



Facts and figures

Jordan Population

- 11.20 million*

Refugees

- **Syrian refugees:** 676,000 registered
Government estimated total: 1.4 million
- 22% live in camps and 78% in urban areas**
- **Palestinian refugees:** 2.3 million registered, 10,000 of whom have arrived from Syria since 2011 18% live in 10 camps***
- **Refugees from Iraq, Yemen, Sudan and other countries:** 100,000**

Migrant workers

- Approximately 1 million African and Asian workers, 350,000 of whom have regular status in June 2022 according to a statement by the Minister of Labour.

Annual budget for Jordan

Total approx. CHF 17.5 million

- Humanitarian Aid (HA): CHF 13.8 million
- South Cooperation (SC): CHF 1.3 million
- Global Programme Migration and Forced Displacement (GPMFD): CHF 2.69 million (for the region, of which approximately CHF 1.5 million is allocated to Jordan for 2022).
- Global Programme Water (GPW): CHF 0.06 million (for the region, part of which goes to Jordan)
- State Secretariat for Migration (SEM): CHF 0.4 million
- State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO): CHF 0.5 million

Annual contributions to partners

| Organisation | Amount (CHF) |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| ICRC | 1.00 million |
| UNESCO | 0.54 million |
| UNHCR | 1.50 million |
| UNWRA | 4.18 million |
| UNICEF | 0.66 million |
| WFP | 1.00 million |
| Other UN partners | 1.90 million |
| (I)NGOs | 5.90 million |
| Swiss Experts | 0.72 million |
| Government of Jordan (GOJ) | 0.10 million |

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* Department of Statistics, August 2022

** UNHCR, August 2022

*** UNRWA, August 2022



TdH Jordan, Life skills activities in Jordan ©TdH

Context

Jordan, a lower-middle income country, hosts one of the largest numbers of registered refugees per capita in the world. One out of every four people is a refugee, and since the start of the Syria crisis, Jordan has accommodated the third highest number of Syrian refugees worldwide. This influx has put additional burden on already weak government services and infrastructure. Jordan's stability remains important for the entire region, but it is constantly threatened by the security situation of its neighbouring countries and its own internal political challenges.

Efforts for political, social and economic reform started a decade ago, but the Syria crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic have hampered various reforms which has compromised the quality of services, especially in the education and health sectors. When it comes to resources, Jordan is one of the most water scarce countries in the world with limited agricultural land and zero fossil energy resources. Its public sector is bloated while the private sector is weak. The room for reviving the economy is limited with high public debt and budget deficits resulting in rising unemployment and poverty rates.

The unemployment rate of 25% affects disproportionately youth (48%) and women's labour force participation at 14%, one of the lowest in the world. Poverty among vulnerable Jordanians, refugees and migrants has forced many to adopt negative coping mechanisms, like child marriage and child labour as well as incurring debts and engaging in informal and precarious working conditions. Refugees, vulnerable Jordanians and migrant workers, who are least protected against exploitation and at times prolonged detention or deportation, have been hardest hit by the economic crisis and the restrictions to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the situation in Syria is likely to remain non-conducive for safe and dignified returns for the foreseeable future, humanitarian actors in Jordan have to respond to the protracted nature of the crisis and shift to strengthen resilience and self-reliance of the refugees and support [durable solutions](#). They aim to coordinate closely with development actors and support their endeavours for Jordanians, which has become more challenging as the economic consequences of the COVID-19 crisis are still not estimable.

Switzerland's support to the region

Since the political upheavals in the region and the start of the Syria crisis in 2011, Switzerland has focused on contributing to protect and empower conflict-affected and vulnerable persons; reconstruct lives; reduce fragility; prevent and transform violent conflicts; and generate development perspectives. It supports efforts to protect human rights and promote good governance, refugee laws and respect for IHL in a whole of government approach (WOGA) in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq (see [separate factsheets](#)).

Switzerland aims at meeting the most urgent needs of the refugees as well as mitigating tensions between local communities and refugees while also addressing migration-related challenges. The Swiss Cooperation Programme Middle East 2019 to 2022 focuses on four thematic domains: Protection & Migration; Education & Income; Water & Sanitation; and Conflict Prevention & Peace Promotion. Given the protracted nature of the crises in the region, the response has a strong emphasis on linking humanitarian engagement with inclusive development-oriented and peace-building interventions.

