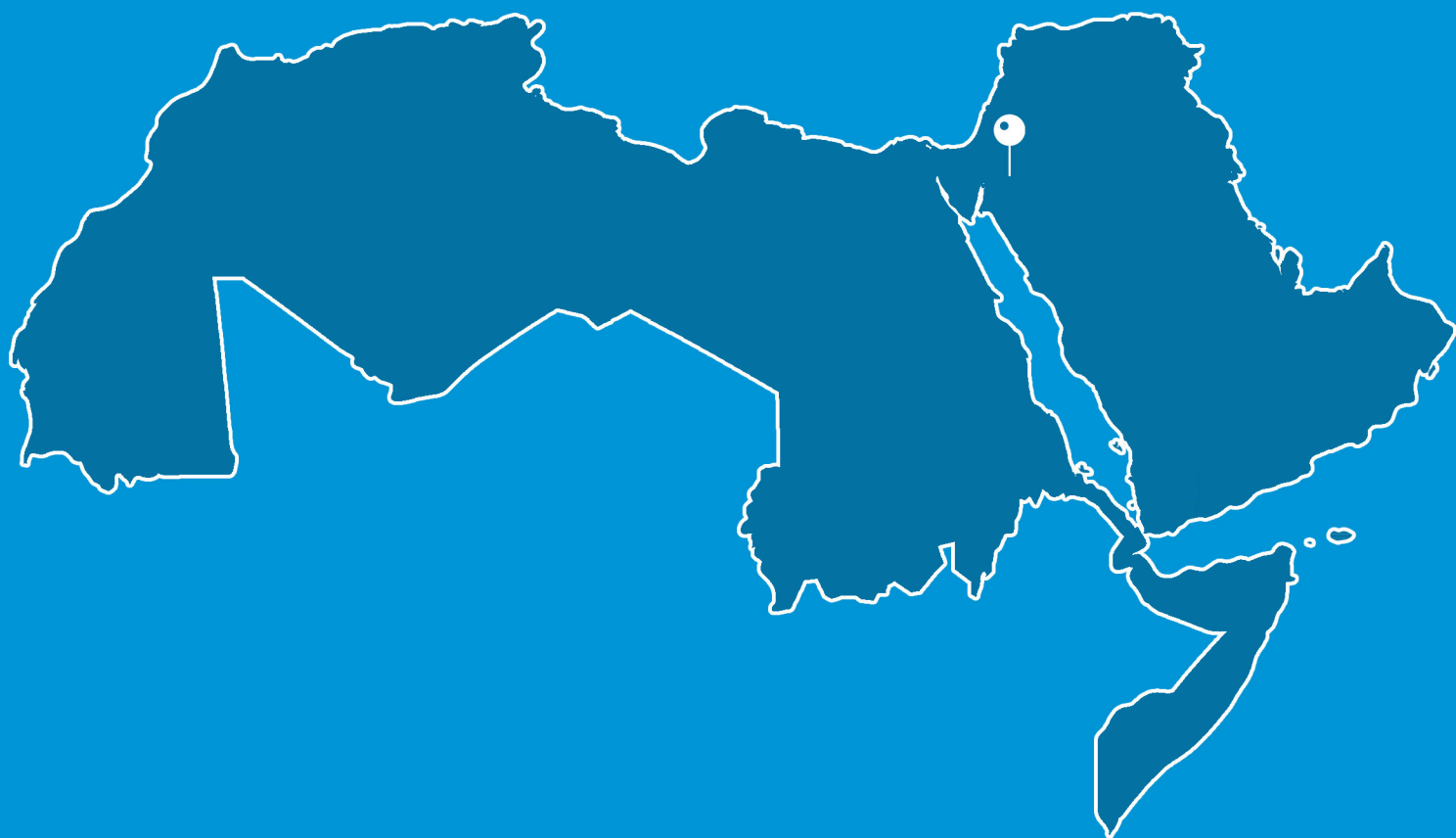


2019 Country Brief

# Jordan







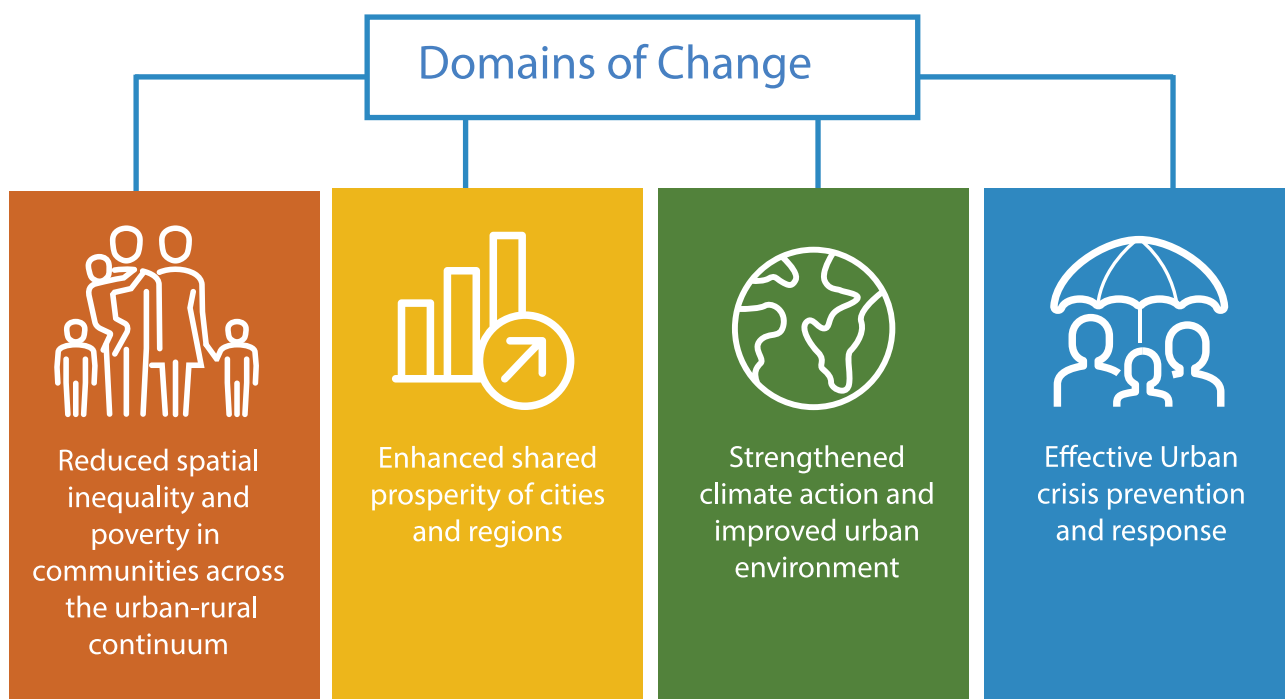
**UN-Habitat** envisions well-planned, well-governed, resilient and efficient cities and human settlements, with adequate housing, infrastructure, and universal access to employment and basic services. Its programmes and projects are designed to help policy-makers and local communities get to grips with human settlements and urban issues to achieve sustainable urban development to all. Applying its technical expertise, normative and operational work, UN-Habitat implements the New Urban Agenda and Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals, with a specific focus on SDG 11 – to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. As custodian agency, UN-Habitat plays a coordination role of monitoring and assessing the implementation of SDG 11 indicators.

In 2018 UN-Habitat launched an ambitious reform agenda to make the Agency more 'fit for purpose'. Its new Strategic Plan (2020 - 2023) reflects the new vision of the Agency and responds to emerging global priorities and is centered around four pillars;

reduced spatial inequality and poverty; enhanced shared prosperity; strengthened climate action and improved urban environment; and effective urban crisis prevention and response. UN-Habitat response spans four main drivers of change, namely policy and legislation, planning, governance and financing/implementation.



**Jordan** has been experiencing a steady increase in its urban population exacerbated by the successive waves of forced migrants from surrounding countries. Between 2004 to 2014, the population increased by nearly 87 per cent resulting in a wide range of urban challenges such as informal urban expansions, water deficiencies, shortage of housing and other basic services, increasing rental prices, environmental degradation and pollution and lack of decent job opportunities for all.

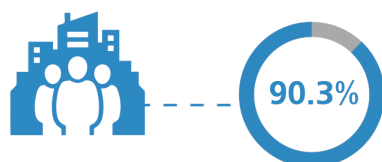


## Facts and Figures:

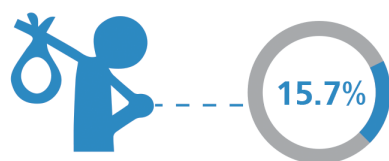
### Population <sup>(1)</sup>



### Urban population <sup>(2)</sup>



### Poverty <sup>(5)</sup>

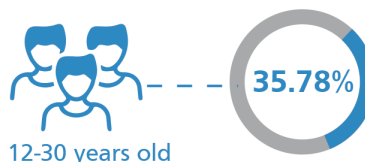


as a result of climate change <sup>(8)</sup>  
Floods have killed **35**  
and affected **150,000**  
people in Jordan  
in **2018**

### Urbanization rate <sup>(3)</sup>



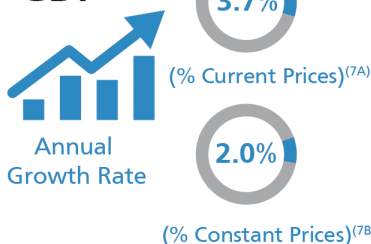
### Youth <sup>(4)</sup>



### Unemployment <sup>(6)</sup>



### GDP <sup>(7)</sup>



### Refugee population



Has the **second**  
highest share of  
refugees<sup>(9)</sup> per capita  
in the world; **89**  
refugees per **1,000**  
inhabitants (**2018**)

Other <sup>(16)</sup> : **1,687**

#### Iraqi<sup>(10)</sup>

Estimated total **750,000-1,000,000**  
UNHCR registered **67,266**

#### Sudanese<sup>(11)</sup>

**6,116**

#### Syrian<sup>(12)</sup>

Estimated total **1,400,000**  
UNHCR registered **654,568**

#### Somali<sup>(13)</sup>

**743**

#### Palestinian<sup>(14)</sup>

UNRWA registered **2,206,736**

#### Yemeni<sup>(15)</sup>

Estimated total **14,730**

1 Department of Statistics 2018, <http://dosweb.dos.gov.jo/>

2 Department of Statistics 2017, <http://dosweb.dos.gov.jo/DataBank/JordanInFigures/JORINFIGDetails2017.pdf>

3 <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/fields/349.html>

4 National Youth Strategy 2019 - 2025, 2018 [http://moy.gov.jo/sites/default/files/jord\\_an\\_national\\_youth\\_strategy\\_20192025\\_english\\_compressed\\_1.pdf](http://moy.gov.jo/sites/default/files/jord_an_national_youth_strategy_20192025_english_compressed_1.pdf)

5 UNICEF 2018, <https://www.mop.gov.jo/EchoBusV3.0/SystemAssets/pdf/MOP-pdf/NSPR-AR-2019-Final-NA.pdf>

6 Department of Statistics, <http://dosweb.dos.gov.jo/>

7(A) Department of Statistics, <http://dosweb.dos.gov.jo/DataBank/JordanInFigures/JORINFIGDetails2017.pdf>

7(B) UNICEF, <https://www.mop.gov.jo/EchoBusV3.0/SystemAssets/pdf/MOP-pdf/NSPR-AR-2019-Final-NA.pdf>

8 UNDP/ National Centre for Security and Crises Management (NCSCM)-Jordan National Disaster Risk-Jordan National Disaster Risk

9 UNHCR, <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/66556>

10 UNHCR, <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/72076>

11 UNHCR, <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/72076>

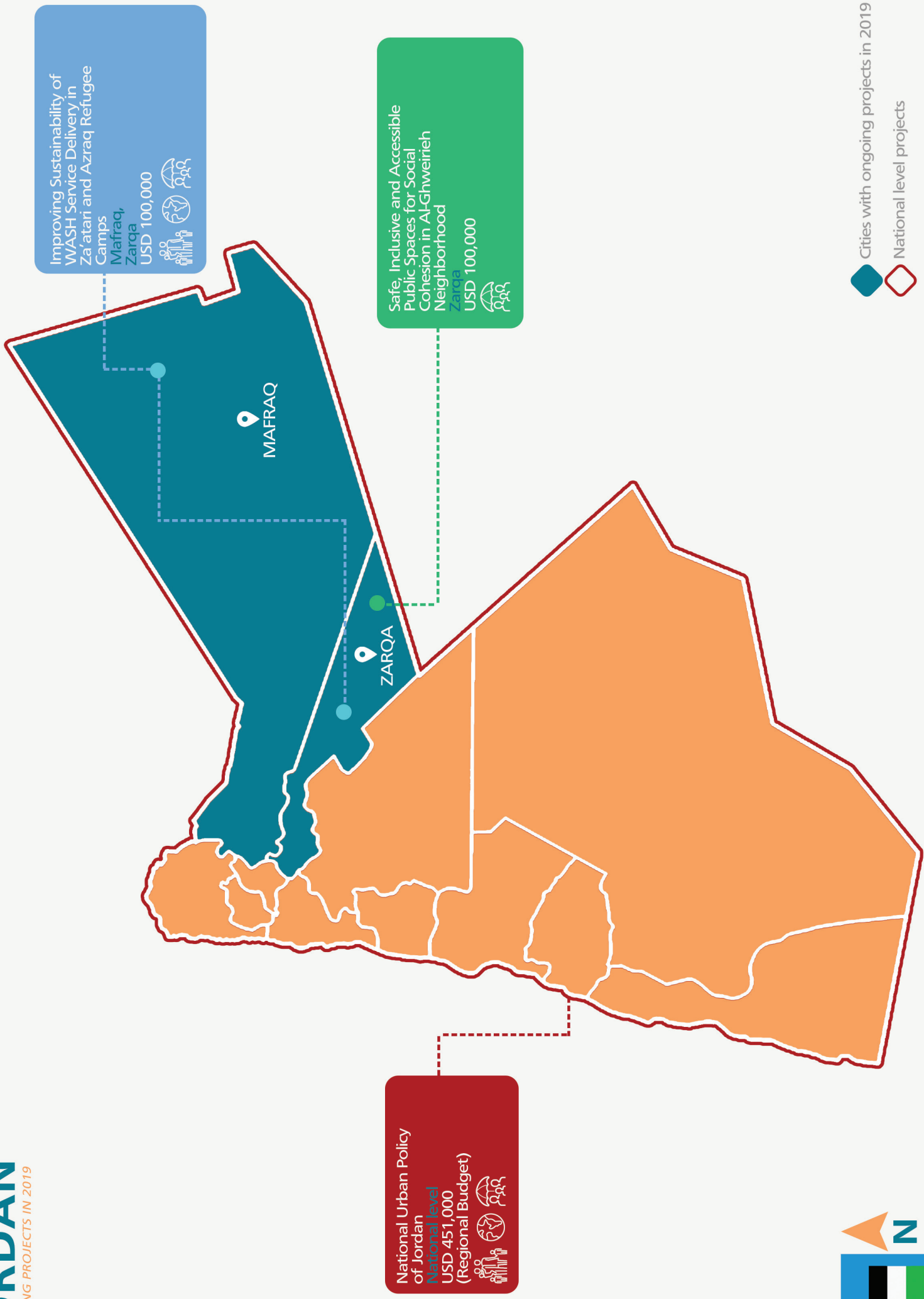
12 UNHCR, <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/72076>

