

Submission by the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) for the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan UPR 4th cycle

I. Introduction

This report is a joint undertaking of the UNCT in Jordan. It highlights issues in areas in which the UNCT operates, and which are being addressed by the UNCT in the country through their mandates and 18 resident and a number of non-resident agencies.¹ For the detailed recommendations, please consult the Annex.

A. Scope of international obligations

Jordan has ratified seven of the nine core human rights², seven of the ten fundamental labour conventions³ but not the 1951 Refugee Convention or the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. In 1998, the Government concluded an MOU, amended in 2014, with UNHCR whereby it recognized the refugee definition as established in the 1951 Convention and agreed to respect the principle of non-refoulement. The MOU also included commitments by UNHCR to carry out registration, conduct refugee status determination, provide basic needs support to refugees, and to seek durable solutions for recognized refugees.

Recommendations

Consider ratifying

- 1951 Refugee Convention, its 1967 Protocol, and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness; and, as an interim measure, introduce procedural safeguards for refugees and asylum seekers to enjoy access to international protection and non-refoulement.
- ILO Conventions Nos. 87, 155 and 187.

B. Constitutional and legislative framework

At the outset of 2022, Jordan amended the Constitution including the title of section two to include “males and female”; and adding paragraph 6.6.⁴

C. Institutional and human rights infrastructure and policy measures

Jordan adopted a National Human Rights Action Plan (2019-2022) and its 5th Open Government Partnership National Action Plan (2021-2023). Jordan does not yet have one inter-ministerial national coordination mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up to facilitate implementation of recommendations from the UPR, Treaty Bodies and the Special Procedures. The UN in Jordan has been coordinating with the Prime Minister Coordinator for Human Rights and MoFA and respective Committees established under their leadership.

The National Center for Human Rights, after a special review in 2023 maintained its A-status.⁵ Jordan responded⁶ to a communication from two Special Procedure mandate holders voicing concerns over the institution's independence⁷.

Recommendation

- Ensure that the National Center for Human Rights discharges its mandate in full independence and with the necessary resources.

II. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

Jordan received a visit by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of PWD in 2022⁸ and agreed to welcome visits of the Rapporteurs on the right to food and cultural rights in 2024. Jordan was reviewed by the CRC in May 2023⁹ and replied to CAT in 2021 waiting for the constructive dialogue to be scheduled.¹⁰ Jordan's report under the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) is overdue since 2003.¹¹ Jordan submitted its Voluntary National Review (VNR) and the Amman Voluntary Local Review, the first local review in the Arab region in 2022.¹² Jordan's second and third report under the Arab Charter of Human Rights were reviewed by the League of Arab States in 2023.¹³ For Jordan's engagement with UN normative mechanisms, see for [UN human rights](#), the [ILO](#) and the [UNESCO](#) mechanisms.¹⁴

Recommendations

- Consolidate inter-ministerial coordination for human rights and create linkages with other existing committees such as the Higher Committee for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development or the Inter-ministerial Committee for Women for better impact.
- Submit the State report under the ICESCR including drawing on information collected for the VNR in 2022.
- Continue to respond to communications and pending visit requests from Special Procedure mandate holders.

III. Implementation of international human rights obligations

A. Equality and non-discrimination

Gender equality

Islamic sharia governs the distribution of an estate. In 2023, the leaders of all Christian denominations agreed on a proposed law that guarantees equality in distribution between Christian male and female heirs.¹⁵ Women do not enjoy equal rights in marriage and divorce.¹⁶ Despite the increase in the number of divorce cases in Jordan, it is still widely considered a taboo. Women are more likely than men to question rights to polygamy, yet

they do not overwhelmingly support legislative change to outlaw the practice.¹⁷ Adultery is an offence under Articles 282-284 of the Penal Code Law No. 16 (1960). The mother is entitled to custody until the child is 15.¹⁸ A male guardian is required for an unmarried woman under the age of 40 and his consent required to a first marriage. Support for equal guardianship rights for mothers and fathers is however on the rise and the perception and men's involvement in childcare is positively changing.¹⁹ 10% of women are not able to visit family, relatives or friends on her own decision.²⁰

Women in employment

Jordan reaches 46.9 out of 100 (regional average at 53.2) in the Women, Business and the Law score.²¹ However, restrictions to women's work in certain occupations and times were lifted. The Constitution and Labour Code guarantee equal pay for equal value of work, and prohibit discrimination in addition to fines if the employer violates the law, and to curb sexual harassment in the workplace.²²

Stereotypical beliefs persist across generations, especially related to gender-specific roles, responsibilities and fundamental freedoms: the male has the sole financial responsibility and his role is in the public sphere, but he is also taking household decisions. Jordanian women's representation at the national level, local assemblies and other institutions is still limited.²³ 98.46% of people have at least one, and 93,23% two gender-based biases.²⁴ At the same time, there is clear agreement between men and women that gender equality has not yet been achieved and that more work is needed to promote it.²⁵

Jordan scores 126 out of 146 countries in the Global Gender Gap Index 2023 ranking.²⁶

Rights of persons with disabilities (PWD)

Jordan ratified the Marrakesh Treaty,²⁷ adopted the Law on the Rights of PWD, and has a Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Accessibility standards are included in the National Building Law No. 7 (1993). The Constitution has been amended to better account for PWD.²⁸ Inclusion in political participation was heightened in the recent legislation on political parties.

The UN Special Rapporteur on PWD captured among his main findings how stigma and bias keeps PWD at home, out of school, unemployed and isolated from their communities; and highlighted other challenges such as lack of inclusion with 79% of PWD not receiving any form of education; restoring voice, choice and control to PWD over their own lives; implementation of the de-institutionalization strategy; disparities in the areas of accessibility including lack of inclusive infrastructure and transport options; and the intersectionality and relationship between disability, poverty, gender, and societal including refugee status.²⁹

Recommendations³⁰

- Ensure in population census 2025 the identification of populations which might be left behind.

- Repeal all discriminatory provisions against women and girls in legislation, including on the freedom of movement and on the right to transmit nationality, and divorce.
- Amend Personal Status Law articles 61, 62, 70, 72, 78, 288, 289, 292 c, 320 and Social Security Law article 62.³¹
- Provide for an enabling working environment for women: workplace conditions, culture, flexible working hours, adequate public transport, fully paid parental leave, national care policies and campaigns that recognize, reduce, and redistribute unpaid care work equally between men and women.³²
- Address stereotypical beliefs on gender roles in schools, media, and other key institutions.
- Implement and properly resource the national priorities developed by IMCW³³, and the JNCW³⁴.
- Address stigma and bias against PWD.
- Ensure participation of PWD in decisions which affect them including urban planning.

B. Right to life, liberty and security of person

Gender-based violence (GBV)

Women and girls are protected by the Law on Protection from Domestic Violence No. 15 (2017).³⁵ 21% of women aged 15-49 experiencing physical or sexual violence during their lifetime.^{36 37} 94.5% of survivors assisted by data gathering organizations were females. Home remains unsafe for many women and girls, where 86.2% of perpetrators are intimate partners, caregivers or family members.^{38 39} Global evidence points to the intersection between violence against women and children where both co-occur in households.⁴⁰ Over one third of spousal domestic violence acts take place in front of children. Women are still considered responsible for family honour – and might be punished for it physically. Street sexual harassment is common with women often blamed or considered responsible for “provoking” harassment.⁴¹

Torture and death in custody

In September 2022, Zaid Sidqi Ali Dabash (37) reportedly died as a result of torture in Marka prison. Through December 2022, the Public Security Directorate had not released an official statement regarding charges against the alleged perpetrators.⁴²

Right to liberty

There have been arrests of activists in 2022 during or in anticipation of participation in protests. Some of the arrests allegedly occurred without warrants, intimidating family members, and numerous individuals were charged with vague offences related to “spreading false news” or “inciting strife” (under the Cybercrime Law or Penal Code). On other occasions, police out-numbers protesters by far.⁴³ There were at least four prisoners undertaking (at times extended) hunger strikes in 2022/2023.⁴⁴

Freedom of movement

Jalwa⁴⁵ and tribal laws were abolished in 1976.⁴⁶ In 2022, reportedly 4,244 individuals displaced by jalwa had returned to their homes.⁴⁷

Right to life

In June 2022, the MoI advised that 219 people including 22 women are on death row.⁴⁸

Recommendations

- Strengthen public outreach to inform persons living in vulnerable situations of available Governmental services, shelters, the national referral mechanisms for victims of GBV, and access to justice.
- Support local feminist, women's rights, vulnerable population groups rights and violence-prevention movements.
- Address VAW and children together given the inextricable linkage and consequences on intergenerational violence.
- Establish an official moratorium on the death penalty and revise the laws that call for its mandatory imposition or its application for crimes other than "most serious crimes".

