



Jordan Situation Report

May 14, 2025

Background

More information on water scarcity, refugee livelihoods, and food security in Jordan can be found in Anera's last [Situation Report \(January 2025\)](#).

Overview

The suspension of aid through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has triggered widespread disruption across Jordan's aid-dependent economy, hitting the country's most vulnerable populations, including refugees and people with disabilities, hardest. As the third-largest recipient of USAID funds, Jordan is facing serious repercussions following the U.S. government's order to shut down the agency, which has forced critical development and humanitarian programs into uncertainty. The impact has been immediate and severe, with an estimated 35,000 Jordanian and American workers losing their jobs across public institutions, private sector organizations, contractors, and partner agencies engaged in U.S.-funded projects, according to early figures reported by the NGO sector in Jordan. Essential services once supported by USAID have been reduced or discontinued altogether. These include healthcare, education, water and infrastructure development, protection services for survivors of gender-based violence, and vital assistance for Syrian and Palestinian refugees.¹ The recent funding cuts in Jordan have put critical health services for refugees at risk. Around 43,000 refugees may lose access to primary health care and cash assistance for medical needs. These cuts also threaten essential maternal health services for approximately 335,000 women of reproductive age, raising serious concerns about access to safe and timely care.²

Business Monitor International (BMI) projects that Jordan's economic growth for 2025 will decrease from 2.1% to 1.6%, reflecting the impact of newly imposed U.S. tariffs and the country's reliance on American markets. This adjustment signals a more pronounced deceleration in real GDP than previously expected, falling from 2.5% in 2024, as trade restrictions are set to weaken investment levels and reduce demand across key sectors, likely contributing to rising unemployment. The combination of U.S.

¹ [USAID cuts hit Jordan's economy and most vulnerable with immeasurable ripple effect. February 2025 | The National News](#)

² [UNHCR: Funding cuts threaten the health of nearly 13 million displaced people. March 2025 | UNHCR](#)

economic deceleration and new tariffs is expected to reduce Jordanian exports, driving the current account deficit up from 5.9% of GDP in 2024 to 7.1% in 2025.³

Jordan continues to face major challenges in achieving inclusive economic growth and generating sufficient employment. Over the past decade, the economy has expanded at a modest average rate of just 2.5% annually. Unemployment remains a pressing concern, reaching 22.3% in 2023, with youth unemployment alarmingly high at 46.1%. Women also encounter deep-rooted structural barriers to entering the workforce, including restrictive laws and inadequate childcare support. As a result, Jordan's female labor force participation rate stands at just 13.5%—one of the lowest globally.⁴

Since July 2023, severe funding constraints forced the World Food Programme (WFP) to cut its assistance by one-third for all eligible refugees. Beginning in August, refugees living in camps saw their monthly support reduced from USD 32 to USD 21 per person. WFP and UNHCR jointly conducted a retargeting exercise, which led to the removal of 55,000 community-based refugees from WFP's General Food Assistance program. As a result, the total number of refugees receiving aid fell by nearly 12 percent in September 2023, dropping from 465,000 to 410,000. Further reductions took place in July 2024, when WFP halted monthly food assistance for another 100,000 community-based refugees following a comprehensive prioritization process. As of now, WFP supports 310,000 refugees in Jordan, all of whom receive reduced levels of assistance due to ongoing funding cuts.⁵

Refugees in Jordan

An April report by Handicap International surveyed Syrian refugees in Jordan to assess their intentions and concerns about returning to Syria. Among 710 respondents, only 33.8% (240 individuals) expressed a willingness to return. When asked about safety, only 36% reported feeling secure enough to go back to Syria. Insights from 60 focus group discussions (FGDs) echoed this sentiment, with many viewing return not as a proactive choice but as a last resort. Participants cited deep fears of the lack of security, poor infrastructure, and weak economic conditions. Over 65% of those involved in discussions stated that returning was not a viable option due to ongoing instability and the lack of basic services. Key challenges to returning included economic hardship and the scarcity of housing, affecting the decisions of more than half of those surveyed. Safety concerns and health-related issues were also prominent. For those with disabilities and their families, additional barriers such as limited accessibility and the absence of specialized healthcare in Syria made returning even more complex. When

³ [US Tariffs Will Increase Downside Pressure On Jordan's Economy, April 2025 | BMI](#)

⁴ [On the Job: Expanding Economic Opportunities for Youth, Women, and Refugees in Jordan, April 2025 | World Bank](#)

