

DISABILITY AND AGE TASK FORCE



Persons with Disabilities

Jordanians and non-Jordanians

Census (2015): 11.1% of the population aged 5 years and above (651,396).*

Refugees

UNHCR's ProGres (2021): 4.1% (30,956).
VAF study (2019): 21% of Syrians surveyed.
HI & IMMAP (2018): 22.9% of Syrians surveyed.**

Older Persons

Jordanians

Census (2015): 6.1% of the population is over 60 years of age (405,101).

Refugees

UNHCR's ProGres (2021): 4.8% (36,206 refugees above 60 years of age).



Situation

Persons with disabilities and older persons have the same rights and basic needs as persons without disabilities and younger persons, including access to adequate shelter, nutrition, livelihoods, education, health care and other services. They may also have additional or specific requirements such as access to rehabilitation, assistive devices and other specialized services. Yet refugees with disabilities and older refugees continue to face various barriers to access humanitarian assistance and are often excluded from decision-making processes and leadership opportunities. They also face particular protection risks such as heightened risks of violence, exploitation and abuse, as well as high levels of discrimination. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated barriers faced by refugees with disabilities and older refugees and created additional challenges with the disruption of services, social support networks and community life.

Despite initiatives to support disability and age inclusion, the number of refugees with disabilities and older refugees targeted through various interventions continues to be relatively low in Jordan. Funding unpredictability, budgetary constraints and limited accessibility of mainstream services compounded by the disruption of in-person services during the pandemic pose challenges to the delivery of assistance (i.e. lack of services in remote areas, limited provision of medications and assistive devices) and inclusivity of services (i.e. accessibility and reasonable accommodation in regards to remote services). Refugee children with disabilities, who are regularly at higher risks of being out of school, were particularly affected by the disruption of in-person schooling due to the pandemic. Meanwhile, limited support to caregivers and support persons was particularly acute in 2020. The prevalence of prejudices and negative attitudes towards persons with disabilities and older people within society also contributes to increasing the sense of stigma and isolation in displacement.

* The disability prevalence identified by the Population and Housing Census (2015) includes those who presented any type of functional difficulties; persons who answered "some difficulty"; "a lot of difficulty"; and "cannot do at all" to the Washington Group Questions were considered to have a disability. The census includes Jordanians and non-Jordanians, with Syrians making up 13% of the total population. Main results are available at: www.dos.gov.jo/dos_home_e/main/population/census2015/Main_Result.pdf.

** Both studies cited used the Washington Group Questions to identify persons with disabilities. They are available at: reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/68856.pdf; and reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/67818.pdf.

Objective of the Disability and Age Task Force (DATF)

The overall objective of the Disability and Age Task Force is to advocate for and promote effective disability and age inclusion into the humanitarian-development response in Jordan aiming to promote and mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities and older persons, promote the meaningful participation of persons with disabilities and older persons, support the consideration of disability and age-related perspectives and remove any barriers that prevent persons with disabilities, older people and people in disabling situations to access humanitarian and development assistance and services on an equal basis with others.

Response Priorities

1. Strengthening coordination and information sharing.

2. Disability and age mainstreaming.

3. Strengthening inter-agency needs assessment, analysis and prioritization.

4. Advocacy.

5. Capacity building.

Achievements

- ✓ Produced guidelines for prioritization of disability-specific services for refugees and other populations in Jordan for improved access to quality specialized services.
- ✓ Sharing of disability inclusion good practices.
- ✓ Advocated for accessibility of services for persons with disabilities and older people.
- ✓ Adoption of the Washington Group Questions on Disability by the Vulnerability Assessment Framework population study to improve the identification of people with disabilities.
- ✓ Regular updating of service mapping matrix for persons with disabilities.

DATF Members

AIDOS, Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development (ARDD), ARCS Culture Solidali, Care, Center for Victims of Torture (CVT), HelpAge International, Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (HCD), Humanity & Inclusion (HI), International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development (JOHUD), Mercy Corps, MSF France/OCP, Noor Al-Hussein Foundation (NHF), Terre Des Hommes Italy (TdH), Un Ponte Per (UPP), UNHCR, UNICEF and Vento di Terra NGO.

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