

A view from Jordan

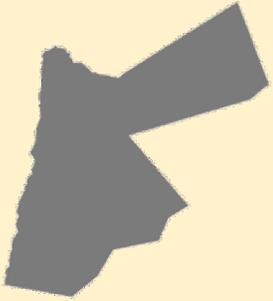
Setting the Context

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Facts about Jordan



Jordan is a small country located in the Middle East with a population of 10.5 Million

A young country that was established in 1921

Gender

47.1% Females

52.9% Males

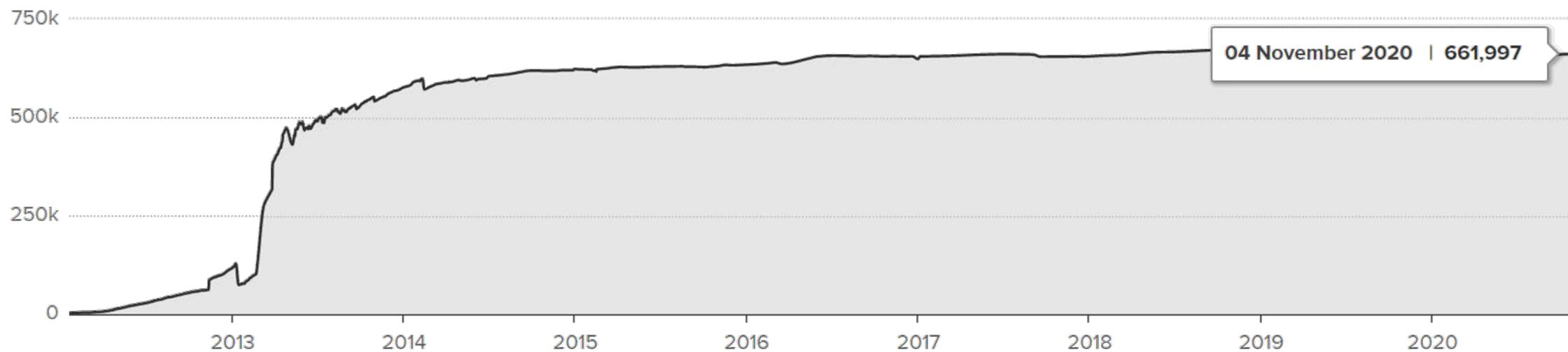
Age

44.3% 18 years of age and under

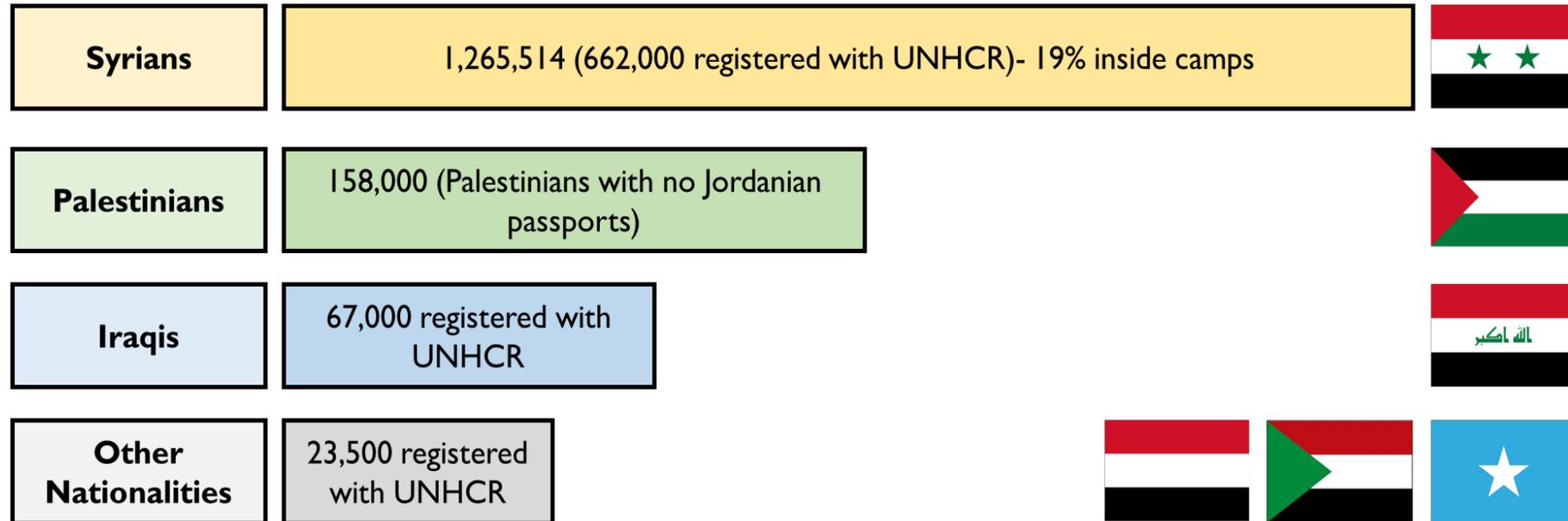
55.7% 19 years of age and over

Timeline of the Syrian refugees Coming to Jordan

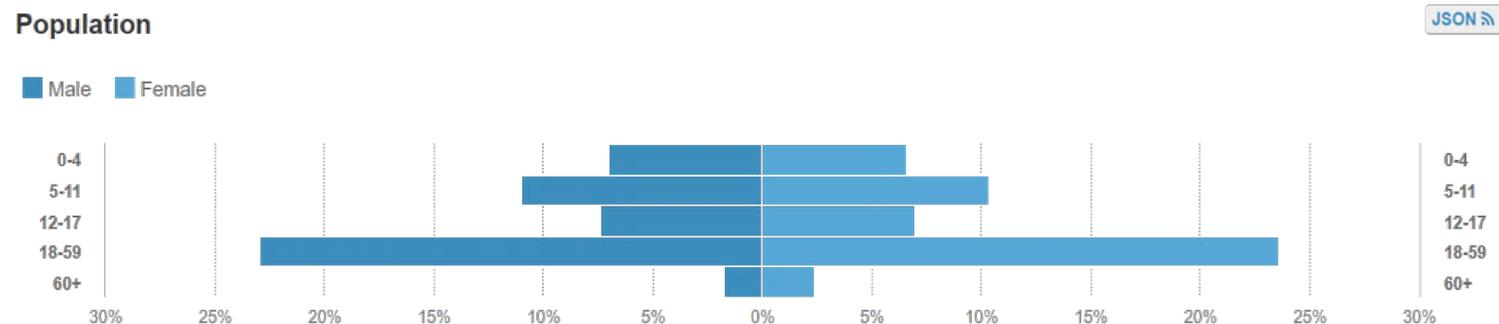
Registered Syrian Refugees by Date



Refugees in Jordan- Composition



Syrian refugees are disproportionately young, with half the refugee population under age 15



Host Communities

Host communities have partly benefited from the presence of refugees and the international aid that has come with them, but many Jordanians feel they are worse off because of the Syrians. Scarce job opportunities, hike in home rents, social conflict in addition to straining the educational and health systems at times, were all issues arising as key problems.

It does not look like refugees will be able to return to Syria any time soon, no matter how hard life in Jordan becomes.

Jordan and the international community should take the difficult but necessary steps to prevent the crisis from making life even worse for the country's most vulnerable residents. Failure to do so will lead to greater challenges, including an increasingly disenfranchised Jordanian periphery, in the coming years.

Mental Health of Syrian Refugees- Prior to COVID-19

Psychological distress affected 56% of refugees, while the prevalence rate for PTSD and depression was 18% and 30%, respectively.

The most common stressor experienced by Syrians living in refugee camps is worry about the well-being of their relatives who have dispersed to other refugee camps, moved to other countries, or remained in Syria and might have been tortured or killed.

Education of Syrian Refugee Children

Limited Data. According to Brussels II Conference 2018 data estimates, 56% of school-aged children among refugees in Jordan were in school.

