

Jordan

May 2024

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Thanks to **awareness-raising and prevention efforts**, the percentage of **child marriage** against the total registered marriages in Azraq camp dropped from 56 per cent in 2018 to 30 per cent in 2023.

A Syrian refugee in Jordan, who started Taekwondo in Azraq camp, was included in the **refugee Olympic team** for the Paris Olympic Games 2024.



*A refugee volunteer shares her personal experience on child marriage at a community centre.
@UNHCR/ Shawkat Al harfoush*



PROTECTION

- UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, interviewed almost 48,000 refugees in May for **registration** to ensure that refugees have proper documents and can access basic services and support.
- UNHCR worked with partners to **counsel and/or provide legal assistance** to almost 5,600 refugees in difficult situations, such as those affected by gender-based violence, child protection issues or eviction threats. The latter may become more complex, as due to difficult economic situations, landlords opt to file lawsuits instead of mediation for outstanding rent. Refugees who cannot afford to pay the amounts risk being imprisoned.
- The Child Marriage Network in Mafraq governorate organized a conference with participation of officials from the Sharia Court, Ministry of Social Development and Ministry of Health to address the consequences of child marriage. In Azraq camp, incentive-based volunteers continued to raise

awareness about child marriage through various activities. Thanks to these efforts, the percentage of **child marriage** against the total registered marriages in Azraq camp dropped significantly from 56 per cent in 2018 to 30 per cent in 2023.

- UNHCR is working with partners to identify and address potential increase in such issues as child marriage, street begging, school dropout, violence against children and other ways how refugees react to the reduction of humanitarian assistance.



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

- In May, over 1,100 refugees across Jordan reached UNHCR **mobile helpdesks** and participated in community consultations to receive information about UNHCR services. These consultations enable refugees living in remote areas to engage directly with UNHCR without having to travel long hours.
- Some 2,500 refugees and Jordanians participated in sports events, information sessions and other activities organized by the Community Support Committees (CSCs) and the Women Empowerment Network. The CSCs continue to serve as platforms for refugees and Jordanians to engage, contributing to **social cohesion**.
- A Syrian refugee in Jordan, who started Taekwondo in Azraq camp, was included in the **refugee Olympic team** for the Paris Olympic Games 2024. UNHCR and its partners continue to engage young refugees in sports activities to foster peace and empowerment.



CASH ASSISTANCE AND SELF-RELIANCE

- UNHCR provided **basic needs cash assistance** to over 25,000 refugee families in host communities. With over 23,700 households in the camps who receive the assistance on a quarterly basis, the total number of supported refugees stands at around 212,000 individuals.
- In May, UNHCR **reduced the transfer value of its cash assistance** by 25 per cent for refugees in host communities, due to a sharp decline in donor funding. The transfer values in camps remain unchanged.
- UNHCR informed the refugee population in communities of the reduction of the amount of its cash assistance through various channels to ensure **transparent and timely communication**.
- With funding from Oman, UNHCR provided **one-time Zakat cash assistance** to 2,100 Syrian and Iraqi refugee families who are not receiving monthly basic needs cash.
- UNHCR continued to **engage with the private sector** to explore employment and training opportunities for refugees. In May, UNHCR met with a catering company which requested referral of refugee cooks to be employed in their new Syrian food line and with the Royal Academy of Culinary Arts.



HEALTH

- UNHCR started distributing the Ministry of Health's Service Guide to ensure refugees' smooth access to public healthcare services. The initiative is aimed at **increasing awareness** among staff in the public health facilities about current inclusive policies.
- **A new cardiology clinic** started operating one day per week in Zaatari camp, in addition to the existing cardiology clinic. Most of the specialty clinics are available in the primary healthcare clinics in the camp.

Over **1,100 refugees** from the camps were referred outside and received emergency and/or vital function-saving healthcare services at public facilities.

- In May, UNHCR and its partners provided **assistive devices and rehabilitation services** to over 700 refugees with specific needs. Refugees with disabilities face challenges due to limited special education and livelihood opportunities as well as lack of rehabilitation services outside main cities.