13 UNHCR, <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/72076>

14 UNRWA, <https://www.unrwa.org/where-we-work/jordan>

15 UNHCR, <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/72076>

16 UNHCR, <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/72076>



◆ Cities with ongoing projects in 2019  
◻ National level projects

1 SUSTAINABLE, INCLUSIVE AND EVIDENCE-BASED NATIONAL URBAN POLICIES IN SELECTED ARAB STATES



2 SAFE, INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC SPACES FOR SOCIAL COHESION



3 IMPROVING SUSTAINABILITY OF WASH SERVICE DELIVERY



Reduced spatial inequality and poverty in communities across the urban-rural continuum

enhanced shared prosperity for cities and regions

strengthened climate action and improved urban environment

effective urban crises prevention and response

### SUSTAINABLE, INCLUSIVE AND EVIDENCE-BASED NATIONAL URBAN POLICIES IN SELECTED ARAB STATES

Launched in 2018, the project aims to strengthen capacities of policy makers in four selected Arab States, (Jordan, Lebanon, Tunisia and Sudan for more informed, sustainable and inclusive National Urban Policies (NUP). It works with national, sub-national and local governments to strengthen their policy-making processes while promoting a participatory and inclusive approach. Jordan National Urban Policy defines a common vision for its urban future, promotes institutional collaboration

and policy coherence among all stakeholders responsible for urban affairs, and catalyzes more sustainable practices. It stimulates wide stakeholder consultation to ensure an open, and collaborative policy development process. The National Urban Policy, developed in partnership with the Ministry of Local Administration (MoLA), provides a coordination framework that builds on and complements the existing policies and development strategies of Jordan; brings coherence across various urban sectors and scales of urban management; and enforces resilience, sustainability, accessibility, and prosperity for all city dwellers.



Tailored National Training on NUP in Jordan October 2019. © UN Habitat

## SAFE, INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC SPACES FOR SOCIAL COHESION

A public open space that enhances community cohesion and inclusiveness in Al- Ghweirieh Neighborhood was developed, promoting health and well-being for all citizens including refugees and vulnerable groups. The public space will contribute to creating an enabling environment that supports the community's rights, particularly women, youth and refugees on one hand, and delivering access to adequate urban environment on the other.

One year following its initiation, the project has succeeded in providing an adequate setting for social and cultural activities, instilling a mutual sense of pride and ownership among the locals, and shared dedication and stewardship for the spaces; continued well-being and fostered teamwork. The project has also generated employment opportunities among the locals during implementation phases.

The influx of refugees has exacerbated many issues in Zarqa, including unemployment, lack of affordable housing and lack of open spaces and green areas. Calculated at approximately 0.49m<sup>2</sup> of green area per inhabitant, residents in Zarqa suffered from the lack of safe and inclusive spaces and the lack of fund prevented the municipality from providing the needed space. In 2019, UN-Habitat designed and developed a public park in an inclusive and participatory approach together with members of the community. The design was collectively developed with community members through Minecraft workshops, and SGBV trainings were delivered to ensure accessibility of all members to the space. To date, the upgrading works have provided 15 job opportunities for locals in construction.



*Moath Al-Momani is one of many unemployed people receiving the chance to work in construction of the public space and stay in his neighborhood. For Al-Momani, this opportunity has made all the difference.  
© Nader Rabadi*



*"Our experience working in partnership with UN-Habitat proved very successful. As a pilot project, it's the first of its kind in developing a public space within one of Zarqas poorest and most deprived neighbourhoods.*

*Despite facing multiple social challenges, by working hand in hand with UN-Habitat we were able to overcome them, and transform the neglected plot into a welcoming space for the neighbourhood.  
- Mayor of Zarqa Eng. Emad Al Momani in an interview about the public space in Al-Ghweirieh neighbourhood project in Zarqa © UN-Habitat*

