

Jordan

June 2020

On 22 June, the Government of Jordan endorsed the 2020-2022 Jordan Response Plan to the Syria crisis totaling \$6.6 billion, under the patronage of the Prime Minister Omar Al Razzaz and the Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Wisam Rabadi. The Planning Minister echoed the Prime Minister's stance on refugees, highlighting "We continue to honour our moral obligation towards Syrian refugees, and we will continue to do so until the conditions for a safe and dignified return exist".

The fourth Conference on "Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region" took place virtually on 30 June, hosted by the EU and co-chaired with the UN. According to the co-chairs' declaration, the Conference acknowledged Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey's extraordinary solidarity and tremendous efforts towards Syrian refugees even as some of the countries face severe socio-economic challenges. Donors pledged USD 5.5 billion for 2020 and multi-year pledges of close to USD 2.2 billion for 2021 and beyond, for both Syria and the region.

747,967

Refugees in Jordan as of 30 April 2020

83.3%

Refugees living outside camps in urban areas

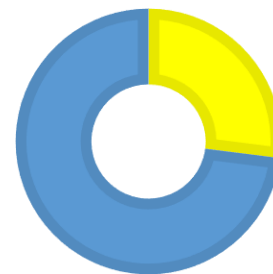
16.7%

Refugees living in three camps in Jordan – Azraq, Zaatari and The Emirati Jordanian

FUNDING (AS OF 9 JULY 2020)

USD 426.7 million

UNHCR Jordan's financial requirements in 2020

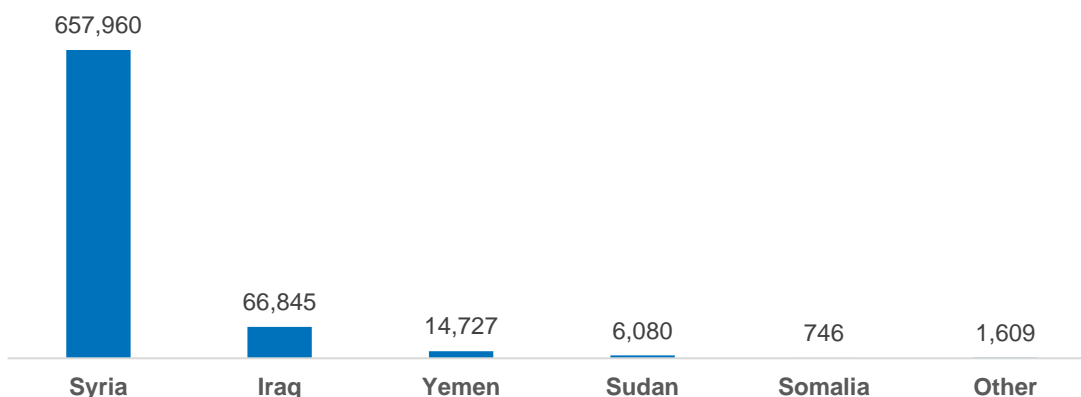


Funded 32%
\$ 134.5 million

Unfunded 68%
\$ 292.2 million

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Countries of Origin



PROTECTION

- As per decision of the Ministry of Interior (MoI), all expired UNHCR-issued Asylum Seeker/Refugee certificates are to be considered valid until the end of 2020. This decision comes into effect in an effort to facilitate access to rights and services while limiting large gatherings and to avoid exposing refugees and asylum seekers at risk of COVID 19. Refugees and asylum seekers in Jordan may still access the available services (health, education, etc.) as per the regular procedures, even if their certificate has expired.
- While curfew and some mobility restrictions have been lifted in June, registration and other protection/ legal activities continued through remote modalities, including interactive voice response (IVR) messaging. UNHCR and legal partners provided legal assistance – in the form of counselling, mediation, representation, and protection follow up and advocacy – to 4,103 cases, totalling 22,625 since January 2020.
- Reports of arbitrary dismissals and wage cuts due to curfew restrictions continued, resulting in many persons of concern facing increased financial hardship, falling into debt, and being at risk of eviction. UNHCR provided legal assistance to an increased number of cases pertaining to mediation, counselling, and financial assistance, with more than half of the cases relating to conflicts with landlords and outstanding amounts of rent.
- Despite the lifting of mobility restrictions and the re-opening of all sectors, persons of concern continue to reach out to SGBV and LGBTI hotlines, reporting inability to secure basic needs and livelihood expenses, thus becoming more vulnerable, with increased protection risks.
- During June, Child Protection/SGBV sub-units counselled and supported a total of 105 individuals who benefited from case management, legal, Psycho-Social Services and mental health, Resettlement and Cash-Based intervention services through UNHCR or implementing partners in the field.