Protection & Migration

Conflict-affected and vulnerable persons often live in undignified



conditions and only have limited or no access to basic protection. In cooperation with United Nations (UN) agencies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), Switzerland aims to provide

the local authorities with technical support on international protection standards and migration governance. It also offers protection services such as specific support for sexual and gender-based-violence (SGBV), child protection, legal aid and labour rights. Strategic secondments are regularly deployed by the [Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit](#) (SHA) to strengthen the UN's ability to effectively engage government and donor counterparts on various topics pertaining to durable solutions for refugees.

Protection needs have increased due to the pandemic as confirmed by a SDC supported protection assessment, where parts of the economy have been shut down. This has pushed vulnerable people from all the communities in Jordan into unemployment and poverty and increased social tensions and SGBV. In order to contribute to more sustainability, it is at the centre of Switzerland's engagement in Protection to link it with national Social Protection efforts.

Partners: [ICRC](#), [UNHCR](#), [UNWRA](#), [Medair](#), [Jordan INGO Forum \(JIF\)](#), [DRC](#), [IRC](#), [NRC](#), [IDRC](#), [ILO](#), [RDPP](#), [TdH](#), [Tamkeen](#), [CCRM/Insan](#).
WOGA actors: [SDC-HA](#), [SDC-GPMFD](#), [SEM](#)

Education & Income

Conflict-affected children and youth often lack access to quality education while young workers and vulnerable families face difficulties in finding jobs which provide them with an appropriate income.



Working with the Ministry of Education (MoE), as well as NGOs, Swiss support in education is focused on access and completion of compulsory quality education. This can be achieved by minimising the barriers for students, providing pathways back

to formal education and improving the education sector's governance and decentralisation. Since 2012, Switzerland has supported the rehabilitation of more than 100 public schools accommodating Jordanian and refugee student. In parallel, through its partners, Switzerland contributed to enhancing the school environment by raising awareness among students and school management on school preservation, maintenance and hygiene.

In the area of income and the transition from education to professional life, Switzerland supports the access to vocational skills development and labour market integration as well as maintenance

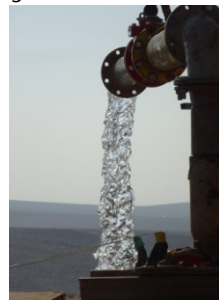
and creation of quality employment opportunities for vulnerable/conflict-affected youth. It further supports the development of digital financial services and the strengthening of financial inclusion for migrant workers. In addition, Switzerland is supporting social entrepreneurship for migration and development and is planning to extend its engagement related to results-based financing models.

Partners: [Ministry of Education](#), [UNESCO](#), [NRC](#), [RI](#), [RDPP](#), [GFA](#), [UNWRA](#).

WOGA actors: [SDC-HA](#), [SDC-SC](#), [SDC-GPMFD](#)

Water & Sanitation

Water extremes (drought and floods) in Jordan will become an even greater problem over the next few decades as the population grows, urbanisations takes place, demand is on the rise and climate



change makes precipitation more uncertain. Regionally, Switzerland aims to reduce vulnerabilities to water scarcity, water-borne diseases, water-related conflict and mismanagement as well as flash floods. In cooperation with the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, United Nations agencies and NGOs, Switzerland contributes to improving water management by upgrading water

and wastewater systems and providing alternative ways to harvest or reuse water, e.g. through rainwater collection or nature-based treatment plants. Switzerland is supporting the water authorities to develop their capacity to negotiate and manage internationally shared water resources. The collaboration between the Switzerland and Jordan on a national flood risk mapping programme, has revived Switzerland's engagement for a decade on disaster risk reduction (DRR) and contributes to protect vulnerable people and assets from flash floods.

Working on transforming water from a source of conflict to an instrument of cooperation and peace is a core element of the regional activities of the Global Programme Water.

Partners: [Ministry of Water and Irrigation](#), [Ministry of Local Administration](#), [Ministry of Interior](#), [Ministry of Agriculture](#), [National Centre for Security and Crisis Management \(NSCMC\)](#), [Yarmouk Water Company](#), [UNICEF](#), [GIZ](#), [Jordan Civil Defence \(JCD\)](#), [BORDA](#), [University of East Anglia](#), [Cewas](#), [MiCT](#), [ACF](#), [WFP](#), [UNDP](#).
WOGA actors: [SDC-HA](#), [SDC-SC](#), [SDC-GPW](#)

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