**Jordan**

*The purpose of the Housing Rights and Human Rights Brief is to provide a succinct overview of housing rights and human settlements-related human rights within a specific country. It is designed for project designers to familiarize themselves with the human rights situation in the country that they are working in. The Housing Rights and Human Rights Brief is not intended to be a comprehensive analysis of all human rights, yet to provide an overview of housing rights and other human settlements-related human rights within the national and the UN Delivering as One contexts. Further, this Brief is not intended to cover the entire legislative and regulatory framework of the country concerned.*

*The Brief outlines specific articles of the Constitution, national and local legislation, and other human settlements-related policies and acts. It further explains specific international legal commitments, with particular emphasis on the key conventions that the country has signed and/or ratified. UN reviews and recommendations, particularly the Universal Periodic Review process, are also outlined. The final section provides information on previous UN-Habitat projects in the country and links for further information and elaboration.*

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**Revision History**

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**Summary**

The Constitution of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan was adopted in January 1952 and has been amended several times. While the Constitution does not expressly provide for the right to adequate housing, it provides for the inviolability of dwelling houses.

Jordan’s National Housing Strategy was developed with the aim of improving the state of housing and urbanization in Jordan. The relevant institution for the implementation of the right to adequate housing is the Ministry of Public Works and Housing. Jordan also has a Housing and Urban Development Corporation.

Jordan is a State Party to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which includes the right to adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living. Jordan has also ratified other important treaties and conventions which provide for the right to adequate housing, but not all of the major human rights treaties and conventions.

United Nations review mechanisms have generally given positive feedback on the continual pursuit of improved standard of living, and the efforts to improve the conditions of persons with disabilities in this regard. UN-Habitat has worked on a number of projects in Jordan.

**Legal Framework**

***Constitution[[1]](#footnote-1)***

The Constitution of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan was adopted in 1952, but has been amended many times. The Constitution of Jordan does not expressly provide for the right to adequate housing. The only provision that relates to this right is Article 10 which provides for the inviolability of dwelling houses.

‘Article10: Dwelling houses shall be inviolable and may not be entered except in the circumstances prescribed by law, and in the manner provided for therein.’

**Government**

***Political System***

Jordan is a constitutional monarchy with a multi-party system, where the Prime Minister as the head of government. Executive power is exercised by the King alongside his Cabinet. In Jordan, it is the King who also signs, executes or vetoes laws.

***Ministry of Public Works and Housing[[2]](#footnote-2)***

The Ministry of Public Works and Housing is the relevant institution for the implementation of the right to adequate housing in Jordan. It is not only responsible for the development of policies for the housing sector but it is also charged with the task of overseeing housing projects to boost economic activity while reducing poverty levels.

***Housing and Urban Development Corporation[[3]](#footnote-3)***

The Housing and Urban Development Corporation seeks, through the National Housing Strategy, to achieve its vision and mission which includes enabling the Jordanian citizens to access adequate housing with special emphasis on limited income groups. It also seeks to contribute to national development and the development of the housing sector in Jordan through formulating of comprehensive housing policies and activating public private sector partnerships.

***National Housing Strategy (1989)***

The government of Jordan prepared the National Housing Strategy & adopted it in 1989. The strategy covered all the housing components and produced a whole set of recommendations that governs the housing sector's activities.

**Judiciary**

No legal decisions regarding land and housing could be sourced.

**International Conventions[[4]](#footnote-4)**

The State has ratified all of the major human rights conventions, including the Covenant on Economic, Social and Political Rights, which includes the right to adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Treaty Description | Treaty Name | Signature Date | Ratification Date, Accession(a), Succession(d) Date |
| Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment | CAT |   | 13 Nov 1991 (a) |
| International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights | CCPR | 30 Jun 1972 | 28 May 1975 |
| Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women | CEDAW | 3 Dec 1980 | 01 Jul 1992 |
| International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination | CERD |   |  30 May 1974 (a) |
| International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights | CESCR | 30 Jun 1972 | 28 May 1975 |
| International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families | CMW |    |   |
| Convention on the Rights of the Child | CRC | 29 Aug 1990  |  24 May 1991 |
| Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities | CRPD | 30 Mar 2007 |  31 Mar 2008 |
| Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees | Refugee Convention |   |   |
| Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees  | Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees |  |   |

 Jordan has not signed:

* Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees
* International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
* Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees

**UN Agencies**

UN review mechanisms have generally given positive feedback on the continual pursuit of improved standard of living, and the efforts to improve the conditions of persons with disabilities in this regard.

***Universal Periodic Review (2009 and 2013)***

*The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a unique process which involves a periodic review of the human rights records of all 193 UN Member States. The UPR is a significant innovation of the Human Rights Council which is based on equal treatment for all countries. It provides an opportunity for all States to declare what actions they have taken to improve the human rights situations in their countries and to overcome challenges to the enjoyment of human rights. The UPR also includes a sharing of best human rights practices around the globe. Currently, no other mechanism of this kind exists.*

First UPR[[5]](#footnote-5)

The Report noted that Jordan is an Arab country which has attained excellent levels of sustainable development despite its lack of resources and economic burden and while hosting Iraqi refugees. It was also noted that the constitutional framework guarantees fundamental freedoms and there are numerous laws and institutions concerning health, housing, free basic education, empowerment of women and childcare.

‘Recommendation 31: Continue its efforts to provide better living standards and share its experience of a developed health care with other countries, particularly within the region.’

‘Recommendation 32: Pursue its efforts aimed at improving the living conditions of persons with disabilities.’

