ENGAGEMENT

In January, UNHCR organized **high-level meetings, events and visits** for representatives of Australia, Canada, China, the European Union, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Norway, the Republic of Korea, and the USA.

Financial Information

Total allocated funding for the operation in 2026, including indicative allocations, amount to some $54 million. UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors, including especially those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and softly earmarked funds.

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