



Diaspora engagement mapping

JORDAN

Facts & figures

Terminology: Jordan refers to Jordanians (residing) abroad as 'expats' or 'expatriates', terms used interchangeably with 'emigrants' or 'émigré'. Official Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan government sources use the term 'mughtaribin' in Arabic. The term diaspora is not used in the Jordanian policy context.¹

Political rights



Dual citizenship²



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad³



Remittances



Remittances as a share of GDP: **8.83 %**
Remittances inflow (USD million): **4,480**

Data disclaimer

As diaspora definitions vary widely, we have chosen to use comparable data on emigration as a proxy. This does not include all who consider themselves diaspora and is not necessarily aligned with national definitions of diaspora. Emigration data comes from UNDESA (2024) and remittances from the World Bank (2023).

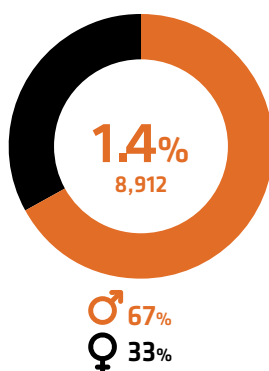
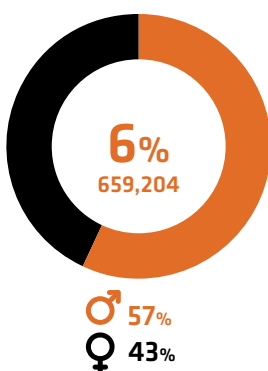
Emigration



% of emigrants in total population



% of which in the EU



Top countries of destination



Saudi Arabia	209,093
United Arab Emirates	158,125
State of Palestine	59,477
Kuwait	58,434
Qatar	34,441

¹ JEMPAS. An overview of Jordan's emigration patterns and policies. A profile of Jordan Expatriates.

² Migrant Facts Jordan (2014). Retrieved from http://www.migrationpolicycentre.eu/docs/fact_sheets/Factsheet%20Jordan.pdf.

³ CARIM - Migration Profile Jordan. European University Institute. Retrieved from <https://cadmus.eui.eu/bitstream/handle/1814/22436/MP%20EN%20Jordan%20with%20links.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 1978** ● **Law on National Social Security (NSS, Law # 30 of 1978)**, amended in 2010 and 2014 mentions that the Jordanian Diaspora working, living or studying abroad are eligible to enrol in the NSS, which is a financial protection mechanism for many Jordanians upon retirement or return to the homeland.⁴
- 2014** ● **EU-Jordan Mobility Partnership:** A key feature of the Mobility Partnership focuses on strengthening efforts to derive all the potential benefits from migration and linking them to development. It aims at strengthening the capacities of Jordan to more effectively reach out to and engage with expatriate communities for the development of Jordan.⁵ The Mobility Partnership includes measures taken to improve the information available to Jordanian citizens on employment, education and training opportunities available in the EU and the mutual recognition of professional and university qualifications.
- 2014**
▼
2019 ● **Five Year Strategy and Action Plan for Expatriates** incorporated four strategic aims:
- Defending the rights and interests of Jordanian expatriates;
 - Establishing and deepening outreach and communication activities between Jordanian expats and the country;
 - Increasing consular services offered by Jordanian missions;
 - Encouraging expat contributions and participations in overall development activity in the Kingdom.
- 2019**
▼
2023 ● **Five Year Strategy and Action Plan for Expatriates incorporates** four strategic aims:
- Enhancing the participation of expatriates in supporting comprehensive and sustainable development initiatives in Jordan;
 - Improving the quality of services provided to expatriates;
 - Developing communication mechanisms between expatriates and the homeland;
 - Strengthening institutional capabilities through capacity building to improve efficiency while serving expatriates.⁶
- The activities that took place since 2019 included upskilling the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants and consular staff to better understand and engage with the needs of Jordanian expats through intensification of communication and engagement, development of electronic services and information, providing support for Arabic language classes for 2nd and 3rd generation Jordanians and the creation of an expatriate investment fund for national development.⁷
- 2011**
▼
2020 ● **Jordan's National Employment Strategy.** The plan references, as one of its objectives, the increase in participation of diaspora Jordanian business pioneers in the development of new and existing businesses and linkages with foreign markets through economic and human capital investments.⁸
- 2016**
▼
2025 ● **National Strategy for Human Resource Development.** The National Strategy for Human Resource Development (HRD) aims to develop the skills and capabilities of current and future Jordanian generations to enable a strong workforce that lead the development of Jordan's economic, cultural, social and environmental terms. To implement the strategy's workplan, it presents a blended financing approach that relies on different sources of financing including diaspora bonds to finance public infrastructure programmes, making the diaspora a key player in advancing development strategies in the country.⁹

4 Carim Migration Profile Jordan: Rights and Settlement. Retrieved from https://migrationpolicycentre.eu/docs/migration_profiles/Jordan.pdf

5 European Commission. EU-Jordan: a new partnership to better manage mobility and migration. Retrieved from https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_14_1109

6 Ministry of Foreign Affairs. 2019-2023 Strategy and Action Plan for Expatriates 2019-2023. Retrieved and translated from <https://www.mfa.gov.jo/content/expatriates-strategic-plan>

7 JEMPAS. A profile of Jordan's Expatriates. An overview of Jordan's emigration patterns and policies.

8 https://www.ilo.org/dyn/youthpol/en/equest.fileutils.dochandle?p_uploaded_file_id=171

9 <http://en.heac.org.jo/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/National-HRD-Strategy.pdf>

Trends

The Government of Jordan's diaspora engagement priority is to establish links with diaspora communities and encourage remittances and local investments, particularly in trade and tourism. To achieve this, the government organises expatriate conferences to consolidate business links between Jordan and the diaspora communities. Moreover, the diaspora engagement strategies aim to collect information on Jordanian professionals working abroad in OECD and Arab Countries to devise policies on return migration.

The Government of Jordan also aims to create a bridge between the diaspora and civil society initiatives run by various Jordanian Organizations, in addition to providing services for Jordanians abroad. An example is the Jordanian Diaspora Network US, launched in 2015, whose first meeting of Jordanian professionals abroad was held in Sunnyvale, California, and included Silicon Valley executives seeking to support entrepreneurship and market access for their compatriots in Jordan.¹⁰ Unfortunately, there is no additional information on any activities or initiatives that occurred subsequently.

Although usually, Embassies do not organize cultural events or gatherings, nor are there any reported activities or efforts held by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, during the Covid-19 crisis, the Embassy of Jordan in London was reported to communicate directly with Jordanians residing in the UK via email. It provided contact details of Jordanian doctors in the UK who volunteered to give free advice on the phone.¹¹



Achievements

Bilateral labour agreements¹² (as well as access to the National Social Security Programme) has encouraged emigration and as a result has been identified as a government strategy to relieve unemployment, attract foreign aid from migrant receiving Gulf Coordination Council (GCC) states and increase remittances.¹³

Obstacles



- **Communication:** The Ministry of Foreign Affairs website was not updated until July 2020 and still lacks information. One of the main obstacles to diaspora-use of the website is the lack of language options.
- **Use of data:** There have been several efforts exerted by the "Support to the Mobility Partnership between the EU and Jordan" (JEMPAS) project to map the Jordanian diaspora, however the use of this data by the authorities has been limited.
- **Lack of policy coordination and implementation:** Policy implementation remains a challenge due to issues of resource allocation and poor coordination between government departments. The pressure exerted by different diaspora actors are not coordinated which results in an inability to link policies, strategies and priorities. This has also put business actors off investment.

¹⁰ Jordan Times. <https://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/jordanian-diaspora-network-marks-us-launch>

¹¹ <http://jordanembassy.org.uk/covid-19-information/?fbclid=IwAR0i5gOrW4-nuDBUzBCXDnhO8S1SWjOJfqMEUIDNNthGO7O97Giff4UXOzk>

¹² Qatar (1997), Kuwait (2001), United Arab Emirates (2006),

¹³ The largest distinction of the "migratory process" of the Jordanian diaspora is not conflict-induced but a result of socio-economic conditions.

SPOTLIGHT: effective practices

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Migrant Support Measures from an Employment and Skills Perspective (MESMES) 2016 – Present

SKILLS

The interventions supported by the Ministry of Labor include supporting and regulating the emigration of Jordanians abroad by providing an online portal that allows Jordanians to search for employment opportunities in Jordan and abroad. In addition, due to rising unemployment rates, the Ministry promotes emigration by tracking job opportunities in Gulf countries and supervising the activities of private recruitment agencies. There are 73 private recruitment agencies currently supporting potential emigrants in finding employment abroad.¹⁴ Moreover, MESMES verifies emigrants' level of education and work experience by approving the diplomas and certificates received from all public and private training and educational institutions, as well as from official employers in specific sectors.

Med Generation Project for Jordanian Expatriates Projects¹⁵ 2013-2016

INVESTMENT

The project was implemented by the ANIMA Investment Network, a multi-country cooperation platform for economic development in the Mediterranean, in partnership with the Jordanian Investment Commission. Its objective was to map and mobilise Jordanian expatriate 'talent' in the OECD countries, including senior executives, entrepreneurs, scientists and investors, in order to support the country's economic and human development. When the project ended, ANIMA issued a white paper, which seems to have been circulated internally, proposing six specific measures to remove the obstacles preventing the diaspora from contributing to the Jordanian economy. These relate to issues of mobility, economic attractiveness and cooperation to be adopted by economic development policy makers and actors in the Mediterranean territories. ANIMA suggested to align these ad hoc projects with diaspora strategies and to implement them through coordinated structures, legal provisions and an improved database system.

JEMPAS 2016-2019

DATA

JEMPAS (Support to the Mobility Partnership between the EU and Jordan), was the first project established by the EU-Jordan Mobility Partnership. It was implemented by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development and aimed to both support Jordan and the Jordanian diaspora.¹⁶ JEMPAS hosted an event in Berlin in April 2019 targeting Jordanians in Germany working in STEM and gathered 50 Jordanian professionals. The main outcome of the project was the publication of a practical guide on methodologies for collection of data and information on Jordanian's abroad, a profile of Jordanian expatriates, and an overview of Jordan's emigration pattern and policies.¹⁷

¹⁴ Migrant Support Measures From An Employment And Skills Perspective (Mismes) Jordan

¹⁵ [https://www.med-tso.com/mediterranean.aspx?f=&title=Mediterranean+Project+1+\(2015+--+2018\)](https://www.med-tso.com/mediterranean.aspx?f=&title=Mediterranean+Project+1+(2015+--+2018)) and [https://www.med-tso.com/mediterranean2.aspx?f=&title=Mediterranean+Project+2+\(in+progress%2c+2018+--+2020\)](https://www.med-tso.com/mediterranean2.aspx?f=&title=Mediterranean+Project+2+(in+progress%2c+2018+--+2020))

¹⁶ JEMPAS. <https://www.icmpd.org/our-work/capacity-building/regions/mediterranean/ongoing-projects/jempas-support-to-the-mobility-partnership-between-the-european-union-and-the-hashemite-kingdom-of-jordan/>

¹⁷ JEMPAS Event. Retrieved from <https://www.facebook.com/ICMPDinJordan/photos/pcb.1197239150431601/1197238590431657/> and an internal report within ICMPD titled "Outreach Event for Jordanian Expatriates in Germany Involved in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) Industries: Report and Recommendations"

Joint Training on Expatriate Engagement and Consular Crisis Management (MICIC) 2015 - 2019

The Migrants in Countries in Crisis Project (MICIC) support project (funded by the EU and implemented by ICMPD) and JEMPAS coordinated with the Jordan Institute for Diplomacy to enhance consular crisis management capacities in Jordan.¹⁸

Izwitna online application

The Ministry of Foreign and Expatriates Affairs launched the “Izwitna” or “Our Pride” application, which provides more than 100 electronic services to facilitate the procedures of Jordanian expatriates abroad in coordination with the e-government program. Its objective is to maintain continuous and effective contact with Jordanian expatriates, and to facilitate the process of providing them with the necessary assistance in emergency circumstances.

