



Jordan Situation Report

September 11, 2024

Background

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

Overview

According to the UN's Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP), 730,630 refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless individuals who reside in Jordan, including 653,295 Syrian refugees, as well as 2.7 million host community members, need assistance. Household debt is a significant issue among Syrian refugee families, with **93% of households in debt, often to cover basic needs**. Unemployment remains critically high in Jordan and is even higher for refugees. The financial requirements for refugees in Jordan during 2024 exceed \$974 million. In 2023, out of the needed \$5.9 billion in assistance for refugees across the 3RP countries, only 31% was funded.¹

Similarly, the World Food Programme requires \$11 million to provide reduced assistance (in the amount of 15 Jordanian dinars or \$21 per person) to 310,000 refugees in camps and communities from August 2024 to January 2025. For the Needs-Based Plan, \$51 million is needed to offer standard assistance (23 dinars or \$32) to 410,000 refugees over the next six months. Additionally, WFP needs \$3.9 million to fund its school feeding program until the end of 2024.²

Refugees in Jordan

In Jordan, **over 20,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria continue to face severe vulnerabilities** due to high unemployment rates and rising living costs. Among them, approximately one-third lack Jordanian documentation, resulting in limited access to employment and exclusion from government services. A survey by UNRWA in August 2023 revealed that **only 30% of adult Palestinian refugees from Syria in Jordan are employed**. Beyond economic challenges, Palestinian refugees from Syria also deal with significant protection issues.³

¹ [2024 Regional Strategic Overview, 2024 | 3RP](#)

² [WFP Jordan Country Brief, July 2024, August 2024 | ReliefWeb](#)

³ [2024 Regional Strategic Overview, 2024 | 3RP](#)

Jordan received a significant contribution from UK aid, enabling UNHCR to continue its cash assistance program for 23,000 of the poorest refugee families. Each family receives over 4 dinars per day (\$6), which, while not covering all needs, significantly improves well-being and supports the local economy. UNHCR requires \$15.9 million to sustain the program through the year and is actively seeking additional support.⁴

In Jordan, **unemployment remains high** at 28% for Syrian refugees and 36% for refugees of other nationalities, with women and youth disproportionately affected. Many Syrian refugee women across Jordan face low incomes, which can lead to harmful coping mechanisms. These include withdrawing children from school and child marriage for girls, driven by economic hardships and the struggle to meet basic needs.⁵

Food Security & Nutrition

Jordan faces significant challenges as a resource-limited, food-deficit country with scarce agricultural land and increasing climate-related shocks. **Over the past decade, the country's economy has stagnated, struggling to generate sufficient employment opportunities.** The influx of refugees has exacerbated the situation, putting unprecedented pressure on Jordan's budget, natural resources, infrastructure, and labor market. Many refugees experience alarming levels of food insecurity, further straining the country's already limited resources and compounding socio-economic difficulties, with **53% of refugees being food insecure.**⁶

The reduction in assistance is severely affecting refugee families in Jordan, leading to a significant rise in food insecurity. The proportion of severely food-insecure households in the community and camps surged from 3% to 18% in mid 2023, impacting 74,000 of the WFP's 410,000 beneficiaries. This drastic increase in food insecurity has led to the adoption of harmful coping mechanisms, such as migration to third countries, and is putting social cohesion at risk within host communities.⁷

Livelihoods

The latest unemployment figures from Jordan's Department of Statistics show a decrease to 21.4% in the second quarter of 2024, down 0.9% from the previous year. Male unemployment dropped to 18.9%, while female unemployment increased to 31%. **The unemployment rate for those with a bachelor's degree or higher remains high at 25%.**⁸

⁴ [UK helps sustain UNHCR's cash programme for the most vulnerable refugees. August 2024 | Jordan Times.](#)

⁵ [2024 Regional Strategic Overview, 2024 | 3RP](#)

⁶ [World Food Programme - Jordan](#)

⁷ [2024 Regional Strategic Overview, 2024 | 3RP](#)

⁸ [Unemployment decreases by 0.9% in Q2, gender gap widens. September 2024 | Jordan Times.](#)

In August, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), in partnership with Jordan's Ministry of Agriculture, signed agreements with six community-based organizations worth \$120,000 for the Enhancing Resilience of Rural Women Communities through the Valorisation of Forest Products project. This initiative, fully funded by the FAO with a budget of \$400,000, targets 120 women across the Ajloun, Balqa, and Jerash governorates. It focuses on building women's capacity and providing tools to develop income-generating projects using forest products. The project aims to improve rural women's income, protect forests, and strengthen their skills.⁹

