

# Jordan

October 2023

With the humanitarian funding for refugees in Jordan declining rapidly, UNHCR strengthened its **advocacy for continued attention and support** for the refugee response, particularly as the Agency prepares for its activities in 2024.

Some **10,000** refugee men and children left Jordan for third countries in 2023. With UNHCR support, the majority started a new life in **resettlement** countries. Others left for family reunification, private sponsorship, or **labour migration** schemes.

UNHCR and its partners continued to **strengthen the capacity of refugees** through providing diverse trainings on technical skills such as carpentry, tailoring, welding and complementing these with livelihood opportunities.

## KEY INDICATORS

**730,117**

Refugees in Jordan as of 31 October 2023

**81.3%**

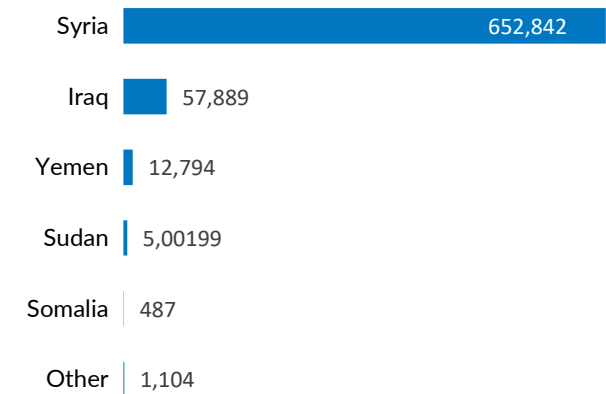
Refugees living outside camps in **communities**

**46.6%**

Refugee **children** (under 18 years)

## REFUGEES & ASYLUM-SEEKERS\*

### Countries of Origin



\* Registered with UNHCR



Refugees attend vocational trainings on tailoring in Azraq camp. UNHCR and its partners provide trainings on different skills and engage refugees in livelihood opportunities to build their capacity and resilience. © UNHCR/Osama Sabbah

**PROTECTION**

- In October, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, interviewed nearly 55,000 refugees for registration purposes, including documentation renewal. UNHCR also continued to support the issuance of documentation attesting legal identity in Jordan. In October, family courts (“Sharia courts”) issued more than 850 certificates attesting vital incidents such as marriages and deaths, and the Civil Status Department of the Ministry of Interior issued more than 1,000 birth certificates.
- In October, UNHCR counselled over 150 refugees who were survivors of gender-based violence or had child protection concerns. This allowed them to access legal and psychosocial support, mental health assistance and cash assistance through UNHCR or partners. Additionally, around 260 refugees facing eviction threats received legal assistance.
- UNHCR continued to share crucial practical information with refugees and asylum-seekers through different means, including the Helpline and social media. In October, more than 26,700 visitors accessed the Help site, and the Helpline received almost 247,500 calls. The newly launched WhatsApp Chatbot received positive feedback from the refugee community with more than 19,000 active users.
- UNHCR continued its capacity building and advocacy, and trained more than 200 government officials, including judges from the Sharia court, sub-governors and staff of the Syrian Refugees Affairs Directorate UNHCR’s mandate and the national and international refugee legal frameworks.

**COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT F**

- UNHCR continued to reach out to refugees across Jordan through different channels, including mobile helpdesks and consultation sessions with multi-functional UNHCR teams. UNHCR listens to and addresses refugee concerns and questions through these encounters. In October, nearly 1,000 refugees were reached UNHCR through mobile helpdesks and consultation sessions.
- In October, the Community Support Committees (CSCs) and the Women Empowerment Network organized around 100 social and educational activities such as arts and craft sessions, awareness raising sessions on health issues and more with nearly 5,000 refugees of different nationalities and host community members. The CSCs continue to serve as a platform for refugee and host community members to exchange ideas and engage in activities, contributing to social cohesion.
- As part of on-going efforts to raise awareness about the risks of child marriage, UNHCR organized community gatherings in Zaatari camp who experienced child marriage to share their stories and advice with other refugees.

