



اللجنة الوطنية الأردنية  
لشؤون المرأة  
The Jordanian National  
Commission for Women



**Comprehensive National Review of the Progress Made in Implementing  
the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action+30\***

**Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan**

**June 2024**

\* This English version was prepared by UN-Women. It has not been officially validated by the submitting Government and is provided solely for informational purposes. To access the full report, please refer to the original submission.

## Section 1: Takeaways

Jordan based its 30-year comprehensive review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action on national priorities for the three modernization tracks: political, economic and administrative, in addition to its international commitments, guided by the *Guidance note for comprehensive national-level reviews*. In a participatory approach in accordance with the governance model of the Beijing Platform for Action report, the Cabinet decided to form a higher supervisory committee, represented by the Ministerial Committee for Women’s Empowerment, which was tasked with overseeing the process of preparing the report and approving it after its preparation by the Higher Steering Committee, headed by the Jordanian National Commission for Women, and including representatives of relevant bodies from the public and private sectors, civil society, the National Assembly, research centres and representatives of international organizations operating in Jordan. This was done in cooperation and coordination with the technical teams formed to provide information and data on achievements, challenges and future plans within the six themes of the report.

The Kingdom of Jordan has made remarkable progress in achieving gender equality and promoting the social and economic empowerment of women through significant legislative amendments. Most notably, the constitutional amendments included amending the title of Chapter Two by adding the word “Females.” The Chapter title now reads: “Rights and Duties of Jordanian Males and Females.” Furthermore, the addition of Paragraph 6 to Article 6 – which guarantees the empowerment of women and supports their active role in building society, ensuring equal opportunities based on justice and fairness, and protecting them from all forms of violence and discrimination – represents a constitutional guarantee of the State’s commitment to empowering women. It also enhances their presence and participation in various positions and posts, ensures equal opportunities in all sectors and fields, strengthens the principle of the rule of law that protects women from all forms of discrimination and violence, and reinforces the role of women as influential citizens in national affairs. In response to the outputs of the Royal Committee to Modernize the Political System, the Parliamentary Elections Law and the Political Parties Law were issued in 2022, which included new temporary special measures to enhance women’s political participation, in addition to many of the legislation that will be included in this report.

At the policy level, the government is committed to the three tracks of political, economic and administrative modernization and reform in accordance with the royal directives, in addition to the issuance of the National Strategy for Women 2020–2025, its executive plan and the Women Empowerment Strategy as part of the vision for economic modernization.

The exceptional circumstances the world experienced following the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 tested Jordan's ability to withstand economic and social challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic and the accompanying lockdown and movement restrictions have compounded the challenges hindering national efforts to prevent a regression in the progress made in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action and achieving equality. It was imperative to take the necessary measures to limit the spread of the pandemic and protect citizens' health, on the one hand, and protect the national economy, mitigate the repercussions of quarantine and lockdown measures, and increase government spending to combat the pandemic, on the other. The consequences thereof continue to affect the economy to this date.

The year 2020 witnessed a contraction in GDP by 1.6 per cent, which is the first contraction suffered by the economy in decades. Fiscal challenges affected the ability to allocate the necessary resources to national programmes and priorities. In addition, the burden of social protection services increased significantly, and unemployment rates rose in an unprecedented manner, reaching 24.7 per cent in 2020, an increase of 5.7 percentage points from their levels in 2019. The rates of increase in female unemployment were higher than those for males, as they increased by 8.7 percentage points compared to an increase of 4.9 percentage points for males. Women business owners, particularly those operating small and micro enterprises, have also been impacted by the pandemic, facing increased difficulty in accessing government financing programmes intended to support affected businesses. The burden on the health system has increased, leading to the suspension of critical health care programmes, including the national vaccination programme, family planning and maternity care services, early detection of genetic diseases and breast cancer, which has led to an increase in the number of deaths resulting from these diseases. The challenges faced by women and girls in particular have multiplied. There has been an increase in the reported

cases of domestic violence, and the burdens on mothers – especially regarding the necessary care services for children with disabilities – have grown.

Challenges hindering national efforts to achieve equality have been further exacerbated by the unstable security situation in the region, as well as ongoing conflicts and wars in neighbouring countries, which have led to a large influx of refugees seeking safety in Jordan. Waves of forced displacement have led to a significant increase in the population, and refugees have added demographic, economic and environmental burdens. This posed a real challenge that added burdens on the path to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and progress in the critical areas of concern of the Platform for Action.

In light of the double standards the world is witnessing and the international silence in the face of human rights violations, national efforts in critical fields have been affected by the aggression on Gaza and the exposure of its citizens to the most heinous forms of killing and genocide. [Sentence unclear in source document.]

