



Jordan Situation Report

November 12, 2024

Background

The background to water scarcity, refugee livelihoods, and food security in Jordan can be found in Anera's last [Situation Report \(September 2024\)](#).

Overview

According to UNICEF, **about half of all refugees in Jordan are under the age of 18**, with 17% living in refugee camps. The national debt and poverty rate have continued to rise, with the poverty rate now nearing 16%, even before accounting for refugees. **The poverty rate for Syrian refugees is particularly high at 80%**. Economic hardship has forced vulnerable families to send boys to work and arrange early marriages for girls. Reports of domestic violence and violence against children are also increasing, with nearly 70% of women and girls in Jordan reporting having experienced abuse. Additionally, nutrition-related challenges are growing, with only 26% of babies under six months exclusively breastfed, and maternal, infant, and young child nutrition rates falling below international standards. In education, **Syrian refugee children are significantly falling behind**. Before the COVID-19 school closures, about one-third of Syrian refugee children aged 6 to 15 were not attending school. **In camps such as Za'atari and Azraq, most children aged 10 to 12 are unable to read a simple story**, and many students, regardless of location, are not meeting grade-level expectations in subjects including math and Arabic.¹

A recent Arab Barometer Survey from September revealed that 57% of Jordanians consider the current economic situation to be the country's most critical issue. When asked about specific economic concerns, 32% of Jordanians cited lack of jobs as the top issue, followed by inflation (22%), low wages (20%), and poverty (14%). Resolving Jordan's economic challenges will require significant reforms; the majority of Jordanians prioritize job creation (37%), followed by raising wages (27%) and controlling inflation (20%). Jordanians emphasize reducing the cost of daily necessities over long-term improvements in public services. A clear majority (62%) want to see increased subsidies as the main focus for government spending in the coming year. Only 13% prioritize health care, and 12% emphasize a focus on education.²

¹ [UNICEF in Jordan](#)

² [Arab Barometer reveal findings from major Jordan survey. September 2024 | Arab Barometer](#)

Refugees in Jordan

UNRWA Jordan’s total funding requirement for its 2024 emergency appeal is US\$24.5 million. By June 30, only 32% of this amount had been received, totaling \$7.8 million. Due to a funding shortfall, 5,311 households of Palestinian refugees from Syria are at risk of not having their winterization needs met for a second consecutive year. There is also a significant funding gap for the Jordan Response Plan for the Syria Crisis 2024-2026, led by the Government of Jordan. By mid-2024, only \$133 million had been pledged, covering just 7% of the nearly \$2 billion required. **This marks the lowest level of international support since the plan's inception in 2015, jeopardizing a decade of progress of integrating refugees into national health and education systems.** Without sufficient funding, Jordan risks losing its ability to sustain services for Syrian refugees, including Palestinian refugees from Syria, which could lead to severe humanitarian consequences for both refugees and host communities. In 2023, UNRWA recorded 1,080 Palestine refugees fleeing Syria to Lebanon and Jordan, while 1,059 refugees returned from various countries, including 7% from Jordan. As of June 30, 2024, 2.4 million Palestine refugees were registered with UNRWA in Jordan.³

According to UNHCR, resettlement involves relocating refugees from an asylum country to another nation that has agreed to offer them residence. It serves as both a long-term solution and a means of protection, while also representing a critical act of shared responsibility and solidarity with Jordan. Since 2014, UNHCR has received 115,075 resettlement submissions and facilitated 74,741 departures. Despite the need, resettlement options remain limited — about 111,000 refugees in Jordan require resettlement, representing approximately 14% of the refugee population. However, only around 1% of these refugees can be considered for resettlement due to the limited number of available slots.⁴

CARE warned that temperatures in Jordan are expected to drop to unprecedented lows this upcoming winter, reaching minus 14 degrees Celsius (6 degrees Fahrenheit) or even lower — the coldest temperatures in 40 years. With strong winds of up to 80 kilometers per hour, along with heavy hail and snow in mountainous regions, millions of displaced people in vulnerable conditions are at serious risk.