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

- While Community Support Centers remain closed, dissemination of updates and awareness materials about COVID-19 for refugees in urban areas continued through social media platforms and other channels. UNHCR and partners continue to adhere to the MoH's precautionary health measures, including wearing face masks and maintaining social distancing policy.
- Processing of work permits has resumed, with priority being given to Cash for Work projects and renewal of expired work permits. Additionally, under the new World Bank financing of USD 100 million to the GoJ, the Ministry of Labour (MoL) is working on issuing new flexible work permits for Syrian refugees, waiving certain licencing fees and streamlining registration/renewal processes.
- Even with the resuming of all economic sectors in the country, the COVID-19 emergency has had a significant impact on the economy, especially for daily workers in the informal sectors. Refugee households have been affected significantly, due to continued mobility restrictions, lack of work opportunities, and increasing debt. In June, to support these newly-vulnerable household, UNHCR provided Urgent Cash Assistance to 244 refugee families, including 56 non-Syrian families.

CASH ASSISTANCE FOR BASIC NEEDS

- The COVID-19 emergency cash assistance response reached almost 33,000 refugee families in June 2020, including 3,000 non-Syrian families, with almost 99% of the families having withdrawn the assistance by the end of the period, while 701 cash beneficiaries were paid using Mahfazati mobile money wallets.
- The monthly distribution of ZAIN SIM cards continued in June, with 712 new SIM cards issued. A total of 62,171 SIM cards have been distributed since the commencement of this project.
- The Helpline answered 289,580 calls in June on enquiries mainly related to monthly cash for basic needs, registration, resettlement, and other protection issues.

HEALTH

- As per the decision of the Ministry of Health (MoH), all non-Syrian asylum seekers and refugees across the Kingdom will now be able to access healthcare at hospitals and medical facilities run by the Ministry of Health at the non-insured Jordanian rate by presenting their UNHCR-issued Asylum Seeker/Refugee certificates. The MoH is already in the process of informing all relevant health facilities accordingly and UNHCR stands ready with its helpline to assist refugees should they experience difficulties in accessing the health care at non-insured Jordanian rate.
- The epidemiological situation in Jordan has remained under control, with random testing reaching over 500,000 persons to date, including within refugee camps. While the refugee camps in Jordan remain under more stringent movement controls to combat COVID-19, additional precaution measures are being reinforced. A transit site in Zaatari camp is currently being prepared with a capacity of 120, while in Azraq 153 people are currently in the quarantine site. In addition to these sites for those returning to the camps, inpatient capacity for any potential moderate or severe cases of COVID-19 is also being increased. In Azraq, UNHCR's partner is creating inpatient capacity of 50 beds, while the inpatient treatment centre completed by an operational partner in Zaatari has capacity for 100 patients.
- During the month of June, UNHCR health partners resumed activities in camps and clinics with all necessary health precautions in place, and started seeing patients by an appointment system, while telemedicine remained available for patients residing in remote areas. UNHCR Jordan continues to monitor the implementation of health partners' activities through field visits, while maintaining a focus on surveillance, procurement of PPE, and creating isolation spaces and treatment centres.
- The measures that were put in place as part of the government response continue to have severe implications on the mental health and psychosocial status of refugees, with the vast majority of reported cases showing "moderate to severe emotional depression symptoms", an indicator that highlights the increase in the demand to respond to COVID-19 stressors and implications.
- In June, some 303 severely vulnerable beneficiaries received cash for health assistance for emergency healthcare, reproductive health, and blood disorder cases.

EDUCATION

- UNHCR Jordan, led by the Ministry of Education (MoE), and in collaboration with UNICEF, UNESCO and the Education Working Group, is working on the “Safe Back to School” campaign, which includes preparation for safe reopening of schools, a national media campaign, and outreach and referral mechanisms.
- As part of the COVID-19 response and the distance education planning, the MoE announced the start of the Tawjihi Exams, from 1-23 July, with a total of 178,217 students participating. The MoE will be distributing 1,400,000 masks and gloves to the Tawjihi students.
- Some 2,800 learners remotely accessed the Kolibri learning platform, of which 73% were camp residents and 27% were urban residents, with 1,470 female and 1,320 male students.
- Children continue to face a number of challenges in accessing online education, including poor internet connectivity, limited number of smart devices, and the need to work in order to compensate for lack of income due to COVID-19 impact on their families’ livelihoods.
- UNHCR Jordan facilitated a visual session called “Ready...Job...Go” to provide 124 Syrian refugee student graduates of Al-Khawarizmi College/ LASER project, funded by British Council, with needed information on openly available work opportunities and their legal rights to work in Jordan.

