

1. Crisis overview

- As we enter the 13th year of the Syrian crisis, the situation not only remains unresolved but increasingly dire. The prolonged conflict, economic downturns, health crises such as COVID-19 and cholera, combined with the [recent seismic disaster](#), have pushed Syrian families and children to the brink as they fight to survive with [90% of the Syrian population currently living below the poverty line](#).
- The need for humanitarian assistance in Syria has reached an all-time high, with [16.7 million people](#) requiring support in 2024, marking the largest figure since the crisis began in 2011.
- Funding shortages have impacted all sectors, with the Humanitarian Response Plan for Syria remaining significantly underfunded at [only 21%](#).
- Syria ranks among the top ten nations globally for the highest number of people facing hunger. The World Food Programme (WFP) estimates that over half of the population, [12.9 million Syrians](#), are currently experiencing hunger in 2024, while another [2.6 million](#) are on the brink of food insecurity.
- The country continues to endure a protection crisis as loss of essential [documentation](#) and [family separations](#) following the earthquake have led to an increase in [child-headed households, child labor, and early marriages](#). In addition, Syria hosts the world's second-largest number of internally displaced persons, [totalling 7.2 million](#), many of whom reside in overcrowded camps.
- The [earthquakes](#) have worsened Syria's dire situation, causing nearly [6,000 deaths and over 12,800 injuries](#), with many families losing their primary earners. This disaster has pushed millions more into inability to meet their very basic needs, highlighting the urgent need for long-term recovery funding and enhanced emergency preparedness.
- Host countries like Jordan and Türkiye are facing [unprecedented levels of need](#) since the crisis began, as they are dealing with increased vulnerabilities, rising poverty, and unemployment. Despite their own economic struggles and limited resources, these governments continue to provide essential public services such as housing, healthcare, legal systems, education, waste management, and WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene). They have been under significant strain, bearing the costs of hosting millions of displaced Syrians for years while also contending with new conflicts and economic challenges in the region.



One of WWSR volunteers in Azraq camp, Jordan. © World Vision Syria Response, Joanna Zreineh



Volunteers in Azraq Camp, Jordan picking litter.
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2. Country overview

Jordan is recognized for its stability in a turbulent region. The country hosts over 1.3 million Syrian refugees - representing nearly 15% of Jordan's total population - making it the second-highest host country of refugees per capita in the world. Jordan has demonstrated a commitment to providing refuge for those fleeing conflict. While not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention, Jordan has maintained a favourable protection environment for refugees, ensuring fundamental human rights through national frameworks. The country has also included refugees in critical sectors such as education, health care, and even the national COVID-19 health response and vaccination program. However, the protracted nature of the Syrian Crisis and regional dynamics have strained Jordan's resources and infrastructure.

Since 2015, The government-led Jordan Response Plan (JRP) has helped guide the partnership between the country and the international community as it responds to the Syrian Crisis in Jordan. Jordan's policy towards refugees has mainly been inclusive, with the government taking steps to provide free work permits to Syrian refugees and adjusting the legal framework for Syrian-owned home-based businesses. Despite these positive steps, challenges remain, especially in employment where women and youth are disproportionately affected. The 2023 strategic objectives emphasize humanitarian-development coherence, reinforcing protection principles, and aligning with Jordan's development goals. The focus is on integrating the needs of all vulnerable populations into national recovery plans, enhancing self-reliance, and building the capacity of national institutions. The aim is to transition the refugee population to economic opportunities, strengthen data analysis for evidence-based planning, and ensure refugee inclusion in national systems.

Key challenges and needs specific to the country

- Conflicts in neighbouring countries such as Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Sudan, and Gaza.
- Government policies take a cautious approach to liberalization, which can sometimes result in bureaucratic processes that affect the speed of business decision-making in Jordan.
- Return of refugees to Syria: A majority (about 97%) of Syrian refugees in Jordan refuse to return within the next year. This percentage in Jordan is one of the highest among its neighbouring countries. The UNHCR survey indicates that the intention to return has decreased from 2.4% in 2022 to 0.8% in 2023.
- The economy relies on U.S., German, and foreign aid as well as on investments. \$4.4 billion in foreign aid was committed to Jordan in 2022 for the Ministry of Planning.
- Unemployment rate among Jordanians: The unemployment rate reached 21.4% during the fourth quarter of 2023, signaling a 1.5% decrease in comparison to the 22.9% rate of the fourth quarter of 2022, and a 0.9% decrease in comparison to the 22.3% rate of the third quarter of 2023.
- Agriculture and forestry: 25% of the population depends on agriculture as a source of livelihood, particularly Syrian refugees, whose work permits are mostly issued in this sector. However, its expansion is limited by scarce support services, technical and financial capacities, and seasonal fluctuations in income.
- Economic stability and growth play a significant role in a country's ability to provide social protection. Jordan's economic performance, including GDP growth, employment rates, and inflation, impacts its capacity for social welfare programs.

- Lack of sustainability: When the education system is under pressure due to high demand, the quality of education can decline. Overcrowded classrooms, limited resources, and stretched teaching staff can compromise the delivery of quality education. This decline can hinder students' ability to acquire the necessary skills and knowledge for future employment and participation in sustainable development initiatives.
- The government is issuing permits at low costs supported by foreign aid. Syrian refugees face restrictions on their ability to work in Jordan. While some are granted work permits, many are employed informally or without legal authorization, leaving them vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. Legal reforms and policies aimed at facilitating refugees' access to formal employment opportunities are important for improving their livelihoods and reducing their dependence on humanitarian aid.

