

# Jordan

June 2024

UNHCR published the biennial **socio-economic survey of refugees** in Jordan. The findings reflect the situation of 34,000 refugees and show a spike in poverty and a reemergence of humanitarian crisis which UNHCR had been warning about.

UNHCR, refugee communities and Jordanians marked **World Refugee Day** across Jordan, celebrating various cultures of refugees from different countries of origin and demonstrating support for and solidarity with refugees.

Over 4,000 refugees work as **Incentive-Based Volunteers** and 17 as **Refugee UN Volunteers** in Azraq and Zaatari camps. These serve as important source of income for refugees who have limited working opportunities.



*Saja, a five-year old Syrian refugee, wearing a traditional outfit to celebrate the Syrian culture during the World Refugee Day event in Zaatari. @UNHCR/ Shawkat Al harfoush*



## PROTECTION

- UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, interviewed over 41,000 refugees in June for **registration** to ensure that they have proper and updated documents and can access basic services and support.
- In June, UNHCR added an electronic signature in all refugee documentation issued by UNHCR in Jordan, enhancing the integrity features and safeguards of these documents.
- This month, UNHCR and its partners counselled and provided support (e.g. cash assistance, legal advice, psychosocial support, etc) to almost 150 individuals who faced **gender-based violence and/or had child protection issues**.
- UNHCR conducted **awareness raising sessions on legal protection** in various locations including Al Salt and Aqaba. UNHCR informed the participating refugees on legal services provided by UNHCR and its partner; reporting mechanisms for abuse, legal actions, and bullying at school; and access to employment and home-based business.

- The **assistance reduced by different actors** across the refugee response over the past two years **has a human cost**— there have been more walk-in cases to UNHCR premises seeking financial assistance. The number of refugees being evicted or receiving eviction threats is on the rise. Partners have also reported an increase in child marriage and child labour. UNHCR continues to monitor the situation and provide needed counselling and assistance including referrals to appropriate partners.



### COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

- Following the reduced assistance, **UNHCR strengthened its outreach** to the refugee community. UNHCR's regular mobile helpdesks, where UNHCR staff provide information about UNHCR services and answer refugees' questions across the Kingdom, reached around 730 individuals in June. In addition, UNHCR and the World Food Programme met with almost 300 refugees across Jordan to learn more about their situations and concerns.
- Over 20,000 refugees of different nationalities and Jordanians participated in different activities and events organized by the **Community Support Committees (CSCs)**. These include social cohesion initiatives, sport events, empowerment and resilience-building activities, and awareness-raising on specific topics. In June, CSCs also organized various activities to mark the World Refugee Day.



### CASH ASSISTANCE AND SELF-RELIANCE

- In June, UNHCR provided **basic needs cash assistance** to over 23,000 refugee families in host communities. With over 23,000 households in the camps who receive the assistance on a quarterly basis (in April for the second quarter), over 203,000 individuals benefitted from cash assistance.
- As of June, there were almost 4,000 **incentive-based volunteers (IBVs)** in Azraq and Zaatari camps 40 per cent of whom women. UNHCR also employs 27 **Refugee UN Volunteers (RUNVs)** in the camps. Through these mechanisms, refugees engage in various activities (e.g. camp area maintenance, translation, photography, electric grid maintenance, assisting teachers, etc) and receive small stipends for their contribution. With limited employment opportunities, IBVs and RUNVs serve as important tools for livelihood and sources of income for refugees.

The cash transfer amount in June reflected a **25 per cent reduced value** that took effect in May due to declining funding. UNHCR continues to seek further support to eventually reinstate the original transfer values.



### HEALTH

- A primary healthcare centre in district 6 of Zaatari camp closed as of June. Some functions such as clinic for chronic noncommunicable diseases, laboratory, pharmacy, nutrition and mental health and psychosocial support have been transferred to a nearby emergency room.
- UNHCR, through its partners, provided support to over 520 **people with specific needs**, including the elderly and individuals with disabilities. The support includes provision of assistive devices; community-based rehabilitation services; counselling and psychosocial support. There is a long waiting list for this support as resources are limited.