Jordan Source – Diaspora engagement through ICT promotion (2021 – Present)

Led by the Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship, Jordan Source promotes the Kingdom as a global ICT hub while actively engaging the Jordanian diaspora. In 2023, the programme hosted an ICT Roadshow in the United States, connecting with major tech firms and organising events specifically for diaspora communities.

The initiative introduced the Jordan Changemakers programme to mobilise diaspora professionals as global ambassadors and contributors to Jordan's digital growth. By combining business promotion with targeted diaspora outreach, Jordan Source strengthens economic ties and supports national development through international networks.

Diaspora-focused real estate financing in the Dead Sea (2023 – Present)

To boost real estate investment from Jordanians abroad, the Dead Sea Touristic and Real Estate Investment Company, a public-private partnership, signed an agreement with the National Bank of Abu Dhabi to offer preferential mortgage options. The initiative targets Jordanians in the Gulf, enabling them to purchase luxury apartments at the Samarah Dead Sea Resort. With flexible financing and Gulf-wide promotion, the project strengthens diaspora ties to Jordan while supporting national tourism and real estate growth.

¹⁸ JEMPAS and MICIC joint event. <https://www.icmpd.org/news-centre/news-detail/project-news-jempas-micic-conduct-joint-training-on-expatriate-engagement-and-consular-crisis-man/>

Annex:

List of Actors

Diaspora related institutions

- **National institutions**
 - At ministerial level

Ministry of Education 1982

The role of the Ministry of Education concerning the Jordanian Diaspora is to certify education degrees and certificates for Jordanians abroad and for non-Jordanians who wish to study in Jordan.¹⁹

Ministry of Foreign and Expatriates Affairs 1939

The Department of Expatriate Affairs aims at strengthening the communication between Jordanians abroad through strategic and practical programs through serving and protecting the interests of the Jordanian expatriates.²⁰

Ministry of Labour 1976²¹

Section of Employment Offices and Workers abroad under the Employment Directorate and the Labour Inspection Directorate focuses on all issues related to Jordanians workers abroad.

Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research 1982

The Ministry is responsible for implementing the higher education policies, coordination among HEIs, conducting agreements with other countries, recognition of universities and degrees from other countries.²²

The Royal Hashemite Court (RHC) 1946

RHC functions as the link between His Majesty King Abdullah Ben Hussein, the state's institutions and citizens. The official entity oversees the preparation and implementation of the King's activities locally and abroad. Moreover, it is also responsible for the execution and the follow-up on the various political, economic and developmental royal initiatives.²³

Explore the institutionalisation of diaspora engagement worldwide via the [typology of 430+ institutions](#)



19 Retrieved from the Ministry of Education official website. <http://www.moe.gov.jo/>

20 Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Diaspora Strategic Plan 2014-2018. Retrieved from <http://mfa.gov.jo/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=eCSN-bVTEWLE%3d&tabid=71>

21 Ministry of Labour. Retrieved from <http://www.mol.gov.jo/Default/Ar> and Migrant Support Measures from an Employment & Skills Perspective (MISMES) Jordan. Legal Framework For The Emigration Of Jordanians. Retrieved from https://www.researchgate.net/publication/321158718_MIGRANT_SUPPORT_MEASURES_FROM_AN_EMPLOYMENT_AND_SKILLS_PERSPECTIVE_MISMES_MIGRANT_SUPPORT_MEASURES_FROM_AN_EMPLOYMENT_AND_SKILLS_PERSPECTIVE_MISMES/citation/download