C. Administration of justice, including impunity and rule of law

Access to justice

Jordan ranks 61 out of 140 countries in the 2022 Rule of Law Index.⁴⁹ In 2022, the legal aid by-law was amended to reduce economic barriers for vulnerable groups and allow repeat offenders to apply for legal aid, a list of over 2,400 duty lawyers assigned on rotation was established between the MoJ, the Judicial Council and the Bar Association, procedures have been automated, capacities strengthened, policy dialogue among all stakeholders was facilitated and a new Strategy on Legal Aid is under development.⁵⁰ Migrant workers and refugees lacking personal border numbers may face obstacles in accessing justice, such as language differences, fear of filing a complaint due to retaliation from employers, inability to leave the workplace, falling into an irregular immigration status, and cost.

Detention

Correction and Rehabilitation Centers are managed by the MoI's Public Security Directorate. More than 19,000 inmates are held in 18 institutions designed to hold no more than 13,300.⁵¹ In May 2023, Jordanian courts issued 300 alternatives to prison sentences.⁵²

According to the MoI, from January through September 2022 approximately 29,000 persons were held under **administrative detention** without charge or trial, at least temporarily, -an increase from 2021. This included in the period of September 2021 to September 2022, 542 cases of “protective”⁵³ detention of women.⁵⁴ About 2,630 people, some 16 % of Jordan’s prison population, were locked up for nonpayment of loans and bounced checks in 2019.⁵⁵ The number of individual borrowers in 2021 reached 1.220 million.⁵⁶ 93% of Syrian households are debt-obligated, and the average debt per household reached 1148 JD.⁵⁷ Migrant workers are at risk of detention for charges for theft or absconding, in cases of non-renewal of their work permit, and/or the lack of documentation or identity.

Recommendations

- Promote gender integration within the judicial and Sharia judicial sector, increasing the number of female judges and employees, and build capacities on gender and child sensitive judicial services.⁵⁸
- Provide free legal aid including for purposes of civil registration or to challenge administrative detention especially to populations living in vulnerable situations.
- Review and reconsider crimes and related penalties, abolish debt imprisonment, reduce the high number of persons in administrative detention and limit its systematic use and duration including through alternatives to detention.
- Consider the use of alternative measures to detention for prolonged pre-trial detention or detention of drug users.
- Invest savings gained through a reduced prison population in improved detention conditions.⁵⁹

D. Rights of the child

More than 40% of the population is under the age of 18. Jordan has more than 99% parity in literacy rate.⁶⁰ The adoption of the Child Law No. 17 (2022) is a positive development.⁶¹ Mothers’ involvement in their children’s education was not confirmed.⁶² The VNR 2022 looked at child rights⁶³, and the 2023 review by the Committee on the Rights of the Child provides for the most recent assessment by the Government and findings from the Committee.⁶⁴

74.6% of children (national sample aged 8-17 years) have experienced at least one form of physical **violence** in their lifetime (79.2% among males versus 69.7% among females); 73.9% of family caregivers engaged in violence as a disciplinary method for children under the age of 18 years at least once in their lives.⁶⁵

The legal age of marriage is 18 years. However, the marriage of girls from the age of 16 is possible with judicial approval and provided there is the consent and will of the contracting parties (article 10 of Personal Status Act).⁶⁶ The National Plan for **Child Marriage**

2018-2022⁶⁷ has gone some way to reducing but socio-economic pressures are most often conducive for child marriage.

Reportedly, there is an increase in **child labour** to 100,000 cases in 2022, compared to 76,000 in 2016 (mainly in manufacturing, retail, agriculture, auto-repair and the service sectors).⁶⁸ 13,558 beggars were arrested in 2021, 7,981 of whom were juveniles.⁶⁹ The MoL introduced an online complaint mechanism on child labour and trafficking.

Recommendations⁷⁰

- Strengthen national capacities to monitor, analyse and report child rights violations, to ensure quality integrated child protection services, and that the social service workforce prevents and responds to child protection cases.
- Strengthen accountability measures against perpetrators including parents and educators.
- Invest in prevention and social behaviour change programmes to address the root causes of child rights violations.

E. Rights related to name, identity, nationality

The issue of legal identity is complex with different legal or practical impediments affecting civil documentation and registration of different groups, such as the Bedouins (“desert dwellers”), “bidoon jinsiya” population (without nationality), inhabitants of informal tented settlements, Dom, Palestine refugees, non-Syrian and Syrian refugees, some 35,000 Pakistanis, and migrant workers.⁷¹ Jordanian women cannot pass to their children or husband their citizenship.⁷² The 2014 statement promising to give sons and daughters of Jordanian women “Mazaya” (privileges in certain sectors) was amended in 2018 and difficulties remain in obtaining this identity card and accessing services fully.⁷³

Recommendations

- Map the status of civil registration.
- Amend legislation to allow Jordanian women to pass on their nationality to their children, enable unmarried women to register their children and provide them with a legal name/identity.
- Advocate with Youth and adults for importance of civil registration and explain related procedures in a simple and accessible way including to refugees and migrants.

F. Freedom of expression, association⁷⁴, peaceful assembly & right to participate in public affairs

Article 7/2 of the Constitution guarantees public freedoms. Community engagement and the important role of civil society are referenced in many Governmental action plans.⁷⁵ In 2021, the ‘Jordanian Volunteerism Charter’ was launched.⁷⁶ Online Volunteering Platforms,

such as Nahno support such efforts.⁷⁷

However, 48% of citizens consider migration (63% of Youth). Youth cite broken trust among their reasons.⁷⁸ Jordan dropped from Partially Free to Not Free in the Freedom House Index of 2021 and remained at Not Free in 2022 and 2023,⁷⁹ ranks 146 out of 180 countries in World Press Freedom Index⁸⁰ and 110 out of 179 in the Liberal Democracy Index report 2023⁸¹. Non-Jordanians face their own set of challenges.⁸² Gender equality programming is often attacked on social media and linked to accusations of promoting a foreign agenda or to destroy the society.⁸³ There have been calls to widen civic space in Jordan and to create an enabling environment for reforms.⁸⁴

The following are regulating **freedom of expression**: article 15/1 of the Constitution, 132/1, 149, 150, 191 and 196 of the Penal Code; articles 1, 3/b, 7/g, 8 of the Crime Prevention Law No. 55 (2006)⁸⁵; articles 5, 29, 38, 48, 49 of the Press and Publications Law No. 30 (2012); article 4/j of the Audio-Visual Media Law No. 26 (2015); articles 2, 11, 12, 15 of Cybercrime Law No. 27 (2015); the Law on the Right to Access Information of 2007⁸⁶, and the Law on Protecting the State's Documents and Secrets. A new draft Cybercrime Law was introduced in July 2023 causing public concerns.⁸⁷

Six journalists were arrested and/or charged in February/ March 2022⁸⁸, and others later in 2022 and 2023⁸⁹. Jordan responded⁹⁰ to a communication from a UN Special Rapporteur voicing concerns over the detention and charges brought against one person for political commentaries and journalistic activities.⁹¹ Dozens of lawyers, journalists and human rights defenders were victims of a smartphones hacking campaign (Pegasus spyware) between August 2019 and December 2021.⁹² 77.3 % of 150 journalists who took part in a survey said authorities had questioned them about their journalistic practices in 2021, and 34% affirmed practising self-censorship.⁹³ A survey on digital safety revealed that 54.7% of female journalists have experienced digital violence at some point in their careers.⁹⁴ There were four Internet shutdowns in 2022⁹⁵ and some platforms/websites are blocked.⁹⁶ Several gag orders were issued⁹⁷ and a 2022 amendment to the Penal Code enhanced the penalty for violating gag orders from a fine to 3 months of imprisonment.

The Constitution⁹⁸ protects the establishment of **associations** further regulated by the Associations Law No. 51 (2008) and the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Law No. 46 (2007)⁹⁹. Since February 2023, discussions on a new draft Bill on Planning and International Cooperation are ongoing, which would regulate foreign funding approval in the future under the authority of MoPIC. Among concerns expressed are that the draft does not clarify the project approval process, criteria or timelines.¹⁰⁰

Legal impediments exist for workers to fully enjoy FoA and collective bargaining. Jordan has been the subject of allegations concerning the detention and acts of discrimination against trade union leaders, against leaders and activists of independent trade unions, and the recognition of independent trade unions.^{101 102}

The **right of peaceful assembly** is governed under the Public Gatherings Law No. 7 (2004). Policy grievances and lack of access of economic, social and cultural rights (especially labour rights, social security and protection) feature highest among the reasons for collective actions.¹⁰³

The Constitution¹⁰⁴ affirms the right of citizens to establish societies and political parties. The new elections and political parties' law aiming to increase especially the representation of women, Youth but also PWD were adopted in 2022.¹⁰⁵ Jordan's VNR 2022 includes multiple references to engaging people in decision-making.¹⁰⁶ There is however no specific law guaranteeing the **right to participate** in a non-electoral, development context.¹⁰⁷

Recommendations

- Continue to support an enabling environment for the triple modernization reforms that allows individuals, groups, political parties, the media and civil society organisations to have freedom of movement, expression, and participation within the law, and in a way that ensures a smooth transition into a new political phase.¹⁰⁸
- Give visibility to the positive contributions of civil society to inclusive development.
- Address public participation as an obligation, right, and duty in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of legislation, policies, and programmes that affect people's lives including at the Municipal level.¹⁰⁹
- Implement the principles of the Global Compacts for Migration and Refugees relating to a 'whole-of-society approach'.
- Bring articles 149, 150, 191, and 195 of the Penal Code; articles 1, 3, 7 and 8 of the Crime Prevention Law; articles 2, 11, 12, 15 of the Cyber Crime Law or a new draft law; the Press and Publication Law as well as the Access to Information Law in conformity with international standards, and operationalize the Access to Information Law.
- Promote and protect an independent, diverse and pluralistic civil society, and access to funding including when revising the Association Law or adopting a new Planning Law.¹¹⁰
- Maintain access to internet services, digital platforms, and circumvention technology¹¹¹, particularly during critical periods such as elections, or protests.
- Take steps necessary to prevent threats, attacks, discrimination, arbitrary arrests and detention or other forms of harassment, reprisals and acts of intimidation against journalists, civil society actors and the women's movement; investigate any such alleged acts; ensure access to justice and accountability; and end impunity where such violations and abuses have occurred, including by putting in place, and where necessary reviewing and amending, relevant laws, policies, institutions and mechanisms to create and maintain a safe and enabling environment in which the media and civil society can operate free from surveillance, hindrance, insecurity and reprisals.

G. Right to health

Jordan's Vision 2025¹¹² and MOH strategic plan 2023-2025¹¹³ set a 95% target of health insurance coverage. Currently, 68% of the whole population and 72% of Jordanians are covered by at least one health insurance scheme. The National Rehabilitation Strategic Plan (2020 - 2024) emphasizes rehabilitation as a core health service¹¹⁴. A reinvigorated emphasis is being placed on primary health care.¹¹⁵

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are the major cause of mortality and morbidity accounting for 80% of deaths.¹¹⁶ There is an insufficient implementation of health policies and rising healthcare costs.¹¹⁷ Jordan has one of the highest smokers' rates in the world.¹¹⁸ Access barriers¹¹⁹ exist, including for Palestine refugees in case of lack of citizenship. Women tend to seek health services more often than men. Men engage however more in risky health-related behaviours including smoking (65% men versus 20% Jordanian women).¹²⁰ Out of pocket expenditure on health has amounted to 36% of the current health expenditure.¹²¹

Jordan has a National Action Plan on **Mental Health** and Substance Use (2022-2026)¹²² and seeks to integrate the mhGAP¹²³ in family physicians training programme.¹²⁴ 137 suicide cases were recorded in 2022.¹²⁵ Since 2022, attempted suicide in public is criminalized with imprisonment. Jordan developed its first National Strategy and Action Plan on **Sexual and Reproductive Health** (SRH) in 2021.

A National Committee comprising 13 institutions is looking at awareness and prevention, treatment and rehabilitation and combatting **drug use**. A major underlying issue is the lack of coherent data to formulate human rights-based drug policy responses.

Recommendations

- Establish a multisectoral coordination modality to curb NCDs.¹²⁶
- Work to build a national health information system to collect disaggregated data¹²⁷, including to identify gaps and areas of improvement in the provision of SHR services.
- Identify how to support the implementation of unified comprehensive package of health services and expanding health insurance coverage¹²⁸, including SHR services, for persons living in vulnerable situations especially PWD, in addition to dealing with VAW and children.¹²⁹
- Increase access to quality mental health services including through mobile clinics.¹³⁰
- Provide a comprehensive assessment of national laws, policies and practices related to SHR, with the active participation of all relevant stakeholders.¹³¹
- Develop a new drug use prevention strategy¹³², standard national treatment protocol and data and case management system.

- Implement WHO's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and the smoking control law in public and indoor areas.¹³³

H. Right to food

Jordan is resource-poor in water and energy; the annual water share of renewable fresh water per capita is around 60m³ yet local agriculture consumes 49.1% of all available water resources.¹³⁴ The total agricultural production amounted to 3.519 million ton while Jordan consumed 5.746 million ton of food and total food imports reached 2,748 million ton in 2021.¹³⁵ Jordan depends heavily on imports of wheat, red meat, rice, sugar, legumes, cooking oil and fish while is self-sufficient in vegetables, milk, olive oil, eggs and fruits.¹³⁶ Food insecurity among Jordanians is 0.5% while 5.7% are vulnerable to food insecurity.¹³⁷ Severe food insecurity among refugees is 2% while moderate food insecurity amounts to 61%.¹³⁸

The first comprehensive National Food Security Strategy (2021-2030) and Action Plan (2022-2024) are in place. The Government has commenced establishing the National Food Security Information Management System as well as the Higher Council for Food Security. Additionally, the road map for Food System Transformation Pathways was adopted.¹³⁹

Jordan suffers from a double burden of micronutrient deficiencies and overweight/obesity, with women presenting the worst rates in both with almost 69% being either overweight or obese.¹⁴⁰ 84% of adult Jordanians and Syrians (18-69 years old) consumed **unhealthy diets**.¹⁴¹ 26% of children under 5 have iron deficiency anemia and more than 9% are overweight/obese.¹⁴² Jordan is off track to meet targets for maternal, infant and young child nutrition.¹⁴³

Jordan has a National Nutrition Strategy (2023-2030), a National Strategy for School Health (2018-2022), and the MoH leads a multisectoral Committee (public, army, academia, and private sectors) to enhance healthy diets.¹⁴⁴

Recommendations¹⁴⁵

- Enhance land, water and food resources management, inter-institutional coordination and policy coherence.¹⁴⁶
- Promote social responsibility and solidarity, social safety nets and civil society organisations' role in tackling food insecurity and hunger.¹⁴⁷
- Implement the national strategies for nutrition, food security, and school health, with periodic monitoring and evaluation of progress.
- Reduce the consumption of salt, sugar and trans fats, coupled with raising awareness at level of policy makers, health care providers and public on healthy diets.

I. Right to education¹⁴⁸

The National Inclusive Education Strategy (2020-2030), the Education Strategic Plan and associated Strategy for Mainstreaming Gender in Education, the Declaration on Inclusion and Diversity in Education¹⁴⁹ and the National Statement of Commitment at the UN Transforming Education Summit advocate for the right to education for all children, regardless of status and nationality or ability. Beyond the issue of access, learning losses and quality of education, gender mainstreaming in curricula, universalization of KG2, TVET reform, measures have been taken to improve data availability and quality through the Education Management Information System.¹⁵⁰

Recommendations¹⁵¹

- Implement the initiated reforms such as universalization of KG2 and greater inclusion and diversity in education.
- Build a safe and resilient education system, strengthen crisis and risk management and safeguard education infrastructure and investments.
- Improve teachers' qualifications and motivation.
- Help children and Youth of all nationalities to stay in school and to recover and accelerate their learning.
- Enhance the curricula to reinforce principles of gender and gender equality, human rights, civic engagement, and a culture of diversity.

J. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

Unemployment rose from 13% in 2015 to 21.9% in Q1 of 2023 (men 19.6% and women 30.7%), 46.1% among 15-24 age group (men 42.1% and women 64.1%) while labour force participation ratio stands for men at 53.3% and women at 13.7% with overall participation rate at 33.3%¹⁵², 3.1 per cent of firms have female top manager (2019).¹⁵³

Syrian refugees have been allowed to work in several sectors since the 2016 Jordan Compact. By the end of 2022, more than 340,000 work permits have been issued to Syrian refugee workers since 2016¹⁵⁴, only around 8.5% of these to women, and the majority in agriculture, construction, and manufacturing. Since 2021, flexible work permits may be issued to refugees, which allows them to shift between job opportunities in the open sectors rather than being tied to one employer.

Recommendations¹⁵⁵

- Develop skills and knowledge towards professions and jobs of the future.

- Look into developing a comprehensive labour market data system to provide the necessary information to decision makers including on economic gains through refugee labour and skills.
- Work on strengthening the policies and frameworks for movement from the informal to the formal sector to ensure access to rights.
- Reduce fees associated with flexible work permits issuance and set feasible social security subscriptions.
- Improve working conditions especially in the agricultural and informal sectors and domestic work, intensify labour inspections, including by increasing the number of labour inspectors, and ensure accountability when the law is violated.

K. Human rights economy¹⁵⁶

The Economic, Public Sector and Political Modernization reforms¹⁵⁷ aim to improve the quality of life, access to public services, political participation of Youth and women and strengthen the capacity of the public sector. Government revenues are however insufficient to support development priorities.¹⁵⁸ The Financial Committee decided to hold all 2023 budget meetings behind closed doors.¹⁵⁹ Jordan faces challenges of chronic debt accumulation¹⁶⁰, which may have severe effects, especially after 2025 when the country will have to start repaying its concessional loans.¹⁶¹

Recommendations¹⁶²

- Re-examine the current tax system and sales tax revenue and increase efficiency in tax collection.¹⁶³
- Review any planned reforms and implementation of fiscal legislation, policy or practices on their impact on human rights and who might be left behind, to mitigate negative effects, and ensure transparency and meaningful participation.¹⁶⁴
- Link revenue collection on public goods with increased service delivery.¹⁶⁵
- Provide a disaggregated composition of revenues linked to expenditures to realize human rights, e.g. for education, health, transportation, or environmental issues.¹⁶⁶

L. Right to a clean and healthy environment

Climate action is guided by the National Climate Change Policy (2022-2050), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) 2021, the National Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2022, and the National Green Growth Plan (2021-2025). The surface temperature in the Mediterranean region is now 1.5°C above the pre-industrial level and projected to continue rising, with a corresponding increase in high-temperature extreme events and a growing number of observed impacts including longer and more intensive heat waves, droughts, floods, ocean acidification and sea level rise.¹⁶⁷ Water stress is among the key risks to long-term growth in Jordan.¹⁶⁸ 15% less water runoff from wadis and 15% less groundwater recharge by 2040 are projected, deepening existing inequities including in the access to water.¹⁶⁹ Women living in poverty and female-headed households are more likely to be

responsible for finding ways to cope when water is scarce.¹⁷⁰

Recommendations

- Translate NDC into sector specific plans of action, through a gender and risk-informed approach.
- Generate evidence about climate related risks, impacts, and existing inequities.
- Increase awareness about climate change impacts, environmental degradation, lifestyle choices and sustainable consumption patterns, strengthen capacities of children and Youth and support their participation in decision-making processes on climate.¹⁷¹
- Create green spaces in urban areas.

M. Migrants, refugees & asylum seekers

Migrants

Migrant workers are governed int'l law¹⁷², by Labour Law No. 8 (1996)¹⁷³ and its amendments, the Domestic Workers' Regulation No. 90 (2009)¹⁷⁴, Agricultural Workers Regulation No.19 (2021) and bilateral agreements with main countries providing migrant workers. Migrant workers are mainly employed in the construction, agriculture, garment, and domestic work sectors. Almost 300,000 workers received work permits in 2022.¹⁷⁵ There is a lack of data on the number of migrant workers in an irregular situation.

The majority of women who received work permits in 2022 are working in the domestic sector (55%) followed by the textile industry (41%).¹⁷⁶ Domestic workers, gardeners and cooks are not covered by the Labour Law and t are thus not subject to labour inspections. This leaves a majority of foreign women workers deprived of the rights afforded to workers in other sectors.

Only employers ("sponsors") can apply for a work permit for an employee.¹⁷⁷ Passport withholding by an employer is criminalized by law but continues to present an issue in practice.¹⁷⁸ Migrant workers often face poor working conditions, long working hours, low wages, exploitation, discrimination and social stigma, lack of legal protection, and deportation, exclusion from social services and support networks, which has in turn an impact on their mental health and well-being.¹⁷⁹

Recommendations

- Reform the visa sponsorship system, including to the absconding regime, with a view to ensuring greater labour market mobility for migrant workers.
- Ensure that domestic workers are covered under the Labour Law.
- Regulate and investigate fraudulent labour and recruitment practices.

- Ensure fair recruitment practices.
- Ensure that migrant workers are not detained, alternatives to detention are explored and that detention is subject to a limited period while ensuring access to legal aid.
- Raise awareness on the rights of all citizens and foster social cohesion and interaction between migrants and host communities.

Amendments were enacted to the Law on Protection Against **Trafficking of Humans** No. 9 (2009), increasing penalties for traffickers, allowing prosecutors to seek restitution in trafficking cases, formalizing the use of specialized prosecutors and judges, and establishing a donations-based victims' assistance fund.¹⁸⁰ The Government also drafted a new national referral mechanism and new victim identification SOP in 2022.

Recommendations

- Improve identification of cases including of labour exploitation.
- Create awareness on the dangers of trafficking and the need to report suspected cases.
- Provide victims with specialized care and rehabilitation, including access to health and education services, as well as providing them with the resources and support needed for successful reintegration into society.

Refugees

Jordan has welcomed large numbers of refugees from Syria and elsewhere. Out of a population of 11,3 million (90.3% urbanized), 2,379,681 are Palestine refugees who are mostly Jordanian nationals. This includes 421,509 Palestine refugees residing in ten official camps¹⁸¹ and 179,419 ex-Gazan refugees¹⁸². There are 740,023 other registered refugees, 81.7% of which live in the community.¹⁸³ Of these, there are 659,457 Syrian refugees, of which 135,667 live in camps. There are also 60,969 Iraqis, 19,812 Palestine refugees from Syria¹⁸⁴, 156 Palestine refugees from Iraq, 12,757 Yemenis and 5,092 Sudanese. Around 1,748 refugees are from other countries.

Recommendations

- Adopt a comprehensive refugee law, ensuring compliance with the principle of non-refoulment, and revise the Jordan Compact setting new qualitative and quantitative benchmarks expanding on previous commitments and addressing gaps.
- Continue discussion on the protection policy environment to resolve long standing issues including regularizing legal status of Palestine refugees from Syria and refugees who entered after 2018.
- Increase long term commitments aiming at enhancing self-reliance of refugees, particularly to generate livelihoods and participate in the labour market while ensuring sustained access to quality services.¹⁸⁵
- Ensure views and needs of refugees and host populations are considered in national and local response plans and included in service provision to foster better social cohesion.

