Jordan: Epidemic decline in economic and social rights
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Introduction

For the past years, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has been experiencing several economic and social crises, form the decline in economic activity, the exacerbation of the Coronavirus repercussions, the decline in financial aid provided to refugees in the kingdom, the corruption and tax evasion suspicions, and the increase in public debt. These crises affected individuals and entities’ enjoyment of their economic and social rights guaranteed in the relevant local and international laws. Government policies have sometimes directly affected the right of Jordanians to living in dignity, work, health, education, water and the formation of unions.

In 2020, the Coronavirus pandemic caused the Jordanian economy to contract by 1.6% due to the trade disruptions and unprecedented decline in international tourism. This contraction was the first in three decades, according to the report issued by the Jordan Economic Monitor in the spring of 2021.

Jordan’s public debt owed last year amounted to about 26.499 billion Jordanian dinars ($37.3 billion), an increase of about 10.6% compared to the debt due in 2019, which amounted to about 23.9 billion Jordanian dinars ($33.7 billion). As for the health sector, most public hospitals are understaffed and, therefore, provide low-quality services, which can be concluded given the recurrence of deaths in hospitals due to the poor services provided to patients, especially in emergency cases. Perhaps the most prominent example of this was the Salt Hospital incident in March 2021, when seven COVID-19 patients died after the hospital they were in ran out of oxygen.

Although an important part of the Jordanian economy, tourism sector revenues fell during the past year, due to the travel bans and the closures aimed at containing the Coronavirus. The revenues fell by 76% to reach $1.4 billion. Meanwhile,
it is expected that this percentage will rise due to the spread of the pandemic in the country. Expatriate remittances are also one of the most important foreign exchange resources for Jordan. However, the outbreak of the Coronavirus pandemic globally affected these remittances, as they decreased by 9.1% in 2020 to reach about $3.24 billion, according to the Central Bank.

The migration of investors and the closure of economic facilities also presents a major challenge to the Jordanian economy. During the past two years, Jordanian investors migrated to Egypt en masse taking about 70 factories with them, while the Jordanian government stood idly by this serious development. This investor-migration is due to several reasons, most importantly the apparent bureaucracy in government procedures when it comes to issuing licenses, high fees and taxes and the lack stable legislations and laws for this matter. These crises caused unemployment to rise to 25% this year, and among young people (aged 19-25) jumped from 40.6% in 2019 to an unprecedented 50% at the end of the last quarter of 2020.

The water crisis is also one of the crises of great concern to Jordanians. The kingdom is one of the world’s water-poor countries due to its geographical location, which includes many dry and desert areas. The country faces a water deficit of more than 450 million cubic meters annually. Therefore, the per capita share of water constitutes less than 0.8% of the global shares. Jordan’s heavy dependence on groundwater (up to 56%) deepens its water crisis in addition to the decline in rainfall and the low amount of surface water, the misuse of water and Israelis control of the waters of the Jordan and Yarmouk rivers. Jordan also suffers spread of community violence, especially in 2020, which witnessed the outbreak of the Coronavirus.
pandemic and the imposition of ban and closure measures. The Public Security Directorate recorded 1,129 crimes during the year with murders and domestic violence against women significantly increased.

Finally, the union crisis was one of the major crises that the state has suffered during the past two years. The government closed the Jordanian Teachers' Syndicate (JTS) on July 25, 2020, after teachers protested against the non-disbursement of a financial bonus to them in light of the stifling economic crisis in the country. The feud between the government and JTS is still ongoing.

The Jordanian Doctors Syndicate (JMA) crisis emerged during the same period after the government suspended the incentives system agreed upon with JMA, which included medical incentives, mobility allowances and more appointments. This prompted JMA's council to resign in protest. The government formed an interim committee to manage JMA, as a result.

In this report, Euro-Med Monitor sheds light on the various crises details that Jordanians have been experiencing and affected their economic and social rights. It is based on field testimonies, statistics and monitoring of the human rights situation. The report also refers to the legal rules that guarantee the social and economic rights of Jordanians, whether at the international or local levels.
Summary of recommendations

- The Jordanian authorities should work out an urgent action plan that addresses the main priorities of saving the economic situation in Jordan, and stop violations that would confiscate the indispensable rights of Jordanian citizens.
- The authorities should curb the spread of child labor, activate the law that prevents children under 16 from working, punish anyone who employs a child and abide by the agreements signed in relation to child labor. The authorities should also prepare special programs for school dropouts to reintegrate them in schools, and strengthen the follow-up roles of official bodies in monitoring and exchanging information between relevant state agencies such as the ministries of labor and education.
- The size of the economic crises that the state suffers from, and entail human rights violations, are very large, which is why the authorities should develop a national policy to deal effectively with these crises, especially those related to poverty, unemployment and community violence resulting from these crises.
- It is incumbent upon the Jordanian authorities to stop the violations that limit the freedom of union work for both institutions and activists. The arbitrary decisions related to the illegal suspension and retirement of teachers must be nulled.
- The international community should intensify projects supporting authorities and populations through international organizations, such as UNICEF, FAO and ILO, to reduce poverty, unemployment and child labor.
- The international community, especially the United Nations, should play its full role, through its specialized institutions, in supervising the proper implementation of the binding international agreements related to the distribution of water from the Jordan River and the Yarmouk Basin to secure water for citizens and residents of Jordan.
Report methodology

This report examines the nature and causes of the crises that have been afflicting the social and economic rights of the Jordanians.

The report is based on about a year of research and documentation, including field work conducted by Euro-Med Monitor’s team in Jordan from June 2020 until the end of August 2021.


Our field team conducted 16 field interviews with random citizens suffering from poor economic conditions in the country. The interviews provided detailed information about the causes and the impact of crises, as well as the state’s policies to face these crises.

The interviews included in this report were conducted privately by Euro-Med Monitor researchers, in various places, and at different times of the day. The interviews were conducted with the consent of the interviewees, after telling each of them how their information will be used. Most of the interviews were conducted in person, while others were conducted over the phone.

Euro-Med Monitor withheld the names of some of the people it interviewed for their safety, and replaced them with symbols, which are placed in parenthesis when mentioned in the testimonies.

