



STRATEGIC OVERVIEW

Jordan

FOCUS AREAS



RESILIENT
INDIVIDUALS



STRONG COMMUNITIES
AND GOVERNANCE



ENVIRONMENTALLY
SUSTAINABLE AND
INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC
GROWTH

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, build cohesive and civically engaged communities, and increase inclusive economic opportunities. From providing psychosocial support to helping entrepreneurs grow their businesses, we ensure solutions are community-led and market-driven. Throughout, we focus on youth, gender equality, good governance, natural resource management and technological solutions, reflecting our belief that progress on these fronts is critical to building a more prosperous, equitable Jordan.

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.

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.



***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.



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, population growth, and global competition.

Over the last decade, the total population in Jordan increased by more than 50%, from 6.7 million to 10.5 million, largely due to the influx of displaced people from Syria and other neighboring states. Today's numbers include an estimated 1.4 million Syrians — over 650,000 of whom are formally registered as refugees — as well as thousands of Iraqis, Yemenis, Sudanese and Somalis. Despite the fact that security conditions prevent many from returning, humanitarian funding is declining.

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. That's why, 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.

The Challenge

STRAINED RESOURCES FOR THE VULNERABLE

Service providers are overwhelmed, making it more difficult for vulnerable Jordanians and non-Jordanians to access quality services and build a more resilient future.

DOMESTIC SOCIAL AND POLITICAL UNREST

Resource competition, increasing consumer prices and high taxes fuel rising discontent, which is exacerbated by insufficient opportunities for meaningful political expression.

ECONOMIC STAGNATION

Youth unemployment is at 36%, and only 14% of women participate in the formal labor market, one of the lowest rates in the world. Additionally, 38% of adults are excluded from formal financial services.

GENDER INEQUALITY

Despite strong education and health outcomes for both men and women, restrictive gender norms and inadequate support services stifle the economic and social potential of women and girls, limiting agency and opportunity and driving gender-based violence.

NATURAL RESOURCE SCARCITY

Jordan ranks as one of the most water-poor countries in the world and relies on imports for 96% of its energy needs.

The Opportunity



RESILIENT INDIVIDUALS

We respond to the emotional, psychological and physical needs of Jordan's most vulnerable populations, including Syrian refugees, people with disabilities and at-risk adolescents.

› Program Spotlight

Building on our work integrating over 4,500 children with disabilities into formal education, we work with the government of Jordan to institutionalize inclusive education throughout Jordanian schools in support of the National Strategy for Inclusive Education.

› Areas of Focus

Intergenerational psychosocial support, inclusion of children with disabilities into education, adolescent girl-centered design and research



STRONG COMMUNITIES AND GOVERNANCE

We strive to build strong, cohesive communities in which people have the ability and opportunity to meaningfully participate in local governance structures and processes.

› Program Spotlight

We established a network of over 650 community leaders, with training in conflict resolution, who have resolved more than 1,600 community disputes. Today, we are supporting the network, which is now a registered independent Jordanian NGO, in expanding its organizational and technical capacity.

› Areas of Focus

Social cohesion, conflict management, leadership development, meaningful civic engagement processes



ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

We support economic growth that does not further strain already scarce natural resources and that actively includes vulnerable populations such as youth and women.

› Program Spotlight

We support the development and growth of over 30 businesses, including small to medium enterprises and the work of digital entrepreneurs

› Areas of Focus

Market systems development, digitally-enabled employment, business investment readiness and capacity strengthening, demand-driven vocational education and employment, financial inclusion, women's economic empowerment, climate adaptation and mitigation



A mural to spark conversations about water scarcity and conservation. Funded by USAID-Water Innovation Technologies.

PROGRAM FUNDAMENTALS

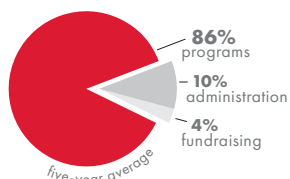
Cross-Cutting Themes in Jordan

Our essential frameworks that guide design and implementation of our programming across all pillars:

- › **Youth:** We focus on youth, equipping them with quality education, cultivating supportive communities, generating opportunities to make their voices heard through government engagement, and ensuring they are prepared for employment.
- › **Governance:** We work to ensure transparent, accountable and responsive governance that addresses the basic needs of citizens, gives a voice to youth and local leaders, and cultivates inclusive economic growth.
- › **Natural Resource Management:** Recognizing the disproportionate impact of resource scarcity on the most vulnerable, we seek out creative solutions to conserve water and scale up use of renewable energy.
- › **Technology:** We leverage technology both to enable daily program implementation and to help us design projects that are more responsive to the needs of our target populations.
- › **Gender Equality and Empowerment:** We assess and respond to the needs of women, men, boys and girls, ensuring that they have equal access to resources and opportunities. We prioritize women's and girls' empowerment for equitable, inclusive community and national growth.

Mercy Corps' Efficiency

Over the last five years, we have used 86 percent of our resources for programs that help people in need.



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