**EDUCATION**

- Four Syrian refugees were accepted to a Master's programme in France with support from the French Embassy in Jordan. These students will receive **scholarships** to travel to and study in France. Additionally, 10 refugee students were also selected for the Women in Science Displacement Outreach Master's Programme and will receive scholarships to study at the Hashemite University in Jordan.
- UNHCR organized the second quarterly meeting of the **Higher Education Alliance**. The meeting reviewed progress on the Alliance and commitments from the Global Refugee Forum, focusing on reducing tuition fees, increasing scholarship opportunities, and improving enrolment data systems to enhance access to higher education and vocational training for refugee students.

**SOLUTIONS**

- In June, almost 500 individuals left Jordan through **resettlement** in third countries.
- UNHCR provided **counselling and assistance** such as exit facilitation and enrolment in language courses to over 300 individuals **to access different pathways**, including labour mobility, to third countries. Over 2,200 individuals participated in in-person and virtual information sessions on relevant opportunities, organized by UNHCR and/or through the Refugee Guidance Counsellors.

By June, over **230 individuals** are known to have left Jordan on **different pathways**, mostly through family reunification. As refugees can facilitate these processes on their own, there are more refugees that left Jordan through these pathways of whom UNHCR may not be aware.

**SHELTER**

- Due to increased incidents of network disruptions, **electricity provision** in Zaatari camp decreased from nine to six hours on average/day for most of the districts. UNHCR is working with the service providers to restore the supply and efficiency of the network.
- UNHCR shared an online link with refugee community in Zaatari camp which enables refugees to self-refer themselves for shelter support. This new approach aims to promote more transparent and inclusive communication with the community. UNHCR received around 2,000 applications just in a week. Due to limited resources available, UNHCR will review and prioritize the most vulnerable refugees.

