

# JORDAN

## UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

September 2016

### KEY FIGURES

**655,831**

Syrians registered with UNHCR in Jordan, accounting for 7 per cent of the national population

**58,455**

Iraqis registered with UNHCR in Jordan, over a third of whom are under 18.

**2**

Jordan hosts the second highest number (87) of refugees per 1,000 inhabitants in the world

**6**

Jordan represents the sixth highest refugee-hosting country in the world

**93**

Percentage of Syrians living outside of camps and below the poverty line in Jordan

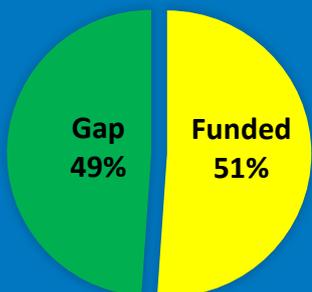
**US \$ 51 million**

Provided so far in 2016 in cash assistance by UNHCR to Jordan's most vulnerable refugees

### FUNDING

**US \$ 320 million**

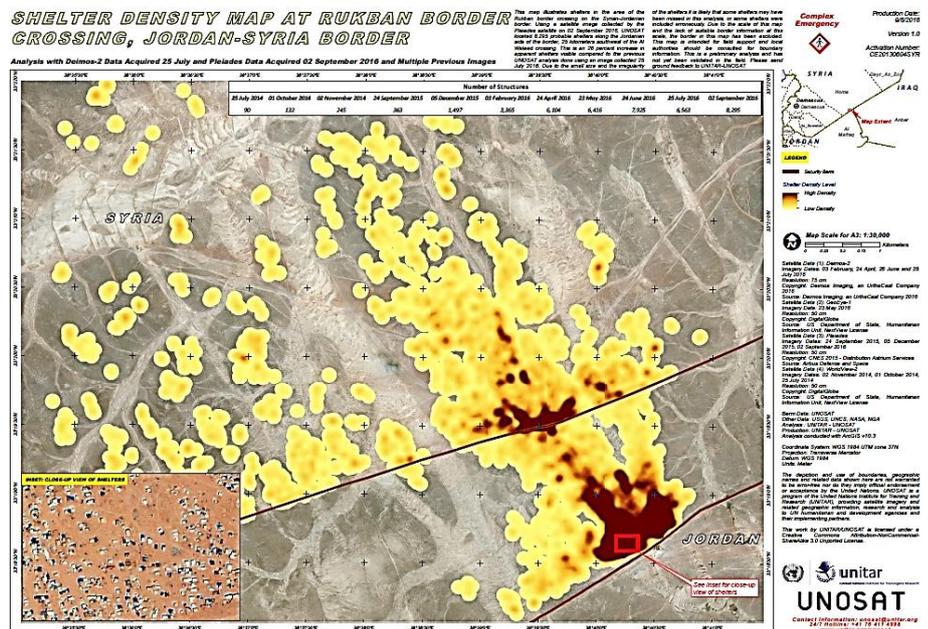
requested for the Jordan Operation in 2016



### HIGHLIGHTS

- On 29 August, the United States met its year-long commitment, one month ahead of schedule, of welcoming 10,000 refugees from the region fleeing the conflict in Syria. Eighty per cent of those resettled were Syrians living in Jordan identified by the UNHCR Jordan operation on the basis of their vulnerability.
- 26,000 work permits have been granted to Syrians over the last year, the majority to refugees, and most since February's Supporting Syria and the Region Conference. UNHCR is chairing an inter-agency livelihoods working group in Jordan to better coordinate the assistance provided by humanitarian agencies to the authorities.
- UN agencies successfully completed an urgent relief operation between 2 and 4 August to provide a one-month ration of life-saving supplies to more than 75,000 people at the Syria-Jordan border. Access to the population has been severely restricted since an attack in the area in June.

*\*This operational update covers activities for the month of August.*



A map showing the concentration of makeshift shelters in Rukban near the berm on the Syria-Jordan border. For more detail visit <http://reliefweb.int/map/syrian-arab-republic/shelter-density-map-rukban-border-crossing-jordan-syria-border-2-september>

## Will you stand #WithRefugees?

Please sign the petition to show your solidarity with millions of refugees.

## UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

### Operational Context

On the situation at the berm, UN agencies completed the first successful delivery of food and humanitarian relief items in weeks to more than 75,000 people stranded on the Syria-Jordan border. Between 2 and 4 August, 650 tonnes of one-month supplies from the World Food Programme, UNICEF, the International Organization for Migration and UNHCR were transferred across the raised sand barrier by 70-metre high cranes.

UN agencies expressed their appreciation to the Government of Jordan for facilitating the delivery of critical aid, whilst also looking forward to further efforts to reach people at the berm with humanitarian assistance in time to save lives.

The UN remains acutely concerned at the conditions in the area where women, men and children, unable to cross the border, are facing deteriorating conditions in extreme temperatures with insufficient food and barely enough water to survive. Life-saving health care is urgently required for pregnant women, children, the elderly and the sick especially vulnerable.

On resettlement, an important milestone was reached at the end of August with the United States [announcing](#) that it had met its year-old commitment, one month early, to welcome 10,000 Syrian refugees by the end of September 2016. Eighty per cent of those were referred to the United States from Jordan by the UNHCR Jordan operation.

On livelihood initiatives, there was more good news for Syrian refugees with the latest figures released by the Ministry of Labour on 28 August showing that 26,156 Syrians, mostly refugees, now have work permits for legal employment in Jordan. This marks a significant increase from the two per cent figure before the [Supporting Syria and the Region Conference](#) in London in February where the Government of Jordan pledged to harness the skills of Syrian refugees in return for favourable international agreements which have since been secured from the [European Union](#) and the [World Bank](#).

*Zaatari camp just over 4 years to the day since it opened on 29 July 2012. All refugee households at Zaatari now benefit from electricity thanks to the completion of an 8.67-megawatt UNHCR project last month. ©UNHCR/Mohammad Hawari*



## Achievements

### Protection

#### Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR processes the registration and document renewal of 55,000 refugees: The dual pressures on the Jordan operation over recent months to meet steep resettlement targets and to register extremely vulnerable persons at the berm for humanitarian assistance led to the diversion of frontline staff from their regular registration duties, causing a backlog of refugees wishing to register or renew their status with UNHCR.

However, given the withdrawal of humanitarian personnel from the berm and the completion of important targets for resettlement and other humanitarian admission programmes, including the recent submission of 10,000 Syrians to the United States, regular registration duties were able to resume in August with the initial priority of clearing the registration backlog within the shortest possible timeframe.

Working double shifts, seven days a week, from 06:00 to 21:00, between 3 and 25 August, staff at the Khalda registration centre in Amman succeeded in registering or renewing the asylum certificates of 55,508 individuals residing in Amman Municipality at an average rate of 3,300 per day - three times the regular pace of regular registrations and renewals. The timing of the exercise will ensure that children can use their valid asylum certificates to register for the new school year. Similar exercises are planned in Ajloun, Irbid and Jerash in September.

### Camp Coordination and Camp Management

#### Achievements and Impact

- Celebrating the spirit of Rio 2016's Refugee Olympic Team at the Azraq and Zaatari camps



*Syrian refugee youth at Azraq and Zaatari took part in Taekwondo demonstrations throughout August to celebrate this year's Olympics where refugee athletes are competing for the first time. At Zaatari, 200 female and male Taekwondo students took part in the tournament across four weight divisions over three days, whilst at Azraq, above, Taekwondo demonstrations were organised to coincide with Rio 2016's opening and closing ceremonies. ©UNHCR/Mohammad Hawari*

**Brightening up Azraq refugee camp:**

*Over the past two months, four refugee artists from an art collective at Azraq refugee camp, including two pictured above, have set about brightening up Azraq in a project supported by UNHCR. So far, 40 shelters have been painted on the roads separating the different sections of the camp. The next stage will focus on individual refugees' shelter design "wants". ©UNHCR/Ayman Bino*

## Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

### **Achievements and Impact**

- **Arts and crafts bring Syrians and Jordanians together in Karak:** A bazaar organized through UNHCR's Community Support Committee (CSC) in Karak, eastern Jordan, on 17, 19 and 20 August, brought together Syrian refugees and their Jordanian hosts to showcase their handicrafts at the town's Princess Basma Centre (PBC). All items on sale at the event were produced by both women and men using skills acquired through classes provided by the Karak CSC.