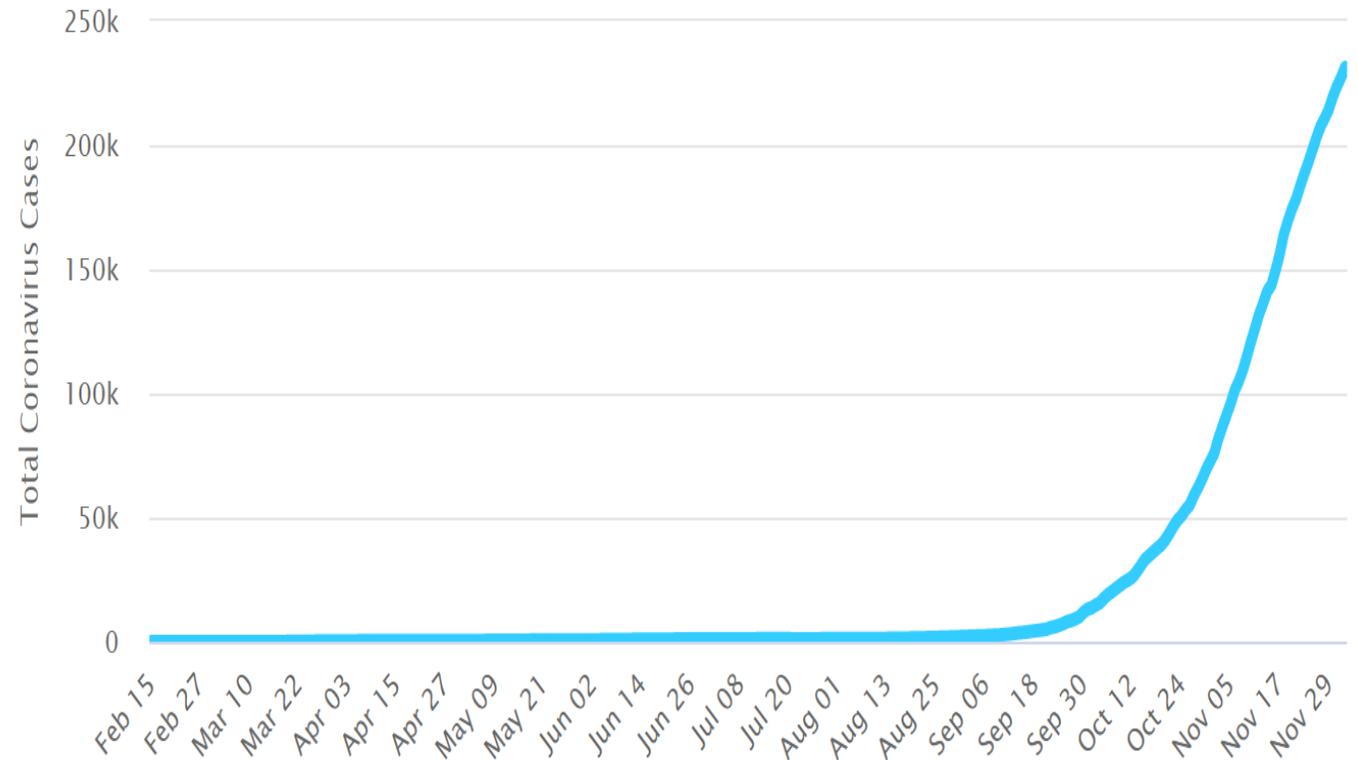
These rates are lower than the national rate of 83% in 2009 in Syria pre-conflict

The predominant model for Syrian refugees' education in Jordan has been integration into the Jordanian public school system, with a parallel educational system established for those refugees residing in camps.

Syrian Refugees in Jordan under COVID-19

Jordan and COVID-19

Jordan's initial response to COVID-19 was amongst the strictest worldwide where the country underwent a total civil and economic lockdown for three months, which resulted in a total case count of 1200 and 2 fatalities between March and August.



Jordan and COVID-19

Ever since August, Jordan has witnessed a surge in daily cases registered due to laxing of restrictions and allowing economic activities to resume, in addition to reopening of airports and borders.

Today, the situation is as follows:

Cases Registered	240,000
Fatalities	3,040
Recovered	173,000

Refugees' Economic Situation Under COVID-19

Emergency Response

More focus on emergency response than sustainable development, due to several factors amongst which country policies and regulations, the immediate and dire need for emergency response.

