Overview

Jordan (officially the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan) is a low-middle income country with limited natural resources and a semi-arid climate. The country borders Saudi Arabia to the east and south-east, Iraq to the north-east, Syria to the north and the West Bank and Israel to the west. Jordan's only port is at its south-western tip, at the Gulf of Aqaba, which is shared with Israel, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia. Approximately 75% of Jordan is covered by the Arabian Desert. However, the western part of Jordan is arable land and forests. The capital city is Amman and the country is divided into 12 governorates (Irbid, Mafraq, Zarqa, Madaba, Karak, Tafilah, Ma'an and Aqaba).

90 per cent of the population lives on only 10 percent of the country's surface area. As a result of prolonged conflict in the Middle East, Jordan has hosted several waves of refugees and displaced persons. This has had a significant impact on the population growth rate. Since 1961, the population has increased fivefold, leading to pressure on natural resources, growing income disparities and increase in poverty.

Demographics

Ethnicity: Muslim Sunni (92%), Christians, mostly Greek Orthodox (6%), Circassians (1%) and Armenians (1%).

Jordan and Selected Indicators

EDUCATION

1. Primary school participation, Gross enrolment ratio (%), 2007-2010 - both sexes 10: 97
2. Secondary school participation, Net enrolment ratio (%) 2007-2010, both sexes 11: 81.5
3. Youth (15-24 years) literacy rate (%), 2005-2010 12: 98.8
4. Primary completion rate (%), both sexes, 2010 13: 89.9
5. Expenditure on education, public (% of GDP) in 2009 14: 9.3

HEALTH

Jordan has one of the most modern health care infrastructures in the Middle East.

1. Under 5 mortality rate, per 1,000 live births, 2010 15: 22
2. Infant mortality rate, per 1,000 live births, 2010 16: 18
3. Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women aged 15-19), 2009 17: 26.5
4. Births attended by skilled health personnel (%), 2009 18: 99
5. Expenditure on health, public (% of GDP) in 2009 19: 9.3

Primary health care to approximately 2 million Palestinian refugees in Jordan is provided by UNRWA.

FOOD SECURITY / NUTRITION

Domestic production of cereals is negligible, covering less than 3% of total utilization for food and feed. Cereal import requirements in 2011/12 (July/June) are forecast at a high of 2.3 million tonnes. Wheat imports are estimated at about 840,000 tonnes, about 15% higher than the last five years. Imports of feed barley and rice are expected to go up by about 12% on average levels to 770,000 tonnes and 170,000 tonnes, respectively.

Rural Poverty in Jordan 20: 17.4% of Jordanians live in rural areas where poverty is more prevalent than in urban areas. Approximately 19 per cent of the rural population is classified as poor. Because of the arid nature of the land, many rural poor people cannot grow enough crops to feed themselves and their families. People who find other ways to supplement their incomes generally earn very little. Regular drought exacerbates the situation.

Families headed by women tend to be among the most vulnerable. They have fewer economic assets than households headed by men. For example, only 44 per cent of female headed households own agricultural land and 30 per cent own livestock. In contrast, 68 per cent of male headed households own land and 36 per cent of them own livestock. Similarly, only 21 per cent of female headed households receive loans for agricultural development and 9 per cent for income-generating activities, compared to 43 and 14 per cent of male headed households.

Global Hunger Index (GHI) 21: The GHI is designed to comprehensively measure and track hunger globally and by country and region. A number of different indicators can be used to measure hunger. To reflect the multidimensional nature of hunger, the GHI combines three equally weighted indicators (Undernourishment, Child underweight and Child mortality) in one index number. The Global Hunger Index for Jordan in 2011 was low (<15)

To attain educational level and sex

Population by Governorates

Percentage distribution of Jordanians (aged 15 years and above) according to attained educational level and sex

Population in 2011: 6.3 million
Gender Distribution:
- Male: 51.5% (3.2 million)
- Female: 48.5% (3.1 million)

Geographic distribution:
- Rural: 17.4%
- Urban: 82.6%

Growth Rate: 1.9%
Average life expectancy:
- Male: 72 years
- Female: 75 years

Illiterate: 5.3%
Less than Secondary: 57.6%
Secondary: 34.4%
Intermediate: 17.1%
Bachelors & Above: 18.2%

Refugees in Jordan (2010): 1,979,580

Country Fact Sheet - Jordan August 2012
THE POVERTY TRAP

Approximately 13.3% of the population lived beneath the poverty line in 2008. Jordan’s various governorates reflect differing development levels. This is especially apparent when examining percentage of the population below the poverty line (less than US$ 1 a day), which range from 8.3% in Amman to 31.9% in Mafraq. The 2010 Department of Statistics of Jordan’s Poverty Report revealed that 57% of individuals surviving below the official poverty line were to be found in the most densely populated locations: Amman, Irbid and Zarqa. Between 2006 and 2008 real income dropped in Jordan by 0.9%. For the poorest 25% real income dropped by 8.5%, whilst for the richest 25% real income dropped by 0.8%, thus increasing income inequality.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS

HDI provides a composite measure of three basic dimensions of human development: health, education and income. Jordan’s HDI, in 2011, was 0.698, which gives the country a rank of 95 (medium human development) out of 187 countries. The HDI of Arab States as a region increased from 0.444 in 1980 to 0.641 in 2011, placing Jordan above the regional average.