In addition to the primary sources, Euro-Med Monitor relied on secondary sources to obtain additional information for this report. The secondary sources included reliable parties and other international reports that shed light on the economic crises in Jordan and their effects on Jordanian society like the World Bank report and the UN agencies.

The report presents recommendations to the Jordanian government and the international community to find solutions
to the crises experienced by Jordanian citizens and enable the Jordanians to enjoy their social and economic rights away from the crises that are mounting day by day without the authorities taking any sufficient steps to end these crises before they escalate.
Economic and social rights address the basic social and economic conditions necessary to live in dignity and freedom, and related to work, social security, health, education, food, water, housing, and a healthy environment. Over the past years, Jordan has witnessed, due to various factors, a number of crises, which in turn affected Jordanians’ right to decent life, including declining access to work, mounting poverty, high rates of unemployment and child labor, lack of access to clean water, decline of government health services, in addition to the authorities’ crackdown on professional unions and their activists. This part of the report deals with the most prominent crises faced by Jordanians,
which directly or indirectly led to the violation of their economic and social rights.

**Poverty**

About one million Jordanians live below the poverty line, and the average per capita income in Jordan is about 68 dinars per month. Poverty rates in Jordan have reached 15.7%, according to what the Jordanian government announced in 2019, increasing by 38% among Jordanian citizens, and 18% among Syrian refugees because of the outbreak Coronavirus pandemic. The minimum wage in Jordan is 220 Jordanian dinars.

About 300,000 Jordanians live above or near the poverty line, according to a study prepared by the National Aid Fund in cooperation with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

As a result of the pandemic, families living below the poverty line were the most affected, as many day laborers were out of jobs for weeks losing their limited sources of income. This pushed large numbers of children to work to provide for their families’ basic needs.

However, the Jordanian authorities succeeded in other cases in limiting the effects of the crisis by adopting exceptional measures that obligated companies to retain their workers, and placed restrictions on reducing wages, providing liquidity and exemptions for companies, and also adopted a national program to protect poor families affected by the crisis.

However, the vast majority of workers in the most vulnerable situations were not covered by these measures.

“K.A.”, preferred not to give his full name, told Euro-Med Monitor that he is having great difficulty in securing the expenses of his family’s daily basic needs, especially since his wife suffers a chronic illness. He said:
I work in a company as a driver, my wife suffers from cancer, and I have four children, one of whom is a university student. My wife needs a large financial income to cover the costs of her treatment. With the Coronavirus pandemic, my salary was reduced to 200 dinars ($280), which led to a worsening of our living situation, as the monthly costs of treating my wife reach 100 dinars ($140), because many needs are not secured by the government exemption. I can no longer meet the basic requirements of life, and we have reached the point where we lack food for several days, and sometimes charitable people help us in securing basic needs.

The World Bank expected that local closures due to the pandemic, global economic slowdown, trade disruptions, suspension of international travel, and a decline in remittances from workers abroad, will increase poverty rates in the short term by 11% in Jordan.

Unemployment crisis

Unemployment is one of the most affecting crises, since unemployment rates have witnessed a continuous increase in recent years, exacerbated by the outbreak of the Coronavirus. At the beginning of 2021, the unemployment rate reached about 25%, after the Jordanian economy contracted by 1.6% during the year 2020.

According to the World Bank, the unemployment rate among young people (19-25 years old) surged from 40.6% in 2019 to unprecedented 50% at the end of the last quarter of 2020.

“M.K.,” 37, preferred not to be named, told Euro-Med Monitor that he lost his job
due to the Coronavirus pandemic and is suffering from difficult living conditions with the presence of a son who suffers from chronic diseases. He said:

“I graduated from university and was working in a tourism company in the capital with a good salary. I live in a rented house and take care of my parents. In addition, I am the head of a family and one of my sons suffers from a chronic eye disease and needs surgery. As a result of the Coronavirus pandemic, tourism activity stopped and I became unemployed and the state did not provide me with any support. I was not able to pay my rent, so I was evicted, and I had to rent another house. I am trying to secure an income by working as a delivery man, and in many cases, I cannot provide food for my children. My son needs treatment abroad, and I cannot secure it for him.”

This rise in unemployment rates is due to several factors, in addition to the pandemic, that have worsened over time and have not been fundamentally addressed. On the top of which is the lack of jobs created by the Jordanian labor market, where the number of job opportunities created by the Jordanian economy is about 30 to 40 thousand jobs, while around 100 thousand job seekers enter the market annually. This is due to the lack of an attractive environment to investment, the absence of employment incentives, the lack of alignment of the outputs of education and vocational training with the needs of the labor market, in addition to the unwillingness of employers sometimes to hire Jordanian workers due to their high wages compared to foreign workers.

“M.B.,” 26, told Euro-Med Monitor that he has been suffering from the unemployment
crisis since he graduated from university, and then the situation worsened after the spread of the Coronavirus pandemic. He said:

“Although I entered and graduated university late due to the difficulty of securing my family’s university fees, I managed to graduate with a very good grade. Since I graduated two years ago and I am unemployed. During those two years I tried to look for a job, but I was only able to get a training period with a financial return that was not enough for transportation, and after the pandemic, the situation got worse and I lost hope of getting any job, and I have a permanent feeling I am a burden to my family.”

Another reason for the high unemployment is the different levels of development between the governorates, where development is concentrated in three main cities: Amman, Irbid and Zarqa. In addition, foreign investors tend to employ non-Jordanian workers resulting in the emergence of the phenomenon illegal employment of migrant workers who compete with Jordanian workers as they accept to work with lower wages and in more difficult working conditions. The Jordanian Labor Watch reported the loss of about 140,000 jobs in 2020, as a result of the pandemic, as well as the decline in wages.

Health sector crisis

The Jordanian health system consists of two sectors. First, the public sector and it includes the Ministry of Health, the Royal Medical Services, university hospitals and independent institutions. Second, the private sector and it includes private hospitals, clinics and private diagnostic
and treatment centers; and charitable and international sector such as hospitals and centers affiliated with local and international charities and international organizations such as the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Refugees and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Looking at Jordanian hospitals, we find that the majority of public hospitals suffer a significant shortage of medical and nursing staff. The crisis of specialist doctors, in turn, contributed to creating a big problem, which is the frequent scene of overcrowding in some state hospitals, especially those visited by large numbers of citizens on a daily basis in addition to the fact that the services provided is not up to standard.

