

KEY FIGURES

1 in 11

Proportion of Jordan's population who are refugees registered with UNHCR

7

Jordan is the seventh largest refugee-hosting country in the world

4 out of 5

Proportion of Syrians living outside of camps and below the poverty line in Jordan

80,000

Syrians living in Jordan's Zaatari refugee camp

78

Percentage of Syrians registered with UNHCR in refugee camps who are women and children

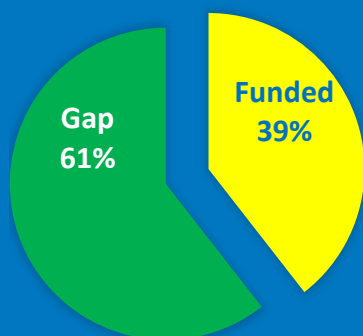
90

Percentage of the Syrian registered refugee population who have been living in Jordan for three or more years

FUNDING

US \$ 277 million

requested for the Jordan Operation in 2017



JORDAN

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

July 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

- **UNHCR warned in June that funding shortfalls are risking the provision of critical assistance to 30,000 Syrian refugee families in Jordan, a third of whom are solely dependent on aid.** UNHCR's cash assistance programme provides some relief for refugees battling to meet the most basic requirements including shelter and medical support. Over 80 per cent of Syrian refugees are struggling under the poverty line in Jordan. Hassan, a 43-year-old father of eight from the suburbs of eastern Aleppo, has been a refugee for three years. "Before I had to borrow to pay rent, and I ran up debts of 2,500 dinars. Now I feel more secure because I know that at least we can pay the rent", he told UNHCR. "If the cash assistance ended it would be a catastrophe. I would have to walk the streets with my kids, begging for money."
- **The continued escalation of conflict in southern Syria, particularly in and around Dara'a, just north of Jordan's Ramtha and Nasib border crossings, briefly interrupted the delivery of cross-border humanitarian assistance in June.** UNHCR supports the provision of core relief items through the formal Ramtha crossing in north-west Jordan, and maintains emergency stocks in partners' warehouses in east and west Dara'a to ensure an efficient ongoing response. From January to the end of June, over 83,000 internally displaced persons benefited from UNHCR's lifesaving assistance in Dara'a and Quneitra. In June, as part of its protection response, UNHCR through its partner commenced awareness raising efforts on housing, land and property rights and legal civil documentation through almost 70 group information sessions benefiting over 1,500 people.



The "Champs-Élysées" street in the Zaatari refugee camp at the start of the Eid al-Fitr holiday marking the end of the holy month of Ramadan. 24 June, 2017.

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UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Protection

UNHCR and partners respond to urgent humanitarian needs on the north-east border

A total of 35,451 Syrians living in dangerous conditions in Rukban on Jordan's north-east Syrian border were reached with humanitarian assistance between 7 May and 15 June. The aid operation to the area is particularly challenging and complex given the remoteness of location, hostile weather conditions - including sandstorms and extreme heat - and a precarious security environment, which have all contributed to repeated delays in reaching the most vulnerable. Items distributed include food, dignity and hygiene kits, solar lamps and jerry cans. The assistance is being distributed using biometric iris-scanning to prevent the duplication of assistance and to ensure that it reaches those most in need. Latest registration figures show that 72 per cent of recipients are women and children.

During the first week of June, an emergency vaccination campaign was also successfully concluded to counter the threat of vaccine-derived polio viruses recently reported in Syria. The effort was undertaken by UN agencies in coordination with the Ministry of Health reaching over 14,000 children and infants with polio vaccinations and vitamin A. The vaccines were administered by Syrian health workers operating north of the Jordanian berm.

The total number of people treated at a UN clinic since it first opened in December 2016 stands at 4,410, with 270 patients referred for further specialized treatment at hospitals inside Jordan. Diarrhea and acute respiratory infections have remained the leading causes of morbidity throughout this period when seasonal temperatures are on the rise with the risk of the further spread of infectious, as well as food and water borne, diseases.