⁵ [Food Security Outcome Monitoring \(FSOM\) Quarter 4, 2024 | WFP](#)

asked what support would be needed to facilitate a return, financial assistance (35%) and help securing housing (29%) emerged as top priorities. Refugees also emphasized the importance of access to stable employment, mental health care, and medical services to make a successful transition. In terms of programming, respondents identified the most needed forms of assistance as livelihood support (39%), access to education (24%), and healthcare services (24%).⁶

Between December 8, 2024, and February 22, 2025, a total of 43,704 Syrian refugees departed Jordan for Syria. UNHCR data shows that 70% of families, equivalent to 30,605 households, returned in full, while the remaining 30% (13,099 families) opted for partial return. The refugees came from various regions across Jordan, including Amman, Irbid and Mafrq, as well as camps, including Zaatari, Azraq, and the Emirati-Jordanian Camp. Urban areas were home to the majority—84%—of those who returned, while the remaining 16% were living in camps. In Syria, most of the returnees originated from Daraa, followed by Homs and rural Damascus. Data from Jordan's Ministry of Interior noted that 42,675 Syrians exited via the Jaber border crossing since the fall of the Assad regime. Of that number, 7,117 came from camps and 35,558 from other locations in the country. Authorities confirmed that all departures were voluntary.⁷

In February, UNICEF announced a \$1 million contribution from the Republic of Korea to support essential services for Syrian refugees in Jordan. The funding will sustain water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services, as well as strengthen child-sensitive justice and protection systems. The contribution will ensure continued access to safe water and sanitation for more than 78,000 Syrian refugees in Za'atari camp. It will also fund the creation of child-friendly interview rooms in both Za'atari and Azraq camps, as well as in host communities. Additionally, social workers and law enforcement personnel will receive specialized training in trauma-informed and child-sensitive practices, enhancing protection and care for vulnerable children.⁸

Economic Situation, Livelihoods & Food Security

Jordan is expected to bear a substantial burden of the newly introduced U.S. tariffs. According to BMI estimates, Jordan's effective tariff rate—adjusted for trade volume with the United States and specific exemptions—was 19.3%, the fourth-highest in the region. The United States remains a vital export destination for Jordan's industrial sector, making the country particularly vulnerable to trade disruptions. BMI also anticipates notable secondary effects on Jordan's domestic economy. Most of the

⁶ [Intention of Syrian Refugees in Jordan, April 2025 | Relief Web](#)

⁷ [Over 43,700 Syrian refugees voluntarily return home, March 2025 | The Jordan Times](#)

⁸ [Republic of Korea Commits \\$1 Million to Support UNICEF's Lifesaving Interventions for Refugees in Jordan, February 2025 | UNICEF](#)

country's key export sectors, such as textiles, jewellery, and select fertiliser products, remain subject to U.S. tariffs and exhibit relatively high demand elasticity. As a result, these industries are expected to face a sharp decline in demand, particularly in the short term. Since these sectors employ large numbers of both Jordanian and migrant workers, the anticipated contraction is likely to ease labour market conditions in 2025, delaying efforts to return unemployment rates to their pre-pandemic levels. In addition, ongoing uncertainty around the direction of U.S. trade policy is expected to dampen investor confidence and stall new investment activity.⁹

Jordan is highly dependent on international trade and strong commercial ties with the U.S.. The 20% tariff increase on exports to the U.S. will raise the price of Jordanian goods, making them less competitive compared to imports from other countries. This move is expected to place significant strain on businesses operating in Jordan, forcing some to reduce operations or close down entirely. As production and export volumes decline, the garment and textile sector is likely to be one of the hardest hit. Early estimates indicate that a 20% to 30% decrease in export activity could eliminate between 10,000 and 15,000 direct jobs. This sector employs 77,730 workers, 73% of whom are migrant workers. It is also a predominantly female workforce, with women accounting for over 60% of employees, making them especially vulnerable to the fallout. Over the longer term, the decision risks worsening unemployment, particularly among youth without university degrees, who rely heavily on garment and textile jobs for their livelihoods.¹⁰

Jordan recorded a 2.21% year-on-year rise in inflation during the first two months of 2025, fueled by higher prices across key commodity categories. Data from the Department of Statistics indicated that the overall consumer price index climbed to 112.30 points during this period. Among the primary drivers were an 8.7% increase in meat and poultry prices and a 5.32% rise in the cost of spices, food additives, and related products. This uptick in inflation aligns with broader consumer price trends, as reflected in recent World Bank figures, which showed a 2.6% increase in November and a 1.2% rise in December.¹¹

As a result of the World Bank operations in Jordan, 48,000 Jordanians have secured formal employment, with women making up 52% of this workforce and 11% being beneficiaries of social assistance programs. Additionally, 30,000 individuals are currently engaged in on-the-job training. In the digital sector, more than 4,000 people have received specialized training, leading to over 3,200 new job placements. Efforts to integrate Syrian refugees into the formal labor market have also advanced significantly:

⁹ [US Tariffs Will Increase Downside Pressure On Jordan's Economy, April 2025 | BMI](#)

¹⁰ [The Implications of the New US Tariffs on Jordan's Economy and Workers, 2025 | Tamkeen for Legal Aid and Human Rights](#)

¹¹ [Jordan's inflation climbs 2.21% in early 2025: official data, March 2025 | Arab News](#)

over the past four years, the number of work permits issued to refugees has doubled, culminating in 340,000 free permits. By 2021, over 162,000 Syrian refugees were formally employed in Jordan. Looking ahead, the World Bank aims to generate 10,000 new income opportunities over the next five years for youth, particularly young women and refugees. Regulatory reforms have also eased restrictions in sectors such as tailoring, food production, and crafts, enabling the establishment of more than 4,900 home-based businesses by the end of 2023, of which over 2,800 are owned by women.¹²

As of the fourth quarter of 2024, food insecurity among refugees in Jordan remained critically high, with 83% of host community beneficiaries and 81% of camp residents still experiencing moderate or severe food insecurity. While refugee involvement in the labor market has modestly increased compared to the same period last year, the share of individuals employed with valid work permits remains low. Refugees report that the new work permit regulations introduced in 2024 have added financial and administrative barriers to accessing legal employment, significantly undermining efforts to achieve income stability and greater self-reliance.¹³

Health

A study published in March revealed a dramatic rise in mental health challenges in Jordan, with reported cases of mental disorders increasing by 279.8%—from 514,234 in 1990 to nearly 2 million (1,953,087) in 2021. Anxiety and depression were the most commonly reported conditions in 2021. The study also showed that all-age disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) linked to mental illness surged by 649.6%, while age-standardized DALY rates saw a smaller increase of 4.3%. The findings underscore a growing mental health crisis compounded by limited resources, social stigma, and ongoing regional instability. The study recommends urgent action through anti-stigma efforts, stronger integration of mental health care into health systems, and targeted prevention strategies.¹⁴

An UNRWA Patient Satisfaction Report outlined a comprehensive set of recommendations to enhance healthcare quality for Palestinian refugees. In Jordan, key operational priorities include improving signage, lighting, and parking accessibility for persons with disabilities, as well as strengthening communication about clinic hours and appointment systems. Staff shortages, particularly in oral health, have contributed to overcrowding and reduced consultation time, while inadequate privacy during physical examinations highlights the need for better infrastructure and adherence to

¹² [On the Job: Expanding Economic Opportunities for Youth, Women, and Refugees in Jordan, April 2025 | World Bank](#)

¹³ [Food Security Outcome Monitoring \(FSOM\) Quarter 4, 2024 | WFP](#)

¹⁴ [Examining the burden of mental disorders in Jordan: an ecological study over three decades, March 2025 | BMC](#)

confidentiality protocols. Pharmacists in Jordan were found to provide limited counseling on medication use, failing to follow standardized procedures on patient education. Clinical examinations also require improvement through staff training, and low awareness of specialized services such as the Family Health Team model and GBV support must be addressed through targeted outreach. Long waiting times and delays in updating patient records call for IT system upgrades and staff capacity building. Strategically, the report emphasizes expanding telemedicine to alleviate overcrowding, introducing flexible scheduling and mobile clinics to improve access, and enhancing training programs to address skill gaps. Monitoring systems and accountability mechanisms are needed to ensure hygiene, safety, and service quality, while partnerships with private sector actors are crucial for mobilizing resources and sustaining improvements.¹⁵

Anera's Response

Health

Since February 2025, Anera's health program has received and distributed two major shipments in Jordan, totaling 42,456 treatments for the vulnerable population, significantly contributing to healthcare support for refugees and underprivileged Jordanians.

The first shipment, received from Direct Relief (DR), contained two critical medications. The first, Leflunomide, is an immunomodulatory agent used to treat rheumatoid arthritis. This donation of 120 units will provide three months of treatment for 20 patients at Zaatari Camp, managed by the Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS). The second medication, Sevelamer, is a key item in the treatment regimen for patients suffering from chronic kidney disease, particularly those on dialysis. This is a chronic medication, where every unit of the 3,000 units received will provide a supply for 1.5 - 3 months of treatments per patient. This medication will benefit the services provided by our partner, the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS), ensuring their inventory is secured for a year.

¹⁵ [Assessment of patients' satisfaction with the quality and care of UNRWA primary healthcare services, January 2025 | UN](#)



The second shipment, received from International Health Partners (IHP), included antimicrobials, pain relievers, and four pallets of medications for non-communicable diseases (NCDs). These supplies were distributed among five local partners, supporting

both refugee and underprivileged Jordanian communities, primarily in the northern and central regions. The shipment included a significant quantity of corticosteroid inhalers for COPD and respiratory conditions. Approximately 95% of these inhalers will support our partner, the JNRCS, which has been facing a critical shortage of this commonly used inhaler. Overall, the 17,640 units of medication received will cover our partners' needs for the next six months.

A third notable shipment marks the first-time receipt of long-acting insulin by Anera Jordan, donated by Direct Response. Part of the shipment will support SAMS' newly established diabetes clinic, which launched in January 2025. By covering this critical medication, SAMS can redirect budget savings to expand patient access for both Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes treatments. The shipment is currently undergoing a clearing process to be distributed to our partners in May.

During a site visit to Al Bashir Hospital, a leading public healthcare institution in Jordan, confirmed the successful integration of Docetaxel, a chemotherapy medication donated by Direct Relief in November 2024. The Jordan Ministry of Health (MOH) distributed 1,188 units of Docetaxel 80mg/4ml and 7 units of Docetaxel 20mg/1ml to the hospital, which has since been using it to treat patients with breast (80%), cervical (3%), and prostate (17%) cancers. Between December 2024 and April 2025, 526 units were dispensed, benefiting 50 cancer patients who received bi-monthly treatments. This donation has significantly supported Al Bashir Hospital's oncology services, especially since the MOH's inventory was extremely depleted, and this type of cancer medication was previously out of stock from the Jordanian market for several months. Securing these quantities allowed the hospital to resume the treatment course for patients with scheduled doses.

Food Security, Livelihood, and Social Development

Ramadan Campaign

Through Tkiyet Um Ali and Anera's collaboration, a total of 1,682 food parcels were distributed during March 2025 to vulnerable families facing severe food insecurity. Of these, 1,100 parcels were distributed directly by TUA, reaching 7,994 individuals in 1,100 families. The remaining 582 parcels were delivered to Anera for distribution through their channels, reaching 2,910 individuals in 582 families. These food parcels play a critical role in alleviating the burden of food insecurity, contributing to improved well-being and productivity among family members, especially children. The beneficiary families were located in Jerash, Mafraq, Karak, Zarqa, Amman, Balqa, and Irbid.

► Achievements



1,682

Parcels
Distributed
(Total)



582

Parcels
Distributed through ANERA



1,100

Parcels
Distributed through
TUA



1,100
Families



7,994
Individuals

► Beneficiaries Demographics



58%
Females



54%
Students



56%
Children



7%
Individuals with
special needs



8%
Female-headed
households



1%
Elderly



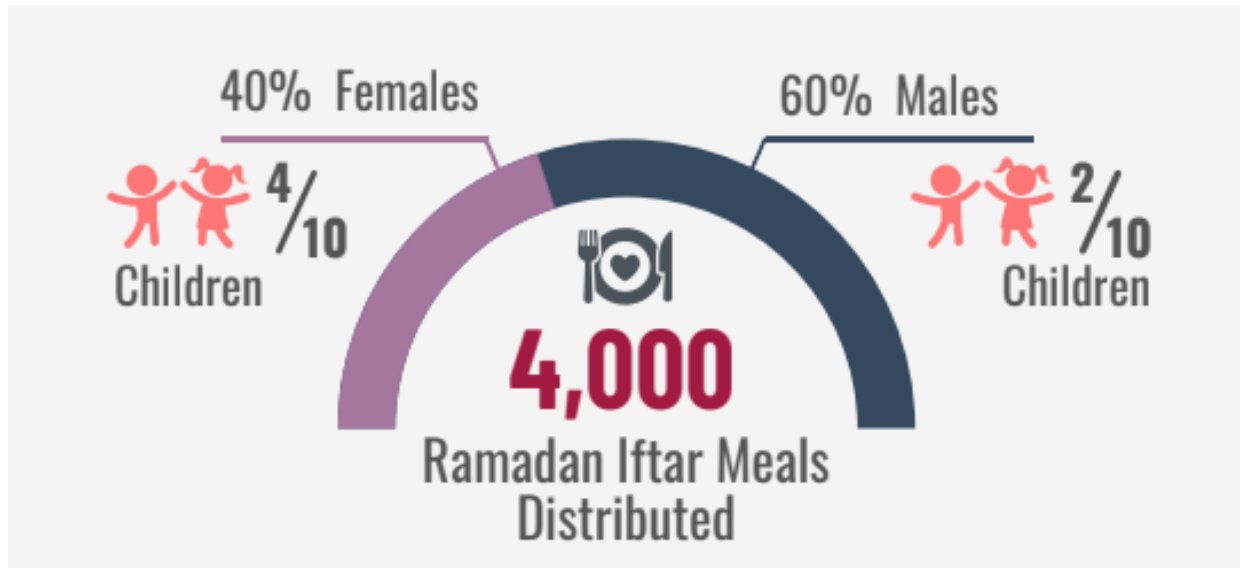
3%
of children are
Orphans



100%
of families with a net
monthly income near zero



The agreement between Tkiyet Um Ali and Anera also included the distribution of 4,000 hot meals as part of the Ramadan 2025 Program, “Mawa’ed Al-Rahman”. The meals were distributed on the 9th of Ramadan.



Anera's Roof Top Gardens Project in Jordan: Enhancing Food Security & Agricultural Resilience

Through Anera's Rooftop Garden (RTG) project in Jordan, 79 new greenhouses were completed in Marka and Wehdat, directly benefiting 78 households and one preschool community garden. These greenhouses strengthen local food security while promoting agricultural education among children, supported by preschool teachers and the community. By the start of the farming season in March, all participating families received farming tools and seeds, and successfully initiated cultivation. Anera's agricultural engineer, alongside 20 trained volunteers, continues to provide follow-up support to ensure proper crop management until harvest.





Additionally, 24 greenhouses from the project's first phase underwent full maintenance, including repairs to plastic sheds, piping, and wicking beds. These households also received new farming tools and seeds to sustain their agricultural activities.

To expand capacity, Anera's agriculture team conducted a week-long training in March for new beneficiaries, focusing on advanced rooftop garden management. Experienced participants from earlier phases shared practical insights on overcoming daily challenges, fostering peer learning, and best practices.





Youth Entrepreneurial Pathways for Resilience Project by Abdul Aziz Al Ghurair Fund: WASH & Vocational Training for Youth Empowerment

During the reporting period, 30 youth from Jerash Refugee Camp completed 300 hours of theoretical plumbing and mechanical training and began their 400-hour practical training. Upon completion, they will earn a 6-month diploma from the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC), increasing their employability.



A two-day life skills workshop, delivered by Aman Consultancy, equipped participants with career planning, digital literacy, and personal branding skills to navigate the modern job market.



To support infrastructure & community awareness, 200 households received new water tanks in April, with an additional 200 slated for maintenance and cleaning in May. Mapping efforts, supported by local communities and the Department of Palestinian Affairs, involved youth trainees in fieldwork as part of their practical training.



Similarly, 10 WASH awareness sessions (5 in Souf, 5 in Gaza Camp) reached 200 participants, addressing common sanitation challenges, and 20 child-focused sessions (10 in Souf, 10 in Gaza Camp) educated 500 children on hygiene, water conservation, and safe waste disposal.



Anera also offered vocational training and internships. 95 youths (50 females, 45 males) enrolled in vocational courses in Digital Skills, Hospitality, and Tourism in April. The program combines six-month theoretical training and practical simulations with a two-month paid internship with local businesses to enhance job readiness. This initiative strengthens technical skills, professionalism, and employability, empowering young Jordanians to build sustainable livelihoods.





Youth for Sustainable Environment (YSE) Project: Green Initiatives in Zarqa

Under Anera's YSE project, 30 youth across Zarqa's directorates are receiving coaching and mentorship to develop Green Entrepreneurship Initiatives. These projects focus on environmental sustainability and best practices, with further mentorship sessions to follow.