

MERCY CORPS JORDAN

Strengthening Resilience through
Market-driven and Community-led
Programming



Jordan is commonly seen as a refuge from crisis, measured not on its own terms, but on the terms of its most troubled neighbors. Mercy Corps looks at Jordan as a place beyond refuge, shaped in substantial and durable ways by crises on its borders, but not defined by them.

Since 2003, Mercy Corps Jordan has worked to meet the urgent needs of vulnerable populations, strengthening cohesive and civically engaged communities, and increasing inclusive economic opportunities. From providing psychosocial support to helping entrepreneurs grow their businesses, we ensure solutions are community-led and market-driven. Underpinning all of our work is a determined focus on resilience — on the systems and institutions, on the markets and social structures that will continue responding to shocks long after Mercy Corps is gone.

We target our assistance where it is needed most.

From emergency response to small business development, our teams are ready to scale and partner with communities across the country.

Mercy Corps is a leading global organization powered by the belief that a better world is possible. In disaster, in hardship, in more than 40 countries around the world, we partner to put bold solutions into action—helping people triumph over adversity and build stronger communities from within. Now, and for the future.



› THE CONTEXT

Jordan exists in a region where natural resources are scarce, distributions of wealth are highly concentrated, and livelihoods are negatively impacted by climate change and population growth. Over the last decade, Jordan's total population increased by more than 50%, from 6.7 million to 10.5 million, largely due to the influx of displaced people seeking refuge from Syria and other neighboring states. Recent numbers include an estimated 1.4 million Syrians. Despite security conditions preventing many from returning, those remaining are challenged by a decrease in humanitarian funding. Meanwhile, high unemployment rates, rising cost of living and insufficient platforms for meaningful civic engagement are fueling tension within local communities and with the government.

At Mercy Corps, we acknowledge that these challenges are complex. Therefore, in addition to providing critical immediate relief for vulnerable populations, we partner with the government, civil society and private sector leaders to design and implement creative, long-term solutions.

FISCAL YEAR 2022
**PARTICIPANT
COUNT**
1.64 M



OUR WORK



With a portfolio of approximately 130 million USD and over 170 team members working across all Governorates in Jordan, Mercy Corps' programming focuses on youth, gender equality, economic opportunities, good governance and natural resource management, reflecting our belief that progress on these fronts is critical to building a more prosperous, equitable Jordan.



ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

With youth unemployment at 52%, and only 14% of women participating in the formal labor market (one of the lowest rates in the world), there are ample windows of opportunity to support economically marginalized groups. To do so, Mercy Corps applies tailored market systems development approaches in Jordan, supporting micro, small, and enterprises (MSEs), providing capacity strengthening to businesses, and offering demand-driven services. For instance, Mercy Corps' five-year USAID-funded Informal Livelihoods Advancement Activity (Iqlaaʿ) supports SMEs to meet their immediate needs while building a foundation from which they can grow and build resilience to future shocks. Additionally, Mercy Corps' three-year Hortifuture program, supported by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, works with smallholder farmers to help increase their income and resilience.



PEACE AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

Despite high education and health outcomes for both men and women, restrictive gender norms and insufficient support services impede women and girls' economic and social potential. Mercy Corps' five-year USAID-funded Promoting the Voice and Leadership of Women Activity (PVLW) aims to address barriers to women's leadership and agency through social behavior change and legislative intervention strategies to shift negative norms. Additionally, with the support of the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), Mercy Corps implements the Inclusive Security and Resilient Youth Project (ISRY), a community-based development program supporting at-risk youth. ISRY is increasing stability through co-existence and inclusive security while building the psychosocial resiliency of youth and their families.



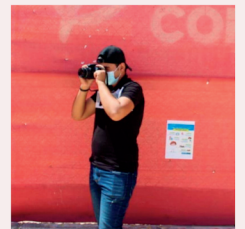
WATER SECURITY-CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Scarcity of water and natural resources, exacerbated by climate change, pose serious threats to Jordan's ecosystem. Jordan ranks as one of the most water-poor countries in the world and relies on imports for 96% of its energy needs. Through the joint collaboration between the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development (SDC), Mercy Corps implements programming to improve sustainable water management and enable climate change adaptation. The two-year Livelihoods and Environmental Actions for Development (LEAD) program supports farmers, food producers and youth to better manage natural resources to strengthen rural livelihoods and allow diversified crops for consumption.



SUPPORT TO REFUGEE YOUTH

Over a decade has passed since Syrian refugees first fled to Jordan to escape conflict. While Jordan has accommodated a large influx of refugees, their needs remain acute due to the protracted situation and absence of options. With the understanding that greater integration of humanitarian and development initiatives can help drive durable solutions, Mercy Corps implements ISHRAK (meaning 'engagement'), a family strengthening project designed to address the interlinked problems of toxic stress, domestic and gender-based violence and lack of agency for women and girls. Mercy Corps also works to integrate and raise awareness of children with disabilities within schools in refugee camps and host communities through the Inclusive Education program.



Powered by the belief that a better world is possible.

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