CSCs are important community-based outreach mechanisms mandated to meet the needs and aspirations of refugees in Jordan and vulnerable Jordanians. At the end of August, 23 CSCs were operational across Jordan - fifteen for Syrians, six for Iraqis and one each for Sudanese and Somalis. Each CSC comprises female and male representatives of the host and refugee communities and are hosted by a community-based organization, like, for example, the PBC.

Established in 2013, all CSCs have established lines of communication with local authorities, as well as local and international NGOs, who may use CSCs to target operational activities or to disseminate information to refugees. CSCs may also advocate for refugee protection to relevant authorities and organizations.



*Rawan is a Syrian refugee who arrived in Karak three years ago. Despite the daily challenges of exile she is happy in Karak, a town best known for its castle and “Mansaf”, the Jordanian national dish. Rawan herself is a passionate cook and sold a wide selection of pastries at her stall. She was particularly excited at the bazaar about introducing visitors to new Syrian foods such as the “Toshka”, small pastries made with tomatoes, cumin and white cheese. ©UNHCR/Mousa Jeris*

- Significant increase in Syrian refugees accessing legal work in Jordan: According to the most recent figures from the Ministry of Labour, 26,156 Syrians, including large numbers of refugees, have obtained work permits in Jordan since August 2015. This represents 11 per cent of the total non-Jordanian workforce - a significant increase on the 2 per cent who were employed formally prior to the Supporting Syria and the Region Conference in February. A series of pledges were announced at the conference to harness the skills of Syrian refugees towards self-sufficiency, whilst also enhancing the resilience of host communities most affected by the influx of refugees.



*A Syrian refugee at work in a garment factory in Sahab on the outskirts of Amman, one of thousands to benefit from recent livelihood initiatives introduced by the Government of Jordan with UNHCR’s support. ©UNHCR/Mohammad Hawari*

 Education

**Achievements and Impact**

- More donor support ensures UNHCR refugee scholarships increase in 2016/2017: 210 refugees across Jordan will be able to access higher education through UNHCR's scholarship programme, best known for its acronym DAFI, in the 2016/2017 academic year - a big increase on the 10 new places available last year thanks to additional support from the Government of Germany and the [Said Foundation](#).

A record number of 1,500 applications were received by UNHCR with interviews for places taking place during the first half of August at five locations across Jordan. The selection process seeks to ensure a representative gender sample from refugees living in camps and urban locations across a diverse range of subjects. A total of 66 refugee youth cumulatively accepted onto the programme are currently enrolled as DAFI students in universities in Jordan.

The scholarship covers tuition fees, books, transportation expenses and a subsistence allowance. The chosen field of studies of current DAFI scholars ranges from subjects including Law, Teaching, English and Arabic Literature and the study of the German language, to more technical studies such as Computer Science, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Medicine, Biomedical Engineering, Laboratory Science, Civil Engineering, Economics, Information Technology and Accounting.

The [Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative \(DAFI\)](#) was initiated by the Government of Germany in 1992 and has grown considerably since then, enabling thousands of refugee students annually to study at universities and colleges in countries of asylum.

 Durable Solutions

**Achievements and Impact**

- USA welcomes 10,000th Syrian refugee - four-fifths referred from Jordan: The United States welcomed the 10,000th Syrian for resettlement on 29 August to complete a year-long commitment, achieved one month ahead of schedule, to accept some of Syria's most vulnerable refugees from the region. Eighty per cent of those resettled were Syrian refugees living in Jordan who UNHCR helped identify based on their vulnerability. The thousands of Syrians, many survivors of violence and torture, or with severe medical conditions, join over 3.2 million other refugees welcomed to the United States since 1975, often in collaboration with UNHCR.

As part of UNHCR's "[Global Programme for Connectivity for Refugees](#)", UNHCR in collaboration with IOM distributed 576 Skype vouchers throughout August to Syrians approved for resettlement to the United States to allow them to communicate with their family and prepare for their third country arrival.

 Access to Energy

**Achievements and Impact**

- UNHCR and Japan launch vocational training programme for refugee electricians at Zaatari: UNHCR and the [Japan International Cooperation Agency \(JICA\)](#) signed a memorandum of understanding on 1 August to support the electrical training of Syrian refugees in Zaatari working on the camp's newly installed electricity network.

The training will begin in September and take place over an eight-month period at the Electric Training Centre in Zarqa, which was established in 1987 by JICA and operated by the National Electric Power Company, NEPCO.