A Syrian mother and child receiving medical care at a UNHCR-built clinic at Rukban earlier this year. ©UNHCR/Mohammad Hawari

Education

Achievements and Impact

■ Computer literacy training for refugees and members of their host community in Jordan

UNHCR celebrated the achievements of 21 information technology students who are now equipped with the skills to train others in digital literacy. UNHCR has partnered with Microsoft through its global “Connectivity for Refugees” initiative to certify refugee and host community students as professional trainers. The students were all trained at the Microsoft Innovation Centre in Amman over a period of three weeks.

The group includes 13 refugees from Syria, Sudan and Yemen and eight Jordanians from different governorates. The programme provides trainers with the sufficient knowledge to share their skills on topics including basic computer skills, the use of internet and creative Microsoft tools.

The course was followed by a five-day mentorship programme in delivering computer courses to basic users. The newly qualified students will now conduct ten courses in different community centres supported by UNHCR throughout 2017 and 2018 where computer labs and free-internet are available. The classes will benefit 100 participants from the refugee and host communities starting this August.

In a further expression of support, Microsoft is donating 35 computers to three of the ten UNHCR-supported community centres that are currently without computer labs. More advanced training will also be provided by Microsoft to the recently certified trainers based on the needs and response of the participants.

Creative partnerships and investments like these provide refugees and host communities with the vocational skills to assist in their long-term development, including through the facilitation of access to valuable employment opportunities.



*A Yemeni refugee stands ready to pass on her digital skills after attending a UNHCR/Microsoft training course in Amman.
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Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

Achievements and Impact

- Increase of Syrians in the formal workplace as more employment sectors open up

Some 53,900 Syrians (at 22 June) have obtained, or have renewed, work permits in certain occupations thanks to a Government of Jordan initiative to increase refugees' access to formal employment. Syrians now constitute 10 per cent of the foreign workforce in Jordan, compared to just 2 per cent before the London Conference, where plans for more sustainable solutions for Jordan's refugee population were formally introduced in return for a range of international investments.

The highest proportion of work permits have been issued in the agricultural sector (16,740), followed by the manufacturing (10,573), trade (8,482) and hospitality (7,395) sectors. To increase participation in the formal job market, the Ministry of Labour has increased the number of manufacturing jobs available to non-Jordanians, including Syrian refugees. The newly-opened positions are the result of an International Labour Organization (ILO)/Jordan Chamber of Commerce skills gap analysis.

In further welcome news, the Ministry of Labour announced in June that up to 10,000 Syrian working in the construction sector would be granted formal work status through the issuance of more flexible work permits. The procedures are currently being developed with the support of the ILO, the construction sector and trade unions. Short-term permits have also been agreed for labour-intensive infrastructure programmes and cash for work schemes outside of refugee camps in the areas of infrastructure rehabilitation, forestry and waste management.

- UNHCR-supported study highlights improving working conditions to attract refugee workers

A new [ILO study](#), supported by UNHCR and funded by the United Kingdom, has found that while the new work permit initiative provides the majority of Syrian refugee workers in Jordan with a sense of stability and security, more efforts were needed to improve their overall working conditions and access to social security. Only 20 per cent of those surveyed believed that work permits protected their labour rights, while 64 per cent of Syrian workers, with or without work permits, reported inadequate occupational safety and health measures.

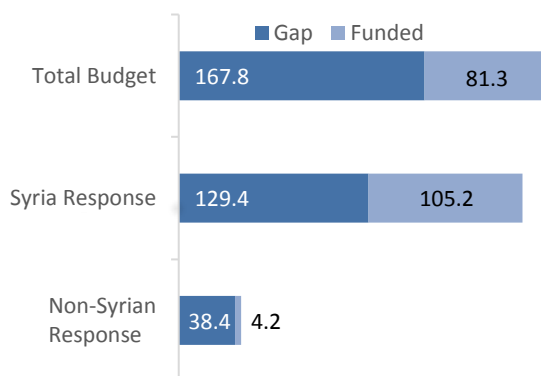
For jobs to become more attractive to refugees and Jordanian workers alike, ILO recommends improving work conditions and the adherence to labour standards, ensuring that all workers are provided with social security, taking proactive steps to increase the uptake of work permits by women; and to ensure that work permit procedures are being communicated effectively and coherently.

A total of **738,519** people of concern were registered with UNHCR in Jordan as of 30 June 2017, including **660,836** Syrians, **63,417** Iraqis, **8,155** Yemenis, **3,768** Sudanese, **803** Somalis, who are among over **40** nationalities receiving international protection in Jordan.

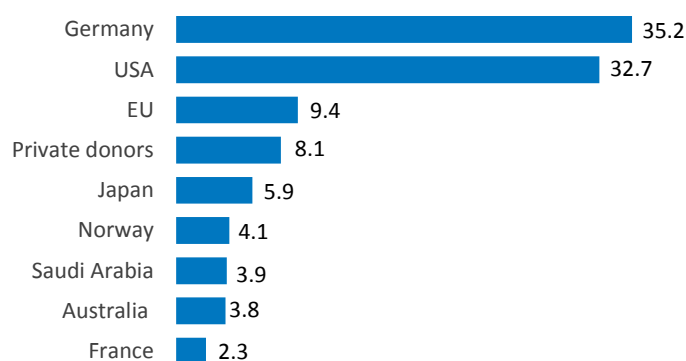
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 105.2 million** for the **Syria response** (at 27 June 2017) and **US\$ 4.2 million** for the **Iraq situation** at the country level (at 27 June 2017).

2017 funding levels (in US \$ million)



Funding received at the country level for the Jordan operation in 2017 (in \$ US million)

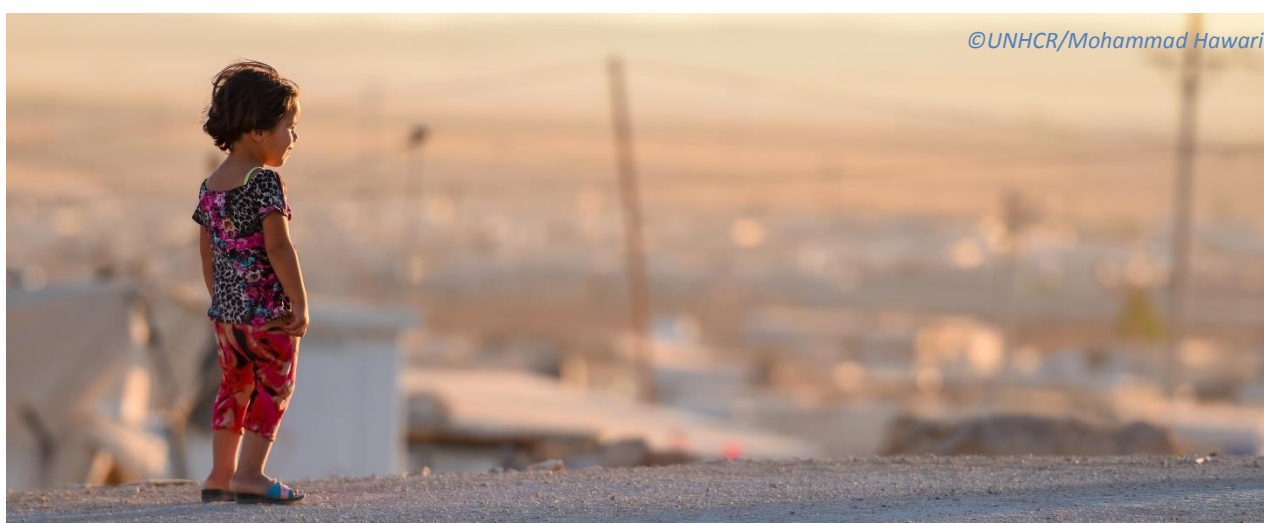


**This operational update covers activities for June 2017.*

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 programmes with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

Special thanks to major donors of unrestricted and regional funds (in US \$ million):

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