



## Jordan: Syria Crisis

ECHO FACTSHEET

### Facts & Figures (as of January 2017)

#### Number of people of concern in Jordan:

- Over 655 000 Syrian refugees
- Over 61 000 registered Iraqis
- 20 000 + Palestine refugees from Syria
- Over 5 000 Yemenis
- Over 3 000 Sudanese

#### European Commission funding for Jordan since the start of the crisis:

More than **€657 million** for Syrian refugees / and host communities, including **€271 million** in humanitarian assistance



Monique Pariat, the director general of the European Commission's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations directorate, on a visit to an EU-funded hospital in Jordan's Azraq camp (April, 2016.)  
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- The civil war in Syria continues unabated, with humanitarian needs and the number of refugees continuing to increase. The **European Union commends the Government of Jordan for its sustained and generous support to the more than 655 000 Syrian refugees.**
- Since the beginning of the crisis the European Commission has allocated more than **€657 million in assistance to refugees and vulnerable communities in Jordan, including more than €271 million from the humanitarian budget.**
- The **EU will continue to support humanitarian actors on the ground** in the assistance to vulnerable Syrian refugees in particular the new arrivals in camps and those living outside of camps, as well as Jordanian host communities.
- **The situation for refugees is of increasing concern in countries all neighbouring Syria, including Jordan.** The EU calls upon the Government of Jordan to ensure the sufficient protection of refugees in the country in line with humanitarian principles and to continue to allow access to people stranded at the border in need of urgent humanitarian assistance.

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Factsheets:  
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## Humanitarian situation and needs

As the civil war in Syria continues unabated, Jordan has contributed substantial and generous assistance to Syrian refugees. As of December 2016, Jordan hosts **over 655 000 Syrian refugees**, with children comprising over 51% of this population. Most of the refugees (about 78%) live in host communities, while the remaining live in three refugee camps. The conflict in Syria and Iraq is having **an important impact on the country's socioeconomic conditions**. The country's community resources, infrastructure and social services are seriously overstretched. Rising rents and competition for jobs have contributed to increase tensions between refugees and host populations.

**The humanitarian space for Syrian refugees in Jordan continues to erode, with an increased number of cases of forced return to the camps or to Syria** being reported by UN Agencies and international NGOs. Many refugees have entered a cycle of asset depletion, with savings exhausted and levels of debt increasing. The Vulnerability Assessment Framework (VAF) has found that 93% of refugees are now living below the Jordanian poverty line of 68 JOD per capita per month. Moreover, 80% of the refugees report engaging in 'crisis or emergency' negative coping strategies. These include reducing food intake and taking children out of school.

**Jordan has tightened its border policy in the last months of 2016 and this is unlikely to change.** The western border has been closed since May 2013. More than 75 000 refugees, mostly women and children, are still stranded at the North - Eastern border in the so called "berm" (a transit corridor between Syria and Jordan) with no admission to Jordan. Following the 21 June 2016 attack in Ruqban, the Jordanian Government announced the closure of northern and north-eastern borders, classified as "sealed military zone". Due to deteriorating security conditions, International Organizations present at the Berm have not been able to resume the delivery of humanitarian assistance in a permanent manner.

## The European Union's Humanitarian Response

Since the beginning of the crisis, the European Commission has channeled *some €637 million to Jordan through humanitarian, development and macro financial assistance*. **Of this the European Commission's Civil Protection & Humanitarian Aid Operations directorate (ECHO) has contributed more than €271 million, providing services such as health, food and basic needs assistance, winterisation, shelter, water and sanitation, psychosocial support and protection programmes to refugees in camps, urban settings and at the berm.** Programs funded by the EU are both in-camp (in Zaatari, Azraq and Ruwayshid camps) and outside-of-camp projects. The provision of basic services in villages and towns across the country also includes vulnerable Jordanian families. Specific programs support women and children's needs as they account for approximately 51% of the total refugee population.

### Example of an outside-of-camp humanitarian project

With 78% of the refugees living in urban settings, the European Commission supports the Danish Refugee Council and INTERSOS consortium with the aim to **support the most vulnerable refugees to regularize their civil and/or legal status through provision of protection assistance**. It is estimated that at least 139,000 Syrian refugees have not yet completed or are unable to meet the requirements to update their government registration. Syrian refugees without updated MoI cards or UNHCR Asylum Seeker Certificate are subject to risks of deportation which limit their freedom of movement, prevent them from accessing basic services including health, education and the labour market.

### The EU-Jordan Compact Agreement

**On 19 December 2016, the EU and Jordan adopted common partnership priorities as well as a Compact Agreement.** The Compact includes mutual commitments by which the EU and Jordan will fulfil the pledges they made at the London Conference in February 2016 on supporting Syria and the region. The objective is to improve the living conditions both of Syrian refugees in Jordan as well as of vulnerable host communities. **The EU-Jordan Compact foresees an EU commitment of at least € 747 million for 2016-2017 including € 108 million in humanitarian aid and € 200 million in macro-financial assistance.**

Furthermore, the EU and Jordan have already agreed in July 2016 to simplify rules of origin requirements for Jordan exports to the EU, provided **job opportunities are offered to Syrian refugees**, alongside Jordanians. To date over 34 000 working permits have been delivered to Syrian refugees. Jordan will also make it possible for **over 165 000 Syrian children to access education and increase opportunities for Syrian youth to receive vocational training**.

