

Jordan

January 2021

In January 2021, Jordan became one of the first countries in the world to start **COVID-19 vaccinations for refugees**. Having included refugees in its national COVID-19 response plan since the beginning of the outbreak, Jordan continues to show

exemplary leadership and solidarity.

In an effort to promote registration for the COVID-19 vaccine and combat misinformation, UNHCR is focusing efforts on **raising awareness** among refugees and providing information.

The number of active positive COVID-19 cases among the refugee population in camps, as well as urban areas, has significantly decreased, reflecting the countrywide trend.

KEY INDICATORS

752,563

Refugees in Jordan as of 31 January 2021

83%

Refugees living outside camps in **urban areas**

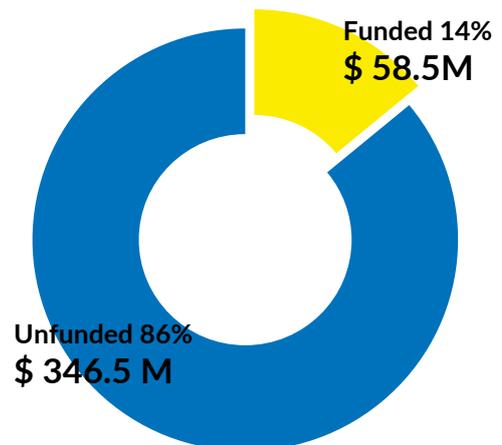
46.2%

Refugees are **children** under 17 years

2021 FUNDING (AS OF 9 FEBRUARY 2021)

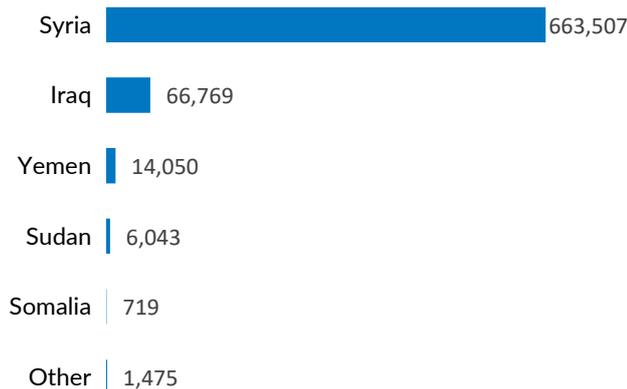
USD 405 M

UNHCR Jordan's financial requirements in 2021



POPULATION OF CONCERN

Countries of Origin



Mahmoud Al-Hariri, 85, a Syrian refugee from Zaatari Camp, receives his COVID-19 vaccine at the Department of Chest Infection Health Clinic in Mafraq, Jordan.

