Jordan

January 2022

In January, COVID-19 cases of the Omicron variant increased across Jordan, with a similar increase recorded among refugees residing in camps. Vaccination efforts continued, with new **mobile vaccination stations** being set up in community centres across Jordan.

Low temperatures, rain, hail and snowstorms significantly impacted several refugees and Jordanians. Together with **winter assistance** already provided to 82,000 families, UNHCR and partners provided urgent support, blankets, heaters, or cash to families in need.

UNHCR's latest survey on the **perception of refugees** showed that 92% of Jordanians are sympathetic towards refugees, but economic hardship shows growing fatigue of the host community.

KEY INDICATORS

760,031

Refugees in Jordan as of 31 January 2022

82.7%

Refugees living outside camps in **urban areas**

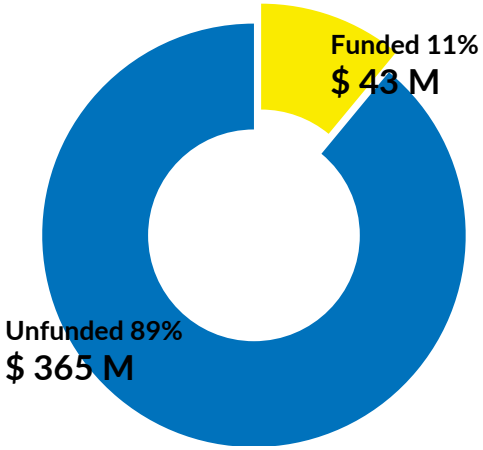
46.8%

Refugees are **children** (under 18 years)

2022 FUNDING (AS OF 15 FEBRUARY 2022)

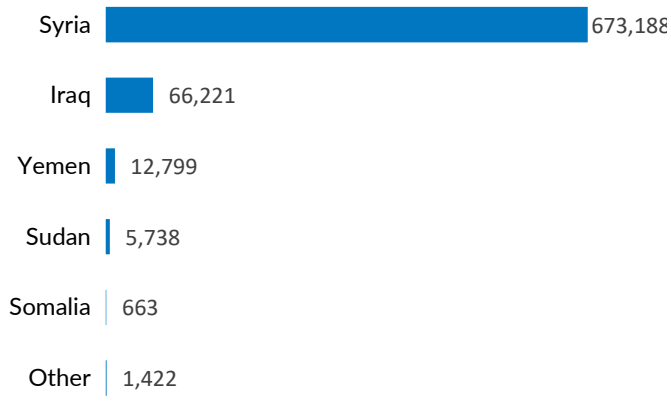
USD 408 M

UNHCR Jordan's financial requirements in 2022



POPULATION OF CONCERN

Countries of Origin



A Syrian refugee in Zaatari is warming himself up in a fire. January recorded very low temperatures across Jordan, as well as rain and snow storms, impacting refugees and Jordanians who did not have access to heating, water or electricity.

PROTECTION

- In January, UNHCR Registration Centres (RCs) continued to provide registration services through a combination of in-person and remote processes. 62% of the over 7,500 families who underwent renewal interviews for their documentation did so through in-person rapid procedures at the RC in Amman.
- UNHCR continued to share information with refugees and asylum seekers through different means, including the Jordan Help site, the Helpline and social media pages, with some 21,600 visitors on the Help site and 283,885 calls handled on the Helpline. During this month, UNHCR and legal partners continued to provide legal assistance in the form of counselling, mediation, representation, and protection follow up and advocacy.
- UNHCR continues to work on improving the recently launched Protection Appointment System, through which refugees and asylum seekers can book their own appointments for counselling with UNHCR by approaching the Registration Centre (RC) in Amman. Ongoing monitoring also ensures the platform's effective application and smooth implementation of the process on the ground at the RC. An increase in show up rates for appointments was noticed, primarily due to the shorter time needed to process a request.
- During January, UNHCR's child protection/SGBV teams counselled and supported 143 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. UNHCR Jordan continues to operate protection hotlines that enable refugees and asylum seekers to contact UNHCR staff directly with any protection concerns they may have.

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

- Through January, over 1,000 refugees reached UNHCR's Community-Based Protection teams through the different channels, including the Helpline, Community Support Committees (CSCs), social media platforms, and in-person counselling at UNHCR premises, and were provided with case management services.
- UNHCR-supported CSCs continue to engage refugees through various activities, including self-development and learning opportunities. During January, some CSCs halted in-person activities, due to increased COVID-19 cases among staff and volunteers, but various remote activities where still carried out, to foster social cohesion, raise awareness on issues such as child labour, and promote gender equality and self-reliance.
- A total of 233 refugee families were assisted through urgent cash assistance in January, to cover education-related expenses (i.e., tuition fees, books), pre-resettlement-related fees and more.
- In January, Jordan witnessed harsh weather, with low temperatures and rain, hail and snowstorms hitting many regions across the country, including Azraq and Zaatari camps. While there were no major incidents, many Jordanians and refugees were impacted by the cold weather, including through power cuts and lack of heating or water. UNHCR, in coordination with CSC volunteers and national partner JOHUD, provided urgent assistance to refugees in need, including blankets, gas heaters, as well as urgent cash assistance to specific cases.
- In January, UNHCR circulated the third phase of the Communication with Communities (CwC) survey with refugees through social media. Survey findings from the almost 3,000 respondents show that most refugees use social media, word of mouth, and three top Jordanian media outlets as main sources of information, while the majority continues to rank UNHCR as a very credible source, similar to previous phases of this survey. The findings will be used to inform and tailor UNHCR's CwC approach to better target our audience, including through more effective use of the different available platforms.
- UNHCR is closely engaging with the Ministry of Labour to further expand the cooperation and build capacity related to refugee rights and access to the labour market. In parallel, ongoing work with partners

in Jordan aims to strengthen the various existing livelihoods programmes, such as Blumont's work with home-based businesses, or UNDP's projects on self-reliance and inclusion. In 2021, a record of 62,000 work permits were issued to Syrian refugees in Jordan, while over 100 Syrian refugees and Jordanians were able to register or get a licence for home-based businesses.

CASH ASSISTANCE FOR BASIC NEEDS

- In January, UNHCR's regular cash assistance reached some 33,000 refugee families, including 3,000 non-Syrian families. Additionally, as part of the efforts to increase vaccination rates among refugees, UNHCR has been providing a vaccine facilitation compensation to cover transportation cost for those who have received two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. In January, over 10,000 individuals received their compensation, reaching a total of about 128,000 since the start of the programme.
- UNHCR has been 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. In January, some 1,400 new beneficiaries residing in Zaatari camp were transitioned from virtual accounts to mobile wallets.

HEALTH

- The epidemiological situation in Jordan deteriorated in January, with daily cases of COVID-19 reaching new records due to the omicron variant and the positivity rate reaching 30% of PCR tests. Cases in refugee camps also increased in parallel with the national situation, while the overall number continues to be well below the national average, with 4% of the refugee camp population having tested positive since the onset of the pandemic compared to 12% of the total Jordanian population. As of 31 January, in refugee camps, a total of 5,429 refugees have tested positive since the onset of the pandemic, of which 98% have recovered, while 65 have died.
- Over 4.5 million people have been vaccinated as part of Jordan's COVID-19 vaccination programme since January 2021. As of early February 2022, over 45,000 camp-based refugees and 12,000 urban refugees having been vaccinated in UNHCR Registration Centres (RCs) and community centres. The COVID-19 vaccination rate stands at 90% for Syrian refugees in camps and 50% for Syrian refugees in urban areas (18 years and above). Ongoing monitoring of refugees calling on UNHCR services shows that the vaccination rate of non-Syrian refugees is above 40%, while over 88% of those approaching the RCs are already vaccinated.
- Efforts of UNHCR and the Government of Jordan to increase vaccination of refugees in urban areas, and particularly in areas where rates seem to be lower (such as southern governorates of Jordan and certain parts of Amman) are ongoing. In January, mobile clinics were deployed to various governorates, while new vaccination stations are gradually being set up in community centres, including in Amman (Nuzha), Karak, Maan, Aqaba and Tafieleh, to make access easier for refugees. In collaboration with the National Center for Security and Crises Management (NCSCM), UNHCR and JOHUD conducted several awareness sessions for refugee outreach volunteers and community leaders around the COVID-19 vaccine and the operation of the newly set-up community centre vaccination stations across Jordan. In parallel, UNHCR and partners have increased communications with refugee communities to increase their awareness, including through social media and outreach volunteers.