ENDNOTES

¹ See cover page for submitting agencies details.

² With the exception of the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW) and the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED)

³ With the exception of ILO Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87); Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 (No. 155); and Promotional Framework Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006 (No. 187).

⁴ which states: “The State shall guarantee that women are empowered and supported to play an active role in building the society, ensure equal opportunities on the basis of justice and fairness and protect women from all forms of violence and discrimination”

⁵ See p. 41 of [SCA-Adopted-Report-October-2022-EN.pdf \(ohchr.org\)](#) and p.36 [SCA-Report-First-Session-2023-EN.pdf \(ohchr.org\)](#)

⁶ See [Government response](#) to communication from Special Rapporteurs on human rights defenders and freedom of association & assembly

⁷ See [communication from Special Rapporteurs](#) on human rights defenders and freedom of association & assembly

⁸ See [Jordan: UN expert lauds efforts on disability rights and encourages international support | OHCHR](#) and for the recommendations addressed to Jordan by the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities after his country visit to Jordan in September 2022: [A/HRC/52/32/Add.2 \(undocs.org\)](#)

⁹ See [all documents](#) for the review by the CRC and its outcome.

¹⁰ See for Jordan State [report](#) to CAT.

¹¹ Jordan is among 78 States with a report overdue for more than ten years. See [Urging greater cooperation, High Commissioner Türk opens Human Rights Council session | OHCHR](#)

¹² See [second VNR and Amman Voluntary Local Review](#)

¹³ See [sessions of the Arab League Human Rights Committee \(lasportal.org\)](#): Jordan’s [report 2022](#), and [recommendations](#) addressed to Jordan in 2023

¹⁴ See [United Nations Human Rights Mechanisms Jordan's Engagement | United Nations in Jordan; Jordan's Engagement with the Supervisory Mechanisms of the ILO | United Nations in Jordan; Jordan's Engagement with UNESCO Mechanisms | United Nations in Jordan](#)

¹⁵ See [Jordan's Churches Approve Law on Equal Inheritance for C... | Christianity Today](#)

¹⁶ [Gender Justice & the Law 2018](#), ESCWA, UNFPA, UN Women and UNDP; Jordan summary [E](#) and [A](#); [Gender Justice & the Law 2022-Arabic](#)

¹⁷ See [Understanding Masculinities: International Men and Gender Equality Survey \(IMAGES\) - Jordan | Publications | UN Women – Jordan](#)

¹⁸ See [Gender Justice & the Law 2018](#), ESCWA, UNFPA, UN Women and UNDP; Jordan summary [E](#) and [A](#); [Gender Justice & the Law 2022-Arabic](#)

¹⁹ See [Understanding Masculinities: International Men and Gender Equality Survey \(IMAGES\) - Jordan | Publications | UN Women – Jordan](#)

²⁰ See Jordan Gender Landscape, [World Bank Document](#) and [Middle East and North Africa: End Curbs on Women's Mobility | Human Rights Watch \(hrw.org\)](#)

²¹ See Women, Business and the Law 2023 (WBL2023), [Jordan.pdf \(worldbank.org\)](#). One of the lowest scores is on the indicator measuring laws affecting women’s decisions to work.

²² Article 53 and 29 in the Labour Law No 10 (2023) respectively.

²³ See [Understanding Masculinities: International Men and Gender Equality Survey \(IMAGES\) - Jordan | Publications | UN Women – Jordan](#)

²⁴ Least biases can be found in the educational dimension ((24.46%), but equally above 80% around the political (84.03%), economic (87.41%) and physical integrity dimensions (81.35%), see [UNDP 2023 Gender Social Norms Index](#)

²⁵ See [Understanding Masculinities: International Men and Gender Equality Survey \(IMAGES\) - Jordan | Publications | UN Women – Jordan](#)

²⁶ 2023 World Economic Forum Global Gender Gap Report

²⁷ Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled

²⁸ Including on article 6 to “protect the rights of PWD and promote their participation and inclusion in various walks of life” and in article 75, 1 e. to reflect “full legal capacity of PWD”.

- ²⁹ See Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities on his country visit to Jordan, [A/HRC/52/32/Add.2](#)
- ³⁰ See paras 100 -115, [A/HRC/52/32/Add.2](#)
- ³¹ Facilitate women participation in the workforce through amending Personal Status Law articles 62, 72 (mobility); 61 (her right to work without husband's consent), 78 (marriage), 288, 289, 292 c, 320 (inheritance); 70 (maternity leave); and Social Security Law article 62 (pension), see Women, Business and the Law 2023 (WBL2023), [Jordan.pdf \(worldbank.org\)](#)
- ³² Recommendation from Jordan VNR 2022.
- ³³ Inter-Ministerial Committee for the Empowerment of Women
- ³⁴ Jordan National Commission for Women
- ³⁵ See [Gender Justice & the Law 2022-Arabic](#); [Gender Justice & the Law 2018](#), ESCWA, UNFPA, UN Women and UNDP; Jordan summary [E](#) and [A](#); Marital rape is not criminalized. Article 292 of the Penal Code criminalizes rape. Any person who has sexual intercourse with a female, other than his wife, without her consent, whether by coercion or threat or deception, shall be sentenced to at least 15 years' imprisonment. Abortion is prohibited by articles 321–325, including for women who have been raped. Sexual harassment can be punished as the offence of unwanted sexual contact under articles 305 and 306. Penalties are increased if the perpetrator is an employer or supervisor. Article 340 allows for reduced penalties if a spouse is murdered when caught in the act of adultery.
- ³⁶ See Jordan Population and Family Health Survey (JPFHS) 2017-2018 at [DHS \(2018\): Jordan Demographic and Health Survey](#)
- ³⁷ [Gender Justice & the Law 2018](#), ESCWA, UNFPA, UN Women and UNDP; Jordan summary [E](#) and [A](#)
- ³⁸ See Jordan GBV IMS Task Force [report 2021](#)
- ³⁹ See [Global Burden of Disease: available at: vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-compare/](#)
- ⁴⁰ See [Child-Protection-Gender-Dimensions-of-VACAG-2021.pdf \(unicef.org\)](#)
- ⁴¹ See [Understanding Masculinities: International Men and Gender Equality Survey \(IMAGES\) - Jordan | Publications | UN Women – Jordan](#)
- ⁴² See [Jordan - United States Department of State](#)
- ⁴³ See [Detention of activists in Jordan | OHCHR; Jordan; United States Department of State; Jordan: Government Crushes Civic Space | Human Rights Watch \(hrw.org\); Jordan: Authorities Expand Arrests of Hirak Activists to Silence Criticism of King Abdullah - DAWN \(dawnmena.org\); Himam refuses illegal arrests... \(jordannews.jo\)](#)
- ⁴⁴ See OHCHR tweet voicing concern over the worsening health of detained activist Hamad Al-Kharsha, [Arabic](#); or [English](#)
- ⁴⁵ Some tribes continue to employ the custom of *jalwa*, where the relatives of a person accused of homicide are displaced to a different geographic area pending resolution between the involved families to prevent further bloodshed and revenge killings.
- ⁴⁶ See also [Tribal Justice Persists Alongside Jordan's Law Courts - New Lines Magazine](#)
- ⁴⁷ See [Jordan - United States Department of State](#)
- ⁴⁸ See also [The Death Penalty in Law and Practice, Jordan, ECPM, June 2023](#); and [في تنفيذ عقوبة الإعدام | صحيفة الرأي \(alrai.com\)](#) and [Death penalty. Between demands for the implementation of sentences and calls to stop them permanently \(addustour.com\)](#)
- ⁴⁹ See [World Justice Project Rule of Law Index | Global Insights \(worldjusticeproject.org\)](#) and [Jordan ranked 61st out of 140 globally in the Rule of Law Index – Al-Ghad Newspaper \(alghad.com\)](#). It is ranked 112 regarding its “open governance”, 102 on “fundamental rights”, 100 on “constraints in Government powers”, 57 regarding “order and security”, 55 for “regulatory enforcement”, 47 in terms of “absence in corruption”, 46 for “civil justice” and 45 for “criminal justice”.
- ⁵⁰ See EU Access to Justice and Legal Empowerment project in Jordan.
- ⁵¹ See [Over 19,000 people detained in Jordan currently — Interior Min... \(jordannews.jo\)](#); [Rethinking Jordan's overcrowded jails - Asia Times](#)
- ⁵² See [Jordanian courts issued 300 alternatives to prison sentences in May | Jordan Times](#). Alternatives to detention can include community service, enrolment in behavioural rehabilitation programmes, forms of electronic surveillance, or denied access to certain locations both for a period ranging from one month to a year. Other measures to reduce overcrowding in prisons could include reducing administrative detentions.
- ⁵³ A type of informal detention without trial to deal with cases ranging from sex outside of marriage to absence from home to being the victim of sexual violence, all of which could put women at risk of so-called “honor crimes”.
- ⁵⁴ [Gender Justice & the Law 2018](#), ESCWA, UNFPA, UN Women and UNDP; Jordan summary [E](#) and [A](#); [Gender Justice & the Law 2022-Arabic](#)
- ⁵⁵ Most recent estimates regarding people with unpaid debt in Jordan include 157,367 individuals who are wanted in civil debt cases and 30,669 individuals who have issued checks bounced due to insufficient funds. See also [Debt and Imprisonment in Jordan – Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development \(aradd-jo.org\)](#); [Jordan: Widespread Imprisonment for Debt | Human Rights Watch \(hrw.org\)](#); [Position paper recommends alternatives for debt imprisonment | Jordan Times](#)
- ⁵⁶ Compared to 1.170 million in 2020. See [Jordanians are drowning in debt. 155, <> wanted to eliminate financial cases | Economy | Al Jazeera Net \(aljazeera.net\)](#)
- ⁵⁷ See [UNHCR Quarterly AssessmentQ4_2022.pdf](#)
- ⁵⁸ Recommendation from Jordan VNR 2022
- ⁵⁹ The monthly costs of administrative detention cases per prisoner is up to 800 JD, see Financial and Economic Cost of Human Rights Violations in Jordan, Adaleh Center for Human Rights Studies 2022