**INCOME INDICATORS**

1. GNI per capita in purchasing power parity (PPP) terms (constant 2005 international $) in 2011: 5,300
2. GDP per capita in PPP terms (constant 2005 international $) in 2009: 5,082
3. Income index (GNI per capita) 2011: 0.569
4. Real GDP growth in 2007-11: 2.2%
5. GDP in 2011: US$ 29.5 billion
7. Inflation rate - 2011: 5.7%
8. Unemployment % (in 2012): 11.4%

**JORDAN AND THE MDGs**

**GOAL1: ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER**

Jordan has made significant achievements in combating poverty and hunger not only per the international standard of $1 a day per capita, but also in relation to the national poverty line (USD 960 per individual annually). The percentage of population below the abject poverty line (JD 292 per capita in 2008) was reduced by more than half between 1992 and 2008, from 6.6% to less than 1%. The poverty gap was also reduced and the poor’s share of total consumption increased. The aftermath of the current global financial and economic crisis will make it difficult to maintain these achievements, especially since a large portion of Jordanian households are near the poverty line – increasing the risk of these families falling below the national poverty line.

**GOAL2: ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION**

Jordan has effectively achieved MDG2 - ensuring that all children enrol in basic school, through provision of basic education opportunities to all school age children. Almost all pupils, who enrol in grade 1 do not drop out and complete grade 5. Illiteracy among the 15-24 year old age group has been almost eradicated with equal gender enrolment, retention and literacy rates.
accomplished in education.

**Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women**
The educational target has been achieved while the political and economic targets call for renewed commitment. Though there have been successful initiatives to increase women’s economic and political empowerment, still significant challenges remain.

**Goal 4: Reduce child mortality**
Under Five Mortality Rate (USMR) fell from 39 deaths per thousand live births in 1990 to 28 per thousand in 2009 – at an annual average decrease of 0.55 deaths per thousand live births. To achieve the targets by 2015, Jordan needs to increase its efforts to reduce the USMR by an annual average of 2.5 deaths per thousand live births. It requires more effective policies and programmes, particularly in raising awareness, targeting the geographical areas and populations with higher child mortality rates.

**Goal 5: Improve maternal health**
The maternal mortality rate fell from 48 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 19 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2009. Despite noticeable progress on all maternal health indicators, there are challenges to be addressed in order to sustain the progress. These include increasing population growth, slow increase in contraceptive prevalence rates and unmet needs for family planning.

**Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases**
Jordan has made remarkable achievements towards limiting the incidence of HIV/AIDS through education and awareness-raising programmes. However, additional measures are necessary particularly in raising awareness amongst young people – especially young women. Thanks to national health programmes, Jordan has attained significant health achievements in combating Malaria and reducing the prevalence of Tuberculosis (TB).

**Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability**
If Jordan is to ensure environmental sustainability by 2015, swift measures need to be taken. There have been noticeable improvement in environmental sustainability indicators, particularly in limiting waste of natural resources and the loss of biodiversity and improving the quality of services. However, many challenges remain, specifically in the area of environmental resource management.

**Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development**
The Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector in Jordan has grown markedly during recent years. As a result, the sector’s contribution grew to 13% of GDP, and increases have risen in the use of personal computers mobile phones and internet penetration. The country’s ICT sector competitive edge has also grown globally.

**CPI**
According to the national Department of Statistics, the 2011 overall Consumer Price Index (CPI) for food registered a rate of 4.3 percent, compared to 6.7 percent in 2010. The main reason for the reduction is the significant decrease in the vegetable price index from the record high levels during the last quarter of 2010 due to drought. The price index of cereals and cereal products has also declined by approx 2 to 2.5 percent in 2011 following government bread subsidies that prevented the transmission of high wheat import prices to local markets.

