

Jordan

May 2021

The COVID-19 epidemiological situation in Jordan continued to improve through May, including in refugee camps, where **over a third of refugees** eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine have already received at least one dose.

UNHCR efforts to **raise awareness** among refugee communities about the national vaccination program are proving effective as registration numbers increase, with over half of eligible camp-based refugees registered on the platform as of 13 June.

A recent decision by the Jordanian government considers UNHCR-issued Asylum Seeker Certificates to persons of concern of all nationalities that have expired during the pandemic, **valid through December 2021**, regardless of the date of expiry.

KEY INDICATORS

755,238

Refugees in Jordan as of 31 May 2021

83%

Refugees living outside camps in **urban areas**

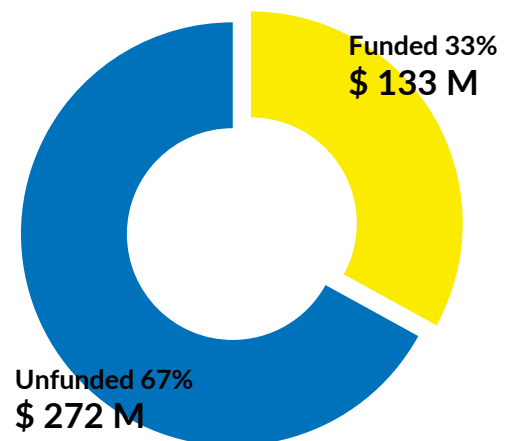
46.2%

Refugees are **children** under 17 years

2021 FUNDING (AS OF 16 JUNE 2021)

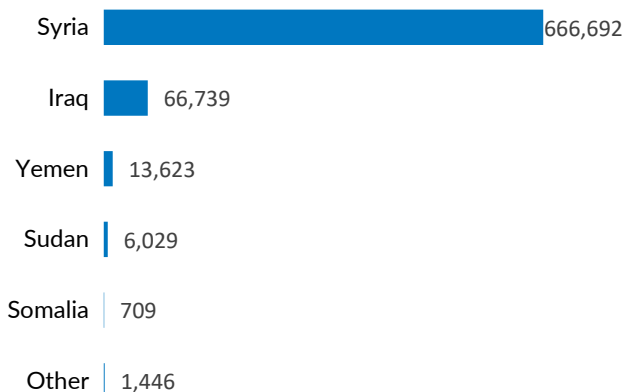
USD 405 M

UNHCR Jordan's financial requirements in 2021



POPULATION OF CONCERN

Countries of Origin



Warda and her family are being resettled to Italy on the Humanitarian Corridor Program. Warda, pictured here with her daughters (Huda, 19, Rasha, 17, Nour, 16, Malek, 12), hope to open a beauty salon in Italy.

**PROTECTION**

- In May, registration and other legal and protection activities continued largely through remote modalities. UNHCR continued to share information on such modalities with persons of concern (PoCs) through different means, including the [Jordan Help site](#), the Helpline and social media pages. During this month, UNHCR and legal partners continued to provide legal assistance to PoCs in the form of counselling, mediation, representation, and protection follow up and advocacy.
- UNHCR reached over 5,600 families in May, as part of the ongoing distribution of remotely renewed Asylum Seeker Certificates (ASC) exercise. More than 23,000 refugees were able to renew their ASCs and collect them from the Amman, Irbid, Mafraq and Azraq UNHCR registration centres. UNHCR registration teams across Jordan continue to renew ASCs and add newborn babies to existing cases through remote modalities, allowing refugees to continue having access to critical services.
- A recent [decision](#) by the Government of Jordan announced considers UNHCR-issued Asylum Seeker Certificates (ASCs) to persons of concern of all nationalities that have expired during COVID-19 pandemic, valid until 31 December 2021, regardless of the date of expiry. Based on this decision, even if a person holds an expired ASC, they should still be able to access national services, including health and education, by presenting their existing documentation. In Jordan, ASCs have to be renewed on an annual basis, and while UNHCR has transitioned to carrying out this renewal through remote processes over the last year, challenges remain both in terms of connectivity/reachability, as well as managing the increased backlog.
- During May, UNHCR's child protection/SGBV teams counselled and supported some 186 individuals, who benefited from case management, legal, psychosocial services and mental health, resettlement and cash-based intervention services through UNHCR or implementing partners in the field.

**COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE**

- Through May, UNHCR continued to engage with refugee communities, in line with the joint Communication with Communities (CwC) strategy with UNICEF and WFP. A total of 768 persons of concern, who reached UNHCR through the different CwC channels, were provided with case management services on a number of issues. In addition, UNHCR provided Urgent Cash Assistance to 123 vulnerable refugee families.
- UNHCR-supported Community Support Committees (CSC) continue to engage refugees through various activities, information sharing, and food/non-food item distributions. During May, CSCs across Jordan implemented 105 remote activities to foster social cohesion, raise awareness on COVID-19 vaccination, and promote gender equality and self-reliance, reaching over 2,500 participants of various nationalities.
- UNHCR Jordan held the [twelfth episode](#) of its #AskUNHCR Facebook live series on 5 May, focusing on fraud prevention. UNHCR staff provided information with regards to UNHCR services being free of charge and explained how to identify and report fraud attempts and answered a number of questions received live during the session. The session reached over 34,000 people and received more than 2,500 engagements. All #AskUNHCR sessions can be found [here](#).
- UNHCR's outreach efforts on the COVID-19 vaccination programme continued through May, through phone counselling (UNHCR's Helpline), as well as UNHCR social media platforms and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) across the country with female and male refugees of different nationalities, to share information on the COVID-19 vaccination programme, the registration process on the government platform, and information on refugees' specific questions and concerns. In addition, some 50 CSC refugee and host community volunteers are participating in a UNICEF/Ministry of Health training for interaction with vulnerable groups to encourage them to register and take the COVID-19 vaccine.

- Following the new financing from the World Bank to Jordan, which will expand refugee access to work by supporting an additional 90,000 flexible work permits over the next two years, UNHCR is working with the Ministry of Labour as well as the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions (GFJTU) to disseminate additional information about the flexible work permits through available [channels](#). UNHCR will also support the GFJTU with needed equipment to ensure refugees accessibility to the new scheme.



CASH ASSISTANCE FOR BASIC NEEDS

- In May, UNHCR's regular cash assistance reached some 33,000 refugee families, including 3,000 non-Syrian families. Due to a surge in COVID-19 cases in Jordan during the month of March, and with the start of the holy month of Ramadan, UNHCR frontloaded May assistance together with April assistance, to avoid crowding at ATM withdrawal points.
- Following funding shortages that WFP has been facing in recent months, the office in Jordan [announced](#) a reprioritisation exercise to take place starting in July. While recent donor contributions have averted wide-scale cuts that could have affected more people, 21,000 Syrian refugees in urban areas will no longer receive their monthly food assistance as of July. Recognising that increased needs will arise as a result of the reprioritisation, UNHCR has been supporting WFP counterparts and has been sharing information with the population of concern, both on [social media](#) and on the [Help site](#), while is also planning to hold joint WFP-UNHCR focus group discussions with refugee communities to address increasing concerns and questions.



HEALTH

- May saw a continued downward trend of daily COVID-19 cases in Jordan, with the second wave on the decline since April. The government lifted a number of restrictions during the month, including Friday lockdowns and extended curfew hours, and reopened public parks. Cases among refugees in camps followed the same downward trend and remained well below the national average, with 3% of the refugee camp population testing positive compared to 7% of the total Jordanian population. As of 31 May, the cumulative number of COVID-19 cases in refugee camps stood at 3,931, of which 27 were active, 3,858 had recovered (98%), and 46 refugees had passed away. Among the key factors contributing to the lower positivity rates in refugee camps are the movement restrictions that have largely been in place in camps for the past months, together with the continued refugees' adherence to preventive measures such as social distancing and mask wearing.
- Over 1.4million people have been vaccinated as part of Jordan's COVID-19 vaccination programme, while more than 2.3million people registered on the government platform. In refugee camps, the number of [vaccinated refugees](#) more than tripled in May, reaching 16,500 refugees in total (14% of total population in Azraq and Zaatari, in line with national average), with over 22,000 registered to receive the vaccine (50% of the eligible population in Azraq and Zaatari).
- Part of the significant uptick in vaccinations in camps was due to the Emirati Red Cross (ERC) [campaign](#), launched on 19 May, to vaccinate Syrian refugees in camps across Jordan. As part of the ten-day campaign, close to **10,000 refugees** were vaccinated in EJC, Azraq, and Zaatari camps. The well-organised vaccination project consisted of assessment, registration on the MoH platform, and vaccination administration for the participating refugees.
- In addition to supporting the Ministry of Health (MoH) with the rollout of the vaccination program for refugees, UNHCR continued to respond to COVID-19 cases in camps, working closely with MoH and the Syrian Refugee Affairs Directorate, to carry out surveillance and contact tracing exercises with the aim to continue minimising the spread.

**EDUCATION**

- Over 15,000 students across Jordan (82% Syrian, 12% Jordanian, 6% other nationalities) benefitted from UNHCR's Kolibri learning platform in May, including some 1,400 users of the online platform and many others who benefitted from the resources and services provided by coaches on other channels. Despite the significant number of students accessing the Kolibri platform, the lack of adequate and sufficient devices and internet connectivity continues to be the biggest challenge for refugee students to engage in remote education.
- UNHCR continues to work with partners, universities and education platforms to enhance educational opportunities for refugees in Jordan, through increased and diverse scholarships, reduced fees for learning programs, and more. Such opportunities are frequently [shared](#) on UNHCR platforms as well as in consultations with persons of concern.

**DURABLE SOLUTIONS**

- Remote resettlement processing continues, with UNHCR Jordan conducting interviews, by video and telephone, with some 303 refugees during May, ensuring that integrity and identity verification safeguards are in place. A total of 153 individuals were submitted for resettlement in May, reaching a total of 1,114 submissions in 2021.
- For 2021, more than 5,300 resettlement places for refugees in Jordan have been confirmed by Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Norway, Romania, Spain, Sweden and the US.
- As part of UNHCR's efforts to expand complementary pathways for refugees, 32 refugees [departed](#) in May from Jordan to Italy through the Humanitarian Corridors Programme (HCP), with the support of Caritas. While the refugees' original departure had been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the families were able to finalise all processes and depart on 25 May.

High-Profile Visits and Events

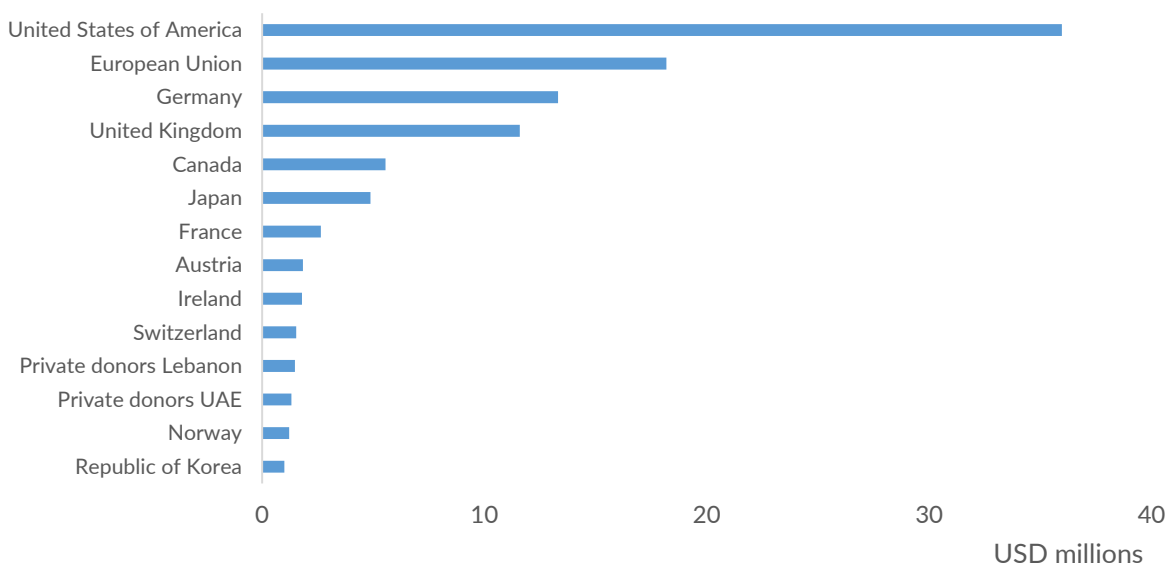
- A two-person EU delegation [visited](#) the Nuzha Community Support Committee (CSC) on 24 May to meet with refugee families beneficiaries of UNHCR's cash assistance programme, funded by the EU Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis (Madad). The focus of the visit was UNHCR's cash programme, the Vulnerability Assessment Framework and the graduation approach that is part of the Madad-funded project in Jordan, in partnership with ILO/UNICEF.
- On 26 May, David Miliband, President and CEO of the International Rescue Committee (IRC), virtually [visited](#) the IRC health clinic in Zaatari camp to observe the operation of the vaccination centre and understand the vaccination processes in Jordan and in the camps. During the visit, Miliband was briefed by UNHCR Jordan's Deputy Representative Carolyn Ennis, along with other management, public health, and external relations staff.
- On 27 May, the Italian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Marina Sereni, [visited](#) Zaatari camp as part of her visit to Jordan. During the mission, the Deputy Minister was briefed by SRAD and UNHCR, before [visiting](#) a number of sites in the camp, including the Italian-Jordanian hospital, the COVID-19 vaccination centre, the WFP-supported Tazweed supermarket, the UN Women Oasis centre, and the Viewpoint, a WASH facility run by UNICEF. The Deputy Minister's visit followed the signing of an agreement for development assistance of €235 million from Italy to Jordan for the period of 2021-2023, as part of the Framework Agreement for Development Cooperation signed between the two countries in 2018.

Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the operation in 2021 amount to some **US\$ 133million**, covering 33% of overall needs for refugees in Jordan.

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.

Earmarked contributions to UNHCR Jordan in 2021 (over 1 million USD)



Special thanks to the major donors of softly earmarked contributions in 2021 (in USD)

USA (9.6M) | Finland (6M) | Sweden (5.4M) | Private donors Australia (4.9M) | Private donors Germany (3M) | Canada (2.9M) | Private donors Republic of Korea (2.2M)

Thanks to other donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2021 (in USD)

Norway (80million) | Sweden (66.9M) | Netherlands (36.1M) | Private donors Spain (35.4M) | Denmark (34.6M) | Germany (26M) | France (20M) | Private donors Republic of Korea (17.9M) | Switzerland (16.4M) | Ireland (12.5M) | Belgium (11.9M) | Private donors Japan (10.9M)

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LINKS

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www.data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees