



UN-HABITAT  
**JORDAN**  
2023



UN-Habitat Jordan 2023

Copyright © United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) 2023

All rights reserved

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

63, Tayseer Na'na'ah Street, South Abdoun, Amman, Jordan.

Tel: +962799 1222 23

[www.unhabitat.org](http://www.unhabitat.org)

Text and Layout Design: Abdel Rahman Al-Zoubi and Alia Asad

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>URBAN CONTEXT AND CHALLENGES</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>FACTSHEET</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>SUMMARY OF CURRENT PORTFOLIO</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>PROJECT PROPOSALS</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>MAP OF PROJECTS TO BE FUNDED</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>PROJECT PROPOSAL #1</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>PROJECT PROPOSAL #2</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>PROJECT PROPOSAL #3</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>CONTACT INFORMATION</b>	<b>34</b>



## URBAN CONTEXT AND CHALLENGES

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is facing persistent, systemic problems on the ground that hinder its pursuit towards sustainable development. With a population of 11,312,000 in 2023, 63% of which are under the age of 30, Jordan's population nearly doubled between 2004 and 2015, coinciding with the political situations in Iraq and Syria. The Kingdom currently holds the second highest percentage of refugees per capita in the world, hosting 89 refugees per 1,000 inhabitants<sup>2</sup>. Despite high education rates, Jordan has one of the highest unemployment rates in the MENA region, which has especially affected youth and women. According to the Department of Statistics (DoS), the unemployment rate reached 23.1%, with 33.1% of women being unemployed.

Additionally, 90.3% of Jordan's population live in urban areas<sup>2</sup>. Accordingly, unequal urbanisation is a major challenge, whereby weak urban planning practices along with Jordan's rapid urbanisation in concentrated areas, driven in part by influxes of refugees, has led to the inadequate distribution and access to basic services and public facilities, such as education, health, public spaces, and sewerage and stormwater drainage networks. Moreover, there is a significant mismatch between housing supply and demand. The lack of affordable adequate housing has become a critical issue due to the inflated prices of land, construction, and energy. Furthermore, inadequate mobility options have resulted in major environmental, economic, and social challenges, and public transportation is costly and time consuming, exacerbating the vulnerabilities of refugees and people with low incomes.

Within this context, Jordanian municipalities suffer from a cycle of shifting, well-intentioned but short-term and sector-specific interventions that result in their struggle to provide long-term, sustainable solutions. This has resulted in communities facing increased long-term vulnerabilities, a lack of self-reliance, and insufficient access to urban services and opportunities.

Challenges also arise due to the lack of resources and the dependency on importing. As the second most water scarce country, Jordan is struggling to meet domestic water needs. Climate change has emerged as a significant and complex phenomenon that catalyzes greater levels of water and food insecurity, reduced agricultural productivity, and fragility of land and ecosystem. Jordan is exposed to multiple hazards<sup>3</sup>, with flood risk being an increasing challenge. However, there is a limited proactive approach to disaster prevention and mitigation due to insufficient institutional capacities, lack of awareness among officials and communities, and unsatisfactory implementation of existing policies.

1 UN Refugee Agency (UHCR), 2018

2 Department of Statistic (DoS), 2021

3 CADRI Partnership Team, 2018







*A view of Al Hashmi Al Shamali Neighbourhood in Amman ©UN-Habitat 2021*



# FACTSHEET



The total population of Jordan is 11.3 million<sup>1</sup>



90.3% of total population are living in urban areas<sup>2</sup>



The estimated annual rate of urbanisation is 0.98%<sup>3</sup>



35.78% of the total population are youth (12-30 years old)<sup>4</sup>



Is the 2<sup>nd</sup> host country of refugees per capita in the world.<sup>5</sup> Around 4 million refugees reside in Jordan



16 refugee camps are located in Jordan, 13 of which are for Palestinians, and 3 for Syrians



The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2022 is 2.9%<sup>6</sup>



Jordan has a high Human Development Index value of 0.72<sup>7</sup>



The unemployment rate is 22.6%<sup>8</sup>



14.4% of the population are living in poverty<sup>9</sup>



99.9% of the population has access to electricity<sup>10</sup>



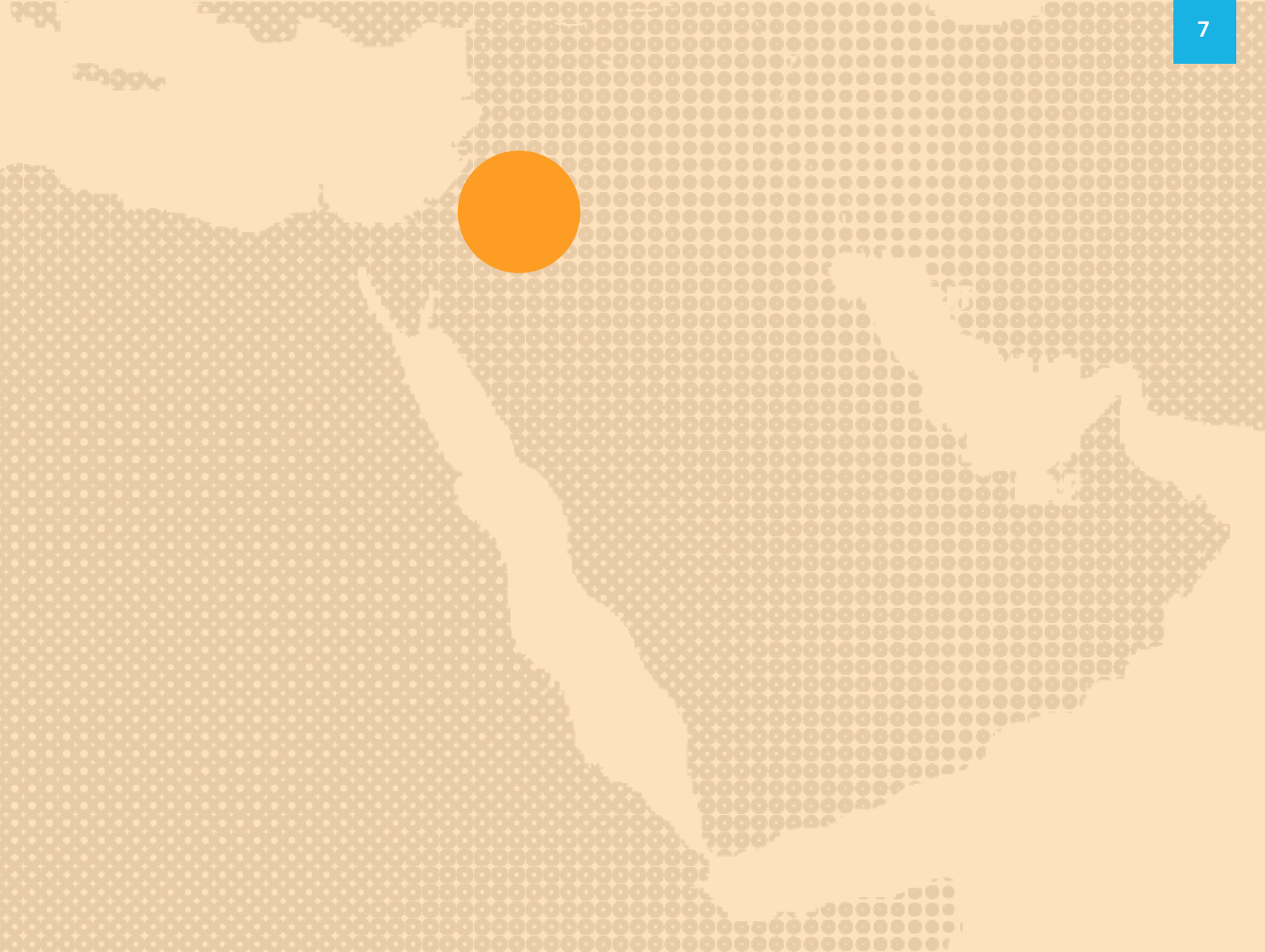
82% of the population are using safely managed sanitation services<sup>11</sup>



Jordan is the 2<sup>nd</sup> most water scarce country in the World<sup>12</sup>



Jordan's production of CO2 emission is 2.4 tCO2e per capita<sup>13</sup>



1.1% of the land area is forest<sup>14</sup>



Jordan ranked 73 out of 182 in vulnerability to climate change<sup>15</sup>



53% of Jordanians are vulnerable to food-insecurity<sup>16</sup>



There is a lack of green public spaces in Jordan. In Amman, public spaces only cover around 2% of the planned areas, while in some cities less than 0.5% of planned areas are public parks<sup>17</sup>

1 Population Clock of the Department of Statistics (DoS) as of 04/09/2022.

2 Estimates of the DoS, 2021

3 Estimates of 2020-2025

4 Data and age definition is in accordance with National Youth Strategy 2019-2025

5 UN Refugees Agency, Jordan Fact Sheet, 2018

6 DoS, 2022

7 Human Development Index of the UNDP, 2021

8 Unemployment rate for Jordanians, the second quarter of 2022, DoS, 2022

9 DoS, 2010

10 The World Bank Data, 2020

11 The World Bank Data, 2020

12 Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene, UNICEF Jordan, no date.

13 The World Bank Data, 2019

14 The World Bank Data, 2020

15 Jordan scored 51.4 in ND-GAIN Index, 2022

16 The National Food Security Strategy 2021 - 2030, Gov of Jordan, 2021

17 Amman Spatial Profile, UN-Habitat, 2022



# SUMMARY OF CURRENT PORTFOLIO

The UN-Habitat Jordan programme aims to address the emerging needs of vulnerable local communities through participatory projects on the ground, technical assistance, and policy development, leaving no one and no place behind. UN-Habitat plays a coordination role of monitoring and assessing the implementation of SDG 11 indicators and envisions well-planned, well-governed, resilient, and efficient cities and human settlements.

Expanding its operations across different municipalities, UN-Habitat Jordan has been working on multiple integrated focus areas, including policy development, disaster risk reduction, climate adaptation, public space, COVID-19 response, WASH, food security, and infrastructure and basic services. Responding to current urban challenges, UN-Habitat developed the first Jordan National Urban Policy (JNUP), which provides a coherent set of decisions that assists in transforming current urbanization patterns into an engine for development, allowing integrated urban planning for compact and inclusive cities that are better connected and resilient.



An image of the official publishing of the Amman Spatial Profile with GAM City Manager and the representative of the Swiss Embassy in Jordan, @UN-Habitat 2022



An image of Dr Erfan Ali, UN-Habitat Regional Representative for the Arab States, during the launching of the VLR of Amman City, @UN-Habitat 2022

“

I'm grateful for this opportunity to learn and benefit. I hope that in the future I can develop these skills to gain employment that will benefit me, my daughters, my family and my self-sufficiency.

”



**Rabah, a female Syrian refugee participant at the community garden training**

Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable Development in Urban Areas Hosting Syrian Refugees in Jordan and Turkey

“

This is a unique project that is being implemented in Amman for the first time. We look forward to it being a catalyst for hundreds of projects as well as for larger strategic solutions in the near future.

”



**H.E. Dr. Yousef Al-Shawarbeh, Mayor of Amman at the inauguration of the Al Zohour Green Triangle.**

Strengthening the Social Stability and Resilience of Vulnerable Jordanian Communities and Syrian Refugees in Amman against Flash Floods



An image of the participatory workshop with the local community of Al Hashmi Al Janoubi Neighborhood in Amman, ©UN-Habitat 2022



An image of the new Ghor Al Safi Park and Community Center after the opening ceremony, ©UN-Habitat 2022

This support has been localized in the Urban Planning and Infrastructure in Migration Contexts (UPIMC) programme, whereby UN-Habitat has been supporting Jordanian municipalities with developing a long-term strategic approach in connecting migration and displacement affected neighborhoods with access to public services through bankable infrastructure investments. UN-Habitat's work endeavors to support connecting short-term humanitarian responses with long-term development interventions to enable more comprehensive and inclusive development. In this vein, UN-Habitat, in close cooperation with the Greater Amman Municipality, led the development of the first Voluntary Local Review (VLR) in the Arab region for the city of Amman, with a strong recognition of the importance of data collection and management for the planning decision-making process and the sustainability of cities.

Additionally, across urban and rural areas, UN-Habitat has developed green public spaces in Marka, Zarqa, Ghor Al Safi, as well as Souf and Al-Shahid Palestinian refugee camps as entry points to address community needs.



**Sabah, a female Jordanian and one of the beneficiaries, describing the new Ghor Al Safi Park and Community Center.**

The Socio-Economic Empowerment of Vulnerable Women in Ghor Al Safi through Improving Access to Safe, Inclusive and Green Public Spaces

“ Comfortable open space for fresh air... Since it is an open space in the centre of a residential area, it has been a space for us to promote our businesses and for them to become known among many people. ”



**Abd Al Kareem, a person with disabilities, after the rehabilitation of Fatima Al Zahraa Park in Marka Neighbourhood, Amman.**

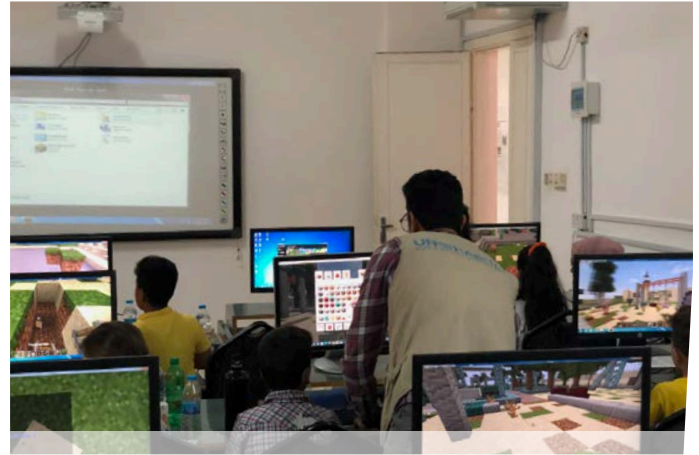
Safe, Inclusive, and Accessible Public Space for Social Cohesion in Marka Neighbourhood

“ Our movement has become much easier. Before, we used to struggle going up the stairs when we wanted to go up, but now we go up the ramps very easily. ”



These spaces are avenues for social cohesion, economic opportunities, addressing gender-based violence, and improving the health of communities living in overcrowded areas. Public participation has been the foundation of this development, with different tools, such as Minecraft, being utilized to engage marginalized communities, including women, refugees, and persons with disabilities.

With climate change being a significant challenge, UN-Habitat Jordan has been working closely with national and local institutions to reduce the impacts on vulnerable populations. This includes through demonstrating concrete adaptation measures for refugees and host communities to respond to climate change-related water challenges and to reduce the demand of unsustainable water sources. Additionally, UN-Habitat has been working with stakeholders to implement a comprehensive and integrated response against flash floods through community consultations, awareness raising, capacity building to enhance resilience to floods, improving urban management and construction standards, mainstreaming climate change into local plans, and implementing



An image of Kids designing Souf Park using the Minecraft, ©UN-Habitat 2022



An image of opening of the Al Zohour Green Triangle Project, ©UN-Habitat 2022



“ I would like to extend our great thanks to our strategic partner, UN-Habitat, for implementing this programme [UPIMC] with tremendous engagement and with an excellent local team... It's really a pleasure to be partners on this [UPIMC] Programme. ”

**Ms. Caroline Tissot, Deputy Head of Mission, Regional Head of Cooperation from the Embassy of Switzerland, at UN-Habitat workshop Urban Planning and Infrastructure in Migration Contexts (UPIMC) Programme**



“ I believe and hope very strongly that this project can be a very good model for the future... I hope that the Japanese government and Japanese people can continue our collaboration with UN-Habitat. ”

**H.E. Mr. SHIMAZAKI Kaoru, former Ambassador of Japan to Jordan, about the Al-Zohour Green Triangle**

Strengthening the Social Stability and Resilience of Vulnerable Jordanian Communities and Syrian Refugees in Amman against Flash Floods





An image of participants from the training on rainwater harvesting, ©UN-Habitat 2021

green infrastructure measures and nature-based systems. This integrated approach goes beyond purely physical infrastructure and engages communities and other relevant stakeholders from the outset to ensure the sustainability and scalability of its outcomes. Moreover, through implementing and building capacities on sustainable agriculture interventions, UN-Habitat has been setting the groundwork for recognizing the important relationship between food security, agriculture, climate adaptation, and urbanization.



An image of participants from urban gardening training, ©UN-Habitat 2022

**7.6M USD**  
Total Value of Current Portfolio

“ We had a lot of fun today and [UN-Habitat] taught us about keeping ourselves safe... We also planted flowers today and really enjoyed ourselves. ”



**Habeeb, a young boy living in Souf camp, who participated in the raising awareness session**

Enhancing the Safety and Resilience of Palestinian Refugees Through Improving Access to Water and Sanitation Facilities in Public Spaces

“ I attended workshops with UN-Habitat, who met the residents of the Al Hashmi Al Janoubi Neighborhood to address the challenges, our needs and the opportunities available in the neighbourhood. We identified these on maps to tackle the challenges. ”



**Sulieman Al Kurdi, a resident of Al Hashmi Al Janoubi Neighbourhood, and Neighbourhood Mukhtar**

Urban Planning and Infrastructure in Migration Contexts (UPIMC) Programme





*The BRT extension in Amman ©UN-Habitat 2021*



# PROJECT PROPOSALS



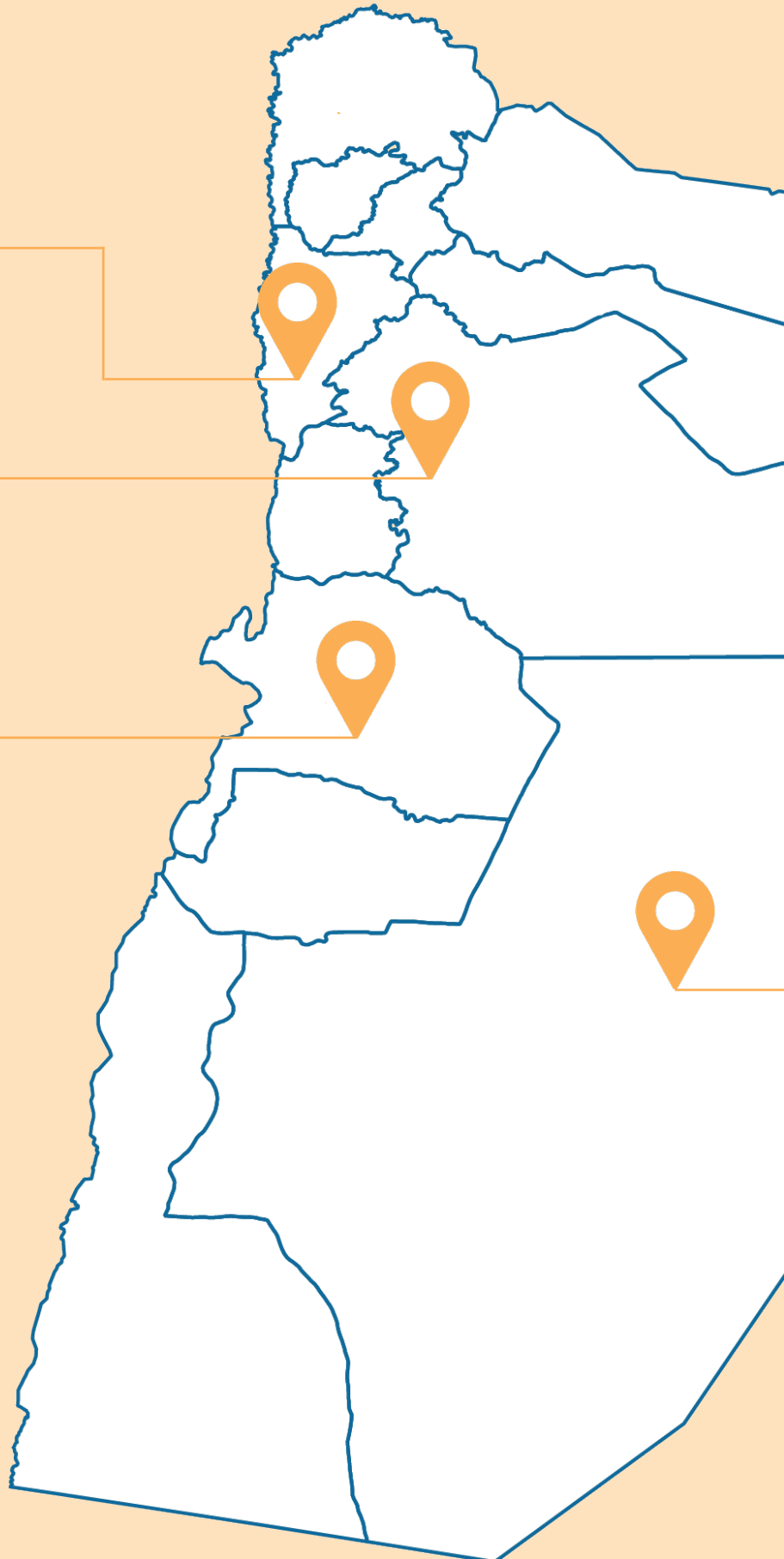


# MAP OF PROJECTS TO BE FUNDED

**Enhancing Al-Salt's Green Public Spaces and Living Heritage for Socio-Economic Development**

**Unleashing the Potential for a Better Quality of Life in the Al-Hashmi Al Janoubi Neighbourhood of Amman**

**The Socio-Economic Empowerment of Vulnerable Women in Poverty Pockets through Improving Access to Safe and Green Public Spaces**





**The Socio-Economic  
Empowerment of Vulnerable  
Women in Poverty Pockets  
through Improving Access to  
Safe and Green Public Spaces**

**7,500,000 USD**

**Total Requested Budget**

# 1<sup>st</sup> PROPOSAL

**Unleashing the Potential for  
a Better Quality of Life in  
the Al-Hashmi Al Janoubi  
Neighbourhood of Amman**





**PARTNERS**

Greater Amman Municipality, Jordan Water Authority (Miyuhana), and Ministry of Health



**TIMEFRAME**

3 Years



**LOCATION**

Al Hashimi Al Janoubi neighborhood, Amman, Jordan



**ESTIMATED BUDGET**

3,000,000 USD



**SDGs ALIGNMENT**



**TARGET BENEFICIARY GROUP**

Direct: The local community of Al Hashimi Al Janoubi, and the neighboring communities  
Indirect: Amman residents

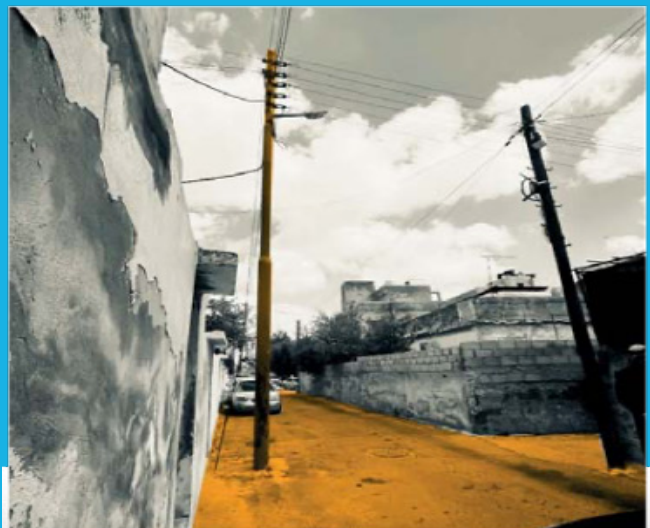
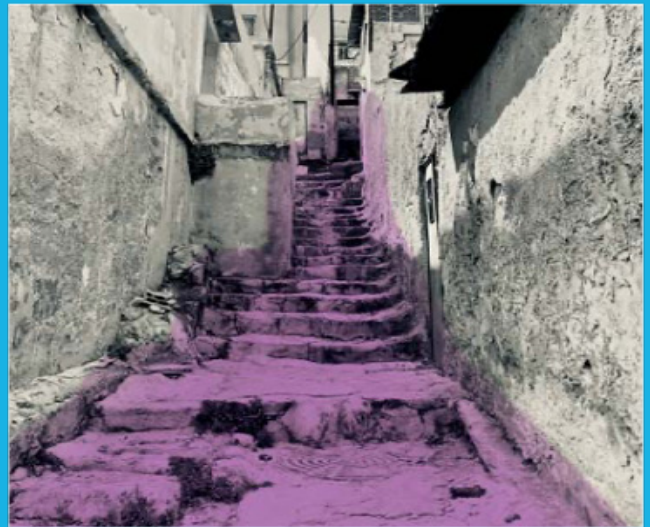
# CONTEXT

As part of the Urban Planning and Infrastructure in Migration Contexts (UPIMC) programme, in partnership with the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), UN-Habitat supported the Greater Amman Municipality (GAM) in developing long-term strategies that improve access to services and socio-economic opportunities for displaced populations and host communities living in challenging situations, through financeable infrastructure investments. The programme consists of four interlinked components: Spatial analytics and urban profiling; Developing a strategic vision and scenario building; Defining prioritized infrastructure investments and establishing linkage to financing; and Contributing to knowledge exchange.

In the first component, the Jordan team developed the Amman Spatial Profile, which analyzed the national, regional, and city scale, and zooming down to the neighborhood level. It provided local stakeholders with a comprehensive spatial understanding of the existing situation as a basis for decision-making, long-term urban development strategies, and infrastructure investment planning.

Based on the analysis, the pilot neighborhood chosen from Amman City was Al Hashmi Al Janoubi. A strategic vision and scenarios were developed for the selected neighborhood, through a participatory approach that engaged the local community and relevant stakeholders, and based on the spatial analysis and evidence. The optimal scenario developed provides the rationale and evidence in identifying investment projects needed within the neighborhood, that are both financially viable, and aid in building inclusive, resilient neighborhoods.

To identify the prioritized investment projects that should be implemented over the first five years of the optimal scenario implementation action plan, the identified needed projects were scored through a developed prioritization matrix. The scoring matrix was used to identify the highest priority projects according to their urgency, the transformative impact on the social, environmental, economic, and spatial aspects, as well as the alignment with the existing governmental plans. The scoring also considered the assessment of the local community and key stakeholders in identifying the high priority projects.



Through the UPIMC Programme, the local community identified the dangerous stairs and road infrastructure as some of the main challenges that hinder their access to basic services, safety, and mobility. The community also highlighted the need to upgrade the sewerage and water networks in the neighborhood.

# PROJECT OVERVIEW

## PURPOSE

The main purpose of this project is to improve access to services and socioeconomic opportunities for displaced populations and the host community in the Al Hashimi Al Janoubi neighborhood through implementing the identified high-priority projects. This will be done by transforming the evidence-based studies into tangible impacts on the ground in the neighborhood. The project also aims to assist GAM in understanding issues at the neighborhood level, and implementing infrastructure projects at the local scale. Implementing these projects will help realize the neighborhood vision for Al Hashimi Al Janoubi, which was formulated with the local community: “An Inclusive, Liveable, and Sustainable Neighbourhood where All are Proud to Live in.”

To achieve the vision and the optimal scenario for Al Hashimi Al Janoubi by the target year of 2037, the recommendations proposed in the optimal scenario are transformed into implementable projects in a detailed action plan that can incrementally tackle spatial, environmental, social, and economic transformations.

## DESCRIPTION

The primary aim of the action plan is to provide an overarching framework that guides GAM and key stakeholders to ensure a proactive and manageable approach to and coordinate the identified projects, under the holistic approach of the optimal scenario. The identified high priority projects to be implemented within the short-term action plan for Al Hashimi Al Janoubi include:

1. Rehabilitating stairs as social steps that enhance social cohesion and livelihoods
2. Upgrading critical areas for the water and sewerage network
3. Rehabilitating the critical areas for the road and sidewalk infrastructure
4. Upgrading the existing health center

## STRATEGY

The Al Hashimi Al Janoubi neighborhood action plan is divided into three main phases (short, mid, and long term), with each phase spanning five years, starting from 2023 and ending in 2037. The short-term phase covers the period of 2023 to 2027, where the high priority needed projects must be implemented. For the implementation sequence, the short-term plan took into consideration the urgency of the situation, spatially overlapping projects, implementation cost efficiency, alignment with governmental plans and strategies; in addition to alignment with donors/ financiers’ strategies and current interest.

Within this context, the needed actions were conceived together, whereby projects with possible synergies can be grouped to ensure that the limited available resources are utilized in the most efficient and cost-effective way to deliver the highest possible impact. This includes the upgrading of critical areas for the water, sewerage, road, and sidewalk network. Accordingly, the road and sidewalk infrastructure upgrading will occur in two phases. Firstly, where the areas overlap with the water and sewerage network upgrades, and secondly, the remaining critical areas for the road and sidewalk upgrades. The remaining projects will be implemented individually, noting that all projects contribute together to fulfilling Al Hashimi Al Janoubi’s neighborhood vision of an inclusive, livable, and sustainable neighborhood.



## EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Staircases are rehabilitated as social steps that enhance social cohesion and livelihoods.

Al Hashmi Al Janoubi's current staircases are dangerous and in immediate need of rehabilitation. This essential project aims to rehabilitate the 16 staircases in Al Hashmi Al Janoubi into 'Social Steps': innovative and shared public spaces that enhance the residents' mobility, access to basic services and economic opportunities, and wellbeing.

### The water and sewerage network in critical areas are upgraded.

This project aims to improve the access of the current and forecasted resident population to adequate water supply and sewerage services. The water and sewerage pipes in the identified critical areas will be upgraded based on a detailed technical assessment that will be conducted by the Jordan Water Authority (Miyuhana). This would reduce the current high load in the critical zones within the neighborhood, minimize the water loss due to the existing deteriorated pipes and would improve the efficiency of the network.




### Road and sidewalk infrastructure in critical areas are rehabilitated.

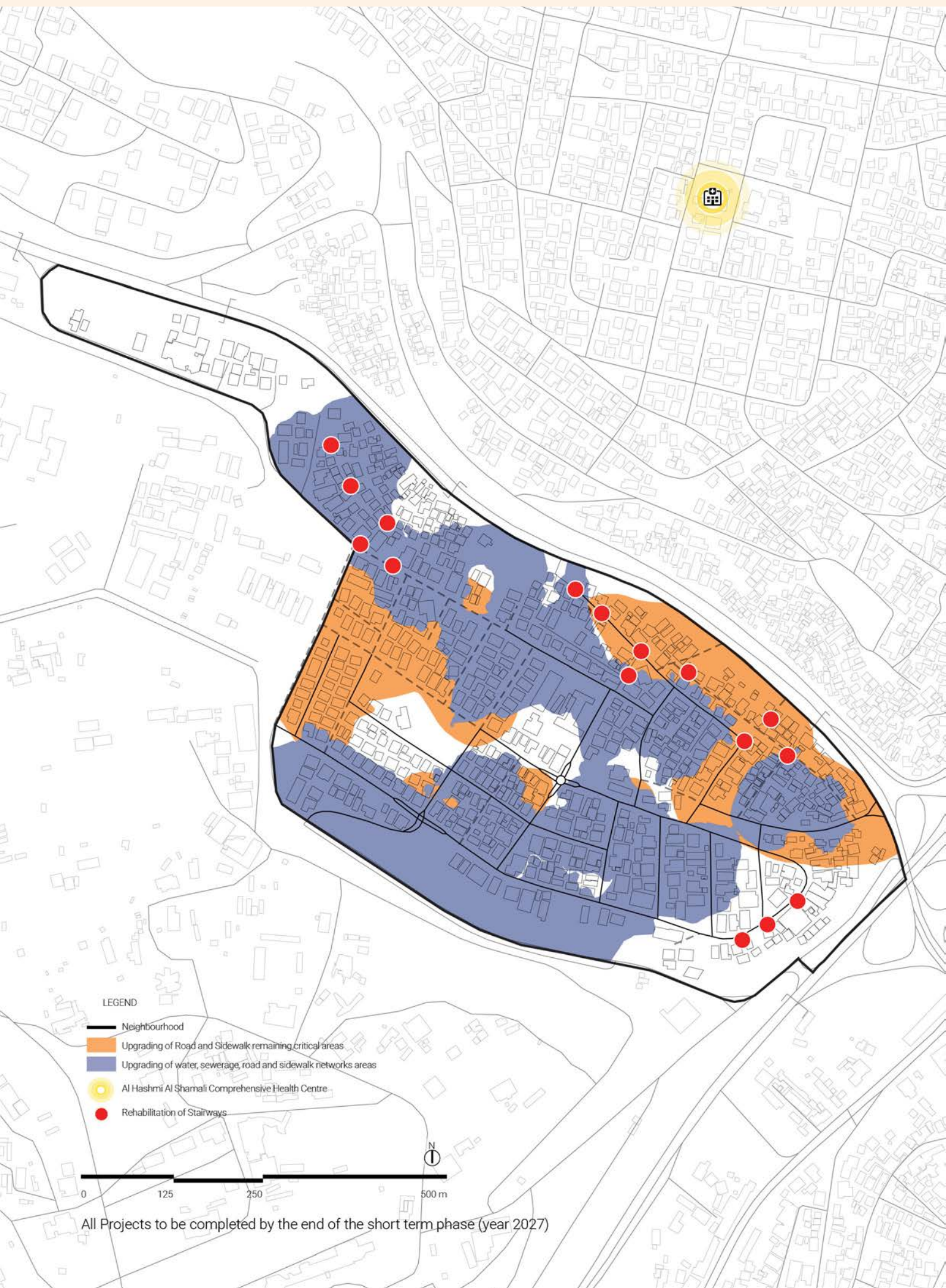
Through fieldwork and analysis, critical areas where road and sidewalk networks are deteriorated and unsafe were identified. The project aims to improve the road and sidewalk infrastructure within Al Hashmi Al Janoubi neighborhood, to promote walkability, enhance connectivity, improve access to basic services, and increase pedestrian safety.

### Existing health centre is upgraded.

The residents of Al Hashmi Al Janoubi face challenges with accessing healthcare. The closest comprehensive healthcare center is in the adjacent neighborhood, Al Hashmi Al Shamali, which already serves residents from both neighborhoods. In order to improve access to healthcare services for residents of both neighborhoods, the healthcare center needs rehabilitation and further expansion of its facilities.

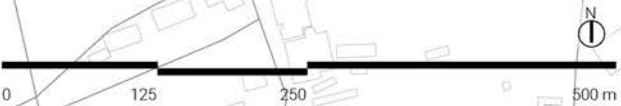
## ASSUMPTIONS, RISKS, AND MITIGATION MEASURES

 Assumptions	 Risks	 Mitigation Measures
<p>There is continued political stability in Jordan.</p>	<p>Internal displacement or influxes from neighboring countries impacts neighborhood development.</p>	<p>This project itself will take into consideration preparing the neighborhood to accommodate its maximum capacity.</p>
<p>There is continued support and interest from the Greater Amman Municipality to work towards durable solutions for host and refugee communities in Amman City and Al Hashmi Al Janoubi Neighborhood.</p>	<p>Weak coordination with and between GAM and other relevant stakeholders.</p>	<p>Through the UPIMC programme, UN-Habitat has built strong relationships with GAM and other urban decision-makers. To mitigate this risk, UN-Habitat has already begun coordinating with partners, and will continue this role throughout the programme.</p>



LEGEND

- Neighbourhood
- Orange square: Upgrading of Road and Sidewalk remaining critical areas
- Blue square: Upgrading of water, sewerage, road and sidewalk networks areas
- Yellow circle with building icon: Al Hashimi Al Shamali Comprehensive Health Centre
- Red circle: Rehabilitation of Stairways



All Projects to be completed by the end of the short term phase (year 2027)



# 2<sup>nd</sup> PROPOSAL

**The Socio-Economic  
Empowerment of Vulnerable  
Women in Poverty Pockets  
through Improving Access to  
Safe and Green Public Spaces**



**PARTNERS**

Zaha Cultural Centre



**TIMEFRAME**

12 Months



**LOCATION**

Two locations to be determined based on needs assessment



**ESTIMATED BUDGET**

2,200,000 USD



**SDGs ALIGNMENT**



**TARGET BENEFICIARY GROUP**

To be determined based on selected locations.



# CONTEXT

As cities across the world continue to grow and socioeconomic vulnerabilities increase, an essential part to implementing the New Urban Agenda, advancing sustainable development, and achieving SDG 11, is to improve access to safe, inclusive, and green public spaces for all people, with special attention to those in vulnerable situations. Good public spaces enhance community cohesion and promote health, happiness, and well-being for all citizens as well as fostering investment, economic development, and environmental sustainability. Additionally, in the face of increasing poverty and unemployment rates in Jordan, well-designed and managed public spaces are a key asset for a city's liveability and economy. To do so, we must begin at the local level and understand the needs of marginalized communities, such as women, children, people with disabilities, and refugees, and enhance their access to safe, inclusive, and accessible public space.

While there are already limited public spaces in Jordan, the COVID-19 mobility restrictions further emphasized the lack of green public spaces that are accessible in many neighborhoods across municipalities. While there is a lack of research on the availability—or the lack thereof—and the consequential impact of public space outside of the Greater Amman Municipality in Jordan, the development of safe green public space in Jordan remains a priority at the government level. When public spaces are available, they often do not adequately serve the needs of all community members, especially women, children, and people with disabilities, and may not be adequately located within a walking distance for those with mobility challenges.



## UN-Habitat Jordan's Experience Empowering Vulnerable Women and Youth through a Public Space in Ghor Al-Safi

The rehabilitated park includes inclusive and safe play areas for all ages, with a specific consideration of children with disabilities, shaded seating areas, a multi-use area designated for social and cultural activities and for a market, which will serve as a platform for the creation of livelihood opportunities, as well as a sustainable agriculture area. The rehabilitated and expanded community centre within the park will host the different social, cultural, and capacity building activities.

# PROJECT OVERVIEW

## PURPOSE

This project seeks to unlock the transformative power of safe and green public spaces for strengthening livelihood opportunities and enhancing the socioeconomic empowerment of vulnerable women in poverty pockets, which will aid in easing the household and financial tensions that have been significantly contributing to the rise in gender based violence (GBV). The 2 locations will be determined based on a needs assessment to serve the most vulnerable populations. In response to growing vulnerabilities, this project aims to enhance the socio-economic conditions of vulnerable women living in poverty pockets through the provision of safe, accessible, inclusive, and green public spaces and the creation of livelihood opportunities. The selected two public spaces and the community centers within them will be rehabilitated according to community needs and to enhance its safety, accessibility, inclusivity, and greenery. It may also include moveable stalls that will be available by request for home-based business to use; the market space may be weekly or monthly, depending on the needs of the community.

The intervention aims to enhance the economic opportunities of vulnerable women through vocational training as well as the overall provision of the enabling environment and the tools that will assist these women in developing and promoting their own small businesses and achieve economic sustainability in a safe and inclusive environment. This, in turn, aims to contribute to easing household tensions and GBV.

## DESCRIPTION

The public spaces will include stalls, kiosks, and display areas, where women can promote their products in a safe and decent environment while their children play safely nearby. In addition, multi-service community centers/areas within the public spaces will be rehabilitated to host the different social, cultural, and capacity building activities, including the tailored training on entrepreneurial skills and livelihood creation to empower women in the community to enhance their socioeconomic conditions.

This proposed project's aim and logical framework build on the success of and lessons-learned by UN-Habitat in enhancing the socio-economic conditions of vulnerable women, especially those living in the poverty pocket of Ghor Al Safi, through the provision of a safe and green public space, and vocational training. This project in Ghor Al Safi is directly benefiting the 37,040 Ghor Al Safi inhabitants, of which 46% of the population are women, and indirectly benefiting at least 26,868 more people from the underserved communities of Al-Mazraa, Al-Maamooraa, and Ghor Fifa. The direct and indirect beneficiaries of this project are different groups of vulnerable women, Syrian refugees, vulnerable youth, people with disabilities, and women-headed microenterprises. The park has been called, "every child's dream" by the local community.

## STRATEGY

This project will build on the extensive and worldwide experience of UN-Habitat in improving public space as catalysts for developing sustainable and resilient livelihoods through nurturing social cohesion between hosts and displaced communities, fostering local economic development that benefits women and their families, and building skills in order to enhance the empowerment and self-reliance of vulnerable communities. The project approach follows the integrated method to public space developed by UN-Habitat in the Global Public Space Programme. The rehabilitation of the public spaces will begin with the UN-Habitat Public Space Site-Specific Assessment tool, which endeavors to provide guidance on achieving quality public spaces at the neighborhood level. The data collected will inform the design or rehabilitation of the site, and ensure the development of two safe, inclusive, and accessible public spaces and community centers.

The project will be implemented in close collaboration and partnership with a local NGO, Zaha Cultural Centre, who collaborated with UN-Habitat to develop and manage the public space and community center in Ghor Al Safi. After completion of the project, the spaces will be handed over to Zaha Cultural Centre, who will be responsible for operating and maintaining the park and the community center, which will ensure the sustainability of the intervention.

## EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Accordingly, this project will have the following outcomes and outputs:

**Outcome 1: The socioeconomic conditions and wellbeing of vulnerable women are enhanced through the provision of safe and green public spaces and livelihood opportunities.**

**Output 1.1:** Gender-inclusive, safe, and accessible public spaces and community centers are established in the two selected poverty pockets.

**Output 1.2:** Market spaces and kiosks are developed and made available for women and people with disability to sell and promote their products in each of the public spaces.

**Outcome 2: Increased economic opportunities for vulnerable women in rural areas.**

**Output 2.1:** Women's skills are enhanced through vocational training based on community needs.

### UN-Habitat's People-Centred Approaches to the Development of Public Spaces



*Co-Designing Souf Camp Park with Minecraft, ©UN-Habitat 2022*






*Community Consultations in Ghor Al-Safi, ©UN-Habitat 2021*

Participatory processes are the foundation on which inclusive, accessible, and safe public spaces are developed. UN-Habitat Jordan has been engaging local communities, officials, and other relevant stakeholders in the development of public spaces across Jordan through various participatory methodologies to ensure the inclusivity, accessibility, safety, sustainability, and scalability of these spaces. These methods include the Public Space Site-Specific Assessment tool, Co-Design tools such as the Minecraft game, and capacity building workshops.



## ASSUMPTIONS, RISKS, AND MITIGATION MEASURES

 <b>Assumptions</b>	 <b>Risks</b>	 <b>Mitigation Measures</b>
<p>If we provide women with a safe, inclusive, and green public space and build their capacities, then it will improve their socio-economic situation.</p>	<p>Deeply rooted social norms in the targeted area might hinder the implementation of the intervention and may lead to male community members not allowing women to start businesses or attend related trainings</p>	<p>The project will focus on raising awareness amongst local groups and organizations that can influence social change at the local level. These include 'traditional' community leaders and local community-based organizations. Women's organizations are also critical partners. Additionally, workspaces will address reservations expressed by women and men, including segregated workspaces, safe transportation and childcare arrangements if required.</p>
<p>Public authorities (e.g., government agencies etc.) maintain their interest and commitment to engage and support the development of green public spaces.</p>	<p>Weak institutional capacity and limited local authorities' capacity to support the implementation of the program might impact the sustainability of project in terms of ensuring maintenance and continued security measures</p>	<p>Engaging the local authorities at early stages in the program in consultative, capacity building, and awareness sessions on the importance of, and the mechanisms used to, support and empower the most vulnerable women to ensure their ability to access essential services. In addition, partnering with Zaha cultural center will provide operational and management support to the services provided, which will assist in building the capacity of the local authority's staff capacity and overcome the weak institutional capacity. Moreover, in addition to Zaha's support in terms of the management and maintenance, local authorities are responsible by law and committed to provide a guard to the developed public space, which will ensure the safety and security.</p>

# 3<sup>rd</sup> PROPOSAL

## Enhancing Al-Salt's Green Public Spaces and Living Heritage for Socio-Economic Development



## PARTNERS

UNESCO, Greater Salt Municipality, and Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities



## TIMEFRAME

24 Months



## LOCATION

Al-Salt City, Jordan



## ESTIMATED BUDGET

2,300,000 USD



## SDGs ALIGNMENT



## TARGET BENEFICIARY GROUP

Al-Salt City residents, local officials, and tourists.

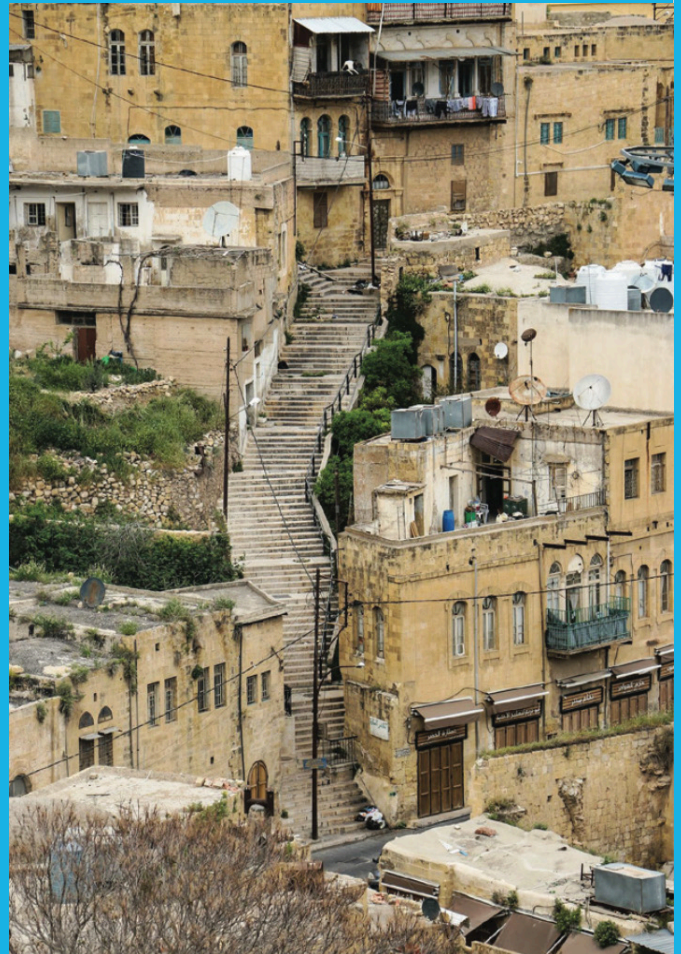


# CONTEXT

In 2021, UNESCO inscribed Al-Salt city as a World Heritage Site, branding it “The Place of Tolerance and Urban Hospitality”. With diverse communities settling into its dense urban fabric over the centuries, Al-Salt’s public spaces have been the link between homes, religions, and cultures and have preserved the culture of hospitality and tolerance in a melting pot. The city’s socio-cultural architectural and urban attributes make it a unique example of a living heritage with a strong link between intangible attributes (tolerance and cohabitation; urban hospitality and urban social welfare; unique craftsmanship) and tangible attributes (significant built heritage and the urban setting).

The As-Salt Conservation Management Plan recognises the importance of conserving and repairing urban open spaces and their related living heritage assets to maintain the hospitable fabric of the city. The public spaces connecting the historically significant buildings act as the city’s heart, bringing life to the social and economic relations, and creating a unique network of connection. Yet, as the city continues to grow amid evolving challenges, such as a pandemic, the influx of refugees, rising unemployment, and the effects of climate change, public spaces have never been so vital and yet so neglected in upholding the integrity and social cohesion of this historically and culturally significant city. These public spaces that have played such an important role in supporting this culture of tolerance, intangible heritage, and social cohesion are currently suffering from several issues, such as drainage problems, vandalism, exposed pipes and wires, and damaged surfaces, to name a few.

Also, to be considered is the growth in tourism since the World Heritage inscription, which constitutes both a challenge and an opportunity, adding stress to an already densely populated city, which the urban spaces can ease, while supporting local economic development at the same time through the valorisation of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH).



*Conditions of staircases and open public spaces in the historic city of Al-Salt*

Source: Al-Salt Conservation Management Plan



# PROJECT OVERVIEW

## PURPOSE

This project aims to enhance the social cohesion, increase the livelihood opportunities, and maintain the integrity of Al-Salt City through the rehabilitation of safe, inclusive, and accessible green public spaces, the development of a city-wide public space strategy, as well as the documentation, promotion, and valorisation of living heritage assets within Al-Salt Municipality. This is aligned with the priorities and strategies of the Al-Salt Conservation Management Plan.

## DESCRIPTION

The project will contribute to safeguarding intangible cultural heritage practices within the city fabric, which was identified as an area of vulnerability by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) assessment included in the UNESCO nomination dossier. It will be informed by participatory assessments and analyses. The physical dimensions of built heritage as it addresses public spaces will be incorporated into this assessment and inform a conservation-based response.

## STRATEGY

This project adopts a multi-dimensional approach that is informed by the urban development pressures and challenges that threaten the vulnerable sustainability, authenticity, and cohesion of the urban fabric of Al-Salt city. After mobilizing the stakeholders, this approach consists of 5 key phases, beginning at the city level then progressing to the selected public space locations.

**City Level:** The first 2 phases will be conducted at the city-level. Firstly, a City-Wide Public Space Assessment will be conducted, which will begin with the spatial GIS mapping and gather accurate data on the safety, accessibility, inclusivity, and quality of current public spaces. This will consider the living heritage of Al-Salt city, thus combining the expertise of UN-Habitat and UNESCO. Accordingly, the second phase consists of developing the City-Wide Public Space Strategy with the Greater Salt Municipality to participatorily formulate a shared vision, mission, policies, and targets, which will feed into new standards, guidelines, and regulations that this strategy will uphold. Cross-cutting throughout these activities will be the strengthening of the capacity of local authorities on public space.

**Specific Locations:** Based on the findings and recommendations at the city-level, public spaces will be selected. The participatory Public Space Site-Specific Assessment(s) will be conducted, going into more depth and providing feasible, high-priority interventions based on community consultations. This will raise the awareness of local communities on the importance of public space and their transformative power. Additionally, the UNESCO living heritage asset inventories tool will be used to identify key heritage elements that can be valorised. Such findings will provide the basis for designing and implementing the needed interventions to rehabilitate the public spaces.



*Pedestrian Street in Al-Salt City, used as a market*  
Source: Al-Salt Conservation Management Plan

The project phases are displayed in the diagram below, showing the processes and activities.





## EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Accordingly, this project will have the following outcomes and outputs:

**Outcome 1: Strengthened urban governance on designing, managing, and maintaining public spaces.**

**Output 1.1:** Develop a comprehensive report on data gaps and long term spatial and non- spatial recommendations for the city in relation to the vision, mission, and objectives of the city.

**Output 1.2:** Co-develop a city-wide public space strategy with Greater Salt Municipality.

**Outcome 2: Enhanced social cohesion, economic opportunities, and wellbeing of vulnerable communities through the provision of safe, inclusive, and green public space(s) and the promotion of their shared heritage assets.**

**Output 2.1:** Conduct Public Space Site-Specific Assessment(s) and living heritage assets inventory within the walkable radius of the selected public space(s).

**Output 2.2:** Rehabilitate three (3) pilot public spaces - in cooperation with the UN-Habitat’s Global Public Space Programme, with special attention given to the needs of women/ girls, people with disabilities, and refugees.

**Outcome 3: Strengthened capacity of local authorities and awareness of local communities on the importance of safe, inclusive, and accessible public space and their transformative power to enhance resilience and safety.**

**Output 3.1:** Build capacities of local authorities on how to develop and maintain safe, inclusive, and accessible public spaces and on the importance of inventorying living heritage assets.

**Output 3.2:** Raise awareness of local communities on the importance of safe, inclusive, and accessible public space, as well as on the coexisting living heritage assets and the need to maintain them.

## ASSUMPTIONS, RISKS, AND MITIGATION MEASURES

 Assumptions	 Risks	 Mitigation Measures
Local community will be engaged	Lack of community interest	The project will raise the local community’s awareness on the importance of public space.
Trained governmental staff mainstream public spaces and the recommendation in land-use planning and policies.	Lack of political integration and recognition on the importance of public spaces	The capacities of local officials will be built on mainstreaming these recommendations and their awareness on the importance of public space will be raised.

# CONTACT INFORMATION

**Deema Abu Thiab**  
National Programme Coordinator  
UN-Habitat Jordan

**Email: [deema.abuthiab@un.org](mailto:deema.abuthiab@un.org)**



**@UNHabitatJORDAN**



أعلى المجلس القومي للمرأة  
مبدأ نوات التنمية لجميع  
العواد النسائية وبنوا متعلقة  
اللقا الاقليمية بحسب المسوق  
تأمل مسو روضة كندا كمال  
بشراف التكنول واهلية عبد السلام  
والحكمة فواد مسو القاة  
كرئيس استشارت تنمية العواد  
بشرف القاة  
العقائد مسو القاة  
التسويق والاستعلام  
0798629117  
0795521540



UN HABITAT  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE





A better quality of life for  
all in an urbanizing world

**UN HABITAT**  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

63, Tayseer Na'na'ah Street,  
South Abdoun, Amman, Jordan.  
Telephone: +962799 1222 23  
[unhabitat-jordan@un.org](mailto:unhabitat-jordan@un.org)  
[www.unhabitat.org](http://www.unhabitat.org)