“N.Z.,” 45, told Euro-Med Monitor that she suffers from health problems and needs surgery, but the health sector crisis is a major concern to her. She said:

“I need an operation in my right hand, and I visited a government hospital at the beginning of July, and they set the earliest available date for me next December, as a result of the great pressure that government hospitals suffer from, which I can only resort to. I work as a teacher in a government school, my husband is a day laborer, we have five children, and I do not have the financial ability to go to the private hospital. Currently I suffer from severe pain when I use my hands at work and use painkillers to relieve pain.”

The extent of the deterioration in the Jordanian health system appeared when the pandemic spread in the country last year, and the poor medical equipment and services in Jordanian hospitals contributed to this. The Al-Salt hospital incident, which occurred last March, when
seven patients died due to the depletion of oxygen stocks, reflects the extent of the slackness in the Jordanian health system, which requires a comprehensive reassessment.

On the other hand, the migration of Jordanian medical professionals to neighboring countries has exacerbated the health sector crisis, as a wave of migration emerged among doctors due to low salaries and a desire to improve financial and living conditions. The migration of medical competencies has left a shortage of medical personnel of all kinds, and this problem has become more and more dangerous with the spread of the Coronavirus and the large increase in the number of patients who need medical care in hospitals, which prompted the Jordanian authorities to allocate some hospitals to treat COVID patients only, which affected in turn the services to people with various diseases, especially chronic diseases.

“M.N.,” 44, told Euro-Med Monitor that the pandemic caused an additional crisis, represented in converting some private hospitals available to the public to hospitals for COVID patients only, which has exhausted him on the health and financial level. He said:

> I need dialysis three times a week. Three years ago I could do dialysis in a private sector hospital for a reasonable price, as government hospitals are under great pressure, but after the pandemic, the Ministry of Health rented the hospital in which I was washing completely for COVID patients, and I could no longer complete the treatment in it, which forced me to change the hospital to another private hospital further away, and incur additional material costs that I am not able to cover.

The Jordanian public sector suffers from several problems, most notably the lack of
coordination between health authorities, which has resulted in a state of chaos and a decline in performance and health services provided to the population. In addition to all of the above, there are reports that indicate the existence of suspicions of corruption in the government health body. The Audit Bureau report for the year 2019-2020 referred to many administrative and financial violations related to the Ministry of Health related to wasting public money and abuse of influence, among others, including the Ministry of Health’s failure to give advance pay to beneficiaries more than 37 years ago, under the pretext that their full name was not available.

**Water crisis**

Jordan is among the world’s 10 poorest countries in terms of water resources. Jordanians struggle on a daily basis to get their share of water despite all attempts to rationalize. It is expected that Jordan will suffer from even greater scarcity in the coming years and may reach the stage of thirst after ten years. The per capita water share in Jordan has declined to less than 100 cubic meters per year, which is considered among the lowest rates in the world, i.e. 88% lower than the global water poverty line of 1,000 cubic meters of water per person per year. The volume of demand for water exceeds what is available in Jordan by about 500 million cubic meters annually, which explains the water deficit experienced by the population. One example of the water shortage in Jordan is the Naam neighborhood in the middle of the Jordan Valley, where the people have not received water for 12 years. Water is distributed to subscribers throughout Jordan on a daily basis according to a special mechanism through the role system, which allows each one to benefit from pumping it only two days during the week at best. Therefore, residents in their homes use
pumps and tanks on top of their buildings to try to store the largest possible amount that is sufficient for them to have their turn again. This causes great suffering and constant worry that it is not enough, especially in the summer. Salem Muhammad, 40, from Amman, told Euro-Med Monitor about the water crisis in Jordan, and his and his family’s suffering from water scarcity in the country. He said:

“I live in one of the vital areas in Amman and we suffer from a big problem of water cuts, especially during the summer, when we do not receive water for long periods of up to three weeks continuously. We have to buy water at high prices through private water tanks, and this constitutes a huge burden on our monthly budget. In normal circumstances, when we receive water, we pay about 10 dinars, but during the summer interruptions, and due to the purchase of water from tanks, the monthly cost reaches 80-100 dinars, which aggravates our living conditions, especially as we suffer from severe economic crises in the country.”

According to the Ministry of Water, the country’s general budget loses about 365 million dollars annually due to the so-called lost water, which amounts to 47%. Khaled Samir, 50, told Euro-Med Monitor about his great suffering from the water crisis, which also caused him a new electricity crisis. He said:

“Water in the summer for us is a major source of suffering, as we only receive water for a very few hours a day, and in many weeks it does not arrive at all, which forced us to buy water tanks at a high cost. The cost is
not limited to the price of water only, but also to the increase in the electricity bill, as we have to run the water motors until the water reaches the tanks on the roof of the house, and we try a lot to communicate with the Water Authority, but to no avail.

The Jordanians get their water from the Jordan River and the Yarmouk Basin, which they share with Israel and Syria, and the Disi Basin, which feeds the capital Amman. According to the Wadi Araba peace agreement between Jordan and Israel in 1994, Israel supplies Jordan with 55 million cubic meters annually from the waters of Lake Tiberias, and 10 million cubic meters were added according to an agreement concluded between them in 2010, but Israel did not commit to providing Jordan with the agreed quantities of water.

On the other hand, Jordan has suffered during the past years from floods due to the failure to exploit rainwater by collecting it through dams. Failing to harvest rainwater led to floods, the last of which was in 2018, which led to the death of a number of children in the Dead Sea.

Child labor

Child labor rates in Jordan have increased significantly in recent years as a result of economic crises and poverty, exacerbated by the Coronavirus pandemic, which directly and indirectly affected children's push to work and school dropouts, in addition to high unemployment rates.

Children in Jordan work in several professions, including agriculture, where employment constitutes the largest percentage (about 43.2%), service sectors (42.6%), and industrial sectors (14.2%). These occupations include selling, car washing, agriculture, construction, house painting, carpentry, blacksmithing, housework, hotel services, bakeries, and cleaning. Many of them engage in sex trade and forced begging as a result of human trafficking.
In 2019, the Jordanian authorities made progress in efforts to curb the problem of child labor in the country, establishing a Child Labor Unit in the Ministry of Labor, implementing an electronic system to monitor child labor and coordinating government efforts with civil society organizations.

In addition, the Jordanian government has increased the number of families receiving financial assistance through the National Aid Fund, a program that provides financial assistance conditional on families re-registering their children involved in child labor in schools. Although these efforts initially contributed to stopping some children from working in return for their return to school, the emergence of the Coronavirus pandemic caused that progress to take steps backward.

Starting in mid-March 2020, schools stopped operating face-to-face due to the outbreak of the virus, which resulted in thousands of children joining the labor market, especially with many families losing their usual sources of income due to the repercussions of the closure measures on the economic situation. These children joined more than 70,000 child laborers in Jordan, according to the 2016 National Child Labor Survey. However, this number increased by about 24%, bringing the number of working children in the Kingdom to about 100,000, according to the estimates of the Jordanian Workers’ House.

In a random survey conducted by the Euro-Med Monitor in the Jordanian capital Amman, Irbid Governorate and Zarqa city on 186 working children, it was found that about 78% of them are Jordanians, while the number of Syrian refugee children is about 18%. Male children topped the percentage of working people by 89%, compared to 11% of females.

During the period when schools were closed, and despite the beginning of remote education, the number of children involved in the labor market increased, as
remote education did not constitute a strong motivation for a large number of them to commit to learning instead of going to work, especially with the inability of some vulnerable groups of them to access Internet to pursue distance learning.

Rand, 45, who is the wife of a man who had so many losses in his business that they had to let their son work to make ends meet, said:

"My husband was a merchant and as a result of the difficult economic conditions, my he suffered great losses and was imprisoned as a result of financial claims. While I work in a charitable organization partly, with an irregular salary, at best 150 dinars, and we live for rent. These circumstances compelled me to allow my young son, who is 14 years old, to leave school to work in a shop in order to help me with household expenses. I have a daughter who suffers from heart problems, and the cost of renting our house is 250 dinars in addition to other expenses, as we can only partially secure the house rent and pay it irregularly.

Despite Jordan’s ratification of international conventions to combat child labor, and laws prohibiting the employment of juveniles, in addition to the establishment of a Child Labor Unit in the Ministry of Labor, these efforts did not succeed in reducing the problem, which continues to escalate annually. The violations that are seized, which amount to about 500 cases annually, are still very small compared to the real number of working children, at a time when policies and programs to reduce child labor lack effective coordination between the concerned authorities to implement them."
The Jordanian Labor Law prohibits the employment of children if they have not completed sixteen years of age, and it is prohibited to employ them in dangerous, exhausting or harmful work before they reach the age of eighteen and they shall not work at night, on public and weekly holidays.

Closure of economic establishments and migration of investors

The closure of many economic facilities in Jordan has had severe repercussions on the country’s economy. About dozens of factories were completely closed and moved to Egypt.

The migration of investors during the last two years from Jordan to Egypt is attributed to the fact that the Jordanian environment is repulsive to investment; the government procedures are characterized by clear bureaucracy, the issuance of licenses process is slow, fees and taxes are high compared to Egypt, legislations and laws are instable, and the interest rates on business-related loans provided by the Central Bank are high.

At the same time, about 1,358 companies did not renew their subscription in the Amman Chamber of Industry, which meansthattheyareunabilitetomanufacture and produce, according to Mohamed Al-Jitan, a member of the Board of Directors of the Chamber. These companies did not renew their subscriptions and moved to work in Egypt and achieved profits of $47 million in 2019 alone, according to the Central Bank of Egypt.

“K.H.,” 45, preferred to remain unnamed, said he suffered due to the weak investment environment in Jordan, which cast a shadow over him and caused him many crises. He said:
I used to own a cleaning supplies company, but I had too many checks [loans] due to poor market movement, and I was unable to re-pay. The company was closed and my source of income was disrupted. As a result, I was imprisoned for a year and a half. I was temporarily released at the beginning of the pandemic after a government decision to reduce the number of prisoners who had to financial claims less than 100,000 dinars to reduce the number of prisoners in prisons. My family and I were evicted from our rented house because I was unable to pay the rent. In addition, I have a son who studies at the university, and I bear the entire burden of his studies. His semester fees are approximately 500 dinars per semester. I try hard to find any work opportunity, but I often get rejected, as I may return to prison at any time if the government decision that accompanied the Coronavirus pandemic was rescinded.

The migration of investors to Egypt comes because of the facilities provided by Egypt to attract foreign investments, such as offering large tax exemptions to foreign investors, in addition to the fact that labor is cheap, and the low exchange rate of the Egyptian pound against the US dollar.

“S.F.,” 50, preferred to remain unnamed, said that he immigrated with his business to Egypt because of the obstacles he faced in Jordan environment. He said:

“When I retired, I got an severance pay. I tried to open a business producing personal care supplies in partnership with a friend, but I faced great obstacles to license the facility.
I found that the cost would be very high in terms of taxes and fees, so a friend advised me to invest in Egypt, as the procedures are more simple and the cost of production is lower. So, I traveled to Egypt and opened the facility within a short period, and it is currently generating reasonable and stable profits for me.

The migration of investors extended to Syrian businesspersons who justified this decision by obstacles in the Jordanian environment namely, the small local market, and the high taxes and fees imposed on them during the last five years.

According to the Jordanian Expatriate Businessmen Association, Jordanian investments migrated over the past years to about 42 Arab and foreign countries, where the volume of immigrant investments was estimated at about $7 billion, about 6.5% of these investments were in Egypt.

The migration of Jordanian and foreign investors from Jordan to abroad was offset by the weakness of foreign investment inside the country, which decreased by 12.5% during the past year.

Moreover, many economic establishments were closed inside the country due to the Coronavirus pandemic, which exacerbated the economic crisis. A survey conducted by the World Bank in April 2020 on about 564 establishments in Jordan showed that about 5.1% of these establishments closed completely since the outbreak.

“M.N.,” 40, preferred to remain unnamed said that he had experienced difficult conditions due to the Coronavirus pandemic, which caused the closure of his only source of livelihood. He said:

“I had a shop in a mall. It generated a good income for me and my family to guarantee a decent life. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the mall...
closed its doors, and my source of income was disrupted. I had obtained a loan to develop the facility. After my business disrupted, loan installments stated to accumulate. Now, I am unable to pay my [financial] obligations, in addition to the car installment I bought to meet the work requirements. Even the rent of the house can no longer pay, and my business is still closed because I cannot pay the rent.

Union crisis

Jordan has been experiencing a severe crisis with respect to the teachers and doctors' syndicates, which is an extension to the worsening economic crises in the country. The Jordanian Teachers’ Syndicates (JTS) crisis came after the authorities closed the union after teachers protested the non-payment of a financial bonus, which the teachers considered important in light of the stifling economic crisis.

As for the Jordan Medical Association (JMA) crisis, it came after the government suspended the incentive system agreed upon with JMA, which includes medical incentives, mobility allowances and an increase in appointments. This prompted the JMA’s board, as a form of protest to resign. In turn, the government formed an interim committee to administrate the JMA.

• First: Teachers’ Syndicates

On September 5, 2019, teachers organized a protest in the capital, Amman, to demand a financial bonus. The security forces dealt harshly with it and arrested dozens of protesters. The crisis escalated after the teachers decided to go on an open strike, which lasted for a whole month, the longest strike in the Kingdom in its history.

The strike ended with signing an agreement on October 6, 2019 between
the government represented by the Minister of Education and the JTS's Council represented by it vice president. The agreement included fifteen articles, one of which was a financial bonus on teachers' salaries ranging from 3557% of the basic salary.

After announcing the agreement and ending the strike, a joint committee was formed to implement its provisions. However, according to JTS's spokesperson, the committee only met twice, while the Minister of Education stated that the committee met regularly and only stopped meeting due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

As for the implementation of the terms of the agreement, the teachers accuse the ministry of obstructing its implementation. According to JTS, only two clauses relating were implemented. The first is related to the grants given to workers in the Ministry of Education, whether they are teachers or administrative staff in the ministry, and the other related to the bonus clauses that have been suspended since beginning of April 2020.

Signs of escalation began to appear again after the Jordanian government's decision to stop the payment of bonuses to public sector employees indefinitely due to the “Coronavirus pandemic and the economic conditions that the country is going through.” JTS refused the decision and considered it a clear violation of the agreement, and that the government could have resorted to other solutions. The union also accused the government of not working to complete the implementation of the remaining provisions that does not entail any additional expenses, most importantly allowing teachers to participate in the management of the funds of their savings fund “the Social Security Fund for workers in the Ministry of Education.” Managed by the government, the fund was referred to the Integrity and Anti-Corruption Commission in 2014 to investigate corruption suspicions. The Commission's report stated that the data
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The government also refrained from implementing another clause in the agreement relating to licensing the First International Teachers Academy for Training, which the JTS established to provide appropriate training and for its affiliates to improve their performance and the quality of education in the country. JTS escalated its demands and threatened with going on a strike to restore the financial bonus and to demand the implementation of the terms of the agreement. However, this was met with televised statements from the Minister of Interior and the Secretary General of the Minister of Education, in which they stressed their refusal to implement any form of strike by teachers and threatened with dealing firmly with the teachers if they did so, ignoring as JTS’s demands and concerns.

• Closing the syndicate

Amman Public Prosecutor Hassan al-Abdallat issued an injunction on July 25, 2020, against the members JTS, members of its central body, and branch bodies and its management, and to suspend the union from work and close its headquarters for a period of two years. He also issued subpoenas against members of JTS, to present them to the competent public prosecutor for interrogation with regard to the crimes attributed to them. The Public Prosecutor also banned media coverage of these pending cases, with except the official media authority.

The information and data obtained by Euro-Med Monitor showed that council members were arrested in a humiliating manner and in violation of the most basic rights guaranteed by the Jordanian constitution and international law. The vehicles of the council members were intercepted on the roads and they were arrested while on their way to the union’s main headquarters. Then they were brought before the public prosecutor after long hours of detention, who in turn brought charges against each
of them, which were: «misdemeanor of influencing freedom of election, misdemeanor of incitement to illegal assembly, misdemeanor of encouraging others by speaking and writing to carry out illegal acts, misdemeanor incitement to hatred by any means in educational institutions». The public prosecutor based these charges on a post published on JTS’s Facebook page, which includes suggestions for legal mechanisms that the union might use in the face of the government’s disavowal of implementing the agreement.

• **Assaulting demonstrations**

As a result of the decisions issued on 25 July 2020, many sporadic demonstrations took place after the security forces closed the roads leading to the Prime Minister’s House and prevented the arrival of hundreds of teachers who launched calls for sit-in in front of the Council of Ministers. The Jordanian governorates witnessed a heavy deployment of security forces, but this did not prevent the formation of major gatherings at the Third Circle and Fifth Circle and in the secondary roads, which were calling on the government to reverse its recent decisions against the teachers’ union and its members. These demonstrations also witnessed varying attacks by the security services under the pretext of the “Defense Order”. The forces used tear gas, beat protesters, dragged some of them on the ground and used insult against them. About 720 demonstrators were arrested and transferred to four security centers and were released after varying periods. Some of them were held for a day, while others were held for a month with a bail of up to half a million dinars.

• **Early retirement and provisional retirement**

In addition to arresting teachers, violating their rights to express opinion and dispraising peaceful demonstrations, the government used civil service laws for political purposes, as they referred dozens of union-active teachers to early
retirement or provisional retirement, and suspended JTS’s council members. These decisions constitute a blatant attack on their human and union activism rights, as they reduced their salaries by more than 22%.

In December 2020, the Ministry of Education referred 62 teachers and administrators to early retirement, including four members JTS’s council, about five months after it referred about 70 teachers and administrators to early retirement, and 14 others to provisional retirement, in conjunction with protests carried out by teachers against suspending JTS and closing its headquarters.

Most of those who were referred to early retirement or provisional retirement organized and participated in the strike carried out by the union in 2019, and in previous protests in which they demanded the government to re-grant the bonus to teachers, in compliance with the agreement signed in October last year.