“This is yet another blow to people whose lives are already beyond unbearable. People can see their own breath when lying on thin mattresses; children walk around in flip-flops and torn shirts. Families are afraid they will freeze to death,” said Jolien Veldwijk, CARE Syria’s country director. Ammar Abu Zayyad, CARE Jordan’s country

³ [syria, lebanon and jordan emergency appeal 2024 progress report. November 2024 | UNRWA](#)

⁴ [Jordan: Resettlement Dashboard | September 2024. UNHCR](#)

director, emphasized the urgent need for winter support, stating, “With extremely low temperatures in Jordan and the lasting effects of COVID-19, winter assistance is essential to help the most vulnerable refugees secure shelter and protect their families from the cold.”⁵

Food Security & Nutrition

The Arab Barometer Survey found that food-related challenges are a major worry, with 72% of Jordanians reporting concerns about the availability of food and 76% about its affordability. **Nearly two-thirds of Jordanians report running out of food before they can afford to buy more, marking a 20-point increase over the past two years**, further highlighting the growing struggle many families face in securing enough food. Jordanians believe that the nation’s food insecurity is caused by inflation (27%), wealth inequality (10%), climate change (4%), and the war in Ukraine (3%).⁶

The Greater Amman Municipality and the United Nations Development Programme inaugurated Jordan's first urban farming training center at Al Tafawuq Park in Amman. This initiative aims to enhance food security amid the challenges posed by climate change and disruptions in food supply chains, serving as a practical training hub for advanced urban farming techniques. The project will enhance Amman’s resilience to climate change, economic development and environmental sustainability.⁷

The Food Security Council has officially launched a national food security information management system in Jordan, collaborating with the Department of Statistics and the World Food Programme (WFP). This system aims to strengthen the national capacity to monitor food security progress, enabling government institutions and partners to track food stocks, forecast supply conditions, and ensure timely distribution of resources, improving access to nutritious food across the country. The platform will serve as a national monitoring tool, issuing reports and linking with the Department of Statistics and relevant ministries. Developed as part of the National Food Security Strategy (2022-2030), the system monitors 33 local indicators and 68 global indicators and has been integrated into the Department of Statistics' infrastructure.⁸

The WFP delivered food assistance in Jordan at a reduced rate of \$21 per person per month. To sustain and complete its school feeding program through the end of 2024, WFP requires \$3.6 million. Without timely funding, WFP will have to halt healthy meal

⁵ [Winter storms in Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan: CARE warns Syrians yet again at great risk, October 2024 | CARE](#)

⁶ [Arab Barometer reveal findings from major Jordan survey, September 2024 | Arab Barometer](#)

⁷ [GAM, UNDP launch Kingdom's first urban farming hub, October 2024 | Jordan Times](#)

⁸ [Jordan launches national food security management system, October 2024 | Jordan Times](#)

provisions for 90,000 students in 476 schools across Jordan in November and significantly cut back on date bar production for 430,000 students.⁹

Livelihoods

A September survey highlighted that a significant portion of Jordanians, particularly younger males with higher education levels, are considering emigration. In early 2024, **42% of Jordanians expressed a desire to leave the country**, a notable increase from 22% in 2016, primarily driven by economic reasons. Young Jordanians aged 18-29 are especially inclined to emigrate, with 54% considering leaving. Additionally, higher educational attainment strongly correlates with the desire to emigrate — 50% of college graduates wish to leave, compared to 38% of those with a secondary education or less.¹⁰

The World Bank projects Jordan's economic growth to slow to 2.4% in 2024, impacted by the ongoing hostilities in the region. Real GDP growth continued to decline, reaching 2% in the first quarter of 2024, down from 2.3% in the previous quarter and 2.7% in the third quarter of 2023. This slowdown mainly stems from sectors vulnerable to hostility-related trade disruptions in the Red Sea, including transport, communication, manufacturing, retail, and hospitality. The current account deficit also grew by \$310 million year-on-year, reaching \$1.1 billion in Q1-2024 due to a decline in travel revenue and an increased trade deficit, driven by a significant reduction in import and export volumes through Aqaba port from January to May 2024. Tourist arrivals fell by 8% between October 2023 and June 2024 compared to the previous year, with annual drops of 16% and 26%, respectively. Unemployment stood at 22% in 2023, and labor force participation was 33%.¹¹