⁶⁰ See 2023 World Economic Forum Global Gender Gap Report, page 23

⁶¹ See [Child rights bill aims to protect, not destroy, the Jordanian ... \(jordannews.io\)](#); [Children's rights draft bill aims to protect youngsters — expe... \(jordannews.io\)](#); [When will "children's rights" emerge from "demonization" and accusations?... \(alghad.com\)](#)

⁶² See [Jordanian women back to square one under new Child Rights Law... \(jordannews.io\)](#)

⁶³ Jordan's VNR 2022 reported on "supporting education through Internet access", "ending child labour", "addressing gender-based violence", action against "child marriage" and "birth registration", see Special Representative on violence against children report assessing VNRs2022- [Seeing SDGs and VNRs through a child protection lens 2022.pdf](#)

⁶⁴ See Committee on the Rights of the Child review May 2023 [documentation](#)

⁶⁵ See UNICEF and the National Council for Family Affairs (NCFA) [National Study on Violence Against Children in Jordan | UNICEF Jordan](#)

⁶⁶ [Gender Justice & the Law 2018](#), ESCWA, UNFPA, UN Women and UNDP; Jordan summary [E](#) and [A](#)

⁶⁷ See [National Action Plan for Implementing the Recommendations of the "Child Marriage in Jordan" Study to Limit the Marriage of Individuals under the Age of 18 in Jordan \(2018-2022\) | HPC](#)

⁶⁸ See [The number of children in the labour market rises to 100,<>... \(alghad.com\)](#). In the first three months of 2023 the MoL handled 166 cases, see [Ministry of Labour: 166 cases of child labour were seized during the past 3 months \(almamlakatv.com\)](#)

⁶⁹ Versus 5,406 individuals in 2020, 2,413 of whom were juveniles. See [Paper evaluates socioeconomic causes behind child begging crisis | Jordan Times](#)

⁷⁰ See also Concluding Observations/ Recommendation addressed to Jordan in May 2023 by the Committee on the Rights of the Child at [CRC C JOR CO 6 52895 E \(1\).pdf](#)

⁷¹ See full report [The campaign to end Statelessness in Jordan](#)

⁷² See "Identification Cards and their Impact on the Children of Jordanian Women-who are Married to Foreigners-Satisfaction" by Ne'meh Jawdaat Kitaneh and Professor Mohamad Shehada, published in the International Journal of Business and Management Invention; ["I Just Want Him to Live Like Other Jordanians": Treatment of Non-Citizen Children of Jordanian Mothers | HRW](#); [Jordan: Submission to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child | Human Rights Watch \(hrw.org\)](#)

⁷³ [Gender Justice & the Law 2018](#), ESCWA, UNFPA, UN Women and UNDP; Jordan summary [E](#) and [A](#)

⁷⁴ See also OHCHR December 2021 report on Freedom of Association in the MENA region at [Freedom of Association | ROMENA \(ohchr.org\)](#)

⁷⁵ For example in the participation is referenced in the 5th National Action Plan 2021-2025 under the Open Government Partnership, Policy for Promoting Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment 2020-2022, Green Growth Action Plan 2021-2025, Economic Growth Plan 2020-2022, National Strategy and Action Plan for Sustainable Consumption and Production 2016-2025 and the National Water Strategy 2016-2025.

⁷⁶ Programmes and platforms for volunteerism are also promoted in Jordan's National Development Plan 'Jordan 2025', the National Youth Strategy 2019-2025 (p 36), the Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy 2019-2022 (p 21), the Jordan Response Plan to the Syrian Crisis 2020-2022 (p 31), and the Ministry of Environment's Strategic Plan 2020-2022 (p 27) promote.

⁷⁷ See [Nahno | Crown Prince Foundation \(cpf.jo\)](#)

⁷⁸ The Arab Barometer ranked Jordan at the top of 10 Arab countries where citizens consider migration. See [Jordan – Arab Barometer](#)

⁷⁹ Freedom House Index: Jordan 2022: [Jordan: Freedom in the World 2022 Country Report | Freedom House](#); [Jordan: Freedom in the World 2023 Country Report | Freedom House](#)

⁸⁰ See [Index | RSF](#)

⁸¹ See [V-dem democracyreport2023_lowres.pdf](#)

⁸² See [Research Study: Challenges Facing Refugees and Migrants in Exercising their Civic Freedoms in Jordan - ICNL](#)

⁸³ See [Jordan Death-threats-defamation-and-smear-campaign-against-lawyer-Hala-Ahed.pdf \(ccbe.eu\)](#), but also [IMPACT-OF-SHRINKING-CIVIC-SPACE-ON-FEMINISTS-ORGANISING-IN-JORDAN-1.pdf \(kvinnatillkvinna.org\)](#)

⁸⁴ See [Bachelet updates Human Rights Council on recent human rights issues in more than 50 countries | OHCHR](#); [Jordanians are protesting again. It's time for economic and administrative reforms. - Atlantic Council](#); [Awash in U.S. Aid, Jordan Escalates Repression \(foreignpolicy.com\)](#); [A New Partnership Paradigm: Renewed Trust and Functional Good Governance — strategic workshop organized by ARDD and JONAF – Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development \(ardd-j.o.org\)](#)

⁸⁵ In February 2023, the Constitutional Court concluded that the Crime Prevention Law does not contradict the Constitution, and that if there is a defect in the practice or application of the law, this does not lead to the law being considered unconstitutional. See [Jordan's Crime Prevention Law Passes Constitutional Examination and Completes Journey \(ammannet.net\)](#)

⁸⁶ It is ranked by the NGO 'Centre for Law and Democracy' as 124th out of 136, see [By Country | Rti Rating \(rti-rating.org\)](#)

⁸⁷ See [Controversy over cybercrimes bill before Jordan parliament | Arab News](#); [Call for collaboration – safeguarding freedoms in 2023 Electro... \(jordannews.io\)](#)