**INTERAGENCY COORDINATION**

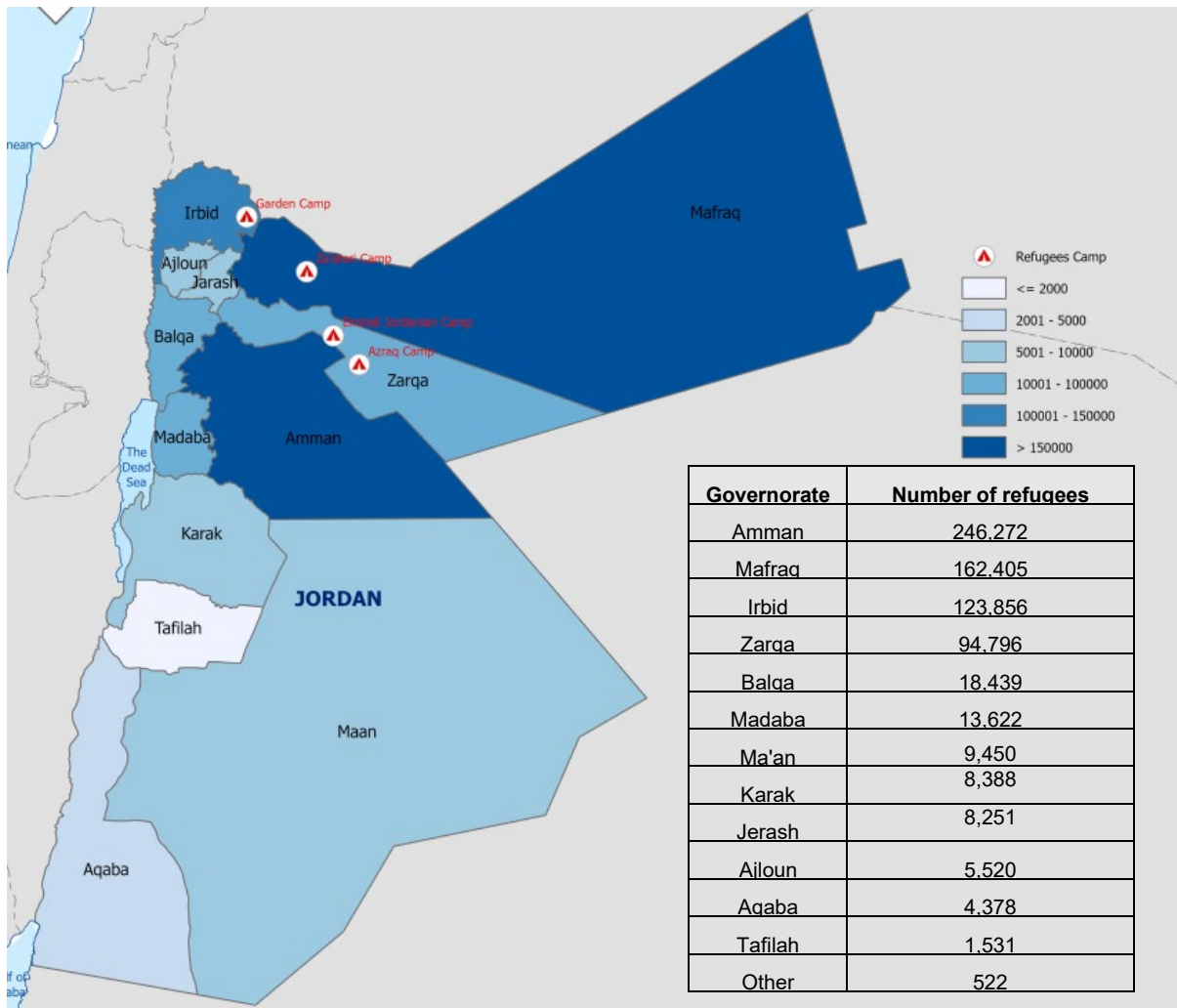
- In June, UNHCR and UN Women organized two **Gender and Protection Mainstreaming workshops** for partners for different sectors. The workshops aimed to provide a comprehensive overview of key protection and gender mainstreaming principles, foster an understanding of intersectionality between these two concepts, and analyse their practical application throughout the programme cycle.
- The **Irbid Local Coordination Group**, chaired by the Governor of Irbid, UNHCR and UNDP, met in June to present the development and humanitarian priorities in the Governorate and to discuss ways to better coordinate efforts in response to the needs. About 60 humanitarian and developmental actors and local authorities participated in the meeting.

- The **Jordan Civil Society Network** discussed Jordan-relevant pledges made during **the Global Refugee Forum** in December 2023 in order to explore the potential of network members matching these pledges.

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

- UNHCR, along with the World Bank and the World Food Programme, hosted the launch of the **Socio-economic Survey on Refugees** (Vulnerability Assessment Framework VAF), in two parts, on **camp**s and **communities**. The surveys are based on the situation of interviews covering **the situation of 34,000 individual refugees** and meant to inform development and humanitarian planning and interventions. The event was attended by representatives from donors, government, and NGO partners and provided an opportunity to gain deep insights backed up with hard data on the current refugee situation in Jordan.
- UNHCR also hosted high-level meetings and visits for representatives from the European Union, Germany, International Finance Corporation, the Kingdom of Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. The visitors held consultations with UNHCR and met refugees in communities and/or camps to hear first-hand about their challenges and achievements. The Deputy Representative of UNHCR in Jordan met key partners in Kuwait to discuss on-going and future collaboration. UNHCR also met with USAID to identify and discuss areas for further collaboration. UNHCR attended the **launch event** of the second phase of PROSPECTS project, hosted by the Embassy of the Netherlands.

## Key Refugee Figures (as of 30 June 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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### LINKS

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