Yahya al-Asali, a member of the Central Committee of JTS, told Euro-Med Monitor that he was among the 14 teachers who were suspended. He said:

“I have been working in education for 23 years. I hold the position of educational supervisor. I hold a PhD in curriculum and instruction for teaching physics. I was elected in JTS’s fourth session and was exercising my duty as a teachers representative on various fundamental issues. I was suspended on July 31, 2020 among the first 14 teachers to get suspension and was notified of it on August 4, 2020. I then went to the Ministry of Education to get a salary slip at the beginning of September and was shocked that my salary had been reduced from 870 to 104 dinars, which is only 12% of my salary. I have many
Financial commitments, the most important of which are the expenses of my and my wife’s treatment, and my children’s university fees. After the decision to suspend me and reduce my salary, I no longer have the ability to pay. All of them is a penalty for my union activity.

Alaa Abu Tarboush, a union activist who were referred to early retirement, told Euro-Med Monitor:

“I was retired on 26 July 2020 without being asked. After the decision, I was faced with two bitter choices: either I accept the decision and receive the pension, which is equivalent to 60% of my total salary, or I reject the decision and become completely without income. In a circumvention of the Social Security Law, which sets 25 years of service as a minimum for retirement, the Ministry of Education, without my request, combined the years of my work in institutions not affiliated with the ministry with the years of my work in the ministry, bringing the total to more than 25 years, which is the minimum early retirement age. This behavior was repeated with more than one colleague, one of whom is a member of the Syndicate Council, «Kifah Abu Farhan», whose service in the Ministry of Education did not exceed 16 years.

Ayman al-Akour, a member JTS’s Central Committee and a retiree, told Euro-Med Monitor:

Referring teachers to early retirement is an arbitrary and unjust measure and far from professional standards. It is a
measure by the government against teachers for practicing their union duties, which are guaranteed by the Jordanian constitution and international covenants and charters that emphasize freedom of opinion and expression and the practice of union activity. The government used these powers in an arbitrary to punish and hurt the teachers. I am here talking about the material damage due to the drop in teachers’ salaries in a very large way, as the percentage of reduction reached 85% for those referred for deposition and those referred for retirement to 40%. As for the damage on the teachers careers, most of those who were referred were deprived of completing their right to career advancement and deprived of calculating additional years of active service, which in the future will lead to a decrease in pension salaries and even the type of post-retirement health insurance.

Referring teachers to early retirement deprives them of working for a period of two years. As a result, they will not be able to work in any job in the field of education, whether in the public or private sector. Worse, the referral damage extends to denying the affected of opening a commercial registry.

By suspending teachers then referring them to retirement under the current circumstances, the authorities leave teachers subject to underemployment, since their salaries are not enough and there are no job opportunities for them. This is a clear targeting of teachers’ livelihood as a punishment for their legitimate union activity, as most teachers have families that were greatly affected after the recent decisions especially in light of the measures imposed due to the spread of the Corona virus and the
economic conditions in the country.

Article 176 of the amended Civil Service Bylaw states the following:

a. “1. The Cabinet, upon the minister’s recommendation, may refer the employee to suspension without his request, and the minister, upon the recommendation of the Secretary-General, may refer the employee to suspension at his request if the remaining period of his civil retirement salary entitlement does not exceed five years, and this period results in the completion of the prescribed period for retirement at the date of the decision to refer him to suspension.”

Euro-Med Monitor believes that this amended text opens the door wide to the abuse of power by the Minister of Education, which has already happened with active teachers in the Teachers Syndicate. The text in its current form will pose a threat to anyone who opposes the minister’s decisions, and expose him to poverty, since the salary of those suspended does not exceed 15% of what they receive in the normal situation.
• Second: Jordan Medical Association (JMA)

Based on the Defense Law, and under the pretext of confronting the Coronavirus, the Jordanian government has suspended the incentives system agreed upon since 2019 in an agreement concluded with JMA at the beginning of 2020. The agreement included approving incentives for general medicine, mobility allowances, and increasing appointments. As a result, JMA’s council, as a sign of protest, submitted their resignation in May 2020.

The government formed a temporary committee to manage the union’s affairs. The Jordanian government’s decision sparked resentment in the health sector, especially Jordanian doctors and nurses, who were surprised to see that the increase in the technical allowance was deducted from their salaries for the month of May, despite the fact that they did not stop working during the pandemic and made double efforts. The discounts were no less than 100 Jordanian dinars ($140) for doctors.

The appointed committee consisted of 11 members, the majority of whom are members of the Smou list, which ran in the council elections against the current president, Ali al-Abous, but did not succeed.

On May 30, 2020, the resigning members issued a statement saying that “Ali Al-Abous' formation of the so-called ‘Managing Committee of the Council of the Medical Association’ is a legally void procedure in terms of form and composition, and that it has no basis in the JMA’s Law”.

The legal advisor to the resigned members, Bassam Freihat, confirmed in statements to the media, «that this decision is null and cannot produce any correct or sound effect.»

• Specialist doctors without wages

When a medical student completes a six-year bachelor’s degree, he obtains his first
degree in medicine and surgery, and then comes the internship year, which medical school graduates begin to get used to the idea of working without a salary or a very little amount not exceeding 150 dinars, at best, which is less that the minimum wage in Jordan according to the Labor Law.

Essentially, a doctor who completed the internship year should be able to practice the profession as a general practitioner without obtaining the specialty. However, due to the decline in the role of general practitioners in Jordan, specialization has been seen as a necessity for the doctor. The residency program extends from four to six years, depending on the specialty, provided that the doctor should pass an exam each year to move to the next year. Then the doctor takes the Jordanian Medical Council exam to become, if successful, a specialist holding the Jordanian Board in his field, and accordingly he is entitled to practice medicine inside Jordan. At this stage, the doctor receives training in the hospital, and the completion of these years of training is a prerequisite for applying for the exam to obtain the Jordanian board, but in return he performs his role during this period as a physician treating and following up on patients, under the supervision and follow-up of a specialist or consultant according to specific protocols.