In Jordan, over 15% of the entire population lives below the poverty line. The high level of poverty in Jordan is compounded by unemployment, which stood at 22% in 2023,¹² youth unemployment, which stands at 41%, and a very low labor-force participation rate for women at just 16%. Rural poverty is exacerbated by factors such as rapid population growth, degradation of natural resources, and chronic water shortages. Additionally, the influx of refugees and the impacts of climate change further undermine the viability of agricultural and livestock production.¹³

Health

⁹ [WFP Jordan Country Brief, September 2024 | ReliefWeb](#)

¹⁰ [Arab Barometer reveal findings from major Jordan survey, September 2024 | Arab Barometer](#)

¹¹ [WFP Jordan Country Brief, September 2024 | ReliefWeb](#)

¹² [WFP Jordan Country Brief, September 2024 | ReliefWeb](#)

¹³ [Jordan | IFAD](#)

In October, the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and funded by the European Union, launched Jordan's first advanced central warehouse for medicines and medical supplies. This facility represents a significant milestone in enhancing pharmaceutical security and improving medical supply chains. The warehouse, covering 4,800 square meters with a capacity of 2,150 cubic meters (expandable by 20% for emergencies), features modern technology and a fleet of 24 refrigerated vans for distribution. The EU Ambassador to Jordan, Pierre-Christophe Chatzisava, highlighted the project's importance for providing equitable healthcare for all, including Syrian refugees. The new facility is part of a larger project, which includes the establishment of 14 facilities across Jordan by March 2025, aimed at enhancing access to essential medical products and strengthening local health systems.¹⁴

In September, the Jordanian Ministry of Health and WHO announced that Jordan is the first country in the Eastern Mediterranean Region to join the Global Platform for Access to Childhood Cancer Medicines. Launched in 2021 by St Jude Children's Research Hospital and WHO, the platform aims to ensure a consistent supply of quality-assured cancer medicines to low- and middle-income nations. Jordan's participation guarantees free access to essential medications for children with cancer, including refugees, for the next five years. The initiative will improve access for approximately 500 children diagnosed with cancer each year. WHO will provide ongoing technical support to strengthen national health systems, while the first batch of medicines is set to arrive in Jordan by early 2025 for three major health institutions providing childhood cancer care.¹⁵

WHO has recognized Jordan as the first country globally to be verified as having eliminated leprosy. The WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia highlighted that Jordan's success in eliminating the disease also represents a significant achievement against the socio-economic and psychological harms linked to it. With no native cases reported in over two decades, this declaration was made following an independent review commissioned by WHO, where it was confirmed that leprosy has been eliminated in the country.¹⁶

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Jordan, **the world's second most water-scarce country**, provides only 88 cubic meters of renewable water per person annually, far below the global threshold of 500 cubic meters. Forty percent of Jordan's water resources are shared with other countries,

¹⁴ [Jordan's Ministry of Health opens the first advanced central warehouse for medicines in the public sector, October 2024 | WHO](#)

¹⁵ [Jordan joins the Global Platform for Access to Childhood Cancer Medicines, September 2024 | WHO](#)

¹⁶ [Jordan becomes first country to receive WHO verification for eliminating leprosy, September 2024 | WHO](#)

and agriculture consumes 52% of the supply, with 46% sourced from groundwater. Although 94% of those connected to the water network have safely managed water access, only 6% of rural residents are connected to sewer systems, and 42% of households are without sewer connections. Non-revenue water, lost to leakages and unmetered use, reached 48% in 2017, up from 43% in 2010. In Amman, 90% of drinking water is sourced 125-325 kilometers away, pumped up to 1,200 meters through five stages, leading to high energy costs. To maximize resources, Jordan reuses 90% of treated wastewater, with 98% directed to agriculture.¹⁷

In September, the Ministry of Water and the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization signed an agreement to initiate the Water Scarcity in the Middle East and North Africa program, which aims to advance water resource management, boost knowledge, strengthen capacities, raise public awareness, share expertise, and encourage sustainable agricultural water use. With 17 planned activities, Jordan will take part in 15 of them. The initiative has a total funding of \$32 million. The Kingdom has made significant progress in water conservation, having reduced agricultural water usage to 51% of the nation's freshwater use.¹⁸

