

# SYRIAN REFUGEES IN JORDAN

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## UPDATES & INFO

Jordan has 747,602,000 refugees registered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees of 52 nationalities. In addition to the 2.3 million Palestinian refugees registered with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), 400,000 of whom live in refugee camps, meaning that Jordan hosts more than 3 million refugees who are officially registered.

Jordan is linked with Syria with a border of 375 km, which made the Kingdom among the countries that receive the most Syrians, with a number of 1.3 million, half of whom carry the status of "refugee".

In Jordan, there are 1,300,000 Syrian Refugees of which 659,673 are registered: 125,848 in-camp, 533,825 out-camp. (Updated, September 2020 UNHCR). They started to come to Jordan in batches since 2011 after the crisis erupted.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, said in a statement, that refugees in Jordan live in increasing poverty especially after the crisis of the Coronavirus, before the outbreak of the epidemic, 79% of refugees (Not including Palestinian refugees), in Jordan were already living below the poverty line, but studies indicate High ratio and for less than \$ 3 per day."Only 35% of refugees in Jordan have jobs to return to when they lift the ban on the Corona crisis," Grandi said.

## IMPACT ON JORDAN

Jordan is usually vigilant when it comes to border protection. Its border is well protected and heavily guarded. However, the long border between the two countries and the non-formal crossing points allows rare armed smugglers to cross the border and confront with the Jordanian border guards who confront with the smugglers, killing some, confiscating goods, or forcing infiltrators to return to the Syrian side.

Jordan is surrounded by crises and the two most important geographical allies close to Jordan, i.e. Iraq and Syria, have their major crises, whether that is internal, or against the background of alignment in the Iranian camp, and there is no doubt that economic partnership, with Iraq and Syria, was important for large sectors in Jordan.

This means that the horizon of the Jordanian-Syrian relationship is now largely blocked and the repercussions of implementing this law will include Jordanian

sectors, which were counting on reconstruction work in Syria after the war. The new sanctions may lead to a decline in economic relations altogether, leaving a huge impact on Jordan, whose sectors are searching for ways to survive in all ways, in addition to the fact that the Syrian interior will witness a very bad economic situation, which will increase the pressures on Syria, and may actually lead to new waves of asylum, due to the economic collapse, and all this makes the region, and Jordan, one of its countries, in front of major changes, during the next few months.

## **177 THOUSAND WORK PERMITS**

Over 130,000 refugees benefit from a network of 25 UNHCR-supported community centers across Jordan. These centers provide Jordanians and refugees with training and educational and recreational activities.

More than 200,000 Syrian refugees have work permits since 2016, after the London agreement. More than 100 Jordanians and Syrians were able to obtain a work permit from home to enable them to support their families to meet basic needs. Unofficial sources say that some 300,000 are working illegally in Jordan as non-skilled labour, and that is why they stay in Jordan for unlimited period with hopes that they can go back to Syria when the regime is changed. Syrians in Jordan are mostly holders of UNHCR registration letters, in addition to some other documents that are mostly expired, like passports, IDs, certificates and others.

## **RESETTLEMENT**

UNHCR said that about 10% of refugees in Jordan need resettlement, but less than 1% are resettled every year. In 2020, there are 5,000 opportunities available, according to UN estimates.

## **THE RETURN OF 37,000 REFUGEES**

About 37,000 refugees have returned to Syria from Jordan since the border was reopened in October 2018, 30,000 of whom returned during 2019, and 1,800 in 2020. UNHCR said it continues to apply the one-way approach to refugees without discrimination. Syrians refrain from going back to their home country because of different reasons: some are afraid to be drafted to serve the Syrian army and fight civilians; others have lost their houses, livelihoods and belongings. Some Syrians joined the opposition and fought against the army so they are afraid of retribution by the Syrian authorities. Some Syrians have family members and relatives in third countries, so they want to join them and leave their country for good.

Despite the exacerbation of economic difficulties and the limited livelihoods in the refugee community in Jordan, as a result of the consequences of the emerging Corona virus pandemic, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has not received any requests from refugees residing in the Kingdom to request return to their country since the beginning of the pandemic crisis.