

Building a Brighter Tomorrow

Out of some 730,000 refugees in Jordan, around half of them are under the age of 18. **Education is the key in empowering and shaping the future generation and supporting these young refugees rebuild their lives.** In line with the [Sustainable Development Goal 4 on Quality Education](#) and the principle of [Leave No One Behind](#), UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, works closely with the Government of Jordan to foster conditions, partnerships, and approaches that ensure refugees' access to inclusive and quality education.

Inclusive Education under One-Refugee Approach. Since the beginning of the Syrian conflicts in 2011, the Jordanian government and the international community have been working together to **provide Syrian refugees with free primary and secondary education by exempting them from tuition fees and the costs of books.** Following UNHCR's continued advocacy based on the One-Refugee approach of treating refugees from all nationalities the same, the Ministry of Education (MoE) expanded the policy in 2023, to cover refugees of all nationalities. Jordan has also taken measures such as facilitating **double shifts for more than 200 public schools**



Sidra, a teenager Syrian refugee, is passionate about education and wants to become a teacher when she grows up. In Jordan, refugees of all nationalities can access public schools free of fees. © UNHCR/Shawkat Alharfoush

across the country to accommodate for the large number of refugee students. UNHCR also promotes **inclusive approach to education** for all refugee children including those with disabilities and helped reinforcing capacity of the MoE's inclusive programming by providing **assistive learning devices** such as hearing aids.

UNHCR also advocates for **inclusive information management** so that distinctive needs of refugees can be taken into consideration. Thanks to this effort, the MoE and the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research mandated all public schools and universities in Jordan to add a "refugee code" alongside the personal identification number for refugee students in their information management system. This provides accurate insights into the refugee student population and informs decision-makers and donors in developing effective strategies for inclusive education. UNHCR and its partners also support six **Connected Learning Hubs** across Jordan. The hubs are hybrid (online and offline) platforms for refugee and Jordanian students to access a range of educational games and learning materials. In 2023, around 3,500 refugee and Jordan students benefitted from the hubs.

Expanding and Diversifying Higher Education and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Opportunities. Higher education is an integral part of UNHCR's education strategy. In 2022, UNHCR in Jordan hosted a first roundtable to advance on the [15by30 Goal](#) which aims for 15 per cent enrolment of refugee students at higher education institution by 2030. Following this effort, in 2023, Al-Yarmouk University became the first public university in Jordan to **allow refugee students, regardless of origin, to study at the university paying the same fee as Jordanian students.** Others followed the suit and there are currently four universities that have lowered fees for refugee students. Based on this progress, UNHCR established the **Higher Education Alliance** with likeminded partners to better coordinate and facilitate refugees' access to higher education and TVET opportunities.

Aside from advocacy, UNHCR also supports **scholarship for TVET programmes** with Luminus Technical University College. The program focuses on building refugees' employable skills through providing intensive English courses, IT trainings, career readiness, and life skills programme. Around 25 students benefitted from the scholarship in 2023 and eight students are already in the process of being matched with work and study opportunities in Canada.

Scholarship Opportunities for Higher Education. In 2023, UNHCR and the German Jordan University decided to join efforts and administer their scholarship programmes – the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative, better known as [DAFI](#) and the Edu-Syria jointly. The partnership would enhance refugees' access to higher education through mutual assistance and shared resources and reach out to a wider population of refugees. Moreover, the [UNHCR's Vulnerability Assessment Framework](#) will be as a criterion for decisions on scholarships so that the scholarships are not just merit-based but take refugee students' needs and vulnerabilities into account. As the number of students seeking higher education grows, the limited number of available scholarship opportunities remains a challenge. Currently, there are over 160 refugee students benefiting DAFI scholarship.

Despite living through the chaos of war, my determination to fulfil my dreams never stopped.



Noura, a DAFI graduate, who currently works as a Refugee United Nations Volunteer with UNHCR in Azraq camp.
©UNHCR / Osama Sabbah

Pursuing Educational Opportunities Abroad. Aside from supporting refugees' education in Jordan, UNHCR also helps refugees pursue educational opportunities in third countries. These opportunities normally involve private, community or institution-based scholarship programmes and grants refugees a **legal status to stay and study in the third countries**. UNHCR, along with the scholarship providers, facilitates the application process including the eligibility verification and provides other support such as legal counselling. By 2023, UNHCR facilitated educational pathways to third countries for around 320 refugee students. Read about their [stories](#).

Looking Forward. While UNHCR and Jordan have made great progress in ensuring refugees' access to education, there is still room to do more. Continued advocacy from UNHCR and partners have led to a strategic shift in the Jordan's Response Plan 2024-2026, placing a higher emphasis on higher education and TVET. UNHCR also supported the Higher Education Alliance in **submitting a pledge for the Global Refugee Forum** in December 2023. The pledge focuses on expanding higher education opportunities for refugees while calling for philanthropies, private sector and partners working in education to include refugees in their programmes. Through these efforts, UNHCR will continue to advocate for inclusive and diversified school education for refugees while advancing on 15by30 goal by increasing refugees' access to higher education.



**\$226,000
NEEDED**

UNHCR is committed to ensuring refugees' **access to quality education** through continued **awareness-raising and advocacy** with the government, partners, and donors. UNHCR also explores diverse opportunities for refugees through vocational trainings and/or in third countries. For this, we need **\$226,000** in 2024.

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