

HUMAN RIGHTS IN JORDAN

UPR Info Pre-sessions

Working team:

- ❑ Dibeen for Environmental Development
- ❑ Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND)
- ❑ Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN) (HIC)

Situation in Jordan – Issue 1

Legislative and institutional framework on the right to healthy environment in Jordan

- The environment as a human right in Jordan takes a back seat
- Jordan has voted positively on the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly aiming to recognize the right to a healthy environment as a human right, but the government still deals with environmental issues as a service and is not dealt with as a right.
- The Ministry of Environment was established in 2003.
- There is an overlapping, conflicted powers and lack of clarity in related to environmental issues.
- There is conflicting powers and lack of clarity, specifically in the management and use of land, and the solid and hazardous waste.

Recommendations – Issue 1

Legislative and institutional framework on the right to healthy environment in Jordan

- Ensure that the Ministry of Environment plays its role in monitoring the components of the environment in Jordan
- Ensure coordination between different ministries related to the right to healthy environment to ensure efficient work
- Amend the environmental classification and licensing system and its amendments No. 69 of 2020 to ensure the dissemination of information on project licenses and environmental and social impact assessment studies, ensuring the right to obtain information

Situation in Jordan – Issue 2

Right to clean and safe water and safe sanitation

- Jordan is classified as the poorest country in the world in terms of water resources
- The per capita share of water decreased from 135 cubic meters (m³) in the years 2013-2016 to 73 m³ in 2017 and to 61 m³ in 2023 New needs.
- The possibility of a decrease in rainfall by a rate ranging from 20% to 35% at most until the year 2100
- Covid-19 pandemic created an increasing demand for water, estimated at 10% of the total demand for water
- Water Strategy 2022-2040 is not built on a human rights approach that recognizes the rights of citizens and their right to participate in water decisions
- The sewage services to date cover only 68% of urban areas.

Recommendations – Issue 2

Right to clean and safe water and safe sanitation

- Introduce a specialized water law

Situation in Jordan – Issue 3

Right to land and ensuring its sustainable use

- There is no law specialized in land management in Jordan, there is a bylaw for regulating land use.
- Compliance with the system is still very weak, in addition to the fact that the land use map, has not yet been updated.
- The Ministry of Agriculture is still not represented in the Supreme Organization Council.

Recommendations – Issue 3

Right to land and ensuring its sustainable use

- Introduce law specialized in land management in Jordan
- Represented Ministry of Agriculture in the Supreme Organization Council as a key member

Situation in Jordan – Issue 4

Sustainable Waste Management

- The legislative environment for solid waste in Jordan has developed during the past recent years
- Up to 90% of the solid waste generated in Jordan is disposed of at one of the existing 17 operating landfills.
- The Ghabawi landfill is the only landfill in Jordan that meets international best practices
- The proximity of waste dumps to the lands and residences of citizens often causes major violations of health rights
- The solid waste recycling rate stands at 7%
- In terms of environmental impact, landfill waste is an important component of Jordan's greenhouse gas emissions profile.
- Medical waste is also one of the most prominent challenges facing the health and environmental system in Jordan

Recommendations – Issue 4

Sustainable Waste Management

- Establish a control system over the various medical and drug inputs to medical and health facilities
- Establish preventive procedures to address the problem of the presence of medical or hazardous waste in a household waste container or on land adjacent to the residences

Situation in Jordan – Issue 5

Climate justice

- Jordan, like the world, lives under great changes in the climate, and in Jordan these changes are represented by temperatures and amounts of precipitation.
- Jordan has been affected during the past five years by a number of extreme climatic phenomena and events that affected the human right to life, the right to housing and the human right to adequate food and decent working conditions
- At the end of 2018, Jordan was subjected to unexpected flash rains that led to the formation of torrential rains that left behind the death of 21 children
- Unexpected floods in Amman caused material losses of property estimated at millions in the main commercial market in late February 2019
- In a study conducted by the Dibein Association for Environmental Development on climate change impacts, 28 cases were recorded in which direct losses affected the population greatly.

Situation in Jordan – Issue 5

Climate justice

□ For example:

- At the end of 2018, Jordan was subjected to sudden, unexpected flash rains, which led to the formation of torrential rains that left 21 children dead and two teachers washed away by torrential rains in a tourist area during a school trip.
- Unexpected floods in Amman caused property losses estimated at millions in the main commercial market in late February 2019.
- Heavy torrential rains as a result of seasonal rains on April 10, 2023 claimed the life of a man who was swept away by torrential rains hundreds of kilometers from Wadi Araba, and the search for him continued for a period.
- Eleven days, and the floods of May 29, 2023 claimed the life of a child (herder) in the Eastern Desert, the search for him continued for three days.

Recommendations – Issue 5

Right to land and ensuring its sustainable use

- Upgrade the climate change bylaw to become a law
- Use international best practices as a specific standard in order to increase the capacity of the local communities most at risk of torrential rains and floods
- Improve the legal framework for disaster risk reduction through the creation of an independent fund (for risks) by the government
- Revisit compensation measures provided to populations affected by environmental disasters
- Consider climate justice and impacts of the climate change at the core of addressing economic and social rights and improving living conditions, achieving sustainable human development
- Prepare a comprehensive local climate action plan for preparedness, confrontation, response to climate change impacts

Thank you