⁸⁸ See [Six journalists prosecuted in Jordan in past month | RSF](#); [Jordan: Escalating Repression of Journalists | Human Rights](#)

[Watch \(hrw.org\)](#); [Jordan - United States Department of State](#)

⁸⁹ See [Jordan: Government Crushes Civic Space | Human Rights Watch \(hrw.org\)](#); [Jordan - United States Department of State](#)

⁹⁰ See [Jordan response to SR communication \(ohchr.org\)](#)

⁹¹ See SR communication addressed to Jordan [AL JOR \(1.2023\) \(ohchr.org\)](#)

⁹² See [Report: Jordanian Human Rights Defenders and Journalists Hacked with Pegasus Spyware | Front Line Defenders; Watchdogs, experts call on gov't to trace Pegasus hacking inci... \(jordannews.io\)](#)

⁹³ See Center for the Defense of Freedom of Journalists (CDFJ) in its 2021 annual Jordan Media Freedom Index report "Shackled- Media Freedom Index in Jordan 2021, [Executive-summary.pdf \(cdfj.org\)](#)

⁹⁴ See [57.4% of female Jordanian journalists have experienced digital violence — survey | Jordan Times](#)

⁹⁵ See [Internet shutdowns in 2022: the #KeepItOn Report \(accessnow.org\)](#)

⁹⁶ Such as TikTok, Clubhouse, or websites like AlHudood, see [PEN America Calls on Jordanian Officials to Lift Ban on Satirical News Site Al Hudood - PEN America](#)

⁹⁷ See [Jordan | RSF](#)

⁹⁸ Article 16 of the Constitution

⁹⁹ In 2021, the Financial Action Task Force placed Jordan on the "grey list" for increased monitoring and in June 2023 made the initial determination that Jordan has substantially completed its action plan ahead of the agreed timeline and warrants an on-site assessment before being removed from the "grey" list. See [Financial Action Task Force Identifies Jurisdictions with Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism and Counter-Proliferation Deficiencies | FinCEN.gov; Jurisdictions under Increased Monitoring - 23 June 2023 \(fatf-gafi.org\)](#). The [MENAFATF-Mutual-Evaluation-Report-Jordan-2019.pdf \(fatf-gafi.org\)](#), pages 79, 80, advised that any measures taken should "minimize negative impact on innocent and legitimate beneficiaries of charitable activity" and [TF-RISK-ASSESSMENT-En-final.pdf \(icnl.org\)](#)

¹⁰⁰ See for detailed analysis [HIMAM](#) and [Himam records 6 observations on the "planning" project for foreign funding - Al Ghad Newspaper](#)

¹⁰¹ See [International Labour Standards country profile: Jordan \(ilo.org\)](#)

¹⁰² See [Jordan: Statement on the one-year anniversary of the court's decision to reopen the Jordanian Teachers' Syndicate | Front Line Defenders; Jordan: Government Should Comply with Court Decision to Reopen Teachers' Syndicate - DAWN \(dawnmena.org\)](#)

¹⁰³ See [Mapping of Collective Actions in Jordan | Civil Society Knowledge Centre \(civilsociety-centre.org\)](#).

¹⁰⁴ Article 16 of the Constitution

¹⁰⁵ The Election Law aims to expand the women's quota from 15 (one seat per governorate) to 18 seats (one for each electoral district) thus guaranteeing at least 18.5 per cent women's representation. The law also includes new measures to guarantee the full and effective engagement of women in political parties' lists at the national level guaranteeing at least 22% representation of women in the national list. The Political Parties' Law includes provisions indicating that 20% of forming members (out of 1,000 members) should be women, and 20% Youth (aged 18 to 35).

¹⁰⁶ See VNR Jordan 2022, pages 19, 22, 45, 65, 99, 103, 104, 106, with some specific references to the role of women, see pages 83, 84, 88.

¹⁰⁷ The 2030 Agenda frames the fulfilment of fundamental freedoms as an objective of sustainable development, not simply a pathway to it. The Sustainable Development Goals and their associated targets include some 20 commitments relating to participation, expression and information. See also UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression 2023 [report on freedom of expression and sustainable development](#) to the Human Rights Council.

¹⁰⁸ In line with the Royal Committee for Political Modernization's recommendations.

¹⁰⁹ In line with the UN [Guidelines for States on the effective implementation of the right to participate in public affairs](#).

¹¹⁰ National priorities supported through funding could include the realization of the National Human Rights Action Plan, or the National Strategy for Women.

¹¹¹ Circumvention technology can include virtual private networks (VPNs), proxy servers, Tor network, and other similar technologies designed to provide unrestricted access to information on the internet.

¹¹² Jordan 2025: A national vision and strategy. Amman: Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation; 2015

¹¹³ Ministry of Health Strategic Plan 2023-2025.

¹¹⁴ Jordan was the first country in the Eastern Mediterranean Region to develop a [Jordan National Rehabilitation Strategic Plan 2020-2024 \[EN/AR\] - Jordan | ReliefWeb](#)

¹¹⁵ The new Child Rights Law provides for primary health care for all categories of children on Jordanian soil in accordance with a timetable. Also, under the Jordanian national vaccination programme, vaccination services are provided free of charge to all children regardless of their status or nationality.

¹¹⁶ See [Country Profile \(ncdportal.org\)](#); [Data for Jordan, Upper middle income | Data \(worldbank.org\)](#)

¹¹⁷ See [WHO EMRO | Jordan | Countries World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)

¹¹⁸ See [Smoking in Jordan an 'epidemic', says Health Ministry official | Jordan Times; Socioeconomics or choice? Experts examine link between smoking, obesity and income | Jordan Times; WHO EMRO | Making the economic case for tobacco](#)

[control action in Jordan](#) | [News](#) | [Jordan site](#)

¹¹⁹ Such as delayed appointments, coverage of expensive surgeries and medical interventions or lack of nearby MoH facilities.

¹²⁰ Compared to 58% of Syrian men ./ 15% of Syrian women. For both see [Understanding Masculinities: International Men and Gender Equality Survey \(IMAGES\) - Jordan | Publications | UN Women – Jordan](#)

¹²¹ , which is considerably higher than in previous years.

¹²² See [National mhsu action plan 2022-2026 \(english\) \(2\)-0.pdf \(moh.gov.jo\)](#)

¹²³ mhGAP: mental Health Global Action Plan, WHO

¹²⁴ The MoSD and HCD also established a new directorate for disability and mental health, and created the first version of the national referral pathways for children with disabilities services among MoE, MoH, MoSD and national aid fund (ongoing) jointly with HCD.

¹²⁵ According to the National Center for Forensic Medicine at the Ministry of Health, see [Jordan records 119 murders, 137 suicides in 2022 — expert... \(jordannews.jo\)](#) and approximately 7% of men and 5% of women report ever having thoughts of suicides, see [Understanding Masculinities: International Men and Gender Equality Survey \(IMAGES\) - Jordan | Publications | UN Women – Jordan.](#)

¹²⁶ Drawing a clear roadmap for NCDs in Jordan (at level of decision makers).

¹²⁷ Recommendation from Jordan VNR 2022.

¹²⁸ Recommendation from Jordan VNR 2022.

¹²⁹ Recommendation from Jordan VNR 2022.

¹³⁰ Recommendation from Jordan VNR 2022.

¹³¹ See [‘We Lead’ conference releases recommendations for improving SRHRs in Jordan | Jordan Times](#)

¹³² Based on the May 2023 Royal Decree

¹³³ See [A Policy Brief: Reducing Smoking and Cardiovascular Diseases in Jordan](#)

¹³⁴ Jordan National Water Strategy 2023-2030

¹³⁵ Calculated from Department of Statistics 2021

¹³⁶ The draft food system transformation road map of Jordan, 2023

¹³⁷ Department of Statistics

¹³⁸ WFP’s Food Security Outcome Monitoring (Q1/2023) for refugees in communities

¹³⁹ See [Policy Brief: Towards the Implementation of Jordan’s Food Security Strategy | United Nations in Jordan](#)

¹⁴⁰ See Ministry of Health, UNICEF, WFP, Jordan Health Aid Society International, Department of Statistics, Biolab, GroundWork. [Jordan National Micronutrient and Nutritional Survey 2019](#) Amman, Jordan; 2021.