**EDUCATION**

- As part of the education sector reform, it was announced that the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development, responsible for overseeing all stages of education, will be established. This change is expected to support a lifelong learning, enhance the competitiveness of human resources, including refugees, and increase employability locally and internationally by aligning the education outcomes with labour market needs.
- Over 50 alumni of scholarships such as **DAFI and Edu-Syria** gathered for a discussion aimed at enhancing network and supporting scholarship recipients. The alumni raised the need for widening educational and other opportunities and proposed creating alumni networking platforms, establishing university offices to aid refugee graduates, and improving career guidance.

**SOLUTIONS**

- As of May, UNHCR recorded some 200 individuals who left Jordan in 2024 on **different pathways**, mostly through family reunification. There are more refugees that left Jordan this way of whom UNHCR may not be aware.
- UNHCR provided **counselling and assistance** to 240 individuals **to access different pathways** such as exit facilitation and enrolment in language courses. Over 2,000 individuals participated in person and in virtual information sessions on relevant opportunities, organized by UNHCR and/or through the Refugee Guidance Counsellors.
- In May, UNHCR hosted a delegation of Canadian philanthropic, private sector, and provincial government officials. The delegation visited Zaatari camp and met with different livelihood partners to gain insights into the lives of refugees, training opportunities and assistance provided to them as well as to identify potential gaps and areas for investment to scale up labour mobility programmes to Canada. During the visit, the visitors launched a partnership with Luminus Technical University College with the aim to facilitate employment opportunities in Canada for 2,000 refugee and Jordanian students.
- Talent Beyond Boundaries announced the **Jordan100 initiative** supported by UNHCR. The initiative aims to place 100 primary candidates with jobs in third countries before May 2025 and will include the identification of highly skilled candidates, language training and testing, career preparation, and other services to facilitate matching with employers.

In May, cases for over **600 individuals** were submitted for resettlement and **670 individuals** left Jordan for resettlement countries.

**SHELTER**

- The rise in temperature affected the electrical network in Zaatari, leading to an increase in network cutoffs. This caused a reduction of the electricity provision from 9 hours to 6 – 7.5 hours on average per day. UNHCR continues to work to maintain stable and efficient supply as much as possible.
- UNHCR, through its partner, repaired and rehabilitated 60 shelters and provided 30 new shelters in Azraq camp while the procurement of shelter materials is on-going in Zaatari camp.



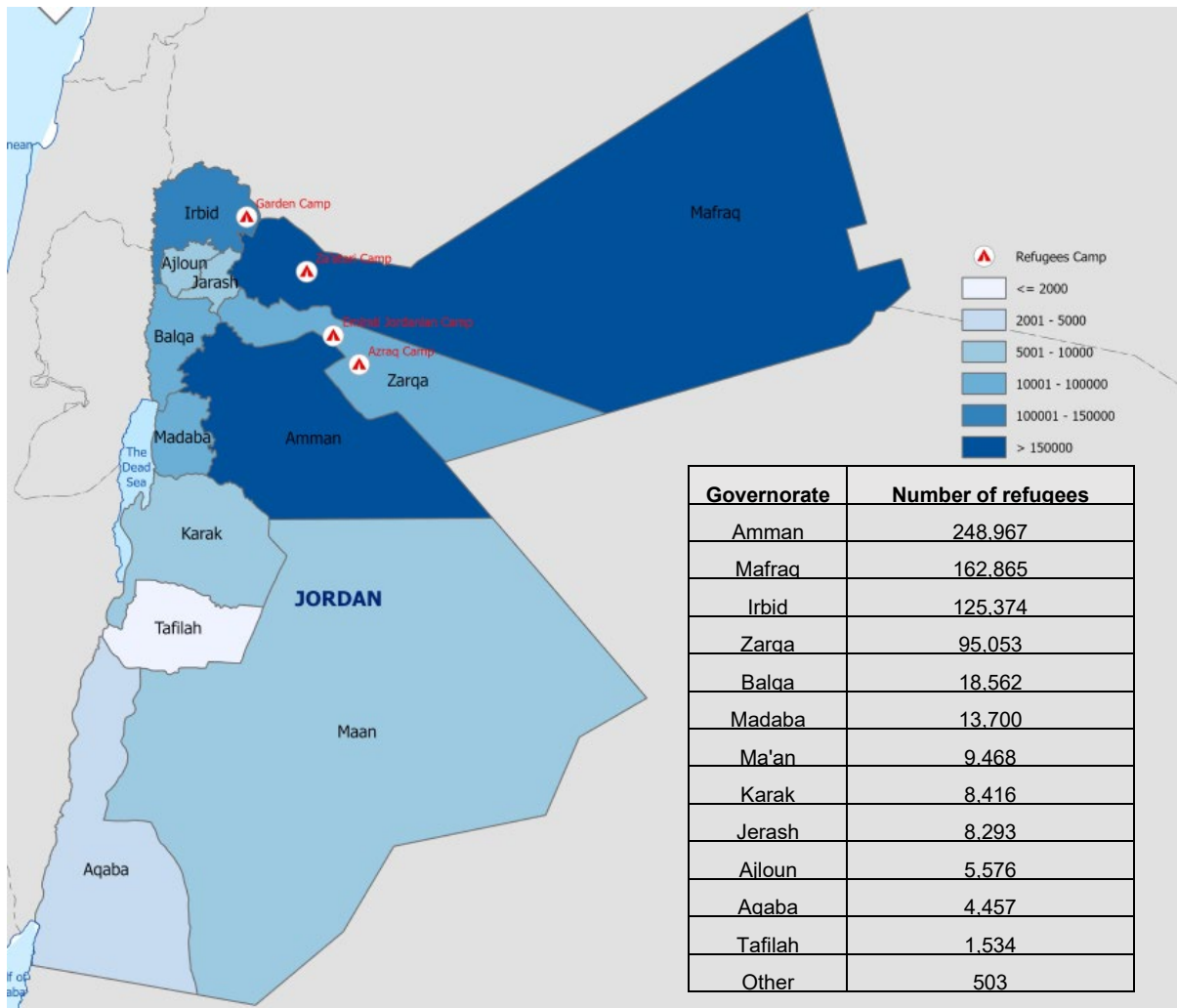
INTERAGENCY COORDINATION

- The Inter-Sector Working Group (ISWG) hosted **Transition and Vision workshop** on 28 May to enhance development partnerships in Jordan and address challenges such as funding shortages and shifting donor priorities. The workshop highlighted the importance of comprehensive responses, private sector engagement, and repositioning of the ISWG as a catalyst. Recommendations included promoting coherence between humanitarian and development actors, strategic resource mobilization, environmental sustainability, capacity building, and streamlining service provision.
- On the occasion of the **Brussels Conference VIII on the Syria situation**, the Jordan Strategic Humanitarian Committee, also known as JoSH, published an [op-ed](#), emphasizing the need for continued support for Jordan and highlighting the Conference as an opportunity for the international community to reaffirm their commitment to the Syrian refugees and their host countries.

HIGH-PROFILE VISITS, PUBLIC EVENTS AND DONOR ENGAGEMENT

In May, UNHCR hosted high-level meetings and visits for representatives from Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Japan, the United States and the World Bank. The visitors held consultations with UNHCR and met refugees in communities and/or camps to hear first-hand about refugees' challenges and achievements. UNHCR, along with key donor representatives, other UN agencies and NGO partners, joined several discussions on various topics including refugee access to the labour market and the future of the refugee response. UNHCR also hosted a renowned Swedish pastry chef, [Roy Fares](#), who met with talented refugees pastry makers and bakers in Zatar Camp and Irbid.

Key Refugee Figures (as of 31 May 2024)



* The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

- **81.8%** refugees live outside camps **in communities**

Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the operation in 2024 amount to some **\$64.2 million**. UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors, including those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and softly earmarked funds.

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