Aseel (a fake name), a resident doctor working under the “unpaid system,” told Euro-Med Monitor about the inhumane conditions she and the rest of the doctors face during residency:

> In the unpaid residency programs, we are forced to sign unfair contracts in which we waive our wages completely in return for agreeing to spend the necessary period of residency for us as specialist doctors. Our number [resident doctors] ranges from 1500 - 2000 male and female doctors.
in various hospitals. We work in inhumane conditions, working double the hours stipulated in the Labor Law, at a rate of 90 hours per week, without any sufficient prior qualification, and with terrible work pressure that includes the large number of patients and the lack of amenities. Even our female colleagues who give birth are deprived of obtaining maternity leave of 90 days; they are only given 30 days only, instead.

We are also required to pay union contributions, which are 22 dinars per month ($28), and 30 dinars annually ($42) in addition to exam fees, all without receiving the slightest privilege, and without recognition of our labor rights as we are categorized as trainees, but in fact we perform double tasks and burdens. The contracts that we sign entrust us with great tasks, as well as our signing of penal terms to resolve our desire to terminate these contracts individually.

Practically, resident doctors are the basis of the human cadre in Jordanian hospitals, and they cannot be dispensed with, and therefore they deserve a salary as a result of this work and in return for the long shift hours that extend for 24 hours, and sometimes they reach 32 continuous hours.

**Community violence**

Community violence is a worrying phenomenon in Jordan that threatens the stability and cohesion of society, as the kingdom recorded a high number of crimes committed during the past year, especially in light of the outbreak of the pandemic, and the long period of closure imposed by the government to limit the spread of the virus, which contributed to the disruption of a large number of workers who lost their sources of income. According to the criminal statistical report issued by the Public Security Directorate,
during 2020, Jordan witnessed about 1,129 documented crimes, distributed as follows: 346 attempted murder cases, 39 premeditated murder cases, 51 intentional killing cases, 9 beating leading to death cases, 26 manslaughter cases, 658 severe abuse cases.

There was also a high number of murders committed against women, whose perpetrator is a family member, most of the time. While there are no official figures on the number of crimes related to violence, especially murders against women, Euro-Med Monitor recorded 19 murders against women and girls in Jordan during 2020.

“B.K.,” 39, told Euro-Med Monitor about her husband’s assault on his son because of economic pressures. She said:

“My husband is non-Jordanian and he had huge problems getting a job. He worked as a day laborer irregularly, and as a result of the economic conditions and the Coronavirus, the possibility of working became difficult, which worsened our living conditions, as we accumulated bills and house rent. He was no longer able to fulfill the most basic needs. As a result of this, and the great stress he was under, he started beating my 10-year-old son repeatedly, mostly on the head. After a while, my son said he had a poor eyesight, and upon reviewing more than one doctor, it was found that my son needed a delicate eye surgery as a result of the beating he was subjected to, at a cost of up to 3,000 dinars, an amount that I cannot secure.
An eyewitness told Euro-Med Monitor about the details of the murder of the girl Ahlam, by her father. The crime was one of the most heinous crimes that took place in Jordan last year. On Saturday, July 18, 2020, the 60-year-old father smashed the head of his daughter, Ahlam, 40, with a stone then sat next to her body drinking a cup of tea. The crime took place in the Safout area in the Balqa Governorate, west of the capital, Amman.

It was 9 pm on Friday, and with the sound of the screaming of a girl running in the main street to escape from her father, blood dripping from her neck. She was seeking help from her mother, who did not move a finger. Her father followed her, grabbed her and smashed her head with a stone, while the residents of the area were watching. After killing her, he sat [near the body] drinking a cup of tea as if nothing had happened. Some residents tried to approach Ahlam’s body, but her brothers prevented them. Ahlam had been subjected to violence from her family several times, as she had previously tried to resort to the Family Protection of the Public Security Directorate in Jordan, but the matter ended up every time by writing a pledge from her family not to harm her, which they did not abide by at all.
The economic crises that the Jordanian state suffers from have multiplied, which has doubled the suffering of Jordanian citizens who are no longer able to cover their needs or obtain their basic rights as they are indispensable and guaranteed at the level of local laws or the relevant international charters and agreements.

• **First: health care and access to treatment**

The right to health is one of the most important matters guaranteed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, where paragraph 1 of Article 25 stipulates the following:

1. “Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including

Second: Legal obligations
food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.”

This is also what was included in Article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, where it states the following:

«1. The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.»

The Jordanian constitution did not include an explicit text guaranteeing the right to health care for citizens, but the Public Health Law in Article 3 stipulates the following:

“The Ministry shall be responsible for all health affairs in the Kingdom, and its duties include in particular the following:

a) Preserving public health by providing preventive, curative and control health services.

b) Regulating and supervising health services provided by the public and private sectors.

c) Providing health insurance to citizens within the limits of the capabilities available to it.

d) Establishing health educational and training institutions and institutes affiliated with the Ministry and supervising their management, taking into account the provisions of the relevant legislation in force.”

• Second: Unemployment

The Jordanian constitution guarantees citizens their right to work through Article 6, which stipulates the following:

«(iii) The Government shall ensure work and education within the limits of its possibilities, and it shall ensure a state of tranquillity and equal opportunities to all Jordanians.»

This is the same thing confirmed by Article 6 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,
which stipulates the following:

“1. The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right to work, which includes the right of everyone to the opportunity to gain his living by work which he freely chooses or accepts, and will take appropriate steps to safeguard this right. 2. The steps to be taken by a State Party to the present Covenant to achieve the full realization of this right shall include technical and vocational guidance and training programmes, policies and techniques to achieve steady economic, social and cultural development and full and productive employment under conditions safeguarding fundamental political and economic freedoms to the individual.”

• Third: Union crisis
  • Freedom of union action
The Jordanian constitution guarantees citizens the freedom to establish unions within the limits of the law. Article 16 of it states: “The establishment of societies and political parties and the control of their resources shall be regulated by law.” The Explanatory Decision No. 6 of 2013 issued by the Constitutional Court affirmed the right of public officials to establish unions, as it stated: “Employees in any ministry, department, authority, or government institution may establish their own union even if they are employees affiliated with the regime. The civil service, regardless of whether they have a role in the private sector outside the framework of the government or not, provided that this is done in accordance with legislation issued for this purpose, according to what the legislative authority deems to have the original jurisdiction in the legislation.”

