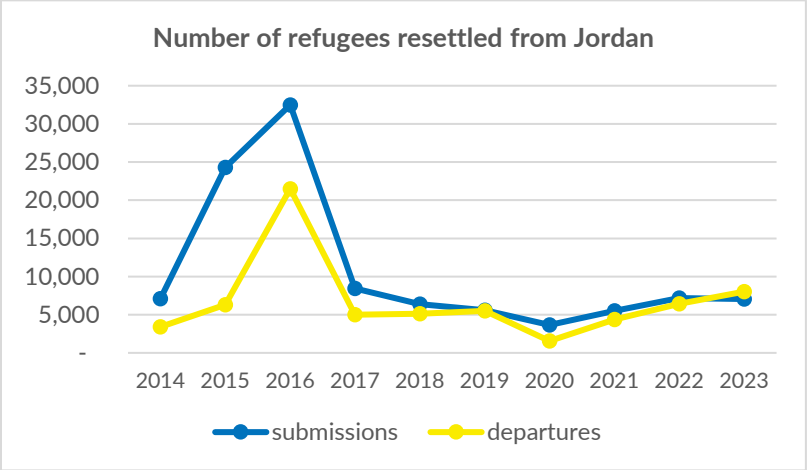
Finding Solutions to Build a Better Future

Jordan currently hosts some 730,000 refugees, most of them Syrians. Aside from providing immediate and urgent support to refugees, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, explores **durable solutions** for refugees to help them rebuild their lives. With limited scope for return to Syria and long-term integration into Jordanian communities, UNHCR in Jordan focuses on **third-country solutions** such as **resettlement, labour mobility schemes and other pathways** while sharing up-to-date information for those who choose to return voluntarily.

Resettlement. Resettlement enables refugees to relocate to another country that has agreed to admit them with a legal status ensuring international protection and ultimately permanent residence. It is an important way of responsibility sharing and showing solidarity with host governments such as Jordan. Based on the "**One Refugee" approach** which seeks to reduce and ultimately eliminate differences in rights and services based on nationality, UNHCR prioritizes refugees of all nationalities for resettlement according to protection needs. **Those who get resettled are mostly extremely vulnerable cases,** such as those with legal and physical protection needs, survivors of violence or torture, children, and adolescents at risk, and those with medical needs. Resettlement slots are limited and are based on quotas assigned by resettlement countries. While over ten per cent of refugees are estimated to need resettlement, less than one per cent usually are resettled. Since 2014, some 69,000 refugees have left Jordan for resettlement countries, including over 10,000 in 2023.

"If we hadn't been resettled, our lives would have faced devastation," says Asma, a Sudanese refugee in Jordan, who was resettled to the United States. © UNHCR/Sana Hamdan



Other pathways. In addition to resettlement, many pathways exist for refugees to access third country solutions including **employment, education, family reunification and private sponsorships.** Referred to as "complementary pathways," these are safe and regulated avenues for refugees to stay lawfully in a third country where their international protection needs are met. Since 2020 when UNHCR in Jordan started tracking such pathways, over 1,500 refugees are known to have left Jordan. As refugees can arrange and facilitate these opportunities on their

own, this figure only reflects a fraction of the actual number of refugees who travelled to third countries on different pathways. In fact, aggregate data shared by key partners indicates that more than 8,000 refugees left Jordan on pathways in the same timeframe.

Different types of pathways

Over the last decade, many refugees have benefited from education and livelihood programmes in Jordan. Now, they are highly skilled refugees in high-demand sectors such as information technology, healthcare, law and engineering. While they cannot work in these sectors in Jordan as they are restricted sectors for foreigners to work, they are strong candidates for employment pathways to third countries.

UNHCR continues to work with partners to expand programmes to support more refugees to explore and benefit from different pathways through i) **strengthening outreach and information sharing with refugees** on related processes, ii) **building data and evidence** on refugee needs, skills and experiences to advocate for and facilitate increased access to pathways, and iii) coordinating a network of partners to **address the barriers limiting refugee access to available pathways** including through providing upskilling and language programmes.

Returns to Syria. UNHCR Jordan does not currently promote nor facilitate the return of Syrian refugees. However, UNHCR continues to seek ways to support those refugees who wish to return, while monitoring developments that may contribute to future opportunities for voluntary repatriation in safety and dignity. UNHCR maintains that any return must be **voluntary and based on a free and informed decision.** Since 2018, more than 52,000 Syrian refugees have chosen to return home. Between 2020 and 2023, UNHCR has observed an average of 500 refugees crossing the border per month. UNHCR conducts outreach and information sessions with refugees across Jordan to emphasize the voluntary nature of returns and to ensure that communities know the returns procedures and required documentation. In 2023, more than 1,300 refugees have attended returns information sessions.

Looking Forward. UNHCR will ensure that vulnerable refugees with the most heightened protection needs have access to the **limited resettlement opportunities** while facilitating access to **different pathways** and helping refugees navigate various solutions and possibilities available to them. UNHCR will also continue to **share accurate and up-to-date information** for refugees who wish to return to Syria and ensure that all returns are voluntary, safe and well-informed.

WHAT WE NEED IN 2024	UNHCR is committed to helping refugees explore and access different **third country solutions.** UNHCR needs **103,000 spots** to resettle the most vulnerable refugees in Jordan to third countries. UNHCR also aims to assist **4,000** refugees explore and access different pathways. Find out how to help skilled refugees in Jordan restart a new career abroad here.

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