The training programme aims to ensure that Syrians are provided with the hard skills to use upon their eventual safe return to Syria, whilst at the same time supporting other refugees through the maintenance of a safe, reliable and sustainable energy supply at Zaatari.

## Shelter and NFIs

- New iris-scan-enabled distribution centre opens at Zaatari camp: On 23 August, UNHCR and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) opened a new humanitarian aid distribution centre at Zaatari which, for the first time in a refugee operation, will use iris-scan technology linked to UNHCR’s refugee registration database to validate and verify the distribution of cash and essential humanitarian items at the camp.

The Common Distribution Centre for Humanitarian Assistance (CDCHA), will serve as a common platform for all 37 humanitarian agencies operating at Zaatari and build upon the existing centre which was established during the emergency phase at Zaatari in 2013, when up to 4,000 people arrived at the camp in 70 buses per day.

The use of iris-scan technology will ensure a more coordinated, efficient and cost-effectiveness distribution process, whilst the new centre will also provide a more comfortable environment for refugees collecting their assistance with double the amount of shaded waiting areas, less waiting time, restrooms, and ramps to ensure access for all.

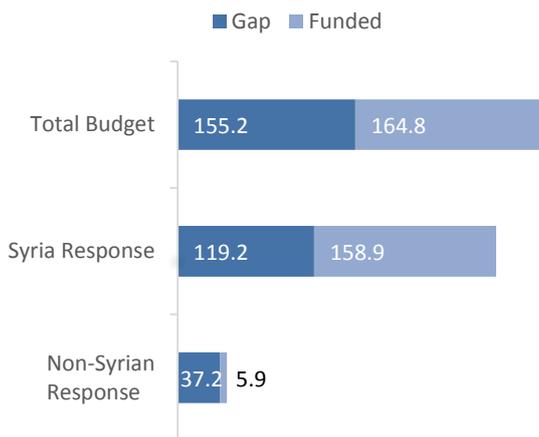


*Syrian refugees at Zaatari can now receive cash and humanitarian items at the blink of an eye thanks to the introduction of iris-scan technology at the camp’s new distribution centre. ©UNHCR/ Mohammad Hawari*

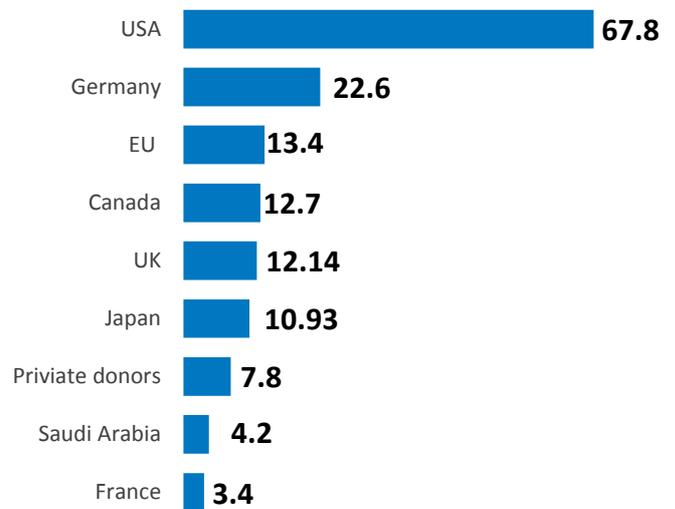
A total of **724,256** people of concern were registered with UNHCR in Jordan in August 2016, including **655,831** Syrians, **58,455** Iraqis and **9,970** others including, **4,813** Yemenis, **3,104** Sudanese, and **767** Somalis.

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 164.8 million** including **US\$ 158.9 million** for the **Syria response** and **US\$ 5.9 million** for the **Iraq situation** at the country level.



**Funding received at the country level for the Jordan operation in 2016 (in \$ US million)**



UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

**Major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2016: United States of America (181 M) | Sweden (78 M) | Netherlands (46 M) | Norway (40 M) | Australia (31 M) | Priv Donors Spain (30 M) | Japan (24 M) | Denmark (24 M) | United Kingdom (23 M) | Canada (16 M) | Switzerland (15 M) | France (14 M) | Germany (13 M) | Priv Donors Italy (11 M) | Italy (10 M)**

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