

# Jordan

February 2021

The national COVID-19 vaccination program continues, with **over 1,000 refugees** having received the vaccine. UNHCR continues to focus efforts on raising awareness among the refugee communities and providing information.

Within the vaccination programme, Jordan has opened the first **vaccination centre within a refugee camp** in Zaatari, which serves refugee residents of the camp who receive appointments after registering on the government platform.

As cases of COVID-19 in Jordan are on the rise again, UNHCR is monitoring the situation and working closely with the Ministry of Health and Syrian Refugee Affairs Department **to minimise the spread in camps**.

## KEY INDICATORS

**753,676**

Refugees in Jordan as of 15 March 2021

**83%**

Refugees living outside camps in **urban areas**

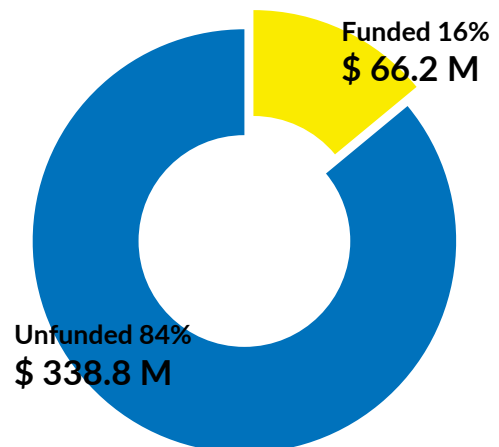
**46.2%**

Refugees are **children** under 17 years

## 2021 FUNDING (AS OF 9 MARCH 2021)

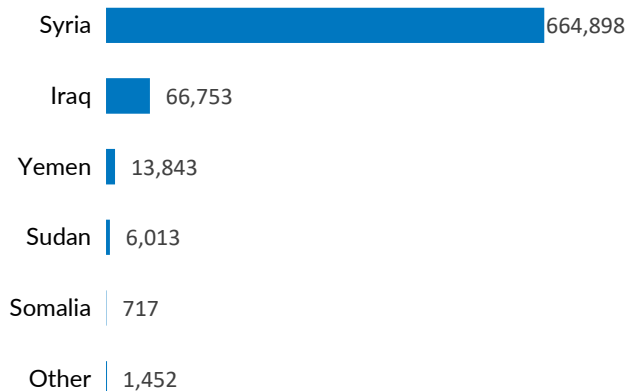
**USD 405 M**

UNHCR Jordan's financial requirements in 2021



## POPULATION OF CONCERN

### Countries of Origin



Refugees wait in the waiting area of Zaatari Vaccination Centre before receiving their COVID-19 vaccine. The COVID-19 Vaccination centre in Zaatari Camp operated by the Jordanian Ministry of Health opened on 15th February 2021. UNHCR Jordan/Yousef Al Hariri

**PROTECTION**

- In February, registration and other legal and protection activities continued through remote modalities. UNHCR continued to share information on such modalities with PoCs through different means, including the [Jordan Help site](#), the Helpline and social media pages. During this month, UNHCR and legal partners provided legal assistance – in the form of counselling, mediation, representation, and protection follow up and advocacy – to 4,650 cases.
- The [distribution](#) of remotely renewed Asylum Seeker Certificates (ASC) at UNHCR's registration centres in February reached a total of 6,368 families. As a result, some 24,492 refugees were able to [renew](#) their ASCs and collect them from the Amman, Irbid, Mafrqa and Azraq registration centres. The show rate for the ASCs' delivery process increased to 83%. UNHCR registration teams across Jordan, having adapted to ongoing COVID-19 situation, continue to renew ASCs and add newborn babies to existing cases through remote modalities, allowing refugees to continue having access to critical services.
- During February, UNHCR's child protection/SGBV teams counselled and supported some 207 individuals, who benefited from case management, legal, psychosocial services and mental health, resettlement and cash-based intervention services through UNHCR or implementing partners in the field.

**COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE**

- Through February, UNHCR has continued to engage with refugee communities, in line with the joint Communication with Communities (CwC) strategy with UNICEF and WFP. Using a variety of channels, including social media, the Bridges of Communications refugees group, Community Support Committees (CSCs) and the online magazine "Working with refugees" among others, UNHCR disseminates updates, information and awareness materials about COVID-19 and latest government guidelines to refugees in urban areas.
- As a key focus of its CwC efforts, during February, UNHCR, together with partner UN agencies, continued to focus on raising awareness and fighting misinformation and misconceptions around the COVID-19 vaccine. Through a number of platforms, including [social media](#), the [UNHCR Jordan Help Site](#), Incentive-Based Volunteers, Community Support Committees, the Helpline, UNHCR continues to share information on the vaccination programme in Jordan, as well as information on the vaccine efficacy or the continued need for adherence to health measures.
- On 24 February, UNHCR Jordan focused its [eighth episode](#) of the #AskUNHCR series to a discussion around the COVID-19 vaccination programme in Jordan. UNHCR Health and External Relations staff answered frequently asked questions that have come up often on social media, as well as questions received live by refugees. The live video reached over 18,000 people and received some 650 comments. More #AskUNHCR sessions can be found [here](#).
- As a key channel of communication with refugee communities, UNHCR-supported Community Support Committees (CSCs) continue to support refugees through various community engagement activities, information sharing, and food/non-food item distributions. CSCs across Jordan conducted 73 online and two in-person activities in February, including awareness-raising activities, distribution of school bags, sanitisers and masks for students, caregiving skills trainings, and more, reaching over 2,300 participants of different nationalities.
- In February, UNHCR provided Urgent Cash Assistance to 84 vulnerable refugee families. Even though the number of active COVID-19 cases remain low among the refugee population, UNHCR community-based protection teams continue to follow up on individual cases through phone counselling, to better

understand the impact of COVID-19 on urban refugee populations and assess the needs and existing gaps in assistance.



#### CASH ASSISTANCE FOR BASIC NEEDS

- In February, UNHCR's regular cash assistance reached some 33,000 refugee families, including 3,000 non-Syrian families. Of those, 768 received the assistance on their mobile wallets, while the vast majority continued to receive it through bank virtual accounts withdrawn majorly using iris scanning on ATMs. UNHCR is working to gradually transition refugees receiving regular cash assistance for basic needs to the mobile wallet modality, to incorporate the financial inclusion opportunities as part of humanitarian payment modalities as well as expanding the cash out/withdrawal network which would decrease transportation cost for refugees.
- To address to continued COVID-19 risks, UNHCR has been staggering the payments of cash assistance, including by gender, to adhere to the health and safety measures and mitigate protection risks. Additional COVID-19 spread mitigation efforts include monitoring of ATMs in busy distribution locations and crowd management as needed, for the adherence of safety measures.



#### HEALTH

- The daily number of COVID-19 cases in Jordan started to rise again in February, but cases among refugees in camps did not reflect the same increase and remained well below the national average, with 2% of the refugee population in camps having testing positive compared to 4.6% of the total Jordanian population. As of 16 March, the cumulative number of COVID-19 cases in refugee camps stood at 2,482, of which 92 were active (76 in Zaatari, 8 in Azraq, 7 in EJC and 1 in KAP), 2,370 had recovered (95.5%), and 20 refugees had passed away. In urban areas, UNHCR is aware of 183 refugees who have tested positive for COVID-19.
- Jordan's COVID-19 vaccination program is ongoing, and as part of it, over 1,000 refugees had received at least the first dose of the vaccine as of 16 March. While vaccinations for refugees were taking place at local health clinics in the respective governorates, an in-camp vaccination centre opened in Zaatari on 15 February and Azraq on 15 March, and have since then been receiving refugees who have received an appointment through the government registration platform. The platform has been modified to allow refugees to use their UNHCR asylum certificate numbers to register.
- In addition to supporting the Ministry of Health (MoH) with the rollout of the vaccination program for refugees, UNHCR continued to respond to COVID-19 in camps, working closely with MoH and the Syrian Refugee Affairs Directorate, to carry out surveillance and contact tracing exercises with the aim to continue minimising the spread.



#### EDUCATION

- While some grades returned to in-person schooling in early February, a surge in COVID-19 cases in Jordan led the Ministry of Education (MoE) to suspend the return of the second batch of students (grades 9-11) to in-person schooling until further notice. Previously, over 800,000 students were expected to return to face-to-face education within the first two weeks of February.
- A total of 21 students, including six refugees, completed their training programme in High-Tech Automotive Maintenance and Repair at Luminus Technical University College (LTUC). Applications for the Vocational Training Diploma Scholarships at LTUC, are now open for the second semester of the

academic year, with a total of 110 slots to be granted to Jordanian and Syrian refugee graduates of the Tawjihi exams.