22 Sphere. Higher Education in Jordan. Retrieved from https://supportthere.org/page/higher-education-jordan#_Toc10632084

23 Royal Court. Retrieved from <https://rhc.jo/en/royal-court/about-royal-hashemite-court>

Diaspora Organisations in Europe

Arabisch-Deutscher Kulturverein (Al-Huda Moschee) 2011

Read more about diaspora organisations in "[Starting guide: What is a diaspora organisation](#)"



Integration activities

The organisation has the mission to guide younger generations of Jordanians growing up in Germany by teaching them about the Arabic culture and spreading it in the society in a courteous manner and with respect to other religions. In this context, the organisation arranges Arabic and religion classes, hosts cultural activities and gatherings, and promotes social engagement.

Deutsch-Jordanische Gesellschaft e.V 1963

Development Activities

By facilitating meetings and gatherings, the organisation aims to bring together private and professional networks between Jordan and Germany, foster intercultural dialogue and create awareness within the German-Jordanian society, as well as act as an information broker between the two countries.

Jordanische Gemeinde Berlin-Brandenburg e.V. 2005

The association brings together members of the Jordanian diaspora to engage in social and cultural activities. At time of writing, it had no ongoing activities.²⁴ Al Sausanat is a chapter of the Jordanian diaspora organisation in Berlin that is purely for women. This group was established as a platform to increase the engagement in women's issues. It involves active and motivated women from various professions, such as translators, city officials, child-care providers, embassy employees, and travel agencies.²⁵

Jordanische Gemeinde-Deutschland e.V. 2012

Integration activities

Brings together the Jordanian diaspora through cultural and societal engagement as well as organizing cultural activities and sponsoring small initiatives in Jordan.

Jordanischer Verein in Deutschland 1986

A platform for positive interaction among the Jordanian diaspora members in Frankfurt by organizing cultural events and meetings.²⁶

Jordanian Women in the UK

The first official platform and gathering for Jordanian Women residing in the UK, its main objective is to connect, support and promote discussion among Jordanian women, as well as collectively promote the Jordanian heritage and identity in the UK.²⁷

²⁴ The group connects via Whatsapp group

²⁵ Mapping and Study of Jordanian Diaspora in Jordan: Whatsapp group

²⁶ The group connects via Whatsapp

²⁷ Interview with Jordanian in Nottingham who referred to this association

Nashama Forum for the Jordanian Diaspora Worldwide 2009

Development Activities

The forum connects Jordanians living abroad through a global network of branches and digital platforms, aiming to strengthen ties with the homeland. It facilitates community building, promotes national identity, and encourages diaspora contributions to Jordan's development, including through investment initiatives and cultural events.

The Highest Jordanian European Authority 2018 Germany

Integration activities

Development Activities

An initiative that began in 2016 and was later established in 2018. The organisation's general management and headquarter is based in Berlin. The organisation aims to be an EU umbrella organisation for all the Jordanian diaspora groups, with the objective of promoting collective action as well as strengthening solidarity and social cohesion among members of the Jordanian diaspora as well as Germany.

The German chapter of *The Highest Jordanian European Authority* aims to contribute positively to the Jordanian citizens in Europe who are considered ambassadors to their country, and strengthen the meaning of identity and support the stability and overall development of Jordan and the Jordanian citizen in the diaspora. The chapter's activities include creating a database of all Jordanian diaspora members, containing professional information, in addition to creating a strategic plan for the diaspora for the next 25 years.

Vereinigte jordanische Gemeinde, der BRD e.V. 2015 Germany

Integration activities

The organisation aims to consolidate relations between the Jordanian diaspora and German society as well as to explore economic opportunities between Jordan and Germany in the areas of tourism, economy, culture, and art. In this regard, the association hosts cultural gatherings and organises sports activities.

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