

JORDAN

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

May 2017

KEY FIGURES

659,089

Syrians registered with UNHCR in Jordan

62,830

Iraqis registered with UNHCR in Jordan

7,736

Yemenis, the next largest population of persons of concern registered with UNHCR in Jordan after Syrians and Iraqis

93

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

78

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

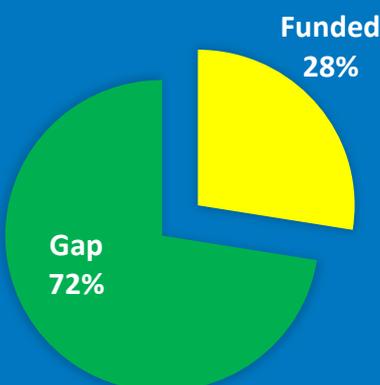
40

Percentage of the registered refugee population who received protection against the cold this winter from UNHCR

FUNDING

US \$ 277 million

requested for the Jordan Operation in 2017



HIGHLIGHTS

- The Government of Jordan provided a welcome boost to employment opportunities for Syrians in April by extending a grace period until the end of the year for those wishing to access formal employment.** Of the 660,000 Syrians registered with UNHCR, almost half, or 45 per cent, are of working age. For those working informally, employment is mostly concentrated in the agricultural and construction sectors. To ensure greater labour protection, a higher degree of self-sustainability and to benefit from the vast range of Syrian skills, the Government has since last year encouraged more Syrians into the formal labour market through a work permit scheme. Some 45,000 Syrians have benefited so far from access to formalized employment but significant uptake challenges remain.
- A volatile security environment continued to hamper efforts to deliver critically-needed aid to an estimated 60,000 Syrians fleeing conflict and situated in a remote area on Jordan's far north-east border.** UNHCR and partners are waiting for an opportunity to restart deliveries at the start of the hottest period of the year when temperatures may exceed 40C. The aid pre-positioned for delivery includes a one-month supply of food, children's clothing, hygiene items, solar lamps, jerry cans and dignity kits. A UN clinic built by UNHCR in Rukban continues to treat or refer the most vulnerable medical cases. Since the clinic was opened in December 2016, 2,870 consultations have taken place and 155 persons referred for further treatment inside Jordan.



A three-year-old Syrian playing with UNHCR staff in Azraa refugee camp ©UNHCR/Laith Abdulhadi

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

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Protection

■ UNHCR cash assistance ensuring refugees’ survival

Quarterly surveys conducted with refugees after the distribution of cash assistance in 2016 reaffirm its status as the foundation of UNHCR’s protection response in urban areas. The findings show that while cash assistance overwhelmingly improves the quality of life of refugees by reducing a variety of financial burdens, it is still insufficient in meeting the most basic of needs.

All refugees surveyed showed a heavy reliance on UNHCR cash support. If cash assistance was stopped altogether, 10 per cent of refugees would return to their country of origin, regardless of risk, 4 per cent would seek shelter in refugee camps and 3 per cent would leave Jordan for a third country.

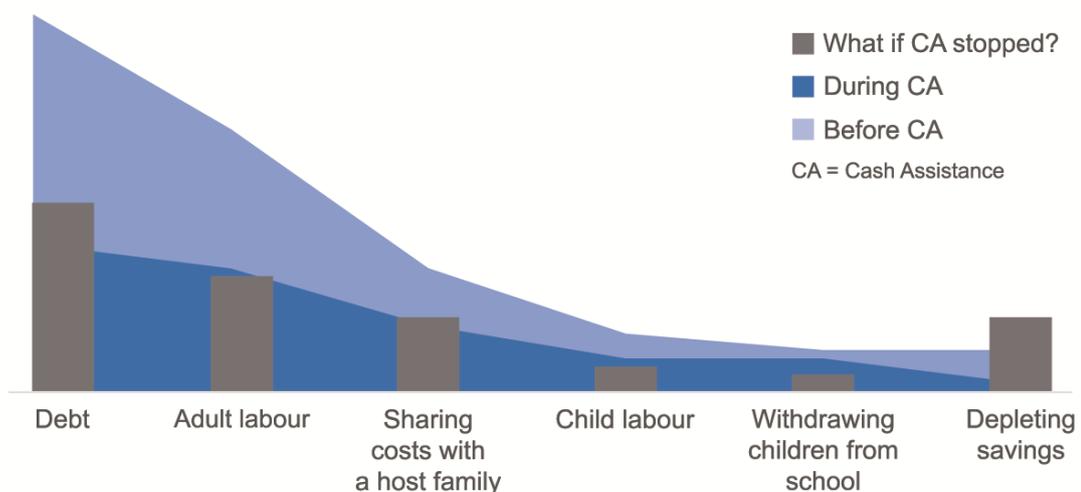
In terms of service delivery, over 95 per cent of refugees reported that they were happy with the way they receive cash assistance. Since the inception of the cash programme in Jordan, UNHCR has worked to develop products and to harness new technologies to ensure more dignified cash delivery, included the EyeCloud™ and Common Cash Facility.