Government Economic Response

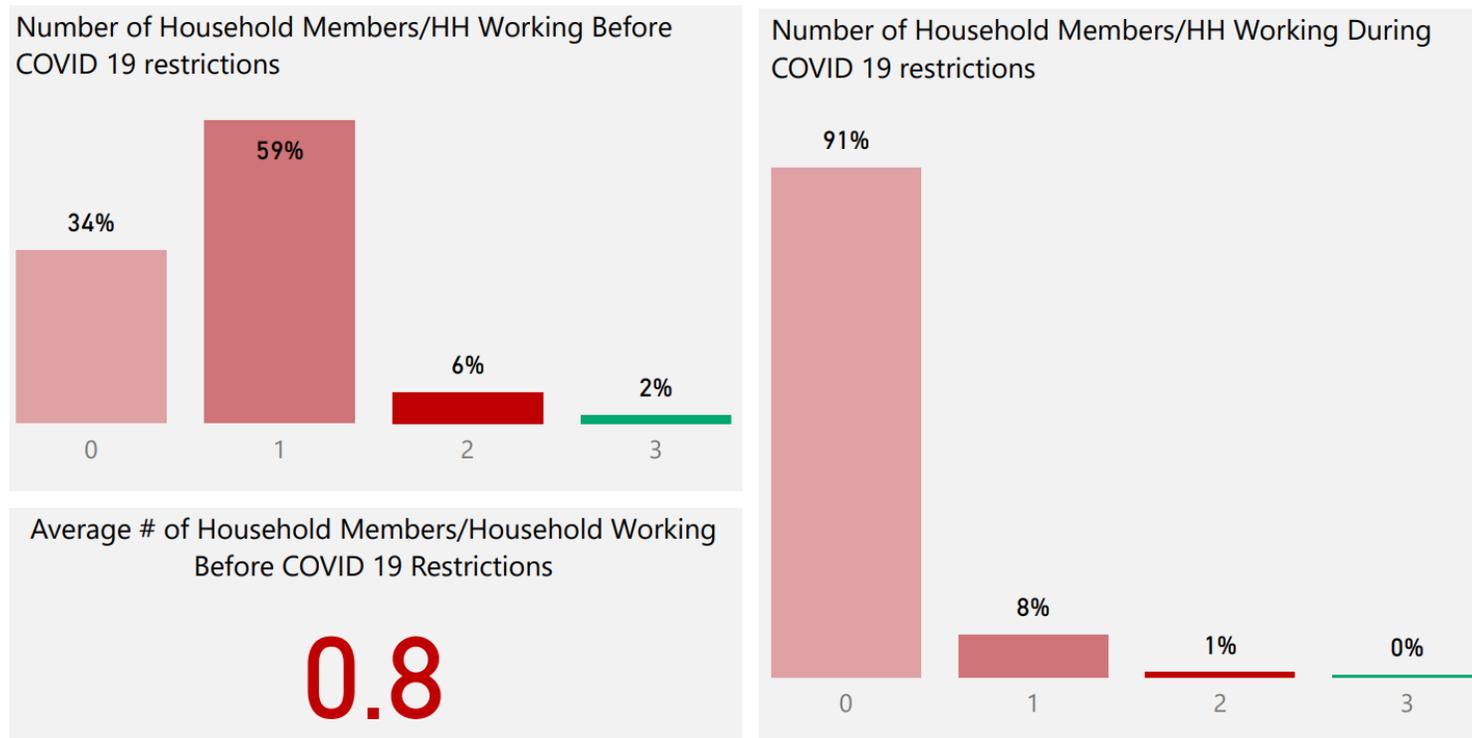
While the Government of Jordan has launched social protection programs through its National Aid Fund, none of those programs were directed at refugees. Leaving the heavy lifting to international donors and agencies.

UNHCR Cash Assistance

Only 17,000 out of 49,000 newly identified under COVID-19 vulnerable families received emergency cash support, as UNHCR is lacking the funds to extend its programmes.