According to the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, **Wadi Rum experienced a 70% decline in international and local visitors in the first half of 2024**. Of the 94,385 tourists who visited, 25,000 were Jordanians, and 69,000 were international. Local camps have seen occupancy rates drop by 50% due to high summer temperatures. Tourism income fell by 5% compared to the previous year.¹⁰

Health and Education

The Ministry of Health announced on September 2 that laboratory results confirmed a case of mpox (monkeypox) in a non-Jordanian resident in Jordan. The ministry stated that the infected person exhibited symptoms of the infection and is currently in isolation at Al-Bashir Hospital. The diagnosis was made through a PCR test in the Ministry of Health laboratories. The ministry confirmed that it will continue to monitor mpox and announce any cases, emphasizing its readiness and ability to handle any developments related to the disease according to the national plan prepared in coordination with relevant authorities.¹¹

On August 22, Health Minister Firas Hawari launched the first phase of Jordan's Comprehensive Health Coverage plan, focusing on enhancing primary healthcare through structural and legislative reforms. This phase includes consolidating 34 branch health centers into "primary and comprehensive" centers and aims for financial sustainability. Recent developments also include opening 12 new health centers, expanding and renovating others, and starting the expansion of Maan Government Hospital.¹²

⁹ [FAO signs project to enhance resilience of rural women through valorisation of forest products, August 2024 | Jordan Times](#)

¹⁰ [Wadi Rum tourism drops by 70% in H1 2024, August 2024 | Jordan Times](#).

¹¹ [The Ministry of Health announces the registration of a monkeypox case in a non-Jordanian resident in Jordan, September 2024 | MoH](#)

¹² [Health minister launches first phase of CHC, August 2024 | Jordan Times](#).

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

The Ministry of Water and Irrigation in Jordan signed two agreements with USAID to enhance the country's water infrastructure. The first, worth \$35 million, aims to reduce water losses and improve supply, with an additional \$10.5 million from the Jordan Water Company. The second, valued at \$10.9 million, will rehabilitate 13 kilometers of the King Abdullah Canal, supported by \$4.4 million from the German government through the German Development Bank (KfW). These projects are part of Jordan's strategy to reduce water losses to below 25%, enhance water resources, and address water challenges.¹³ In 2022, Jordan lost approximately 9.58 million cubic meters of water due to theft, with 6 million cubic meters from Zarqa, Amman, and Madaba, and 3 million cubic meters from Aqaba. **The country's per capita water availability is 90 cubic meters per year, a 97.5% decrease from 3,600 cubic meters in 1946.** Non-revenue water remains a significant challenge, with 50% of water lost through theft and leakage. Climate projections indicate a 15-25% reduction in precipitation by 2070-2100, exacerbating water scarcity.¹⁴

Anera's Response

Health

In August, Anera supported the Royal Medical Services for the first time, facilitating a donation of \$13.15 million worth of medications from Direct Relief to treat autoimmune and inflammatory diseases. The shipment included 4,000 units of adalimumab-atto, providing **4,000 treatments for autoimmune conditions.** This support will directly benefit Jordanians receiving care through the Royal Medical Services.

And Anera continues to support its local partner, the Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS), by procuring chemical analyzer reagent kits. These kits will assist in **managing non-communicable diseases** at the SAMS medical center in Zaatari camp. The first batch of reagents aims to deliver 950 lab tests for hormones and vitamins. This project, supported by the United Methodist Committee on Relief, will **support Syrian refugees with chronic illnesses in Jordan.**

Education

Anera's Education and Digital Literacy project completed its 9th cohort on August 31st, **supporting 52 students from two camps to significantly improve their academic performance.** We distributed thirty new laptops, 15 in Baqa'a camp and 15 in Jerash camp, providing tools to enhance the learning experience.

¹³ [Jordan, USAID sign two agreements to boost water infrastructure. September 2024 | Jordan Times.](#)

¹⁴ [Estimated water theft losses amounted to 9.58mcm in 2022 — Water Ministry. March 2023 | The Jordan Times](#)

Currently, Anera is preparing for the 10th and final cohort. The project has has generated positive buzz within the community, with people expressing interest in volunteering to support the program.