¹⁴¹ See Results from the Jordan National STEP wise survey for NCDs risk factors (2019) and State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022

¹⁴² See [Policy Brief: Healthy Diets for all in Jordan | United Nations in Jordan](#); Ministry of Health, UNICEF, WFP, Jordan Health Aid Society International, Department of Statistics, Biolab, GroundWork. [Jordan National Micronutrient and Nutritional Survey 2019](#) Amman, Jordan; 2021.

¹⁴³ See [Global Nutrition Report | Country Nutrition Profiles - Global Nutrition Report](#)

¹⁴⁴ Food regulations were adjusted to reduce salt, sugar and trans fatty acids. Programs for wheat fortification and salt iodization have been run to tackle micronutrient deficiencies. Standards to enhance public food procurement and service were adopted by the MOH and army sectors to reduce calorie intake and sugars in menus served to the workers and patients at hospitals. Moreover, the MOH developed and disseminated Food-based Dietary Guidelines (2020), which raise awareness on healthy diets and physical activity. See [Policy Brief: Healthy Diets for all in Jordan | United Nations in Jordan](#)

¹⁴⁵ See for these and more recommendations UN in Jordan [Policy Brief: Towards the Implementation of Jordan's food security strategy \(un.org\)](#); [Policy Brief: Healthy Diets for all in Jordan | United Nations in Jordan](#)

¹⁴⁶ Recommendations from Jordan VNR 2022: Implement a comprehensive approach to management of water resources; Improve and strengthen monitoring of food quality and safety; Increase the productivity of the agricultural sector by encouraging and motivating farmers to adopt modern agricultural technology including water-saving techniques, group marketing and contribute to school feeding.

¹⁴⁷ Recommendations from Jordan VNR 2022: Increase the involvement of women in the design, implementation, and management of WASH facilities, especially at the local level; Prepare a roadmap for indicators of priority, including the indicator on ‘Proportion of local administrative units with established and operational policies and procedures for participation of local communities in water and sanitation management; Increase the participation of qualified women in committees, councils and institutions related to energy.

¹⁴⁸ See also submission by UNESCO to the Jordan 4th cycle UPR.

¹⁴⁹ See [declaration on inclusion and diversity in education.final-26june_0.pdf \(moe.gov.jo\)](#), which reiterates the right to education for all, emphasizing the importance of addressing the needs of vulnerable groups, such as children and Youth with disabilities or refugees.

¹⁵⁰ See UNESCO supported SDG 4 Jordan report at [jordan voluntary national review english.pdf \(unesco.org\)](#)

¹⁵¹ See also related recommendation from VNR Jordan 2022

¹⁵² Department of Statistics, Employment and Unemployment Bulletin, 31 May 2023; [21.9% unemployment rate during the first quarter of 2023 – Department of Statistics \(dos.gov.jo\)](#)

- ¹⁵³ See Jordan Gender Landscape, [World Bank Document](#)
- ¹⁵⁴ MoL data 2022
- ¹⁵⁵ Mostly recommendations from Jordan VNR 2022
- ¹⁵⁶ See Jordan featuring in OHCHR Human Rights 75 feature story [Building economies that place people's human rights at the center | OHCHR](#)
- ¹⁵⁷ Launched by His Majesty King Abdullah II in 2022
- ¹⁵⁸ See Jordan Economic and Social Council and UN in Jordan report on [Domestic Resource Mobilization: A human rights-based approach to tackling inequalities | United Nations in Jordan](#)
- ¹⁵⁹ See [House should reconsider media ban on budget sessions — Rased... \(jordannews.jo\)](#)
- ¹⁶⁰ According to the [IMF's World Economic Outlook Report \(October 2022\)](#), Jordan ranks 35th, out of 189 countries, in terms of debt to GDP in 2021.
- ¹⁶¹ See Jordan Strategic Forum policy brief entitled "Index of Economic Freedom 2023: Jordan's Performance and Priorities for Improvement"; World Economic Forum Risk Report 2023
- ¹⁶² See [Domestic Resource Mobilization: A human rights-based approach to tackling inequalities | United Nations in Jordan](#)
- ¹⁶³ See Jordan Strategy Forum report December 2022
- ¹⁶⁴ Recommendation from VNR Jordan 2022: Encourage community planning and developing participatory budgets on the ground, and activate partnership with local communities in planning decisions.
- ¹⁶⁵ Recommendation from Jordan VNR 2022
- ¹⁶⁶ Already initiated for budgetary expenses on climate change, children and women.
- ¹⁶⁷ IPCC (2022): Mitigation of Climate Change. Contribution of Working Group III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Available at: [AR6 Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change — IPCC/](#) (Accessed June 2023)
- ¹⁶⁸ See [UNICEF Jordan and Economist Impact, "Tapped out: The costs of water stress in Jordan", 2022](#)
- ¹⁶⁹ According to the National Water Strategy Summary Report 2023-2040
- ¹⁷⁰ See [UNFPA research brief on Climate Change and Gender-Based Violence in Jordan 2022](#); and [UNDP report Gender Equality and Climate Change in Jordan - Exploratory Gender Analysis | United Nations in Jordan](#)
- ¹⁷¹ See [UNDP report Youth for Climate Action: Engaging Jordanian Youth in Climate Related Policymaking | United Nations in Jordan](#)
- ¹⁷² Jordan has ratified 7 out of the 10 ILO fundamental Convention (see above), but it has not ratified Conventions, Nos. 97, 143, 181 and 189., or the Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190). However, it has ratified the Equality of Treatment (Social Security) Convention, 1962 (No. 118), which concerns equality of treatment between nationals and non-nationals in respect of social security and is thus relevant to migrant workers, and the Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102). The Domestic Workers Recommendation, 2011 (No. 201) accompanies Convention No. 189.
- ¹⁷³ [Jordan. Labour Code, 1996 \(ilo.org\)](#)
- ¹⁷⁴ [Jordan - Regulation No 90/2009 Of Domestic Workers, Cooks, Gardeners and Similar Categories. \(ilo.org\)](#) which was amended in 2019.
- ¹⁷⁵ According to 2022 Ministry of Labour figures.
- ¹⁷⁶ According to 2022 Ministry of Labour figures.
- ¹⁷⁷ This system ties a worker's legal status to their employer (workers can only leave their job upon mutual agreement with their employer), making it difficult for workers to change jobs or leave abusive employers and putting them at greater risk of labour exploitation, disincentivises them from switching jobs, and creates higher vulnerability to trafficking.
- ¹⁷⁸ And an ILO indicator of forced labour, see [ILO indicators of Forced Labour](#).
- ¹⁷⁹ See also [Legal aid for migrants and refugees: Continuous efforts, better protection? -Policy Memo 1 – Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development \(ardd-jo.org\)](#); [Labour rights for refugees and migrant workers: how to make them a living reality? – Policy Memo 2 – Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development \(ardd-jo.org\)](#)
- ¹⁸⁰ However, traffickers are continuously being sentenced to penalties that are in the lower range of imprisonment sentencing and fining. Convicted traffickers are repeatedly fined in place of imprisonment overall. Victims of trafficking are repeatedly arrested and deported for crimes that traffickers coerced them to commit, or for escaping exploitative work conditions.
- ¹⁸¹ 442,109 total population in the 10 official Palestine Refugees Camps, the number includes registered Palestine refugees and their dependants.
- ¹⁸² Without Jordanian nationality,
- ¹⁸³ UNHCR registration data as of 7 May 2023
- ¹⁸⁴ Palestine refugees from Syria (PRS) access to the border was challenged by a non-admission policy formally issued in January 2013. As result, PRS families have one or more family members with no Jordanian citizenship and no legal status in Jordan.
- ¹⁸⁵ See also this recommendation from Jordan VNR 2022: Examine expanding the programmes that enable the most vulnerable segments to become contributors to economic growth instead of only relief recipients.