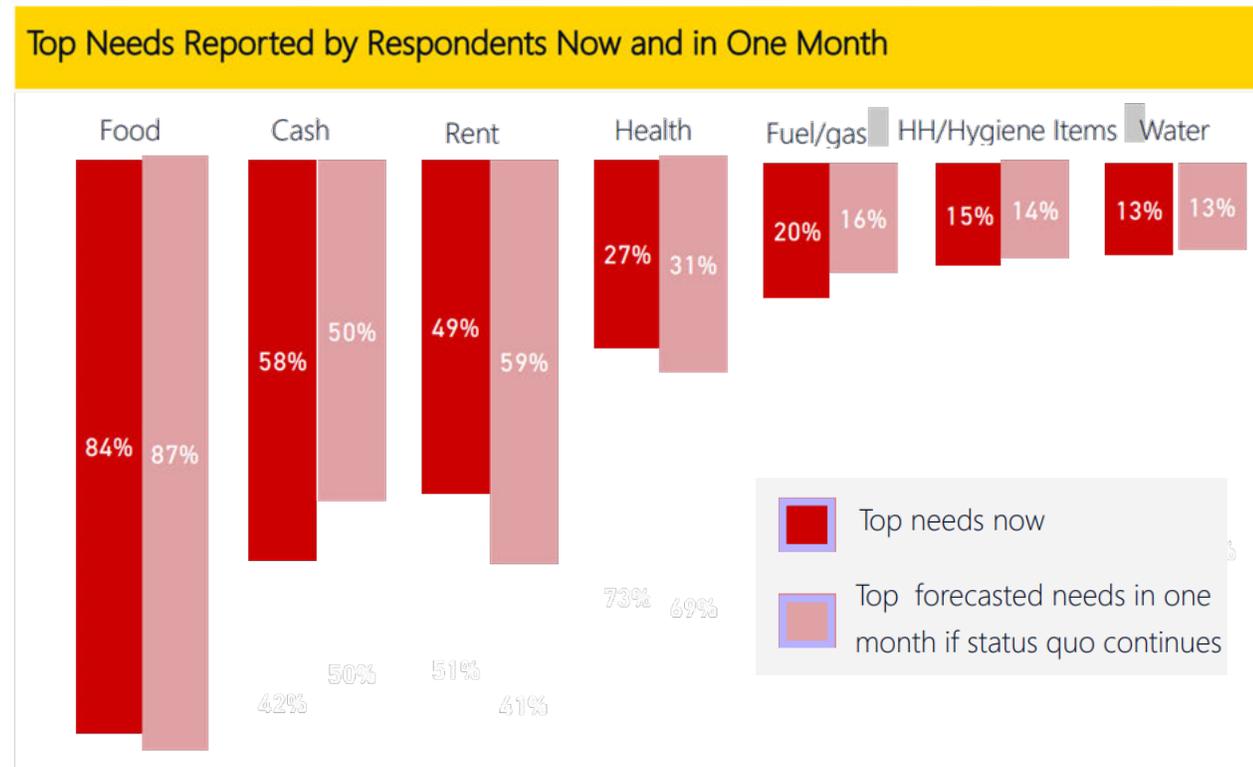
Refugees' Economic Situation Under COVID-19

According to study conducted by DRC earlier in the crisis, 91% of Syrians surveyed are unemployed after COVID-19 related restrictions



Refugees' Economic Situation Under COVID-19

As can be seen below, food, rent and health are forecasted to become more pressing needs should the restrictions resume.



Female Refugees under COVID-19

62% of Syrian women in refugee camps indicated they feel at increased risk of suffering physical or psychological violence due to:

Increased food insecurity

Increased tensions in the household

95 % of Syrian women reported that as a result of the crisis, they are spending more time than usual caring for family members, including children and the elderly.

If employment sectors reopen while kindergartens and schools do not

Prevent women from returning to work given they are expected to continue their care duties

Education under COVID- 19

There are 230,900 school age Syrian children in Jordan (those who are registered in UNHCR)

As the case with many educational systems around the globe, Jordan has shifted to online learning and launched Darsak platform was set out to reach 1.3 million students across Jordan.

However, multiple barriers are hindering the commitment of refugee students to their education, such as:

Limited equipment resources (TVs, Laptops, Phones, Tablets)

Limited network accessibility

The long-term impact of the current set-up on the drop-out rates beyond COVID-19. A prime example that Professor Baird will explain is the worry of Syrian parents if their children who dropped out of education will return post COVID-19

Recently, UNICEF identified the following challenges facing students in general and Syrian refugees in particular

Pedagogy and Distant Learning

Learning and E-Safety

Disparity in Access to Learning Opportunities

Learning Interactions



Research under COVID

- In-field activities were halted for three months, leaving many cases that needed assessment for receiving cash assistance unvisited.
- There is the real concern that research activities may contribute to the spread of COVID, therefore, a whole new protocol was established and launched with the field force, but in-field data collection activities resumed since June.
- Due to COVID-19, many face to face activities were transitioned to phone and virtual sessions, which maintained the data quality to a great extent, and kept both staff and respondents safe, but it decreased the rapport and increased the respondent fatigue. We had to break down the interviews into two or more sessions.
- Today, there is an abundance of research and sometimes duplication in research efforts by different actors, and the hope is that synthesis and collaboration will take place.

For any questions on Jordan, or research in Jordan, please contact me
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