



## Facts and figures

### Jordan Population

- 10.76 million\*

### Refugees

- **Syrian refugees:** 662,000 registered  
Estimated total: 1.4 million - 22% live in camps and 78% in urban areas\*\*
- **Palestinian refugees:** 2.2 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, 370,000 of whom have regular status

### Annual budget for Jordan

Total approx. CHF 21 million

- Humanitarian Aid (HA): CHF 12.7 million
- South Cooperation (SC): CHF 5.7 million
- Global Programme Migration and Development (GPMD): CHF 1.8 million
- Global Programme Water (GPW): CHF 0.06 million (for the region, part of which goes to Jordan)
- State Secretariat for Migration (SEM): CHF 0.6 million
- Peace and Human Rights Division (PHRD) CHF 0.2 million

### Annual contributions to partners

Organisation	Amount (CHF)
ICRC	2 million
UNESCO	1 million
UNHCR	1.5 million
UNWR	4.2 million
(I)NGOs	6.1 million
Swiss Experts	0.7 million
Government of Jordan (GOJ)	5.5 million

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\* Department of Statistics, November 2020

\*\* UNHCR, November 2020

\*\*\* UNRWA, December 2019



Girls practicing social distancing in one of the Swiss-rehabilitated schools in Jordan @SDC

## 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 has put an end to many of the 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 second half of 2020 saw the unemployment rate soar to an unprecedented 23 per cent which mainly affects women and young people. Poverty among refugees is widespread and 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. A strategic secondment has been deployed by the [Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit](#) (SHA) to strengthen the UN's ability to effectively engage government and donor counterparts on topics pertaining to durable solutions for refugees.

Protection needs are likely to increase due to the COVID-19 pandemic as borders and parts of the economy have been shut down. This has pushed people into unemployment and poverty and increased social tensions and SGBV.

**Partners:** [ICRC](#), [UNHCR](#), [UNWRA](#), [Medair](#), [DRC](#), [IRC](#), [Care](#), [NRC](#), [Sahab Municipality](#), [ILO](#), [IOM](#), [RDPP](#), [ARDD](#)

**WOGA actors:** [HA](#), [GPMD](#), [SEM](#)

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## 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 as well as NGOs, Swiss support in education is focused on access and the 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. In a direct action, Switzerland has been supporting the rehabilitation of public schools for Syrian refugee and Jordanian students since 2012 (*see separate factsheet*). As maintaining the improved conditions at the rehabilitated schools is an important aspect of Switzerland's work, it supports efforts to raise awareness of school preservation, maintenance and hygiene among students and school management.

In the area of income and the transition from education to professional life, Switzerland supports skills development and labour market integration for Jordanian and Syrian youth based on market opportunities. It further supports the development of digital

financial services and the strengthening of financial inclusion for migrant workers. Additional engagements on enterprise development and social entrepreneurship are envisaged and in the planning.

In response to the negative impact COVID-19 has had on household incomes, strengthening the national social assistance mechanism links Switzerland's engagement in this domain with its activities in Protection and Migration.

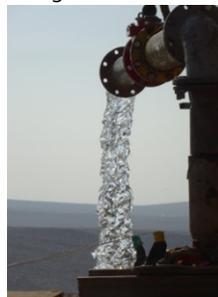
**Partners:** [Ministry of Education](#), [NRC](#), [RI](#), [National Aid Fund](#), [GIZ](#), [RDPP](#), [GFA](#), [UNRWA](#)

**WOGA actors:** [HA](#), [SC](#), [GPMD](#)

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## 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 in the process of establishing a collaboration with the authorities on water governance. An agreement on a national flood risk mapping programme, which was signed with the Government of Jordan in September 2020, has revived Switzerland's past engagement 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](#), [NSCMC](#), [Yarmouk Water Company](#), [ACF](#), [ACTED](#), [UNICEF](#), [GIZ](#), [FAO](#)

**WOGA actors:** [HA](#), [SC](#), [GPW](#)

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