**CASH ASSISTANCE AND SELF-RELIANCE**

- UNHCR and WFP started sharing the outcome of around 23,000 appeals to decisions about the new targeting for cash assistance at the end of October. Around 5,600 households will be included in UNHCR’s basic needs cash programme, while around 5,400 households will be phased out.
- In October 2023, UNHCR distributed cash assistance to about a quarter of a million recipients, including around 31,800 refugee households in host communities (representing almost 158,000 individuals) and to approximately 24,500 refugee households in the camps. The number is higher than usual because the phasing out of ineligible households according to the revised targeting model is being implemented gradually.
- In addition, the Agency provided cash assistance to 170 refugee families with urgent needs (e.g. those facing detention or eviction) and to 260 refugees in communities who could not cover their medical bills.

- The number of work permits issued for Syrians increased significantly in August and September according to the latest Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation report. This development comes after the round table event UNHCR organized with the private sector in August, where UNHCR clarified that Syrians do not fall in the non-Jordanian worker quotas in certain sectors and, thus, encouraged companies to hire more Syrian refugees.
- The Social Security Corporation changed its regulations, removing the option for refugees to choose a reduced contribution to social security. This significantly increases the fee for flexible work permits (allowing Syrian refugees to work for more than one employer), and the progress on enhanced access of refugees to formal employment may be hindered. UNHCR is working with a range of key stakeholders to understand the potential impact of this measure, and to explore sustainable solutions.
- UNHCR, through its partners, the Jordan River Foundation and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), provided trainings and livelihood opportunities to around 600 refugees and Jordanians, including vocational trainings on tailoring, carpentry, welding, electricity management, etc. UNHCR and NRC also provided around 80 refugees and host community members with training on data collection and research methods so that they can work as enumerators for an upcoming NRC study.



#### HEALTH

- During breast cancer awareness month (October), UNHCR conducted an awareness-raising session, including a breast self-exam in Irbid. Around 150 refugees attended the session.
- UNHCR, through its partners Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development and Noor Al-Hussein Foundation, provided support to more than 660 refugees with specific needs, including the elderly and refugees with disabilities, in the form of rehabilitation services and assistive devices such as wheelchairs, hearing aids, eyeglasses, etc.



#### EDUCATION

- UNHCR and the German Jordanian University signed a Memorandum of Understanding to lay the foundation for a partnership between the two main scholarship programmes, EDU-SYRIA and DAFI. The partnership will enhance refugees' access to higher education through mutual assistance and shared resources. Moreover, it was agreed to add UNHCR's Vulnerability Assessment as a criterion for decisions on scholarships.



#### SOLUTIONS

- So far, in 2023, cases of over 7,600 individuals have been submitted to resettlement countries for consideration, and nearly 9,400 refugees left Jordan for resettlement countries.
- By the end of October 2023, more than 300 individuals are known to have left Jordan on various pathways, with the majority departing on family reunification, private sponsorship, or employment pathways. UNHCR assisted over 1,300 refugees in accessing these pathways through counselling, referral, or travel formalities, surpassing the 2023 target of 1,200 individuals.

**SHELTER & ENERGY**

- UNHCR completed repairing roads in two districts in Zaatari, adding proper rainwater drainage and pedestrian concrete slabs along the road to mitigate the negative impact of flooding and to improve access, especially during emergencies.
- Fire incidents in the camps have become a recurring threat, with more than 50 incidents so far in 2023. UNHCR and its partners continue to raise awareness sessions on fire safety.
- Through a partnership with NRC, UNHCR rehabilitated and repaired more than 650 shelters and provided more than 200 new shelters in Azraq and Zaatari camps. Almost all shelters in the camps are in need of maintenance. Among them, 4,100 families are prioritized based on their needs and vulnerabilities but even they are still on the waiting list to receive shelter support due to limited funding.