- UNHCR Jordan continues to work to secure scholarship opportunities for refugees and Jordanians with universities in Jordan and around the world, including in countries like Germany, Canada, Italy, Japan, and more. Announcements of call for scholarships have been published on [social media](#).



#### **DURABLE SOLUTIONS**

- In February, a total of 192 individuals were submitted for resettlement. For 2021, 2,720 resettlement places for refugees in Jordan have so far been confirmed by Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Norway, Romania, Spain and Sweden.
- Remote resettlement processing continues, with UNHCR Jordan conducting interviews with almost 424 refugees, by telephone and video during February, ensuring that integrity and identity verification safeguards are in place.

## High-Profile Visits and Events

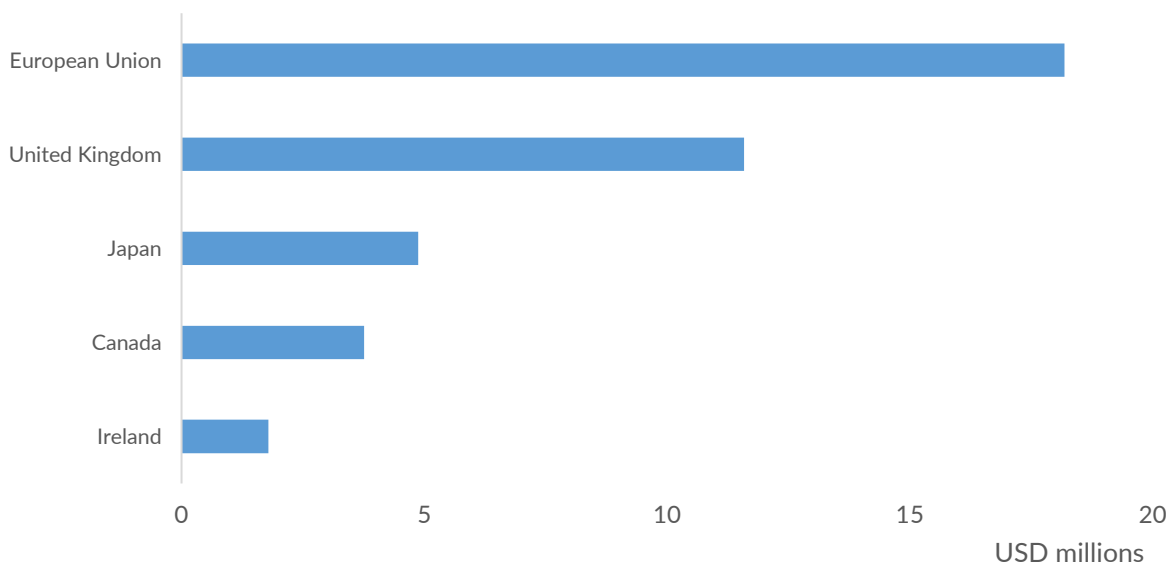
- Due to COVID-19 and under the government's guidance, UNHCR Jordan continues to discourage external field missions to the operation. Donor missions and high-profile visits will resume in full once the situation with the pandemic improves and no longer poses a risk of exposure to UNHCR's people of concern.

# Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the operation in 2021 amount to some **US\$ 66million**, covering 16% of overall needs for refugees in Jordan.

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.

## Earmarked contributions to UNHCR Jordan in 2021 (over 1 million USD)



## Special thanks to the major donors of softly earmarked contributions in 2021 (in USD)

Germany (59.2M) | Sweden (5.4M)

## Thanks to other donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2021 (in USD)

Norway (80million) | Sweden (66.9M) | Netherlands (36.1M) | Denmark (34.6M) | Germany (22.1M) | Switzerland (16.4M) | Private donors Spain (13.3M) | Ireland (12.5M) | Belgium (11.9M)

## CONTACTS

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## LINKS

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram: @UNHCRJordan  
[www.data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees](http://www.data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees)