

PROSPECTS Partnership

Jordan: Promoting Resilience, Decent Work and Social Cohesion

Supported by



Government of
the Netherlands

Country Context

Jordan has long shown leadership and generosity in welcoming refugees, hosting one of the world's largest per-capita refugee populations. As of October 2026, Jordan hosted over 350,000 registered refugees, with numbers gradually declining due to voluntary returns to Syria. While only a minority live in camps such as Za'atari and Azraq, the vast majority reside in towns and cities, especially in Amman, Mafraq, Irbid, and Zarqa.

Following the fall of the Assad government in December 2024 and up to early October 2026, an estimated 229,000 refugees registered with UNHCR have returned to Syria. At the same time, given the continued uncertainty in Syria, the majority of Syrian refugees in Jordan are not planning to return in the foreseeable future.

Refugees live alongside Jordanians in often-vulnerable host communities, where resources such as housing, health care and access to employment are limited. The Government of Jordan has maintained a progressive stance – granting Syrians access to public education, facilitating access to the labor market through the issuance of work permits and partnering with the international community to share responsibilities. However, economic stagnation, rising debt and high youth unemployment have placed enormous strain on Jordanian society.

With over half of Jordan's population under the age of 24, the stakes are high: creating real opportunities for young people, refugees and Jordanians alike, is essential for stability and growth. PROSPECTS supports Jordan's efforts to strengthen resilience, foster social cohesion and ensure that both host communities and refugees can access opportunities in education, decent work, and protection.



Despite challenging circumstances, Dania – whose family was forced to flee Syria – was able to pass the Tawijhi (national high school completion exam). Photo: © UNHCR/Shawkat Alharfoush

This fact sheet covers cumulative results from March 2019–April 2026.

PROSPECTS in Jordan

The PROSPECTS Partnership – funded by the Government of the Netherlands and implemented by IFC, ILO, UNHCR, UNICEF, and the World Bank – supports Jordan's dual challenge: upholding refugee protection while advancing sustainable development for all. Working in close coordination with Jordanian authorities, employers' and workers' organizations, PROSPECTS combines support for national policy reforms with direct investments that strengthen services at the community level. In addition, since early 2026, PROSPECTS also supports refugees who choose to return voluntarily to Syria. Working across four integrated pillars, PROSPECTS is:



Strengthening Protection and Social Protection Systems, ensuring refugees and vulnerable Jordanians can access documentation, case management and social protection systems.



Promoting Access to Decent Work and Livelihoods including principles of non-discrimination, equal remuneration for work of equal value, rights at work and safe and healthy working conditions. PROSPECTS works with the Government, employers' and workers' organizations, and the private sector to expand access to wage employment and self-employment, work permits, entrepreneurship support, cooperative development, employability support, and inclusive financial services.



Expanding Education and Learning, such as supporting schools to provide quality education to refugee and host-community children, while investing in teacher training and alternative learning pathways. Programmes also strengthen technical and vocational education and training systems to equip individuals with market-relevant skills and facilitate their transition into employment.



Investing in Critical Infrastructure, improving access to sustainable water and sanitation services while supporting employment-intensive investment approaches that advance decent work for some of the most vulnerable populations.

Outcomes and Impact

Since the beginning of the partnership's first phase in 2019, the PROSPECTS Partnership has moved beyond policy dialogue to deliver tangible benefits for both refugees and Jordanians. By investing in protection systems, strengthening education pathways and expanding access to wage employment and self-employment aligned with decent work principles, PROSPECTS is helping communities navigate immediate challenges while laying the foundations for long-term resilience.

These efforts have reached hundreds of thousands of people: from the registration and documentation of refugees to youth completing skills training and entrepreneurs building businesses of their own. The results reflect PROSPECTS' integrated approach – where protection, education and economic inclusion through productive employment and decent work reinforce each other to expand opportunity and hope across the country.

Protection and Social Protection

- **760,031 individuals** processed through UNHCR mandate registration
- **135,310 individuals** benefiting from legal support and case management services, including mental health and psychosocial support
- **44,456 individuals** benefiting from national social protection schemes

Education and Training

- **66,428 children** received school support through cash and in-kind aid
- **102,965 individuals** enrolled in technical or vocational education or skills training programs
- **83,059 teachers, facilitators and TVET trainers** completed professional development training programmes

Economic Inclusion

- **97,791 individuals** issued with work permits and/or business registrations
- **53,607 individuals** benefitted from employability trainings, career counselling, employment and job matching services
- **62,805 individuals** increased their income, enhanced their working conditions or maintained resilient livelihoods

Note: Some activities have relied on multi-donor contributions.

Mahmoud's Story



"Entrepreneurship is about seeing opportunities where others see nothing. What I needed was not charity, but a chance to prove what I can do."

After fleeing Syria, Mahmoud struggled to support his family through informal, low-paying jobs. In 2024, his situation began to change when he received business training and a small grant through UNHCR and the Jordan River Foundation under the PROSPECTS Partnership. The support enabled him to purchase a plastic shredding machine and launch a home-based recycling business. What started as a modest initiative in Madaba has since grown into Al-Furat Plastic Industries, a licensed enterprise operating from a warehouse in Sahab, Amman. The business now runs three shredding machines, sources materials from local factories and provides employment opportunities for both Syrian refugees and Jordanians. Mahmoud's profits have more than doubled, demonstrating how targeted support can help refugees achieve self-reliance while contributing to the local economy.