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# Jordan



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## Country Snapshot

<b>Population:</b>	5.4 million
<b>Achieved independence:</b>	1946
<b>Life expectancy at birth:</b>	71.2 years
<b>Adult literacy rate:</b>	89.9%
<b>Access to improved water source:</b>	97%
<b>Under five mortality rate:</b>	23.9 per 1000 births (overall)
<b>Maternal mortality rate:</b>	41 per 100,000 live births
<b>HIV prevalence:</b>	<0.2%

Source: UN Human Development Report 2007/2008

**Program overview** CARE is one of the oldest and largest non-religious and non-political international organisations in Jordan, having worked in the country for more than 50 years. This small, arid country has very limited resources and is one of the most water scarce countries in the world. High unemployment, particularly among women, high fertility rates and threats to stability by conflicts in neighbouring countries contribute to a dependence on aid and poor development indicators.

After years of war and conflict in the Palestinian Territories and Gaza, more than one million Palestinian refugees live in Jordan. Since 1990 they have been joined by many uprooted from conflict in Iraq. The high number of people fleeing other countries to Jordan has put essential services; schools, health centres, hospitals and water supplies, under extreme pressure; prices are pushed out of the reach of many people, which means poverty is on the increase for refugees and Jordanians alike. Many of those seeking safety in Jordan from Iraq are particularly poor and vulnerable: they do not have residence or the right to work, and their access to services, like education and health care, has been disrupted.

CARE's focus in Jordan looks to create fair opportunities for women in the labour market, support the development of viable civil society organisations to manage natural resources and to assist those affected by emergencies.

### Food and livelihood security

Jordan is the fourth most water scarce country in the world. Ninety-one per cent of Jordan is situated in an arid or semi-arid zone where farming is a very precarious way to make a living. CARE is running projects promoting permaculture technologies to restore soil fertility to produce crops with less water and no chemical additives. These small projects have demonstrated clear benefits for rural families.

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Working through local community groups, farmers are selected to benefit while demonstrating to others the advantages of permaculture. Revolving loans also ensure that technologies, including grey water reuse systems, water harvesting and poultry management, are available to a wide range of people.

### Civil society strengthening

CARE believes that sustainable development requires an active and able civil society that can support government efforts in combating poverty, and represent the views of the communities they serve.

All of CARE's work in Jordan is developed and delivered in partnership with local organisations with a vision to assist local people to find solutions to their problems in ways that best suit them. In particular, CARE assists women to become involved in the work of local organisations so that their views are heard. CARE supports 14 such organisations through community based research and planning, training in strategic management, project development and assisting improved networking between groups. In particular, CARE works to support the participation of women in these organisations.

CARE has also been actively involved in consultation with the Government of Jordan - Ministry of Social Development over a new non-government organisation law, which has made some small improvements to the operation of local organisations.

### Women's Empowerment

Traditional limitations on women's freedom to work and make decisions within their homes and communities mean they are disproportionately affected by poverty.

To help, CARE has established savings and loans schemes, so that women can pool their resources to start businesses and buy essential goods, like food. In one example, three women's groups have been established by women to provide an important forum for them to take action for change in their communities. CARE is also developing a Women's Employment Agency, which is intended to operate as an independent business providing fair opportunities for women in the labour market.

### Major donors

European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO), United Nations High Commission for Refugees, US Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM), Dutch Government, US Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL), Australian Public, and various private and corporate donors.

### CARE International members supporting current programs

CARE Australia, CARE Austria, CARE Netherlands, CARE UK.

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