UNHCR Jordan/Lilly Carlisle

**PROTECTION**

- In January, registration and other legal and protection activities continued through remote modalities. UNHCR continued to share information on such modalities with PoCs through different means, including the [Jordan Help site](#), the Helpline and social media pages. During this month, UNHCR and legal partners provided legal assistance – in the form of counselling, mediation, representation, and protection follow up and advocacy – to 3,973 cases.
- The [distribution](#) of remotely renewed Asylum Seeker Certificates (ASC) at UNHCR's registration centres in January reached a total of 8,540 families. As a result, some 34,744 refugees were able to [renew](#) their ASCs and collect them from the Amman, Irbid, Mafrqa and Azraq registration centres. The show rate for the ASCs' delivery process decreased slightly to 75%. UNHCR registration teams across Jordan continue to renew ASCs and add newborn babies to existing cases through remote modalities.
- During January, UNHCR's child protection/SGBV teams counselled and supported some 280 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 January, UNHCR has continued to engage with refugee communities, in line with the joint Communication with Communities (CwC) strategy with UNICEF and WFP. Using a variety of channels, including social media, the Bridges of Communications refugees group, Community Support Committees (CSCs) and the online magazine "Working with refugees", UNHCR disseminates updates, information and awareness materials about COVID-19 and latest government guidelines to refugees in urban areas.
- During January, UNHCR CwC efforts focused on the COVID-19 vaccinations. With the vaccination program progressing across the country, for Jordanians and refugees alike, UNHCR, together with partner UN agencies, is focusing on raising awareness and fighting misinformation and misconceptions around the vaccine. Through a number of communication platforms, including [social media](#), the [UNHCR Jordan Help Site](#), Incentive-Based Volunteers, Community Support Committees, the Helpline, UNHCR is sharing information on the registration process and the government platform, as well as information on the vaccine efficacy or the continued need for adherence to health measures. UNHCR also conducted a short survey through SMS text, to understand the concerns of refugees and reasons of hesitation and to better target its messaging. Some of the main concerns expressed among those who have not yet registered include the side effects and safety of the vaccine, a lack of trust in its efficacy, and the various rumours spreading within the community. In addition to the concerns that have been expressed by many in the refugee community, others have also expressed optimism about being vaccinated.
- As a key channel of communication with refugee communities, UNHCR-supported Community Support Committees (CSCs) continue to support refugees through various community engagement activities, information sharing, and food/non-food item distributions. With the start of the new year, CSCs across Jordan conducted eight online and three in-person activities in January, reaching some 963 participants.
- In January, UNHCR provided Urgent Cash Assistance to 117 vulnerable refugee families. Even though the number of active COVID-19 cases has reduced significantly among the refugee population, UNHCR community-based protection teams continue to follow up on individual cases through phone counselling, to better understand the impact of COVID-19 on urban refugee populations and assess the needs and existing gaps in assistance.



CASH ASSISTANCE FOR BASIC NEEDS

- In January, UNHCR's regular cash assistance reached 33,000 refugee families, including 3,000 non-Syrian families. Of those, 782 received the assistance on their mobile wallets, while the vast majority continued to receive it through iris scanning on ATM.
- UNHCR has been staggering the payments of cash assistance, including by gender, to adhere to the COVID-19 safety measures and mitigate any protection risks. Additional COVID-19 spread mitigation efforts include monitoring of ATMs in busy distribution locations and crowd management as needed, for the adherence of safety measures.
- The rate of withdrawal of cash assistance by beneficiaries remains high, over 98%, as a result of continued monitoring and assessment of the targeted beneficiaries. Together with the partner company MindSet, UNHCR continues to coordinate home visits to refugee families as a part of the Vulnerability Assessment Framework to ensure that cash assistance reaches the families that most need it. In January, a total of 3,099 home visits took place.



HEALTH

- The decreasing trend for the daily number of COVID-19 cases in Jordan continued for the better part of the month of January. Similarly, the number of active cases of COVID-19 has decreased among the refugee population across the country. As of 14 February, the total number of cases of refugees testing positive for COVID-19 in the camps stands at 2,301 cases, of which 78 were active (63 in Zaatari, 9 in Azraq and 6 in EJC), while 2,206 had recovered (96%). Cases among refugees in camps remained below the national average, with 1.9% of the refugee population in camps testing positive compared to 3.4% of the total Jordanian population. In urban areas, UNHCR is aware of 153 refugees who have tested positive for COVID-19.
- Jordan rolled out its COVID-19 vaccination program on 13 January, according to which, anyone living on Jordanian soil, including refugees and asylum seekers, is entitled to receive the vaccine free of charge. As such, [vaccinations of refugees](#) started on 14 January, with a total of 201 refugees having received at least the first dose of the vaccine as of 14 February. Vaccinations are taking place at local health clinics in the respective governorates, while the MoH is also expected to open in-camp vaccination centres in the coming weeks.
- 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 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.
- As of January, UNHCR has also broadened its support for non-Syrian refugee access to primary health care, as well as emergency lifesaving hospital admissions, based on vulnerability criteria, through the cash for health program. The change followed the GoJ decision, announced in mid-2020, giving non-Syrians access to MoH health services at a reduced rate, same as that for non-insured Jordanians and Syrian refugees.