Humanitarian agencies working on the refugee response in Jordan calculated in 2016 that the basic amount to allow a family of five to meet their minimum needs is US \$ 636 per month. The amount, or Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB), covers essentials such as shelter, food, education, health services and basic water and sanitation services.

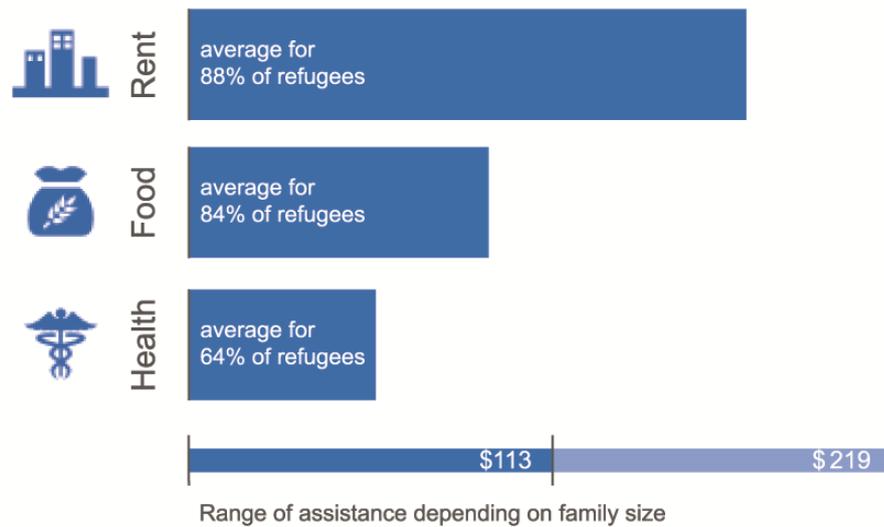
The “survival” MEB, allowing refugees to cover the very minimum for a dignified existence is set at US \$ 361, for a family of five, which is double what a Syrian of that size currently receives. That corresponds to almost three-quarters of respondents saying that the assistance does not help meet the most basic needs.

Cash assistance delivered to refugees ranges between US \$ 113 – 219 per month according to household size. Cash assistance is also distributed reactively to help the most vulnerable meet health or cold weather needs and for any exceptional cash emergencies.

Refugees’ coping strategies



Refugees' household expenditure



Since 2013 UNHCR has undertaken regular monitoring of its cash based interventions on behalf of refugees. The tables above reflect the results of quarterly post-distribution monitoring surveys conducted with the assistance of MindSet, a marketing research company based in Amman. In 2016, data was collected from 6,745 individuals in receipt of UNHCR assistance, forming part of an average family size of 4.4.

■ UNHCR, UNICEF and partners join the Government of Jordan to address child marriage

A new task force set up in April by humanitarian agencies working on the refugee response will assist the Government of Jordan's to tackle the issues of early marriage. The Child Marriage Task Force will work closely with the National Council for Family Affairs' Child Marriage Task Force to exchange information, provide technical support, develop joint actions and strategy, and build the capacity of various national stakeholders.

According to the national legislation in Jordan, the legal age of marriage in Jordan is set at 18 years, as stipulated in article (10) of the Personal Status Law, but marriage above 15 can be allowed through a special approval from Shari'a court judges. The 2015 Census identified almost 4 per cent of girls aged between 13 and 17 girls as married. Among Syrians, 35 per cent of all marriages involved a minor in 2015, a figure that has steadily increased since 2012.

There is wide acceptance within the Syrian refugee community of the practice being appropriate in certain circumstances, including if parents believe that it may alleviate poverty or the financial burden on a large family with many girls. It may also serve as a way out for girls in abusive situations at home and even part of cultural customs and traditions. Although child marriage has long been practiced in the region, the Syria crisis has exacerbated the prevalence of child marriage and heightened the potential for exploitation of girls.

Urban verification exercise and the return of Syrian documents

The ongoing urban verification exercise has to date resulted in the Ministry of the Interior issuing 418,063 government identity cards, or “Ministry of Interior (MoI) Cards”, to Syrians in Jordan. 388,136 have been issued to persons already registered with UNHCR and 29,927 to Syrians not previously registered for UNHCR protection and assistance.

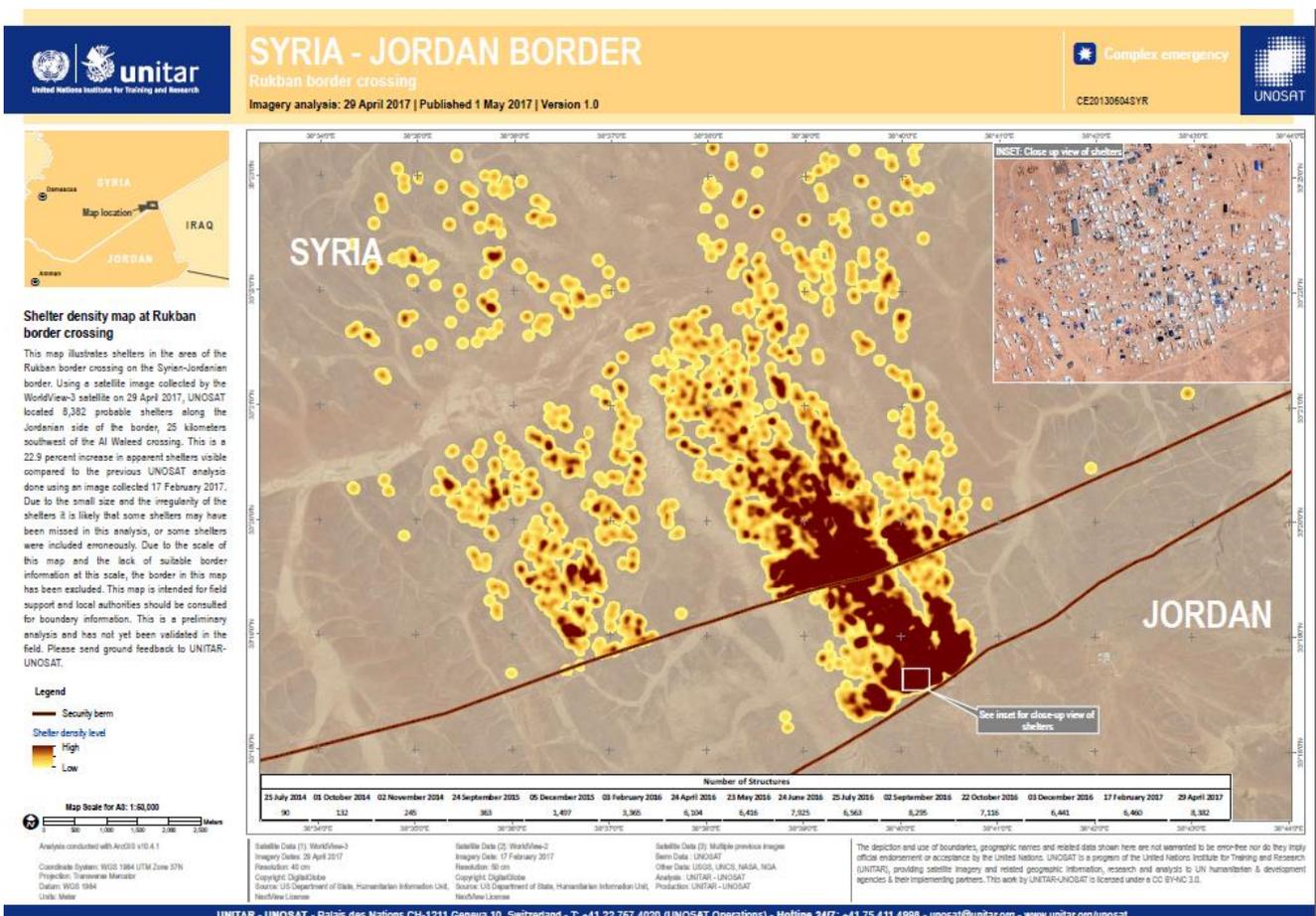
Since the start of the return of documents retained by Jordanian authorities when Syrians entered the country from the beginning of the crisis in Syria, some 189,020 documents have been returned to 131,264 Syrians in Jordan. The number represents 83 per cent of all retained documents. The return of documents was completed in the camps in 2014 and has been ongoing since 2015 in urban areas, where the operation is ongoing for the remaining 33,742 documents belonging to 26,407 individuals.

Shelter and NFIs

Increase in shelters detected on Jordan’s north-east border

The latest satellite imagery captured in April of informal shelters on the north-east border shows a population increase at Rukban (below) with 22.9 per cent more shelters detected since data was last collected on 17 February. There are now 8,382 shelters in the area, compared to 6,460 previously. The last satellite image of Hadalat captured on 4 March showed the presence of 1,553 shelters.

The population at the berm includes high numbers of extremely vulnerable individuals living in life-threatening conditions. Operating in this remote location has presented a number of challenges, including those related to safety, security, logistics, transport, and monitoring of activities. The priority of the humanitarian response has been to provide emergency lifesaving support in the form of food, water, sanitation, health, shelter and non-food items’ needs and protection services.



Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Achievements and Impact

■ First library opens at Azraq refugee camp

Azraq's first library was opened on 3 April by UNHCR and CARE at its community centre in "Village 3" at the camp with books were donated by the Goethe Institute in Jordan. Representatives from the German Embassy, Goethe Institute, UNHCR partners, and community members joined the official opening, where refugees performed a play and gave a music performance. Ahead of the opening, refugee artists at the camp painted the library roof and walls with messages emphasizing the importance of reading. Refugees also donated a painting for display inside the library.



A performance by refugees (top left) to mark the opening of Azraq's first library. ©UNHCR

■ Refugee tailors produce school uniforms for students at Azraq

Over 80 refugee tailors produced 8,276 school uniforms for pupils in Azraq camp as part of a project coordinated by UNHCR and supported by its partners. The work was undertaken by refugees who are established tailors and those studying the trade at Azraq. A ceremony to award the tailors with certificates of appreciation was held on 11 April attended by UNICEF, DRC, CARE, NRC and UNHCR. Azraq currently has four schools offering primary and secondary education classes to over 10,200 students.

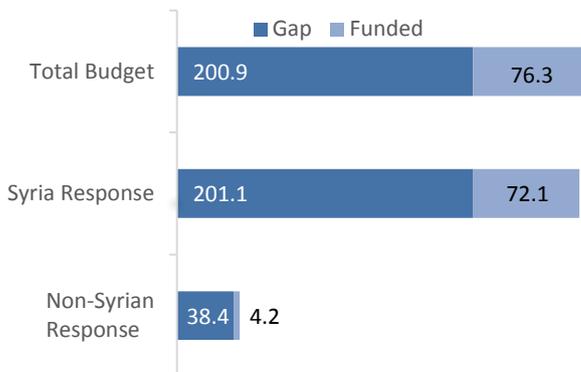


A refugee tailor at work on one of the thousands of school uniforms made for children in Azraq. ©UNHCR/Olga Sarrado Mur

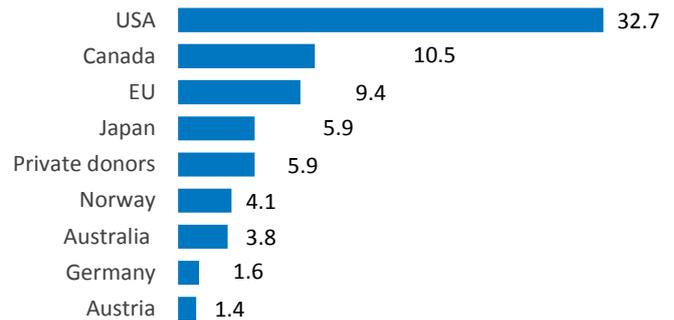
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 72.1 million** for the **Syria response** (at 19 April) and **US\$ 4.2 million** for the **Iraq situation** at the country level (at 19 April).

2017 funding levels (in US \$ million)



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



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):

USA (95) | Sweden (76) | Netherlands (52) | Norway (41) | Denmark (23) | Australia (19) | Switzerland (15) | Germany (12) | Germany (12) | Private Donors Spain (13)

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