



## Jordan Overview January 2019

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### Glossary

GDP	Gross Domestic Product
INGO	International Non-Government Agency
IS	Islamic State
SOP	Security Operating Procedure
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UNDSS	United Nations Department of Safety and Security

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**Much of the text in this report is in *italic*. This is to illustrate that the contents are conjecture. Whilst the report reflects the current situation in northwest Syria, the analysis, views and opinions expressed are those of the author.**

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Location	Risk Level	Summary and Recommendations
<b>Amman &amp; main roads and highways</b> – except in locations specified below as different.	<b>Low</b>	Whilst the country is largely unaffected by conflict, its proximity to the troubles in Syria, the Government's involvement in the Coalition air campaign against IS and the number of Jordanians fighting with Islamic Extremist groups means the threat of a terrorist campaign is present. Agencies must therefore have the full complement of SOPs and Contingency Plans should the situations worsen. A major inhibitor to a terrorist attack is the Jordanian Intelligence and Security Forces who have proved to be successful in the past in preventing some attacks. Equally the Police force has a good international reputation and transport Police are ever present on the roads. The main threat is from road traffic accident and demonstrations that are occasionally violent. Good travel SOPs are recommended containing the use of seat belts, what to do after a road traffic accident, vehicle safety checks and regular maintenance. Daily monitoring of the situation through local news, UNDSS reports and INGO Security Forum is recommended to avoid demonstrations. SOPs on how staff should behave if caught in a demonstration are also recommended.
<b>Irbid</b>	<b>Low</b>	Irbid has experienced IS activity in the past and occasional tribal disputes. It is also located only 10 km from the border with Syria opposite Daraa. Risk Levels are currently low but can increase to Moderate or High should a serious incident occur.
<b>Mafraq</b>	<b>Low</b>	Mafraq regularly experiences protests and social disorder. Most are peaceful but main roads can be closed. Agencies travelling to Mafraq or through on route to Zaa'tri Camp are recommended to check the route is clear before travelling.
<b>Zaa'tri Camp</b>	<b>Low</b>	The main threats in the camp are fire, traffic accidents, and violent personal disputes. Drivers must be instructed to drive carefully in the camp, buildings must have safe electrical wiring and programmes must have Fire Regulations with regular drills.
<b>Within 5km of the border with Syria</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	There is the high Police and military presence on the border. Permits may be necessary to visit the areas near the border and Liaison Office's must be consulted before travelling. Visit should only be made if essential and kept short.

## 1. Issues and Events



### DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION

- A Parliamentary delegation on 19 Nov 2018 visited Syrian President Assad for first time since 2011 to discuss cooperation in trade, tourism, and transport – including the reopening of Ramtha-Daraa border that has been shut for 7 years.
- Jordan started receiving half of its daily needs of natural gas for electricity generation from Egypt on 27 Jan 2019. In an agreement between the two countries Jordan will continue to receive this throughout 2019. Gas supply from Egypt stopped in 2011 after 25 sabotage attacks on the Arab Gas Pipeline resulting in losses for the government-owned National Electric Power Company of around JD5 billion. The Government hopes the Egyptian gas supply will reduce electricity bills and improve the competitiveness of Jordanian industries.
- On 28 Dec 2018, the Jordanian Prime Minister visited Bagdad to sign economic agreements with the Government of Iraq. This was followed by a visit by Jordan's King Abdullah on 14 Jan 2019 – the first trip to Iraq by the Jordanian monarch in more than a decade. On 27 Jan, an agreement was made between the Jordanian and Iraqi governments for Jordanian cargo trucks to cross the border into Iraq at the Karama border crossing. Al Karamah is the crossing into Iraq and, due to security concerns, for over a year goods had to be unloaded once the trucks arrived, moved to an Iraqi truck waiting on the other side of the border, and then delivered.

### CORRUPTION AND TRIBAL PROTECTION

On 23 Jan 2019, a tribal protest involving 150 people blocked roads and burned tyres in Irbid. The protest was against the arrest of a tribal member, a retired military General, in connection with a high-profile fraud involving the illegal manufacture and smuggling of cigarettes. Several retired military officers and ex-government ministers have also been detained. It is estimated the fraud cost the Treasury more than JD150 million.

### CONTINUED PROTESTS

In Amman there continues to be several protests and sit-ins every week, although some were cancelled due to adverse winter weather in January. Most protests are peaceful and last a few hours, but can cause traffic problem in Amman. High prices, austerity, the new tax bill and app-based taxi services are the cause of most protests. Popular locations for protests include the Fourth Circle, prime minister's office, parliament and Grand Hussein Mosque following Friday prayers.

## 2. Humanitarian Situation

### OVERVIEW – FACTS & FIGURES

Majority of refugees in Jordan are Palestinians, Syrians and Iraqis.

**Number of Syrians: Over 1.3M**

Registered Syrian Refugees: 671,551

Syrian Refugees in Camps: **126.041**

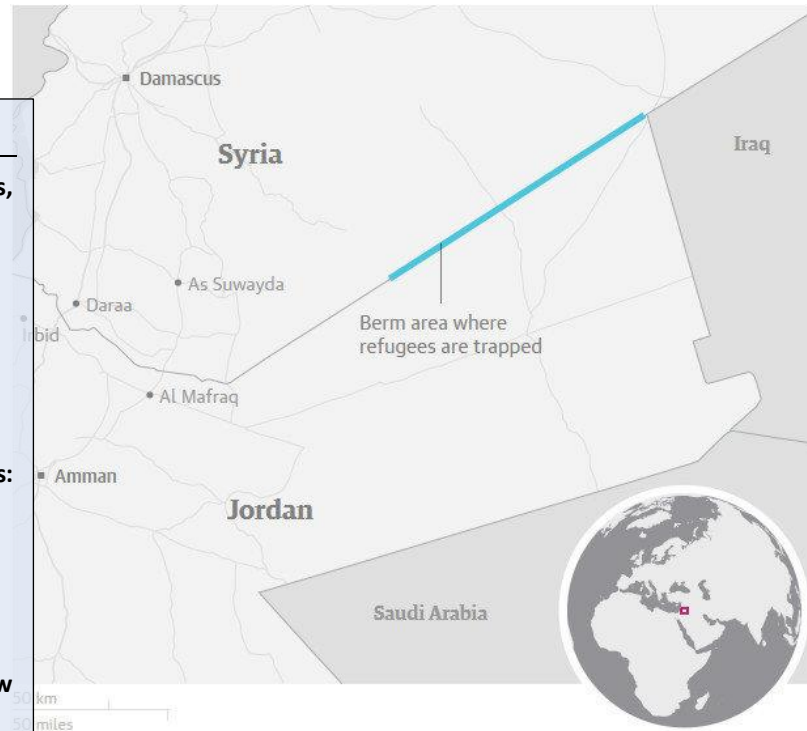
- Zatari: 78,605
- Azraq: 40,533
- Emirates Jordan Camp (EJC): 6,903

Registered Syrian Refugee Out of Camps: **545.609**

- Amman Gov.: 29% / 197.084
- Mafrqa Gov.: 24% / 164.021
- Irbid Gov.: 21% / 140.639
- Zarqa Gov.: 14% / 96.951
- 85% of Syrian refugees in Jordan live below poverty line.
- 48% of Syrian refugees are children
- 4% are elderly.
- Between Oct and Dec 2018, in urban areas, 53,424 Syrian families (about 231,991 refugees) received a one-off winterization cash assistance.
- Nationwide, 0.5 percent of Jordanian households are considered food insecure and an additional 13 percent are vulnerable to food insecurity.

**Number of Palestinian Refugees: Over 2.2M**

- Most have Jordan citizenship.
- 636,000 do not, notably all Gaza Palestinians.
- 370,000 Palestinian refugees are in 10 Palestinian refugee camps.
- Jordan hosts the largest number of Palestinian refugees of all the UNWRA fields.



### RUKBAN CAMP – THE BERM

Between 45,000 to 55,000 Syrian refugees are stranded in the desert between Syria and Jordan, an area known as "the Berm". The humanitarian situation in Rukban camp, where there are around 11,700 shelters, is critical. Humanitarian access is severely restricted - aid deliveries have repeatedly failed or been postponed. People face access constraints and medical supply shortages, and children in the camp have suffered respiratory tract infections, diarrhea and hepatitis A outbreaks. There are continuing reports of children dying due to poor sanitary conditions and a lack of healthcare. In Jan 2019 at least 8 children in Rukban camp died from hypothermia. Residents continue to suffer from a severe shortage of food, drinking water, sanitation, medical care and basic housing.

### KEY HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

**Education:** 25% of Syrian children are vulnerable in terms of school attendance. 19% of Syrian refugees with disabilities (13 years and above) never enrolled in school and cannot read or write. Recent government data shows that Gross Enrolment Rates of Syrians are lowest for Kindergarten and Secondary education.

**Livelihood:** 306.441 Syrian men in working age, but only 129.154 (Man: 123.573, Women: 5.581) Work Permits issued. Most in agriculture and construction while women prefer home-based activities. Syrian refugees living outside of camps spend more than two-thirds of their monthly household budget on shelter, leaving little resources for food, health or education which makes Livelihoods a key sector for improvement of overall well-being of target population.

**Protection:** Child labour and violence and early marriage are particular concerns.

**Health:** As subsidies for Syrian refugees living outside camps are cancelled/limited, healthcare becomes increasingly unaffordable for a majority of refugees.

### KEY DOCUMENTS TO REVIEW

- [https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/syria/location/36#\\_ga=2.112309510.321151040.1549345344-1021219645.1445197347](https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/syria/location/36#_ga=2.112309510.321151040.1549345344-1021219645.1445197347)
- <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/67611.pdf>
- <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/67810>