DURABLE SOLUTIONS

- UNHCR Jordan has a target to submit 5,500 individuals for resettlement in 2020. In the month of June, UNHCR Jordan submitted a total of 87 refugees to resettlement countries, bringing the total number of submissions during 2020 to 1,561, representing 28.4% of the annual target.
- Resettlement countries which have confirmed slots for refugee resettlement (quotas) from Jordan in 2020 are Australia, Canada, France, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Sweden and the UK. They are prepared to receive UNHCR referrals during the second half of the year and hope to resume travel as soon as the situation allows. UNHCR Jordan continues resettlement activities remotely and has developed training for caseworkers in preparation for the resumption of resettlement interviews by video.

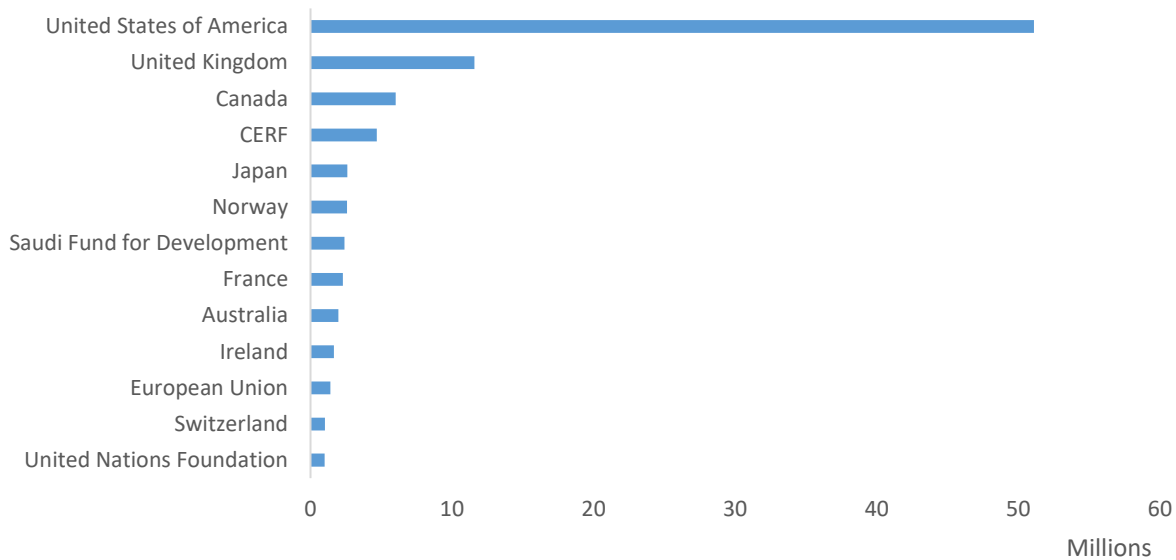
Donor and High-Profile Visits to UNHCR Jordan

- Due to COVID19 and under the Jordan government’s guidance, UNHCR Jordan has postponed all external field missions to the operation. This is also in line with the flight and travel cancellations to and from the country. Donor missions and high-profile visits will resume once the situation with the pandemic improves and no longer poses a risk of exposure of UNHCR’s People of Concern.

Financial Information

Total contributions are over \$134.5 million as of 9 July 2020, covering 32% of overall needs for refugees in Jordan.

EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS to UNHCR Jordan in 2020 (over 1 million USD):



OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Germany 95 million | United Kingdom 24.8 million | Denmark 14.6 million | United States of America 9.4 million | Canada 8.9 million | Private donors USA 8.3 million | Sweden 6.1 million | Finland 5.5 million | Private donors Australia 5.1 million | Private donors Japan 3.9 million | Private donors Germany 3.8 million | Spain 3.4 million | Ireland 3.3 million | Private donors United Kingdom 2.7 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 2.6 million

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Sweden 76.4 million | Norway 41.4 million | Private donors Spain 39.8 million | Netherlands 36.1 million | Denmark 34.6 million | United Kingdom 31.7 million | Germany 25.9 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 20.5 million | Switzerland 16.4 million | France 14 million | Private donors Japan 11.7 million

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