

JORDAN

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

June 2017

KEY FIGURES

659,593

Syrians registered with UNHCR in Jordan

63,024

Iraqis registered with UNHCR in Jordan

7,916

Yemenis, the next largest population of persons of concern registered with UNHCR in Jordan after Syrians and Iraqis

93

Percentage of Syrians living outside of camps and below the poverty line in Jordan

78

Percentage of Syrians registered with UNHCR in refugee camps who are women and children

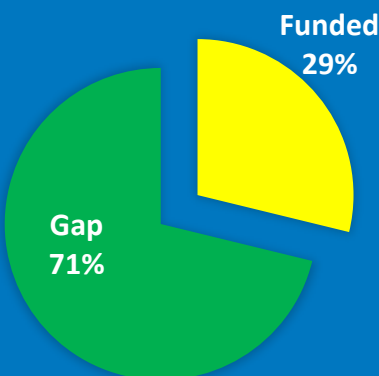
40

Percentage of the registered refugee population who received protection against the cold this winter from UNHCR

FUNDING

US \$ 277 million

requested for the Jordan Operation in 2017



HIGHLIGHTS

- Azraq is now the world's first refugee camp powered by renewable energy.** The solar farm has brought renewable power to a population that lived for two and a half years with only sporadic access to lighting in the form of community street lights and solar lamps. This solar plant will contribute to the Jordan national energy strategy to achieve a green economy by 2020. The 2-megawatt solar photovoltaic (PV) plant will allow UNHCR to provide affordable and sustainable electricity to 20,000 Syrian refugees living in almost 5,000 shelters in Azraq camp, covering the energy needs of the two villages connected to the national grid. Each family can now connect a fridge, a TV, a fan, have light inside the shelter and charge their phones, which is critical for refugees to keep in contact with their relatives abroad.
- UNHCR and partners were able to distribute humanitarian assistance sporadically to displaced populations at Rukban on the north-east border with Syria in May.** A variety of challenges such as a hostile security environment and crowd management issues either curtailed or postponed distributions. Despite the difficulties, agencies were able to distribute aid to 9,541 people at Rukban through heads of household including a one-month supply of food, children's clothing, hygiene items, solar lamps, jerry cans and dignity kits. The distributions were conducted with the use of iris-scanning biometric technology to verify the receipt of aid. A number of serious security incidents resulting in deaths and injuries near to Rukban occurred throughout the month.



UNHCR's Deputy High Commissioner, Kelly T. Clements, and Senior Energy Officer, Paul Quigley, at Azraq refugee camp ahead of the solar plant inauguration. ©UNHCR/Mohammad Hawari

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Protection

■ UNHCR completes countrywide consultations with refugees

UNHCR met with representatives from the Somali refugee community on 2 May to conclude a series of consultations with Jordan's five largest refugee communities - Syrian, Iraqi, Yemeni, Sudanese and Somali – that have taken place across Jordan since January. The initiative provided UNHCR with the opportunity to hear first-hand of the challenges faced by refugees in Jordan as well as suggestions to improve refugees' lives.

Somalis are the smallest of the five largest refugee communities in Jordan numbering just under 800 people and are almost exclusively settled in Amman. While most arrived in Jordan directly from Somalia, others are experiencing displacement for the second time having settled in Yemen before the intensification of conflict there. One of the key difficulties experienced by Somalis is the language barrier.

Key among the “asks” from the Somali community included extending the provision of cash assistance to more Somalis, allowing Somalis to access the ongoing work permit initiative, placing Somali medical students in medical facilities to help break the language barrier, allowing for less expensive access to more specialized medical treatment and the creation of vocational training opportunities for Somalis to support livelihood initiatives.

The feedback outlined intends to serve as a guide on where the largest gaps in assistance and protection remain, for all refugees across the Kingdom and to complement data collected through UNHCR's Participatory Assessments in October and November 2016. These consultations also enrich information already gathered through phone surveys and routine counselling, as well as to add to regular UNHCR exchanges with refugee communities.

The timing of the consultations, particularly in regards to the Syrian community, was designed to reassess the needs of refugees a year after the London Syria donors' conference held in February 2016.



A consultation held between Syrian refugees, members of the Jordanian host community, and UNHCR, in Irbid in January 2017. ©UNHCR/M. Hawari

- First national forum for UNHCR’s Community Support Committees

Between 14 and 16 May, UNHCR and its partner the Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development (JOHUD) organized the first national forum in Aqaba for all sixteen of UNHCR’s Syrian Community Support Committees (CSCs) operational across the Kingdom. The forum allowed UNHCR and JOHUD to listen and learn from the success stories of the CSCs, address the challenges they face, and set a roadmap to the changes that will occur to these committees in 2018.

CSCs were first established by UNHCR in 2013 to build social cohesion between refugee and host communities by offering services and activities to both groups. Half of CSC’s 23,000 beneficiaries are vulnerable Jordanians. There are currently 23 CSCs active throughout Jordan—16 for Syrians, six for Iraqis and one each for Sudanese and Somalis. CSC activities over recent months include language courses, computer training, cooking classes, handicraft lessons, gardening activities and a sweet-making workshop. CSCs are overseen by a network 200 females and males from both the refugee and host community, including members of local community-based organizations and officials from local authorities.



