

## Jordan

### Update on the context and situation of children

Jordan is home to 10.8 million people, hosting the second-highest share of refugees per capita in the world. More than 760,000 refugees are registered with UNHCR, predominantly from Syria (660,892), with large groups also from Iraq, Yemen, Sudan, and Somalia. Nearly half of the refugee population are children below the age of 18. Around 83 per cent live in urban areas outside of refugee camps.[1] Jordan has a relatively young population, with nearly 31 per cent between the age of 0-14 years, 31 per cent aged 10-24 years, and 64 per cent in the productive age of 15-64 years (UNFPA, 2022).[2] Jordan has a small open economy which depends mainly on services, tourism, remittances and foreign aid. The last decade has shown sluggish growth at insufficient levels (at average 2 per cent during 2010-2019, and negative growth during 2020[3]) to generate jobs, reduce inequality and poverty. Also, the persistent water and energy challenges and the influx of massive numbers of refugees have put more pressure on an already debt-burdened economy (debt-to-GDP ratio increased by 16 percentage points from 2019 to 2020 (UNICEF, 2021[4]). Additionally, the unemployment rate during the 3rd quarter of 2022 reached (23.1 per cent), which is an increase of 4 percentage points compared to the third quarter of 2019, with higher unemployment levels among young people 46.9 per cent for 15-24 years; predominantly females (67.5per cent)[5]; placing the country with one of the highest youth unemployment rates in the world.

The poverty rate in the country have also increased. According to National Social Protection Strategy (NSPS), the poverty rate in Jordan was 15.7 per cent in 2018, which increased from 14.4 per cent in 2010 (NSPS, 2019)[6]; these estimates are only for the Jordanian population. The poverty rate for Syrian refugees is 80 per cent, and 60 per cent are extremely poor. With the advent of COVID-19, the poverty rates increased for Jordanians and Syrians (Karasapan, January 2022).[7] Mental stress was also reported among host and refugee communities[8]. According to UNICEF (2018), multidimensional child poverty reached 20.3 per cent (deprived in 2 or more dimensions); however, these estimates were based on Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) 2012, and COVID-19 has further exacerbated the poverty and deprivations faced by the children in Jordan (UNICEF, 2021)[9]. The socioeconomic context has raised child protection concerns across the country, with gendered implications for girls and boys and their families. Now, with limited income, vulnerable households are more likely to send their children, mostly boys, to work and adopt other negative coping strategies like marrying early, especially girls, to reduce the economic burden. Additionally, an increase has been reported on domestic violence leading to violence against children, with almost 70% of Jordanian women and girls being victims[10].

Jordan has made significant strides in increasing the enrolment in basic education of both Jordanians and non-Jordanians. Despite this progress, at least 31.4 per cent of Syrian children and 22 per cent of children from other nationalities (Iraqis, Pakistanis, Somali, and others) between the age of 6-15 years remained out of school prior to COVID-19.[11] Whilst challenges existed prior to COVID-19, pandemic-related school closures of almost two years have since put progress at risk. The majority of students aged 10 to 12 years old in Zaatari and Azraq Camp cannot read a simple story, whilst data from the MOE-UNICEF National Diagnostic Assessment (2022) show that most students, regardless of location or status, are not meeting grade-level expectations in maths and Arabic.

Over the years, Jordan has achieved a number of Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs) indicators related to health, but the COVID-19 crisis has negatively impacted some of these outcomes. According to DHS (2018), although the basic vaccination coverage is relatively high (86 per cent of 12-23-month-olds), children in hard-to-reach areas, including those from mobile communities of Syrian refugees and Jordanian ethnic minorities remain difficult to vaccinate. UNICEF's assessment during the time of COVID-19 shows that 17 per cent of the vulnerable households reported that their children under 5 did not receive the basic vaccine.[12] When asked about the primary reasons for the delay in the

vaccination, most of the respondents reported the closure of a clinic or hospital nearby, travel restrictions, and fear of COVID-19.[13]

Rising temperatures and less reliable seasonal rainfall and droughts have made Jordan one of the world's most water-scarce countries. Jordan ranks as the world's second water-poorest country (MOWI, 2017). This is also compounded by high rates of non-revenue water, an estimated 47.5 per cent nationally. Though CO2 and methane emissions by Jordan are relatively lower than its neighbors, the country faces unprecedented changes in its climate and water availability.