Reduced spatial inequality and poverty in communities across the urban-rural continuum

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Al-Ghweirieh Open Space-Before © UN Habitat



Al-Ghweirieh Open Space- after © UN Habitat

## IMPROVING SUSTAINABILITY OF WASH SERVICE DELIVERY

The project ensures the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, as well as sustainable water consumption and production patterns across the Za'atari and Azraq camp. It aims to scale up the previous project implemented by UN-Habitat called 'Improving Sustainability of WASH Service Delivery in the Za'atari and Azraq Refugee Camps in Jordan' which conducted a comprehensive WASH sector assessment for the camps and a series of activities that aimed to improve the water supply and conservation practices in the camps.

The project targets:

The local residents of the Za'atari and Azraq Syrian, Refugee camps

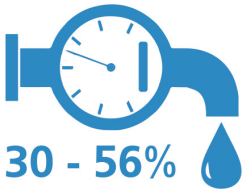


**WSDs** reduced water consumption for each household by around **%25**

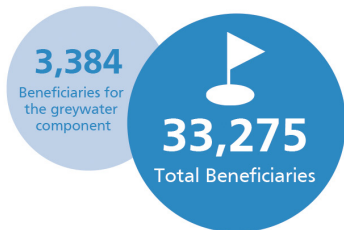
The project targets the local residents of the Za'atari and Azraq Syrian, refugee camps, improving their sustainable use of water and contributes to the overall sustainability of the water resources in Jordan through successfully installing water saving devices in 1,896 households as well as 8 greywater reuse systems in 5 Makani centers and 3 schools in the Za'atari and Azraq camps, all supported by training activities that aimed to raise awareness on water conservation and hygiene.



Establishing **8** Greywater reuse systems in **5** Makani centers & **2** schools in Za'atari Camp



**30 - 56%**  
Reduced monthly water consumption



By the end of **2019**,

The project has conducted **134** training sessions on hygiene promotion and water conservation practices, attended by **1,148** women, youth and children



In one of the four organized, planned settlement villages inside the Azraq Refugee Camp, home to 36,000 Syrian refugees, Wardeh, a 16-year-old Syrian girl from Halab lives with passion and excitement as she readies for her daily routine. After moving to Jordan following the outbreak of the Syrian Civil War, her days revolve around her friends, family, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) awareness sessions at the Makani Centre, where she learns about water conservation, health, and hygiene practices. The WASH awareness sessions are part of Action Against Hunger's ongoing WASH programming in Azraq Refugee Camp, supported by UNICEF and UN-Habitat. Within the Makani Centre, a child-friendly safe space in the camp, this programme focuses on building the capacities of youth to contribute to the WASH services and adapt and practice key personal hygiene behaviours. After her grandmother left the country to live in Azraq Camp in Jordan, the rest of her family also left their home in search of refuge. "We moved continually from one place to another until my parents finally decided they had no choice but to leave the country." The family moved from Halab (Aleppo), to Al Sham, to Naseeb, then to Dara'a, before finally settling in Jordan. For the first two years, the family struggled to access humanitarian aid and the children were unable to enroll in schools for three years as they left their identification cards in Syria when they fled.

When her father was no longer able to support the family, they moved to Azraq Refugee Camp, where she met Yasmeen and Shayma'a, who became her best friends. They encouraged her to attend the WASH awareness session at the Makani Centre where she learned about the different water sources, water conservation, and disease prevention. Wardeh believes that "God gifted us with water, and we have to protect it as, it is precious, and we should not waste it". When asked the most important thing she learned from these sessions, she said, "Now that I have learned how to preserve water, I can teach the next person about how not to waste water and other tips I learned".

Her hunger for knowledge led her to pick up drawing as a way of reflecting what she learned in the WASH sessions. Within a short time, this became her passion. She says the most important thing is to respect the water you are using, as there are others in need of such a resource. She hopes that "when people see my drawings, they will envision in their minds about how important it is not to waste water; that we have to be aware of these situations and use it efficiently".