Through legislative reforms that promote gender equality, Jordan has sought to legislate and institutionalize the principle of leaving no one behind. It ensures safe and inclusive work environments that take into account the circumstances of marginalized groups of women, including women and girls living in underserved areas, refugees and women with disabilities. In this context, the principle of “equal pay for work of equal value” has been integrated for all workers, alongside the expansion of childcare and the mandatory employment of persons with disabilities. Additionally, numerous programmes have been implemented to connect poor and disadvantaged groups with job opportunities and employment services. These efforts include providing financial and technical support to establish or expand medium, small and micro enterprises, empowering the most vulnerable individuals and families and facilitating the transition of cash subsidies to productive grants. To support vulnerable communities, new segments of non-insured individuals have been added to the national health insurance. Jordan continues to harness technology to alleviate poverty through the establishment of a unified national register to improve targeting systems for beneficiaries of social safety net programmes and the establishment of digital wallets to distribute assistance to beneficiaries.

Jordan’s commitment to protecting human rights is also embodied in its continued hosting and support of approximately 4 million refugees, providing them with basic care and

services, including health and education, despite limited resources. Examples worth mentioning include efforts to encourage Syrian children to return to school, facilitate the admission and registration of Syrian students in higher education, in addition to the extension of work permits to regulate the labour market despite the competition of Syrian refugees against Jordanians for already limited job opportunities, leading to the loss of income for some Jordanians, including women. Rising housing and food costs have also increased poverty rates. Jordan also continues its commitment to support the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and contributes to the provision of school textbooks to UNRWA to ensure the education of Palestine refugee children.

Examples of good practices related to gender equality in Jordan include the existence of political will that supports women's empowerment in decision-making positions. Women have held important ministerial portfolios, such as Deputy Prime Minister, and the Ministries of Planning, International Cooperation, Industry, Trade and Supply, Social Development, Energy, Transport, Culture, Legal Affairs, Environment and Public Sector Development. They have also chaired several government institutions, held positions as assistant to the chairman and rapporteur on several committees in the Senate and House of Representatives, and served as ambassadors to several countries. They have also been appointed members of the Constitutional Court and the Judicial Council and have chaired the Judicial Institute and the Legislation and Opinion Bureau.

The Ministerial Committee for the Empowerment of Women was also established within the permanent committees of the Council of Ministers, concerned with promoting women's rights and empowering them. Eighteen ministries and eight government agencies are members of this committee, and it works in partnership with the Jordanian National Commission for Women's Affairs as the first national mechanism for women at the regional level. Jordan has been one of the leading countries in the field of women's empowerment by establishing the Jordanian National Commission for Women in 1992, three years before the recommendation of the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action to all countries to establish national mechanisms for gender equality.

The Ministerial Committee for the Empowerment of Women and the Jordanian National Commission for Women work in cooperation with international organizations

based in Jordan such as UN-Women, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Population Fund, the World Bank, UNICEF and other international and regional organizations and donor institutions to implement many programmes and projects aimed at promoting women's rights and empowerment through the provision of technical and financial support. Civil society institutions also contribute to national efforts to achieve gender equality and implement the recommendations of the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action through many programmes and activities, particularly in the areas of capacity building, raising awareness and launching advocacy and lobbying campaigns.

Despite Jordan's significant achievements, there are still many areas that need technical and financial support to ensure implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Agenda for Sustainable Development. The first track includes supporting national efforts to implement national plans and policies related to women, especially the outputs of the three modernization tracks, in order to support the empowerment of women in various political and economic issues and in public administration. This includes the strategy of empowering women in the vision of economic modernization, the National Strategy for Women and its implementation plan, and the second Jordanian National Plan to activate Security Council resolution 1325 and the initiatives and projects emanating therefrom. This is in addition to the Jordanian Response Plan for the Syrian Crisis to meet the needs of Syrian refugees and their host communities.

The second track relates to institutionalizing the work of the National Mechanism for Women and strengthening the institutional structure and technical capacities necessary for the Jordanian National Commission for Women's Affairs and The Ministerial Committee for the Empowerment of Women within the standing committees of the Council of Ministers, to contribute to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Providing sex-disaggregated data to support data- and information-based policymaking is a priority for the country. However, it requires financial and technical support, particularly related to supporting the development of a national composite index for monitoring and tracking economic, social and political participation, establishing a women's observatory in Jordan, and continuously developing data to consider gender, age and geographic distribution factors. Additionally, data related to the 14

indicators of the Sustainable Development Goal 5, and the 80 gender-related indicators that intersect with the Sustainable Development Goals, are also required. This requires conducting new surveys or adding questions to existing surveys to collect unavailable data, such as those related to time use and violence against women.