**CPI for basic foods between 2009 and February 2012**

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**Select MDG Indicators**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under-five mortality rate - per 1,000 live births</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Meeting target</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children 1 year old immunized against measles - %</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Meeting target</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel – %</td>
<td>99.1</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Meeting target</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuberculosis incidence rate per year per 100,000 population (mid-point)</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Meeting target</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment short course – %</td>
<td>100 %</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Meeting target</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of population using an improved drinking water source – %</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Meeting target</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility - %</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Meeting target</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile cellular subscriptions per 100 inhabitants</td>
<td>118.2</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Meeting target</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet users per 100 population</td>
<td>34.9</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Meeting target</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


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**Jordan Country Fact Sheet**

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**Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability**

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**Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development**

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**CPI for Basic Foods between 2009 and February 2012**

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**Select MDG Indicators**

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**CPI**

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**Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability**

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**Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development**

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**CPI for Basic Foods between 2009 and February 2012**

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**Select MDG Indicators**

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**CPI**

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Ongoing Humanitarian Activities

Syrian Refugees

The number of Syrian refugees registered in Jordan is 36,824 as of 27 July 2012. This number now surpasses the number of Iraqis registered with UNHCR Jordan. They are primarily located in the cities of Amman, Ramtha, Mafraq, Irbid, Zarqa and Ma’an. An additional 2,283 persons are awaiting registration and some 50,000 have been identified by local organisations as in need of assistance, some of whom have been registered by UNCHR 50. 27% of the Syrian case load are female headed households, with women and children under 18 making up 73% of registrations with UNHCR. 75% of registered families have four or more children.

Inter-Agency Task Force on Syria

Humanitarian coordination is led by an Inter Agency Task Force on Syria that is chaired by UNHCR and composed of UN agencies, a number of NGOs and the ICRC as an observer. Sectoral working and sub-working groups have been established and regional coordination meetings are held in Ramtha, Mafraq and Ma’an, and area co-chaired by the Governor and UNHCR.

Iraqi Refugees 51

The Government of Jordan estimates that there are 450,000 Iraqis in the country. However, there is some uncertainty about the actual figure. Currently registered Iraqis with UNHCR stands at approx. 32,000. Many refugees live in urban areas and lack community support. Many live in poverty and are unable to gain access to livelihoods.

Palestinian Refugees 52

About 6,000 families of registered refugees receive monthly financial assistance with other support provided through social counseling and disabilities assistance. Some 80 per cent of refugee children are enrolled in primary education and 90 per cent are enrolled in secondary education.

Humanitarian Financing 56

The FTS is a global, real-time database which records all reported international humanitarian aid (including that for NGOs and the Red Cross / Red Crescent Movement, bilateral aid, in-kind aid, and private donations).

As of 30th July 2012, the country has received a total of US$ 4.14 Million through the Jordan 2012 emergency fund, established to meet the humanitarian and development needs.

US$ 4.77 Million have been contributed through the Iraqi Refugees in Neighbouring Countries 2012 fund, dedicated for Iraqi refugees in Jordan, as of 30th July 2012.

Palestinain UNRWA Refugee

As of 30th July 2012, Jordan has received funding of US$ 16 Million, as of 30th July 2012, through the Syrian Arab Republic Civil Unrest 2012 fund.
August 2012

According to the revised Syria Regional Response Plan 2012, 20.4% (US$ 17.31 million) has been funded, as of 15th July 2012, out of total required amount of US$ 84.7 million, for Jordan.

**Funding (for Jordan) through Revised Syria Regional Response Plan 2012 as of 15th July 2012 (US$ Million)**

**National Disaster Management**

Jordan faces a number of hazards including earthquakes, flash floods and drought. Seismic hazard carry the prospect of highest casualty figures and to which the economic, social and state structures of the country are most vulnerable. Flood, Drought and Seismic Risk Indexes have been developed for Jordan. In 2011, Jordan’s score on the Drought Risk Index and Flood Risk Index are above the regional average (4.22 and 8.29 respectively).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Area</th>
<th>2011 score</th>
<th>Regional average</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flood Risk Index</td>
<td>8.29</td>
<td>8.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drought Risk Index</td>
<td>4.22</td>
<td>6.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seismic Risk Index</td>
<td>7.63</td>
<td>7.27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Disaster management practices have been heavily focused on improving the response to incidents after they occur. This has led a need to shift disaster management practices towards preparedness, risk reduction and holistic risk management. UNDP has initiated a large scale Disaster Risk Reduction and Management project to promote this shift and strengthen national and local resilience to hazards. These efforts include the establishment of designated DRR Units with local authorities in Petra and Aqaba and the development of local DRM Master Plans to integrate disaster risk management with development planning. While rapid response mechanisms are still being strengthened, current UN interventions focus on development of early warning systems, raising disaster risk reduction awareness, and building institutional capacity to ensure that nationwide retrofit design of critical infrastructure is being undertaken.

**Key personnel**

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**OCHA Syria in Amman:** Mr. Stuart Shepherd; Office landline: +962 6 5534971

**Footnotes**

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