Wardeh in front of one of the Makani Center caravans with her drawing on water conservation at Azraq Camp. © Zein Al Maha Oweis

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## Social Inclusion and Cross-cutting issues:

### UN-Habitat Jordan mainstreams

**Social inclusion**, (encompassing human rights; gender; children, youth and older persons; and disability); and **crosscutting issues** (resilience and safety), outlined by the Strategic Plan (2020-2023) in all its projects to ensure that all projects those furthest behind and promoting socially and environmentally sustainable cities.

### A safe space for the community of Al-Ghweirieh, Jordan

At Al-Ghweirieh neighborhood an open space was used as a waste dump and was considered by the community as a health hazard. UN-Habitat, together with community members and in collaboration with Zarqa municipality, transformed the open area into a multi-purpose public space to ensure the whole community needs are catered for.

*Faisal Jbour (Abu-Rakan), "my children and I are witnessing the transformation of what was considered a health hazard into something great. I hope we as residents work together to keep this space well maintained, as it was a long lived dream before becoming reality".*



Faisal Jbour resident of Al-Ghweirieh neighbourhood in an interview about the space  
© UN Habitat

## Women of Zaatari and Azraq Camps breaking social stigmas and protecting the environment

With the high and increasing influx of refugees to Jordan, employment opportunities for refugees are very limited, especially for women who experience exclusion when it comes to certain jobs such as managing solid waste. UN-Habitat's "Improving Sustainability of WASH Service Delivery in Za'atari and Azraq. Refugee Camps" project trains women refugees on SWM sorting, litter picking and baling through cash for work opportunities in Zaatari Camp. To date, around 130 women refugees were trained on SWM and Litter picking as well as

144 provided with cash for work opportunities, breaking social stigmas that confine these jobs to men. As a result of the projects activities 8 tons of PET have been recycled.

*"At the beginning, it was difficult for me to undertake responsibilities and roles that are socially confined to men; but now, I have my own job, and I am able to make my own decisions. This makes me feel empowered and that there's actual equality between men and women. I encourage women to work and take more responsibilities. Women and men are equally capable and equally essential to achieve success."*



Yasmin is a widow and a mother of 10 and one of the first women to work in Oxfam's recycling facilities in Za'atari camp. © Nesma AlNsour

The work of UN-Habitat in Jordan has been made possible by the contribution of our donors:



Global Water Challenge (GWC)<sup>1</sup>



UN DESA

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)<sup>2</sup>



European Union (EU)



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

<sup>1</sup><http://www.globalwaterchallenge.org/>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.un.org/development/desa/en/>

## Outlook:

With the ongoing urbanization of Jordan and continuous influx of refugees, Jordan faces many challenges. UN-Habitat Jordan Programme aims to respond to emerging needs as well as contribute to long term development. The regional project “Increasing the resilience of both displaced persons and host communities to climate change-related water challenges in Jordan and Lebanon”, starting in 2020 with support from the Adaptation Fund, will address climate change-related water challenges, with a focus on municipalities with the highest number of Syrian refugees. Further, the project “Strengthening the Social Stability and Resilience of Vulnerable Jordanian Communities and Syrian Refugees in Amman Against Flash Floods” will address the issue of flash floods which in 2018 affected 150,000 people. The “Safe, inclusive and accessible Public Space for Social Cohesion in Marka Neighbourhood, Amman” will improve safe and inclusive access to public space in Amman, pave the way for cultural exchange, tolerance and willingness to sustain dialogue and help reduce social tension between Syrian refugees and local community. Finally, the project “Enhancing road safety & promoting inclusive, accessible and sustainable urban mobility in Jordan and Lebanon” is another regional project which aims to tackle urban mobility challenges in major cities in Jordan and Lebanon with a focus on addressing lack of safety measures to promote sustainable modes of transport.

## Country Profile Jordan

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