Second UPR[[6]](#footnote-6)

The Report noted that in order to continue efforts to improve the living conditions of persons with disabilities, Jordan had taken many steps aimed at achieving this goal, including supporting their right to live independently, integration in the community and self-reliance.

‘Recommendation 118.101: Continue the efforts to promote and protect the right to health and the right to education for its people in order to further improve the standard of living for all.’

‘Recommendation 118.112: Continue with efforts to raise the living standards of persons with disabilities.’

‘Recommendation 118.113: Further intensify its efforts to raise the living standards of persons with disabilities, in particular to support their right to social inclusion and self-reliance.’

‘Recommendation 118.115: Continue its successful efforts to improve the living conditions of persons with disabilities.’

***Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (2009 and 2013)[[7]](#footnote-7)***

*The Report provides a comprehensive review of the Human Rights situation in a given country and is presented to the Human Rights Council.*

In the 2009 report, there was concern about the very low standard of living of many children, especially in the governorates of Mafraq and Zarqa, north-east of Amman, some districts within the capital and certain municipalities along the Jordan Valley.

The 2013 report did not mention anything on the right to adequate housing.

***Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (2000)[[8]](#footnote-8)***

*The Committee specifically reviews states that have ratified the ICESCR on their compliance with the rights enshrined in it, including the Right to Adequate Housing.*

In accordance with Article 11 of the Covenant, the Committee encouraged Jordan to prevent any occurrence of forced evictions. The Committee recommended that resettlement procedures and programmes include registration, facilitate comprehensive family rehabilitation and ensure access to basic services. The Committee recommended that Jordan take due regard of the Committee’s General Comments 7 and 4, concerning forced evictions and the right to housing.

***United Nations Country Team (UNCT)[[9]](#footnote-9)***

*The UNCT ensures inter-agency coordination and decision-making at the country level. The main purpose of the Country Team is for individual agencies to plan and work together, as part of the Resident Coordinator system, to ensure the delivery of tangible results in support of the development agenda of the Government.*

No relevant information on the right to adequate housing could be sourced.

***United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)[[10]](#footnote-10)***

*The UNDAF is the strategic programme framework that describes the collective response of the UN system to national development priorities. The UNDAF forms the overall framework for the UNCT’s work between 2013 and 2017.*

According to the Jordan UNDAF, a plan will be prepared to restructure the Housing and Urban Development Corporation with a view to enhancing its capacity to provide affordable housing solutions. South-South cooperation will be central to the training of urban planners, with a special focus on retrofitting disaster risk reduction components into urban planning both at national and local level.

**UN-Habitat[[11]](#footnote-11)**

UN-Habitat has worked on a number of projects in Jordan.

* Total value of UN-Habitat investments (2008-2013): US$ 453,938
* Total number of UN-Habitat projects (2008-2013): 2 projects
* Main donors: Government of Jordan

 **UN-Habitat projects in Jordan**

Mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into the tourism sector in Jordan

UN-Habitat Amman Office will start working with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into the tourism sector in Jordan, to reduce impact of tourism on Bio-diversity. This initiative will be implemented in three localities, namely Jerash, Petra, Shoubak and Wadi Musa.

Jordan Affordable Housing Programme

Jordan Affordable Housing Program has been launched in response to the housing situation in Jordan, where Housing supply has not been well aligned with demand, with an oversupply at the upper middle and high end of the market. The price range of new housing units has been between JD 30,000 and JD 60,000 – with a median price of JD 45,000 – making them unaffordable to low- and lower-middle income groups. As a result, many young Jordanians have been unable to access housing or start their own families, leading to overcrowding and pent-up demand. Despite being in short supply, rental housing has been the main source of affordable housing for low-income and families in situations of vulnerability in Jordan.

**Further Information**

* Constitution of Jordan: <http://www.representatives.jo/pdf/constitution_en.pdf>
* Ministry of Public Works and Housing: <http://www.mpwh.gov.jo/Pages/WelcomePage.aspx>
* Housing and Urban Development Corporation: <http://www.hudc.gov.jo/en>
* OHCHR Convention Ratification Status: <http://indicators.ohchr.org/>
* Universal Periodic Review: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/JOSession4.aspx>
* Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights: <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G13/160/28/PDF/G1316028.pdf?OpenElement>
* UNCT: <http://undg.org/home/country-teams/arab-states/jordan/>
* UNDAF: <http://inform.gov.jo/Portals/0/Report%20PDFs/0.%20General/2013-2017%20United%20Nations%20Development%20Assistance%20Framework.pdf>
* UN-Habitat Jordan Summary: <http://unhabitat.org/jordan/>
* OHCHR: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Pages/WelcomePage.aspx>
* UN-Habitat: <http://unhabitat.org/>
* Universal Periodic Review: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPRMain.aspx>
* Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Housing/Pages/HousingIndex.aspx>

1. http://www.representatives.jo/pdf/constitution\_en.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. http://www.mpwh.gov.jo/Pages/WelcomePage.aspx [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. http://www.hudc.gov.jo/en [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. http://indicators.ohchr.org/ [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/JOSession4.aspx [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/JOSession17.aspx [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G13/160/28/PDF/G1316028.pdf?OpenElement [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Concluding Observations E/C.12/1/Add.46 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. http://undg.org/home/country-teams/arab-states/jordan/ [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. http://inform.gov.jo/Portals/0/Report%20PDFs/0.%20General/2013-2017%20United%20Nations%20Development%20Assistance%20Framework.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. <http://unhabitat.org/jordan/> [↑](#footnote-ref-11)