3. Country interventions

Main sectors: Protection, Education, WASH, Livelihoods

Beneficiary numbers reached per sector during FY24 in this country:



Protection: 900 beneficiaries, including 850 children



Education: 2,600 beneficiaries, including 1,900 children



WASH: 50,000 beneficiaries, including 28,400 children



Livelihoods: 530 beneficiaries

Key WVSR interventions:



Providing inclusive education in formal schools operating in shifts, particularly in northern regions with high refugee populations.



Training caregivers in positive parenting techniques to support the learning and development of preschool-aged children.



Promoting inclusive access to education.



Managing solid waste management.



Enhancing practical English language skills.



Providing cash-for-work opportunities.



Emphasizing Early Childhood Education and Development in Azraq camp.



Channels of Hope for Child Protection (CoHCP) is an innovative approach designed to empower faith leaders and communities to combat violence against children, including abuse, neglect, and exploitation.



One of the child participants with disability getting curated classes in Irbid, Jordan. © World Vision Syria Response, Joanna Zreineh







Incentive-based volunteer managing waste in the Green Centre in Azraq camp © World Vision Syria Response, Joanna Zreineh



One of the protection activities conducted for child participants in Jordan. © World Vision Syria Response, Joanna Zreineh

Key activities being implemented:

Sector	Activity	Location
 <p>WASH</p>	Raise awareness about the benefits of Rain Water Harvesting (RWH) to water users, and decision makers.	Maan, Tafieleh, Karak, Amman, Azraq camp
	Design and implement access to finance for Micro, Small, and Medium (MSM) size RWH projects for agriculture, residential, and commercial use.	Maan, Tafieleh, Karak, Amman, Azraq camp
	Increase awareness about climate change, combining local knowledge and international best practice to train water farmers on water efficiency techniques.	Maan, Tafieleh, Karak, Amman, Azraq camp
 <p>Protection</p>	Gender-based violence services: To address and prevent gender-based violence, including efforts to eliminate child marriage and promote gender equality by providing protection, education, and empowerment opportunities for girls in the refugee camp.	Azraq camp
	MHPSS services: To enhance the provision of mental health services for Syrian refugees residing Al Azraq camp and host community settings in Jordan, and to address the unique psychological needs and challenges they face as a result of displacement and conflict.	Karak Maan Tafeleh Azraq
	Women Empowerment and Social Protection: To empower Syrian refugee women in host communities through sustainable livelihood opportunities, fostering economic independence, enhancing their socio-economic well-being, promoting their agency, and facilitating their access to opportunities, rights, and services.	Karak Maan Tafeleh
 <p>Education</p>	Build the capacity of teachers to provide online learning, interact online, and use online tools.	Azraq camp
	Inclusive education is still a challenge. There is a need to design specific protection interventions for children with disabilities within the education system, in particular accessible transportation, adequate school infrastructure, and improved teacher training and skill.	Irbid
	Provide capacity building for parents to enable them to support their children's offline and online learning.	Azraq camp
 <p>Livelihoods</p>	Reconsider the procedures for hiring Syrian refugees through the IBV program inside camps by either expanding the duration or initiating more rotations.	Maan, Tafieleh, Karak, Amman, Azraq camp
	In collaboration with the government, lift the barriers and open more work sectors for Syrian refugees such as Education and Processing Dairy (especially for HBB).	Maan, Tafieleh, Karak, Amman, Azraq camp
	Develop innovative and inclusive poverty alleviation programs which respond to the interrelated and complex needs of host communities and refugees, and address the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.	Maan, Tafieleh, Karak, Amman, Azraq camp

4. Security overview

Jordan has a low-risk rating due to its political stability and the high performance of its national security forces in managing potential threats to the country's stability. According to the Security Risk Assessment (SRA) and the Country Risk Rating (CRR), Jordan is considered a safe country, with no major risks currently impacting WV projects. Since the beginning of the Israeli war in Gaza, the overwhelming majority of Jordanians have shown their support for the Gazan people by demonstrating in various major cities. The largest demonstrations took place in downtown Amman, in front of the Husseini Grand Mosque, and in front of the

Al-Kalouti Mosque in Al-Rabiah near the Israeli embassy. Some demonstrations were also expected near the U.S. embassy, but security forces established checkpoints and restricted public access to the area, resulting in traffic disruptions and road closures. The only areas designated as No-Go according to the SRA and Jordan's security brief are within 5 km of the borders with Iraq and Syria. These border areas are active zones for smuggling weapons and drugs into Jordan, with several clashes reported between the Jordanian Armed Forces and smuggling gangs. The SRA contains detailed mitigation measures that can be applied during emergencies to ensure the safety and security of WV staff and stakeholders. Finally, RTAs remain a significant risk in Jordan despite the strict traffic law penalties.



Child participant engaging in fun activities during World Refugee Day celebration in Azraq Camp.
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5. Main advocacy messages:

- Continue the international support and collaboration to bolster Jordan's social and economic stability, particularly in light of the ongoing regional crises in neighbouring countries such as Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Sudan, and Gaza. Emphasize the importance of sustaining Jordan's ability to provide essential services to refugees

while maintaining internal security and economic resilience.

- Increase funding and resources to support Syrian refugees in Jordan, focusing on protection, education, and livelihoods. Highlight the critical need for continued international assistance to alleviate the strain on Jordan's resources, ensuring that refugees' needs are met without compromising the country's stability.

6. Appendix:

Reports and publications:

Advocacy brief: ["Spotlight on Nutrition, Food Security and Climate Change in Syria and The Host Countries of Lebanon, Türkiye, Jordan and Iraq"](#)