**HIGH-PROFILE VISITS, PUBLIC EVENTS AND DONOR ENGAGEMENT**

In October, UNHCR facilitated high-level visits and events, including:

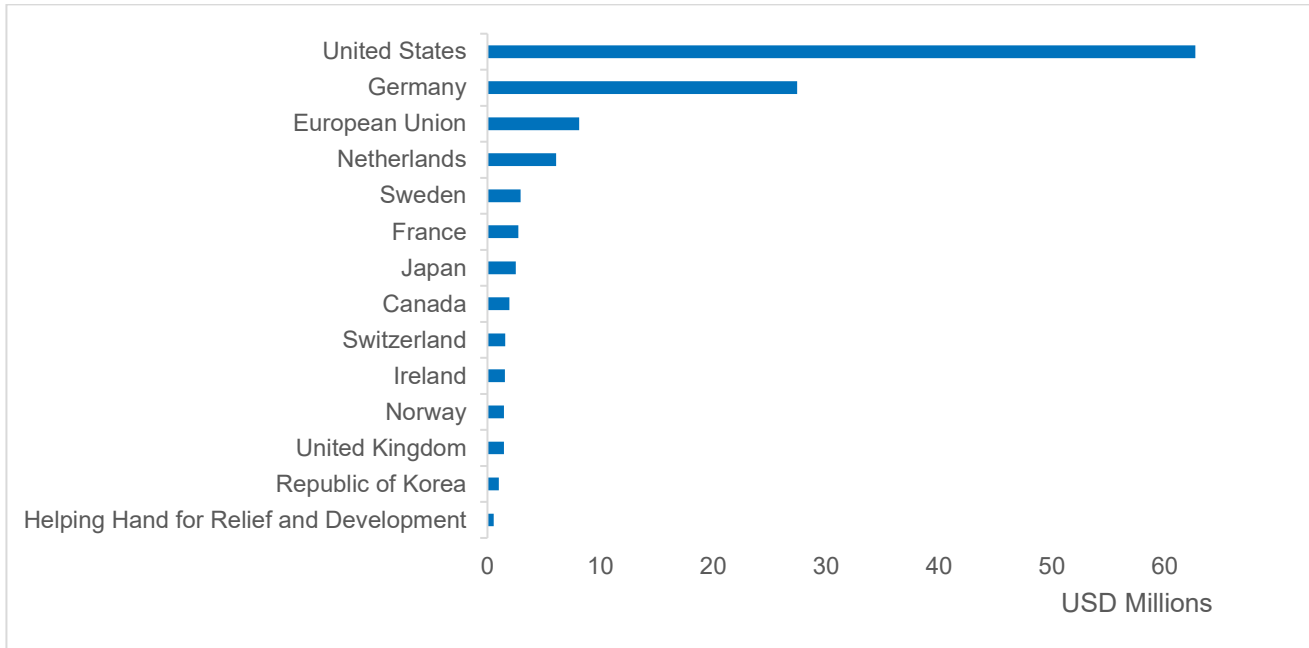
- The UNHCR Representative in Jordan travelled to the United States and Canada, where he met with key government interlocutors to bring renewed attention to and maintain the constructive dialogue about the refugee response in Jordan. He warned the refugee situation faces the risk of sliding back into a humanitarian crisis should funding for humanitarian and development support not be sustained.
- UNHCR hosted a preparation meeting for the upcoming Global Refugee Forum in December with donor representatives of various countries such as Australia, France, Japan, Switzerland, the US, the World Bank, and a national NGO to share ideas for potential pledges and advocate for continued support for the refugees in Jordan.
- UNHCR facilitated visits to the refugee camps for the representatives from the [Nordic countries](#) and the [Said Foundation](#).

# Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the operation in 2023 amount to some **\$159 million**.

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors, including those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

## Earmarked contributions to UNHCR Jordan in 2023 (over \$500,000)



## Special thanks to the major global donors of softly earmarked contributions in 2023 (in US\$)

United States of America (10.5M) | Private donors Australia (8M) | Private donors Germany (7.6M) | Finland (5.2M) | Private donors USA (3.7M) | Private donors Republic of Korea (2.8M) | Private donors United Kingdom (2.5M) | Denmark (2.5M) | Private donors Netherlands (2.2M) | Private donors China (2.1M)

## Thanks to other global donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2023 (in US\$)

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