EDUCATION

- With limited higher and technical/vocational education scholarships available to refugee students, UNHCR continues to explore opportunities for refugee students to continue their education and

university studies, through a number of scholarship programmes and partnerships with universities throughout Jordan and abroad, such as Zarqa University and Luminus Technical University College. Additionally, the DAFI scholarship continues to provide opportunities for refugees in Jordan, with 205 students enrolled at the end of 2021.

DURABLE SOLUTIONS

- In January, UNHCR Jordan finalised submissions for over 250 individuals for resettlement, with quotas already received by France, Germany, and Norway.
- In addition to resettlement to third countries, UNHCR is closely engaging with embassies to explore additional opportunities for refugees in Jordan to be relocated to third countries through complementary pathways. In addition to those supported by UNHCR, a number of individuals are also departing to third countries on various private sponsorship, family reunification and humanitarian visa programs.

HIGH-PROFILE VISITS, PUBLIC EVENTS AND DONOR ENGAGEMENT

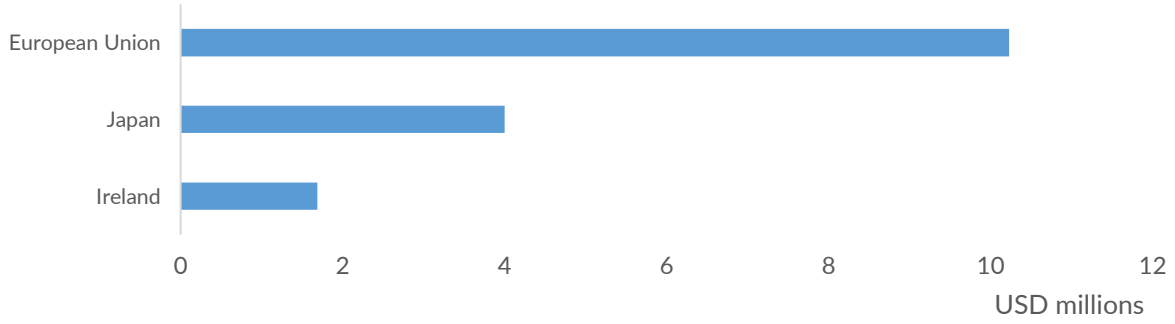
- The latest survey commissioned by UNHCR and conducted by NAMA Strategic Intelligence Solutions showed that 92% of Jordanians are sympathetic towards refugees. The findings also indicated a 76% of respondents believe that the Government's approach towards refugees has been positive. However, indications of growing fatigue among the Jordanian host community are also emerging, mainly related to the economic hardship as a result of the COVID pandemic. The findings of the survey and implications on the broader refugee response in Jordan were discussed in a joint UNHCR-NAMA event, with key stakeholders, including from the donor community and civil society.

Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the operation in 2022 amount to some US$ 43million, covering 11% 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 programs with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

Earmarked contributions to UNHCR Jordan in 2022 (over 1 million USD)



Special thanks to the major donors of softly earmarked contributions in 2022 (in USD)

Norway | Private donors

Thanks to other donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2022 (in USD)

Sweden (77.6M) | Norway (72.5M) | Netherlands (37.2M) | Denmark (35.6M) | Germany (27.6M) | Switzerland (18.4M) | Belgium (11.9M) | Ireland (11.8M)

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LINKS

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