A silent play performed by members of a CSC at the forum in Aqaba. ©UNHCR

A total of **736,396** people of concern were registered with UNHCR in Jordan as of 15 May 2017, including **659,593** Syrians, **63,024** Iraqis and **13,779** others including, **7,916** Yemenis, **3,567** Sudanese, and **799** Somalis.

Education

Achievements and Impact

■ UNHCR's scholarship programme celebrates 25 years of assisting refugees

UNHCR and the Federal Republic of Germany celebrated the 25th anniversary of DAFI in May, a scholarship programme enabling refugees to pursue a future in higher education. The event included powerful testimonies from refugees who spoke of the impact being given the chance to learn has had on their lives.

Since the start of the programme in Jordan in 2007, DAFI has benefited 372 refugee youth from urban areas and camps in fields of study including computer sciences, engineering, languages and medicine. Currently, 273 students are enrolled in this academic year in eighteen universities across Jordan.

The DAFI scholarship covers tuition fees, books, transportation expenses and a subsistence allowance, costs which preclude most refugees from the chance of accessing higher education. UNHCR leads the identification and selection process of DAFI scholars and supports students who are successful in their applications in addressing barriers to enrolment, including obtaining certified education transcripts which many refugees may lose when fleeing their countries of origin.



A refugee recipient of a DAFI scholarship speaks at the anniversary celebrations in Amman. ©UNHCR/Mohammad Hawari

US Ambassador to the UN, Nikki Haley, visits refugee settings in Jordan



Ambassador Nikki Haley visited Syrians at refugee settings across Jordan in May. The visit was part as part of a wider visit to the Middle East and North Africa region to reaffirm the commitment of the United States as the largest donor to the Syria crisis. Ambassador Haley visited Zaatari refugee camp (left), refugees in their home in Amman and the Ramtha border crossing where UNHCR supports the provision of core relief items into southern Syria.

©UNHCR/Marwa Hashim

■ UNHCR welcomes Canada's Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship to Jordan

His Honourable Ahmad Hussen, himself a refugee when arriving in Canada at a young age in the 1990s, was welcomed by UNHCR to the Azraq and Zaatari refugee camps, as well as UNHCR's registration centre in Amman which is the largest of its kind in the region.

Mr. Hussen's visit provided UNHCR with the chance to thank the Canadian government for its steadfast commitment to refugees in Jordan, including through resettlement and humanitarian admission programmes for Syrian refugees that has seen 14,291 refugees referred to Canada by UNHCR.

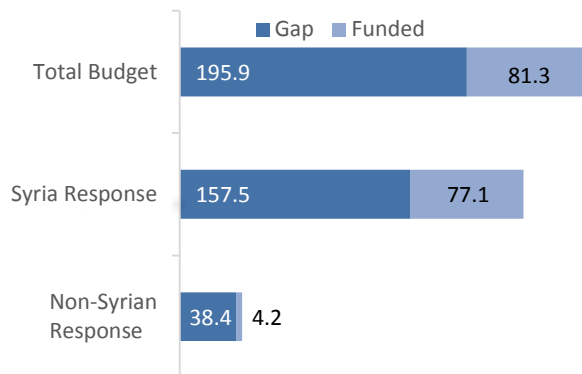


Ahmad Hussen visits UNHCR's refugee registration centre in Amman which has the capacity to process up to 5,000 refugees a day. ©UNHCR/Mohammad Hawari

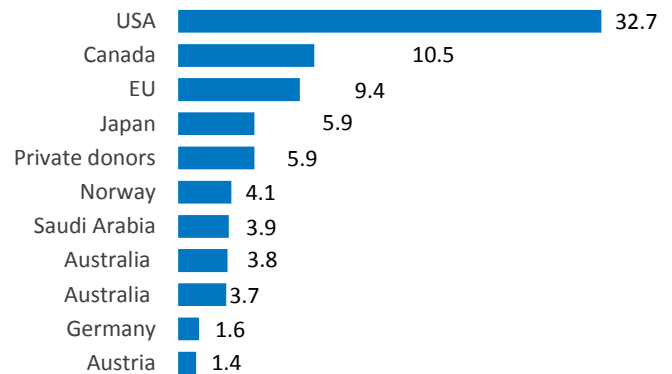
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 77.1 million** for the **Syria response** (at 9 May) and **US\$ 4.2 million** for the **Iraq situation** at the country level (at 16 May).

2017 funding levels (in US \$ million)



Funding received at the country level for the Jordan operation in 2017 (in \$ US million)



**This operational update covers activities for May 2017.*

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.

Special thanks to major donors of unrestricted and regional funds (in US \$ million):

USA (95) | Sweden (76)|Netherlands (52)|Norway (41) |Denmark (23)|Australia (19)|Switzerland (15)|Germany (12)| Germany (12)| Private Donors Spain (13)

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