Anera's Response

Health

Product Donations Program

Anera successfully delivered one pallet shipment containing 1,214 units of docetaxel (Taxotere injection) vials of two calibrations, 20mg/ml and 80mg/4ml, valued at \$110,797, donated by Direct Relief. This shipment, intended to support the Jordanian Ministry of Health, aims to treat patients with different types of cancer. Each unit provides one to four treatments, depending on the chemotherapy regimen and the patient's condition. This is the second shipment to support the Ministry of Health, following the successful delivery of 500 units of adalimumab (Humira) 40mg in February 2024, donated by Direct Relief as well.

Anera is leading communications with the Ministry of Health to receive 120 units of lanadelumab (Takhzyro) injection targeting 10 Jordanian patients with a rare genetic disease, which will be the third shipment donated by Direct Relief to support these patients. Anera has successfully received the approval from the Ministry of Health, and is now working with Direct Relief on coordinating the shipment.

Anera is continuously working with its donors to deliver medical donations to support Anera's local partners based on the needs and challenges faced. Anera's donor, the

¹⁷ [JORDAN'S WASH TOP FACTS | UNICEF](#)

¹⁸ [Water Ministry. FAO sign agreement on MENA water security. September 2024 | Jordan Times](#)

International Health Partners - UK, has supported several offers of different medications and hygiene materials, and efforts from both parties are taking place to successfully receive these medications and distribute them to support vulnerable communities targeted by Anera's local partners.

Empowering Health Project

As Anera's health project, Empowering Health: Enhancing Chronic Illness Care Among Syrian Refugees in Jordan, supported by UMCOR, is ending in November, Anera has successfully delivered several medications and laboratory materials targeting noncommunicable disease patients, where over 9,000 treatments and lab tests will be delivered directly to Syrian refugees inside and outside Zaatari camp, delivered by Anera's local partner, the Syrian American Medical Society .

Food Security, Livelihood and Social Development

Efforts continue with the Enhancing Food Security and Livelihoods Through Rooftop Gardens project supported by a private family foundation and Alumbra Innovations Foundation, where improving food security, economic status, and skills of families and youth are essential goals. The initiative involves constructing rooftop gardens and providing agricultural training, enabling families to grow fresh produce for their consumption and enhancing their economic opportunities and skill sets. The project will take place in two different locations in Jordan: Marka and Wehdat.

The project gives priority to women-headed households. Through the project, Anera will select 25 youth champions in partnership with community-based organizations. Selected youth will play a key role in constructing new rooftop gardens and receiving comprehensive training in various tracks.

Through the Youth for Sustainable Environment project, Anera will foster active contribution from empowered youth towards sustainable green development by supporting their initiatives in WASH practices, green skills, and community engagement, thereby promoting positive environmental change within their communities. This project, supported by Alumbra Innovations Foundation through the David Rock Middle East Water Fund, will target 30 youth from Zarqa city, the second largest governorate in Jordan, implemented via Anera's local partner, iLearn and other community based organizations. This project will provide hands-on green skills for youth, green entrepreneurship initiatives, as well as increase green awareness and behavioral change.

The Youth Entrepreneurial Pathways for Resilience project, supported by Abdallah Ghurair, aims to empower refugee youth by creating resilient pathways through a comprehensive approach that integrates vocational skill-building and hands-on job experience, enabling them to lead in income generation and sustainable employment. This project, taking place in Jerash camps (Soof & Gaza), will target 125 youth, in partnership with iLearn for WASH, and other partners for technical and vocational education and training (TVET).

The WASH pathway will provide 30 youth with a 6-month diploma training in plumbing mechanic assistant. The 6-month diploma includes 300 theoretical and 400 practical training (general maintenance) to be managed by iLearn.

The TVET pathway will provide 95 youth with training in digital skills, hospitality, and tourism. A call for proposals will be announced by Anera to establish a roster of service-certified providers who will train the youth and connect them with internship programs, including formal certifications.