EDUCATION

- In January, the Ministry of Education (MoE) announced the returning of students to school starting in early February and shared a [back to school guide](#) in Arabic for the second semester of the 2020/2021 academic year. Schools closed in March 2020, with education continuing online for all levels, and

reopened briefly in September 2020 for a very short period, before closing again as part of the government's COVID-19 measures.

- UNHCR has continued to support online learning through the Kolibri platform, which was recognized by the MoE as an official e-learning resource and was incorporated into the MoE's national education platform called Noorspace.



DURABLE SOLUTIONS

- In January, a total of 53 individuals were submitted for resettlement, while 2,320 places have so far been confirmed by Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Norway, Romania, and Sweden.
- Remote resettlement processing continues, with UNHCR Jordan conducting interviews with almost 300 refugees by telephone and video during January, ensuring that integrity and identity verification safeguards are in place.
- A total of 19 refugee students of various nationalities from urban areas and camp settings (18 from Azraq camp) departed Jordan to pursue higher education in Canada under the **Student Refugee Program (SRP-WUSC)**. UNHCR continues to explore complementary pathways for refugees, including through third countries educational opportunities.

High-Profile Visits and Events

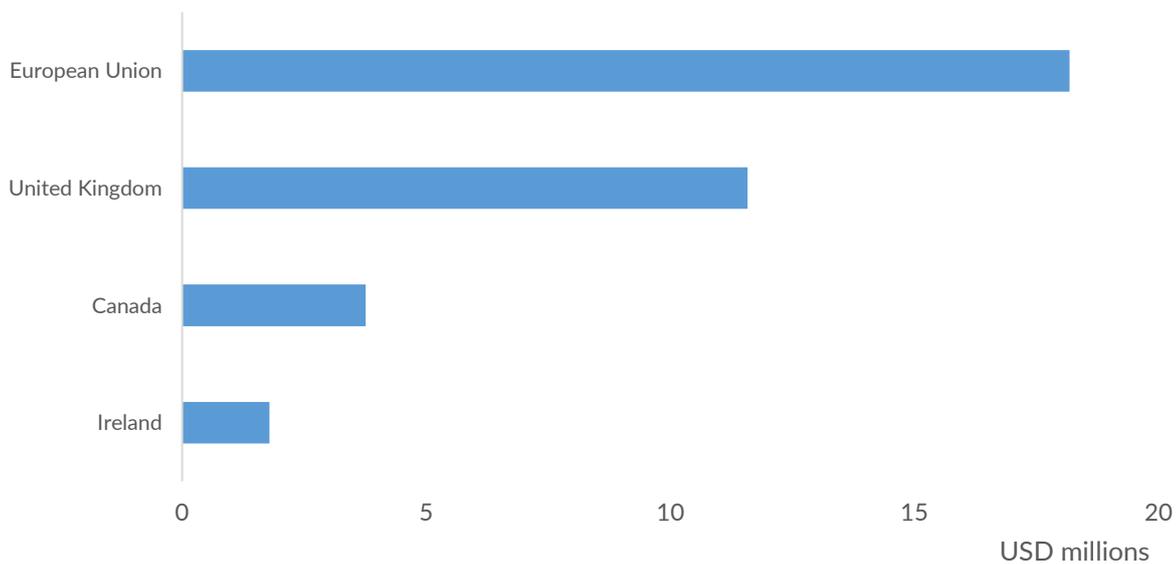
- Due to COVID-19 and under the government's guidance, UNHCR Jordan continues to discourage external field missions to the operation. Donor missions and high-profile visits will resume in full once the situation with the pandemic improves and no longer poses a risk of exposure to UNHCR's people of concern.

Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the operation in 2021 amount to some **US\$ 58.5 million**, covering 14% 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)

Germany (59.2M)

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

Norway (80million) | Sweden (66.9M) | Netherlands (36.1M) | Denmark (34.6M) | Germany (22.1M) | Switzerland (16.4M) | Ireland (12.5M) | Belgium (11.9M)

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LINKS

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram: @UNHCRJordan
www.data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees