



Jordan

©Josh Estey/CARE



Country Snapshot

Population:	6.1 million
Life expectancy at birth:	73 years
Adult literacy rate:	93%
Access to improved water source:	98%
GDP per capita (PPP):*	US\$4,901
Infant mortality rate:	17 per 1,000 live births
Maternal mortality rate:	62 per 100,000 live births
HIV prevalence:**	<0.02%

Sources: UNICEF State of the World's Children Report 2010, *UNDP Human Development Report 2009, **UNAIDS Global Report 2008

Program Overview CARE began work in Jordan in 1948 to meet the needs of Palestinian refugees displaced with the creation of Israel. Currently, economic participation of women remains lower here than in other countries in the region despite comparatively higher educational attainment. Traditional values that restrict women's rights are compounded by discrimination in the workplace. Jordan also has one of the lowest levels of water resource availability per capita in the world. As the population doubles over the next two decades, water scarcity will become an even greater problem and will challenge farmers to improve food security through environmentally sustainable agricultural practices. Finally, Jordan has been host to an estimated 450,000 refugees fleeing violence and insecurity in Iraq. In 2009, CARE continued working to meet the needs of poor farmers, women, and these refugees, all affected by conflict, economic disparity, discrimination or a fragile resource base.

Natural Resources Management

In Jordan, the fourth most water-scarce country in the world, farming is a very precarious way to make a living. The country's growing population, intensive farming, and industrial developments all put pressure on water availability and affect soil quality. Inefficient agricultural practices use 75 percent of the nation's water while agriculture generates less than eight percent of the GDP. In 2008, CARE Jordan began to demonstrate affordable, replicable, environmentally sustainable agricultural practices in the poorest, most vulnerable rural communities, and in 2009, began two new sustainable agriculture projects in Balqa. Nearly 15,000 farmers, particularly women, benefitted from training and support in composting, greywater use, water harvesting, and soil conservation to help them cope with chronic water shortages. Women were also encouraged to actively engage in the project committees. In 2010, CARE plans to create eight plots; train 200 farmers on new models of home gardening, farming and water-saving practices; provide loans on a revolving-loan basis to more than 150 farming families; and strengthen village organizations' sustainable farming techniques.

continued on back



©Josh Estey/CARE



©Josh Estey/CARE



©Josh Estey/CARE

Civil Society Strengthening

CARE believes that sustainable development requires an active and able civil society: one that can support government efforts in combating poverty and represent the views of the communities it serves. All CARE's work in Jordan is developed and delivered in partnership with local organizations with a vision to assist local people to find solutions in ways that best suit them. In 2009, CARE worked with the Jordanian government and three community-based organizations to provide direct, effective response services to 500 families and individuals from Iraq living in East Amman. The goals of this initiative were to provide: counseling services with trained staff to both vulnerable Iraqis and Jordanians; referral to complementary services; essential material assistance; social and community activities to support the development of refugees' skills for resettlement or return; and mechanisms to protect and continue such services through an alliance of community-based organizations. CARE has also been actively involved in consultation with the Government of Jordan's Ministry of Social Development over a new aid agency law, which has made some improvements to the operation of local organizations.

Women's Rights

In 2009, Jordan ranked 144th out of 155 countries in the UN Development Programme (UNDP) Gender-related Development Index. While scoring well on education and health, access to equitable employment remains a challenge for Jordanian women, who lack vocational training and employment opportunities. CARE has been working since 2008 to create a standalone, self-financing institution that has successfully provided training and secure job placements in the private sector for 450 women. Furthermore, since Jordan is a signatory to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), CARE has been working to support equal participation of women in political representation, education and the workplace. CARE's initiative has engaged women to form advocacy groups to lobby for changes that will enable women to

claim their rights, participate in decision making and become part of a viable movement for change. Six women's advocacy groups have been established, providing 200 women with training and capacity building. CARE intends to expand the initiative to neighboring countries in the near future.

Refugees

Many of the 450,000 refugees from Iraq are hidden within the poorest areas of Amman in low-cost housing with Jordanian neighbors, some of whom are as poor as they are. The majority, without community support or the right to work, are becoming increasingly vulnerable, requiring assistance and protection from violence and exploitation. CARE has been working since 2004 to provide an integrated effective response to vulnerable refugees, with support for host communities, to enable them to recover dignity and wellbeing in order to rebuild their lives. CARE provides non-food items and material assistance, counseling and support services, vocational training and livelihoods programs, and community development programs to give essential support to host communities and ease tensions between refugees and local communities. CARE Jordan has been working with thousands of refugee families to provide not only material assistance but information services from social workers, a referral system for further support, and specialized counseling services, particularly for women facing gender-based violence. In addition, CARE has been supporting 10 community-based organizations to provide vocational training, livelihoods programs and community-based activities to vulnerable refugees and Jordanian host communities.

Major Donors

European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO); UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR); U.S. Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM); Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC); the Australian Government; the Government of the Netherlands; U.S. Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL); and private donors.

Last updated August 2010

CARE Jordan

Jan Field, Country Director, jan@care.org.jo

Anis Tarabey, Program Manager, anis@care.org.jo

T: +962 6 552 7921

www.caremiddleeast.org

Middle East Regional

Management Unit - Cairo, Egypt

T: +20.2.2525.3132/2528.8034

F: +20.2.2527.7135

cairo@egypt.care.org



www.care-international.org