  • Referring employees to retirement and retirement
The Jordanian government’s referral of teachers to early retirement and suspension violates many legal texts that guarantee individuals a decent standard of living, health, and a decent standard of living for unionists and their families,
including: Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states:

1. “Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control."

2. Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.”

Article 7 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights emphasized the need for everyone to guarantee a decent standard of living and to have equal opportunities for promotion, as it stated: “The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of just and favourable conditions of work which ensure, in particular:

(ii) A decent living for themselves and their families in accordance with the provisions of the present Covenant;

(c) Equal opportunity for everyone to be promoted in his employment to an appropriate higher level, subject to no considerations other than those of seniority and competence;

• Dissolution of unions and temporary committees

The general principle is that it is not permissible to dissolve professional unions established in accordance with a law by virtue of a judicial decision, but by a draft law that repeals the law in force through the House of Representatives according to the Jordanian law.

Also, dissolving unions is an infringement of the right guaranteed in the Jordanian Constitution to freely form unions, as Article 16 stipulates that “ii) Jordanians are entitled to establish societies and political parties provided that the objects
of such societies and parties are lawful, their methods peaceful, and their by-laws not contrary to the provisions of the Constitution.”

Keeping the Medical Syndicate without an elected council constitutes a confiscation of the right of its members to exercise their democratic right, which is in violation of Article 8 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which states:

“The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to ensure: [...] (c) The right of trade unions to function freely subject to no limitations other than those prescribed by law and which are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security or public order or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others”.

The Teachers Syndicate Law defines a clear mechanism for dissolving the Syndicate Council and appointing a temporary committee, which conditions are not met today. Article 27 of the Syndicate Law stipulates the following:

A- The Syndicate Council shall be dissolved in any of the following two cases:

- With the approval of two-thirds of the members of the central body of the Syndicate in a meeting held for this purpose, provided that all matters related to the meeting are organized according to a system issued for this purpose.
- By a final judicial decision if the council violates the provisions of this law.

B- The minister forms a committee from the general assembly of the union to take the place of the dissolved council until the election of a new council within a period of six months from the date of dissolution.

C- The system determines how the committee will be formed.

- Resident doctors

Depriving resident doctors of their labor rights such as salaries, allowances, vacations and a comfortable work environment is a violation by the executive authorities of the set of rights guaranteed by the relevant international conventions,
where the wage is considered one of the basic rights of resident doctors and every condition in the work contract deprives them of that right in violation of Article (4/ b) From the Jordanian Labor Law: “Any condition in a contract or agreement, whether concluded before or after this law takes effect, by virtue of which any employee waives any of the rights given to him/her by this law shall be deemed as invalid.”

This is the same thing confirmed by Article 23 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states the following:

1. “Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.
2. Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.
3. Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.”

- **Fourth: Child labor and poverty**

Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights stipulates the following:

“1. The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions. The States Parties will take appropriate steps to ensure the realization of this right, recognizing to this effect the essential importance of international co-operation based on free consent.
2. The States Parties to the present Covenant, recognizing the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, shall take, individually and through international co-operation, the measures, including specific programmes, which are needed:
(a) To improve methods of production, conservation and distribution of food by making full use of technical and scientific knowledge, by disseminating knowledge of the principles of nutrition and by developing or reforming agrarian systems in such a way as to achieve the most efficient development and utilization of natural resources;

(b) Taking into account the problems of both food-importing and food-exporting countries, to ensure an equitable distribution of world food supplies in relation to need.”

As for child labor, the Jordanian constitution stipulates the establishment of measures to control child labor. Article (23/d) states the following:

(iii) The State shall protect labour and enact legislation therefore based on the following principles:

Special conditions shall be made for the employment of women and juveniles.

This is what the Jordanian Labor Law translated in its articles 75 and 76 as follows:

Article (75): “It is prohibited to employ a juvenile: A. More than six hours per day, provided that he is given a rest period of not less than one hour after working four consecutive hours. B. Between eight in the evening and six in the morning. C. On religious holidays, official holidays and weekends.

Article (76): “Before employing any juvenile, the employer must ask him or his guardian to submit the following documents: A. A certified copy of the birth certificate. b. A certificate of the juvenile's health fitness for the required work, issued by a specialized doctor and certified by the Ministry of Health. c. The juvenile's guardian's written consent to work in the institution, and these documents are kept in a special file for the juvenile with sufficient data on his place of residence, date of use, work in which he was employed, wages and leaves.
• **Fifth: Water shortage**

Access to water is one of the most basic human rights, and this was confirmed by the United Nations resolution issued on 28 July, 2010, which stated:

“Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights”.
Recommendations

The Jordanian authorities should:

1. develop an urgent action plan to address the major crises to save the economic situation in Jordan;
2. stop violations that limit freedom of trade union work and respect the constitution and laws with regard to the right to form unions and to practice union work in a safe environment;
3. cancel arbitrary decisions related to referring teachers to retirement and illegal detention;
4. amend the legislation regulating the work and training of doctors to ensure that their work is prohibited without pay and that they are provided with a decent life;
5. reduce child labor, implementing the law that prohibits the work of children under 16 years of age, punishing anyone who employs a child, and adhering to the relevant agreements ratified by the Kingdom;
6. develop a national policy to deal effectively with the negative societal effects of the unemployment phenomenon;
7. providing the necessary support to the health sector, securing all treatments for all patients, and rehabilitating government hospitals;
8. reduce the closure of economic establishments and stop the immigration of investors by providing long-term loans without interest;
9. enact modern laws criminalizing community violence, strengthening the oversight role of the judiciary and activating the partnership between the state and civil society to contribute to drafting laws that lead to the elimination of the phenomenon of societal violence.
The international community should:

1. call on the Jordanian authorities to respect its international obligations with regard to the social and economic rights of its citizens.

2. support the Jordanian authorities through international organizations, such as the UNICEF, FAO and ILO, through development projects to reduce poverty, unemployment and child labor.

3. call on the United Nations to play its role in supervising the proper implementation of binding international agreements related to the distribution of water from the Jordan River and the Yarmouk Basin to secure water for citizens and residents in Jordan.
Jordan: Epidemic decline in economic and social rights
Jordan: Epidemic decline in economic and social rights