[1] UNHCR (2022) Data Portal for Refugees. Last Accessed December 2022. Available at:

<https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/syria/location/36>

[2] UNFPA (2022) World Population Dashboard. Last Accessed December 2022. Available at:

<https://www.unfpa.org/data/world-population/JO>

[3] World Bank (2022) GDP growth rate figures. Last Accessed December 2022. Available at:

<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.KD.ZG?locations=JO>

[4] UNICEF (2021) Supporting Vulnerable Children's School Participation and Wellbeing: UNICEF's Hajati Cash Transfer Program-Post Distribution Monitoring Report for the 2019-20 school year.

Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/jordan/media/7966/file/Hajati%20PDM%20Report%202019-20.pdf>

[5] DOS (2022) Unemployment Statistics. Last Accessed December 2022. Available at:

<http://dosweb.dos.gov.jo/>

[6] NSPS (2019) Jordan National Social Protection Strategy 2019-25. Available at:

<https://www.unicef.org/jordan/reports/jordan-national-social-protection-strategy-2019-2025>

[7] Karasapan, O. (January 27, 2022) Syrian Refugees in Jordan: A Decade and Counting. Brookings Institute. Available at: <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/future-development/2022/01/27/syrian-refugees-in-jordan-a-decade-and-counting/#:~:text=Around%2080%20percent%20of%20Jordan's,has%20increased%20with%20the%20pandemic.>

[8] Frontiers | The Impact of the SARS-CoV-2 Pandemic on Mental Health in Vulnerable Population Settings: The Case of Jordan (frontiersin.org)

[9] UNICEF (2021) Geographic Multidimensional Vulnerability Analysis. <https://www.unicef.org/jordan/Geographic-Multidimensional-Vulnerability-Analysis>

[10] UNFPA. *Daring to ask, listen, and act: a snapshot of the impacts of COVID-19 on women and girls' rights and sexual and reproductive health.* (2020). Available online at:

<https://reliefweb.int/report/jordan/daring-ask-listen-and-act-snapshot-impacts-covid-19-women-and-girls-rights-and-sexual> (accessed June 15, 2021).

[11] UNICEF and MOE (2021) Jordan Country Report on Out-of-School Children: Middle East and North Africa Out-of-School Children Initiative. Available at:

<https://www.unicef.org/jordan/reports/jordan-country-report-out-school-children>

[12] Basic vaccination includes; BCG, three doses of DPT-IPV-Hib, and one dose of measles.

[13] UNICEF (2020) Socio-Economic Assessment of Children and Youth in the time of COVID-19. Accessed April 4 2021. Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/jordan/reports/socio-economic-assessment-children-and-youth-time-covid-19-jordan>

[14] UNICEF (2020) Socio-Economic Assessment of Children and Youth in the time of COVID-19. Accessed April 4 2021. Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/jordan/reports/socio-economic-assessment-children-and-youth-time-covid-19-jordan>

## Major contributions and drivers of results

UNICEF is transitioning into a new country programme in 2023 that prioritizes system-strengthening. UNICEF has leveraged its established presence in Jordan and strong partnerships with government bodies to continue delivering essential services to the most vulnerable communities in line with UNICEF's key goal areas.

### Goal Area 1: Every child survives and thrives

Jordan's healthcare system faces several challenges, including underutilization of primary–healthcare (PHC) in preference for secondary and tertiary care services.

Obesity prevalence is alarmingly high in Jordan among children and adults, putting the population at a high risk of developing non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Women have the worst rates of obesity and undernutrition, indicating a significant gender gap in nutrition. Moreover, Jordan has one of the lowest rates of early initiation and exclusive breastfeeding, with only 26 per cent of babies below six months being exclusively breastfed. The country is not on track to meet the global targets to improve maternal, infant, and young child nutrition (MIYCN)[1].

To address these challenges, UNICEF is working to strengthen preventive care at PHCs and the healthcare system. As part of this effort, UNICEF has implemented the Family Community Medicine Team approach in select facilities as part of a pilot, extending the reach of PHC services and focusing on the most vulnerable Jordanians and Syrian refugees. PHC services have been provided to 1,886 Syrian refugees (54 per cent women) and 1,430 vulnerable Jordanians (44 per cent women). UNICEF has also built a national electronic Health Information System (eHIS) to capture real-time service delivery data at PHCs which has secured government buy-in and is being scaled up to the national level. Additionally, UNICEF has supported the development of a national nutrition strategy, which was launched by the Ministry of Health (MoH) in the summer of 2022 as well as supported the release of the National Micronutrient study.

In 2022, UNICEF also provided support to the national immunization system by conducting a cold chain equipment inventory assessment and procuring insulated cold cars and refrigerators. Data analysis of the immunization records of children in the second year of life indicated a lower coverage rate for Measles Mumps and Rubella (MMR2) and a higher dropout rate between MMR1 and MMR2. UNICEF is currently working on establishing a comprehensive microplanning and national training of trainers for microplanning in Jordan. UNICEF also supported MoH to respond to a measles outbreak in four governorates using Periodical Intensified Routine Immunization (PIRI) reaching 1,863 (52 percent female) zero-dose children in November 2023.

### **Goal Area 2: Every child learns**

In 2022, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education (MoE) to reimagine education - improving data on learning, designing interventions that address learning inequalities, blended teacher professional development and a focus on school leadership.

To recover and accelerate children's learning, the MOE is implementing Learning Bridges, a blended learning programme designed with UNICEF support and engaging over 600,000 students nationally (57 per cent female). In 2022, UNICEF introduced two new programmes; firstly, to accelerate learning in maths and Arabic for 56,803 (54 percent female) students in Makani Centres, and secondly a reading recovery programme implemented in partnership with the MoE and targeting 6,384 (53 per cent female) adolescents in all 27 schools in Azraq and Za'atari refugee camps with grades 5 and 6, all 26 NFE Centers in camps and 15 Makani centres nationally.

An MOE-UNICEF National Diagnostic Assessment (NDA) in maths and Arabic, assessed lost learning of over 840,000 students (reaching 80 per cent of all public school students in Grade 4 to 11) to provide teachers with data on what children know and can do post COVID-19. UNICEF also supported MoE to provide professional development for 82,968 school personnel on the National Teacher Professional Standards course, as well as launched an E-Safety Learning Platform. Mentoring and coaching was provided to all 47 MoE school principals in Azraq and Za'atari refugee camps to improve school planning for attendance and learning outcomes.

Over 1,000 Syrian volunteers supported quality education for Syrian refugees across 51 MoE schools/18 KGs/26 Non-Formal Education (NFE) centres in camps, reaching over 35,000 students, as well as across 435 MoE schools in the host community.

Early learning was supported through the construction of 20 KG2 classrooms in Azraq and Za'atari refugee camps and early grade reading support for students from KG2 to Grade 2 also provided in the camps. The enrollment and retention of 2,513 children with disabilities in refugee camps was supported, including the provision of assistive devices and transport where needed.

UNICEF implemented a variety of initiatives to empower and engage young people in civic and community action in host communities as well as Azraq and Za'atari refugee camps. These initiatives

engaged 87,201 young people (58 per cent females) in foundational skills including life and employability skills, financial literacy, and girls' leadership, which led to improved self-confidence and community engagement among young participants, especially young women.

The Life Skills Programme, with huge potential for gender transformative change was institutionalized under the MoY which now fully owns this programme and has integrated it into its executive plans and core budget. UNICEF provided technical assistance to 201 MoY Youth Centers, 3 social innovation incubators, and 3 Youth Corners and built the capacity of 510 staff from MoY on modules from the Life Skills and Social Innovation UPSHIFT which were embedded in the curricula of the Vocational Training Centre.

UNICEF and Naua, the Crown Prince Foundation, in strategic partnership with the MoY, continued to provide meaningful youth engagement and volunteering opportunities through the Nahno platform. This platform, a national youth volunteering platform, is accessible online at Nahno.org. Since its launch in 2019, a total of 107,817 young people (67 percent female) registered on the portal (25,239 young people in 2022) logging in more than 3 million hours of volunteering provided by 829 entities including NGOs, CSOs, Government and private sector.

The MoY and UNICEF launched the Youth Engagement in Climate Action Programme, SAWN ('Preservation' in Arabic) in partnership with both donors and a private sector partner. The programme comprises of awareness raising, capacity building, and advocacy activities. 36 Youth Leaders (55 percent female) were trained to spearhead the action in their communities on climate change, by conducting community needs assessments. An additional 120 young people (68 percent female) Youth Leaders are also engaged in this programme.

UNICEF's efforts also resulted in the endorsement of the Declaration on Children, Youth and Climate Action by the Council of Ministers post COP27. Additionally, the Al Hussein Bin Abdullah II award for voluntary service was formally announced and awards will be distributed in mid-2023.

UNICEF's Learning to Earning portfolio also helped young people practice positive behaviors and actively engage in society. This included career guidance delivered to 410 young people, technical and vocational training and on the job training to 1,812 young people. Training was also provided to 3,041 young people on basic and advanced digital skills, and provision of technical and financial entrepreneurship support to 1,618 young people. Despite challenges from the COVID-19 related economic crisis, implementing partners were able to match 976 graduates of different training courses with suitable job opportunities and support the opening of new small and medium enterprises, including innovative initiatives redressing gender stereotypes. Overall, these initiatives led to positive impacts on young people's self-confidence, community engagement, and job readiness, and to improved income and living standards for young people – especially young women - and their households.

### **Goal Area 3: Every child is protected from violence and exploitation**

UNICEF's advocacy efforts have led to advancements in child protection in Jordan, including approval of the Child Rights law, improvements to the national child protection system as well as increased availability and improved quality of services for at-risk children.

The GoJ is progressively advancing its commitment to realize children's rights. This year, Jordan made a global commitment to End Violence Against Children (EVAC). GoJ initiated the development of a costed multi-sectoral, inter-ministerial action plan on EVAC, social workforce strengthening, and national-wide implementation of Standards Operating Procedures (SOP) on case management.

MoSD, Family Protection and Juvenile Department (FPJD), UNICEF and its implementing partners, provided case management services for child protection and gender-based violence to 9,732 beneficiaries (3,898 girls, 4,707 boys, 1,127 women) and offered positive parenting training to 32,763 (99 per cent women) caregivers.

UNICEF initiated an automated case management system, on pilot basis, that connects several ministries to work collaboratively to provide a multisectoral response to family violence cases. MoSD, MoE, MoH, FPJD, National Council for Family Affairs (NCFA) and two national NGOs are engaged in this pilot. Results of the pilot will lead to the next steps on the automated case management system.

In coordination with MoE, UNICEF supported the initiation of a nationwide monthly online survey on violence in schools. This survey provides students an opportunity to report VAC in schools. Results of the survey are analyzed and action then taken at the school level to address the VAC.

Jordan, in November 2022, approved the new Child Rights law. UNICEF provided technical support to NCFA, including a study on the costs of implementing the law, which helped its passage. The new law addresses gaps in existing legislation and promotes the rights of children, including ensuring non-discrimination and access to proper nutrition, education, and safety. It also aims to prevent violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of children, including gendered discrimination, and promotes parents' commitment to their children. UNICEF will continue to support the implementation of the law, as well as advocate for additional laws and their enforcement, related to alternative care and the rights of young people in Jordan, including those based on gender-based discriminatory norms.

#### **Goal Area 4: Every child lives in a safe and clean environment**

UNICEF continued its collaboration with the GoJ to ensure access to WASH services and ensure a clean environment for Syrian refugees living in the camps. Support for increased WASH access in host and vulnerable communities and institutions was provided.

UNICEF's leading role in the humanitarian WASH sector provided coordination and support to align, plan, and report across the WASH sector in alignment with the Jordan Response Plan (JRP). Moreover, UNICEF reinforced its engagement in evidence generation on water scarcity and climate change priorities. As co-lead in the development of the WASH/climate related UNSDCF joint strategy and workplan for the next cooperation period, UNICEF was in line with the office's strategic shift towards stronger involvement in gender responsive climate change, and mainstreaming it across all sectors under the new 2023-2027 country programme document (CPD).

Throughout the year, UNICEF ensured provision of life-saving WASH services in Azraq, Za'atari and King Abdullah Park (KAP) refugee camps, reaching all 117,000 beneficiaries through implementing partners and contractors and in collaboration with the Ministry of Water and Irrigation (MoWI).

UNICEF also reached all 7,500 Persons of Concern (PoC) living in Rukban providing a source of safe water, sanitation and hygiene promotion to maintain a safe environment. Moreover, through UNICEF direct support, WASH services improved for 38,487 people, 9,749 of whom are living in informal tented settlements, one the most vulnerable communities in Jordan. WASH interventions for vulnerable families were complemented with hygiene promotion and environmental awareness sessions, including on menstrual hygiene, contributing to maintaining a healthy living lifestyle and an environmentally conscious attitude. In addition, UNICEF supported the rehabilitation of WASH facilities in 11 schools, resulting in 13,667 children benefiting from improved access to WASH services.

UNICEF supported the MoWI to increase access to WASH services for the most vulnerable communities. By mid-2022, in collaboration with Aqaba Water, UNICEF had initiated two projects in the South of Jordan for the rehabilitation of a water supply system and a water treatment unit targeting 17,000 beneficiaries. These efforts aim not only to improve access to safe and reliable water but also to strengthen the social contract and build trust to ensure the sustainability of service delivery.

#### **Goal Area 5: Every child has an equitable chance in life**

UNICEF continued supporting the government in the implementation of the National Social Protection Strategy (NSPS) where key high-level results were achieved in 2022, such as: strengthening the institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms for the operationalization of the NSPS; institutionalization and integration of the ISU (Implementation Support Unit) for the NSPS officially within the MoSD; implementation of a reporting mechanism working closely with 21 institutions for updates and progress against NSPS indicators and priorities; and development of an analytical report on the Social Protection Sector, including progress on the NSPS.

In the context of influencing domestic public finance for children, a Climate Public Expenditure Review (CPEP) was developed as part of the SDG funded programme that involved the RC office (RCO), UNDP, UNWOMEN. The CPEP presented evidence and analysis on climate related public expenditures in Jordan. Additionally, the CPEP provided a range of options and recommendations to support the process of institutionalizing and integrating climate change into national budgeting and

planning systems.

UNICEF and ESCWA produced the Jordan CGE (Computable General Equilibrium) model and handed it over to the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC). The CGE model is a standard tool for policy analysis that is based on modeling data based on actual economic data and estimating how an economy might react to changes in cases of crisis or shocks. The CGE model can assist policy makers to design alternative policy solutions through evidence-based analysis corresponding to different scenarios.

On the social assistance side, UNICEF worked with the government to digitalize the social protection sector, strengthen the national social safety net, specifically the National Aid Fund (NAF). The expansion of the Takaful Programme and the rollout of the Takaful Plus by linking Takaful Cash programme beneficiaries with Makani programme was noteworthy. The expansion of the National Unified Registry where 32 new entities were connected to the registry was beneficial to many people. The technical support provided to NAF contributed to increase national budget allocations for NAF and foster care (NAF: around 245 million JOD in 2022 increased by 64 per cent compared to 2020). The Makani programme (“my space” in Arabic) is one of UNICEF Jordan’s most significant social protection programmes, promoting the wellbeing of the most vulnerable children and youth and supporting them to achieve their full potential. The programme offers integrated multi-sectorial services by linking interventions in education (Learning Support Services); child protection; early childhood development and youth empowerment, with a community-based approach. Makani has shown its adaptability to different contexts, to meet emerging community needs; enhance social cohesion; support local structures; and strengthen resilience to future challenges.

As of 2022, there are 137 Makani Centres, located in host communities (66), refugee camps (20) and informal tented settlements (51) in all 12 governorates of Jordan, targeting vulnerable children and young people, girls and boys, families and community members, regardless of their status. The programme reached over 146,000 children, youth and parents in 2022. The programme has shown positive impacts on the development outcomes of its beneficiaries, with potentials for supporting gender transformative pathways[2].

[1] Nutrition and Food Safety (who.int)

[2] Summative Impact Evaluation of the UNICEF Jordan Makani Programme | UNICEF Jordan

## UN Collaboration and Other Partnerships

Led by the United Nations Resident Coordinator's office, UNICEF collaborated with all the UN agencies to support the development of the 2023-2027 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF).

Partnerships with UN agencies in both the humanitarian and development areas to promote coherence and coordination were strengthened including the Gender Theme Group [1] and this element will continue to be developed further in 2023. Strategic partnership with the government was enhanced in 2022.

In health, partnership with WHO, Ministry of Health and Jordan Center for Disease Control on Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) entailed strengthening the capacity in RCCE among the Health Communication and Awareness Directorate leadership and drafting the National RCCE Strategy that will be approved in 2023 as a key guiding document for RCCE in various disease outbreak.

In education, UNICEF partnered closely with the MoE in advancing education reforms for all children in Jordan and in supporting learning recovery efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic and works closely with UNESCO and other key partners.

UNICEF continues to co-chair the Education Sector Working Group (ESWG) and co-organized with UNESCO to support MoE to conduct the national consultation for the Transforming Education Summit to prepare the action plan ahead of the Summit.

UNICEF partnered with UN agencies such as UNDP, WHO and UNESCO on the creation of UN Youth Council and with UNDP and WFP on the Social Innovation programme. ILO and UNICEF collaborated on the implementation of the Job Search Clubs methodology and the EU-MADAD graduation programme. UNICEF liaised with UNDP, ILO and UNFPA on the national commitments that the four agencies helped the Government put together as part of the High-Level Meeting on Learning to Earning that took place in May 2022. In addition, UNICEF collaborated with UNHCR, UNFPA and UNWOMEN along with government partners on the development of National Action Plan for Ending Violence against Children in Jordan.

UNICEF Jordan continued its outreach to the Private Sector. New partnerships are being forged with the private sector to address gender gap in young women's labour force engagement. UNICEF Jordan signed its first partnership agreement with the private sector in Jordan in support of Youth Engagement in Climate Action. The Jordan Country Office also laid the foundations for collaborating with women and girl-focused local organisations.

[1] UNSDG | Gender Theme Groups: Standards and Procedures

## Lessons Learned and Innovations

UNICEF collaborated with government agencies in Jordan to implement health and nutrition programmes but faced challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite these challenges, UNICEF was able to develop a digital health information system, the first of its kind in Jordan, for primary health care and rolled it out in pilot facilities in 2022. Transitioning to a system-strengthening approach, UNICEF focused on emphasizing the importance of investment in development and humanitarian efforts to aid vulnerable children and women in Jordan. UNICEF has also ensured that health services are gender-responsive and accessible to all and has emphasized the importance of gender equity analysis to understand any disparities in access to services between young girls and

boys.

The national diagnostic assessment (NDA) supported by UNICEF has provided the MoE with national results across grades 4 to 11 to analyze lost learning and target remedial efforts. This is one of the first such assessments post-COVID-19 globally providing real-time data for teachers. The results are being analyzed in terms of gender, status and location and are supporting MoE and UNICEF to target efforts to reduce education inequalities. UNICEF continued to support online blended teacher professional development – a recent innovation for Jordan, raising the quality of in-service teacher training. In 2022, this has included online e-safety, training for the NDA, as well as awareness of national teacher professional standards. An assessment of Learning Bridges (UNICEF, 2022) found that the program strengthened teacher skills in blended learning and the use of technology, as well as overall teacher pedagogy. This has helped teachers to improve their teaching practice and support children's learning recovery.

In order to make UNICEF's programmes more comprehensive and effective, the Adolescent and Youth team identified the need to improve collaboration and knowledge sharing between implementing partners and to strengthen referral pathways between interventions. One lesson relates to the approach adopted by UNICEF to facilitate the transition of the Life Skills Programme to the MoY, through a gradual and strategic approach and by embedding a sustainability vision into programme design and implementation from the very beginning. This vision entailed an understanding that such a transition would only be achieved over a long-term period, step-by-step, and building on gradual achievements, existing structures and systems. Through a flexible and accommodating approach, UNICEF found a collaboration and delivery model that suited MoY needs, and that involved comprehensive capacity building (covering curriculum content, financial management, monitoring and evaluation, reporting, communication) and cost-sharing arrangements.

Another lesson relates to the innovative nature of the Nahno platform, a scalable solution to drive youth volunteerism and engagement which was highlighted as a proof of concept for the UNICEF Learning to Act initiative and replicated in two other countries in MENA.

UNICEF Adolescent and Youth team also started working in an innovative way to fundraise, with the Education Outcome Fund to launch an Outcome-Based Fund in the skills-for-employment sector in Jordan. This funding model aimed to improve the placement and retention outcomes of vocational and digital skills training, by providing training providers with incentives to deliver effective training and by targeting the most vulnerable young people.

In 2022, UNICEF continued its coordinated efforts to align the humanitarian WASH sector activities within the larger development agenda. However, challenges such as the need for a transition in service delivery in refugee camps, as well as the overall availability of water continued to impact the delivery of WASH services.

As per its renewed engagement in evidence generation, UNICEF WASH section completed and launched the study "Tapped Out - The costs of water stress in Jordan" in collaboration with the Ministry of Water and Irrigation and in partnership with The Economist Impact. This was an innovative partnership. The study aimed to ignite a deeper discussion among policy makers and the international donor community on the unfolding crisis of water scarcity in Jordan as well as the socio-economic impacts across sectors and vulnerable people in Jordan.

With respect to social protection, UNICEF has learned lessons including the importance of having a unified policy framework for the social protection sector (NSPS), which is crucial in maximizing synergies and ensuring integrated approaches across different areas of the social policy system. This includes strengthening institutional arrangements and supporting operationalization mechanisms at both the national and community levels, as well as implementing activities and sector-wide policy priorities under the NSPS.

Effective social protection and policy programming relies on strong partnerships and interventions at various stages of the policy/service delivery cycle, including: gender-responsive social protection policies and sector strategies, system strengthening and institutional capacity building, provision of social policy programmes with enhanced linkages to the national system, support for the development-humanitarian nexus, social budgeting and public financing for children (PF4C), and evidence



generation for national-level data.

Investment in digital technologies and integrated databases/systems is essential for sector integration, improved targeting, and overall increased coverage and inclusiveness. This includes digitization, MIS, and the continued engagement and contributions to key areas at the national level, with a focus on transferring innovations from humanitarian responses to the national systems.

Generating updated and timely evidence and socio-economic assessments through partnerships with government, UN and IFIs is important for informing responses and programming, particularly considering the delays and time span associated with national statistics/surveys. This includes developing programme components related to graduation and economic inclusion of youth and females, as well as a dedicated component for PF4C and social protection/financing issues.

As the Jordan Country Office embarks on its new CPD, systematic efforts will be made to strengthen an equity framing, including a strong gendered lens, across sectoral work and institutionally. JCO will build on the gender roadmap and institutional priorities to ensure gender equitable results and workplace.