



The Twenty-First Annual Report on the State of Human Rights In the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the Year 2024





The National Center for Human Rights

The Twenty-First Annual Report on the State of Human Rights

In the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

for the Year 2024

The National Center for Human Rights

Amman

2025



His Majesty King Abdullah II, ibn Al-Hussein, may Allah protect and preserve him



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Glossary of Key Terms

The following terms and expressions, wherever mentioned in the report, shall have the meanings assigned thereto below:

The Kingdom: The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

The Center: The National Center for Human Rights.

The Center Law: The Law of the National Center for Human Rights No. (51) of 2006 and its amendments.

The Report: The Twenty-First Annual Report on the State of Human Rights in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the year 2024.

Report Year: The year 2024.

Monitoring: The field monitoring conducted by the Center's team during the year 2024.

Complaints: Complaints received by the Center during the year 2024.

Introduction

The Twenty-First Annual Report on the Status of Human Rights in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is issued pursuant to Article (12) of the National Center for Human Rights Law No. (51) of 2006 and its amendments. The report reflects the results of monitoring, complaints received by the Center, announced and unannounced visits, as well as monitoring reports conducted by the Center during the year 2024.

The annual report undergoes a collective, participatory review by the Center's Board of Trustees and the monitoring and preparation team from the General Secretariat, after which it is approved in its final form by the Board in accordance with the provisions of Article (14/d) of the same Law.

The significance of the annual reports issued by the Centre lies in the fact that they are the result of objective monitoring and analysis of the human rights situation throughout the Kingdom over the course of a full year. They provide an objective indicator of the level of progress achieved, as well as any gaps, shortcomings, or violations. This leads to impartial diagnosis of the situation and the presentation of applicable recommendations and proposals aimed at stimulating participatory and integrated mechanisms among all official and public institutions to develop and enhance the protection of human rights.

In 2024, the Centre continued to enhance the methodology of its annual report on the state of human rights in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, by utilizing various means and tools guaranteed by its law. The Centre

conducted several specialized discussion sessions to diagnose the national reality, identify priorities, and propose solutions in the field of human rights. These sessions were based on working papers presented by experts, specialists, and thought leaders across various fields, the outcomes and recommendations of which are reflected throughout the report.

The Twenty-First Annual Report is accompanied by three specialized annexes that demonstrate the Centre's role in diagnosing and assessing the state of human rights over the past year:

1. Annex (1): Analysis of complaints received by the Centre during 2024.
2. Annex (2): Outcomes and recommendations related to the legislative impact assessment of the Cybercrimes Law and its applications for the year 2023.
3. Annex (3): A summary of the Centre's achievements and key activities at the national, regional, and international levels for 2024.

The National Centre for Human Rights highly appreciates the royal directives of His Majesty King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein on the occasion of His Majesty's Silver Jubilee marking the assumption of his constitutional powers which led to the enactment of the General Amnesty Law for 2024. This Law considers the public interest while safeguarding the civil and political rights of citizens, reinforcing the principles of justice and the requirements of the rule of law and community security.

Reflecting its pioneering role in promoting and protecting human rights at the regional and international levels; the National Centre for Human Rights continues to consolidate its active presence within the regional and global human rights frameworks. In 2024, the presidency of the Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions (ANNHRI) was transferred to the Jordanian National Centre for Human Rights. The ANNHRI includes 18 national human rights institutions from various Arab countries. Established in 2011, the Network aims to enhance cooperation and coordination between such institutions to support and protect human rights in the region, exchange expertise and best practices, in addition to strengthening the capacities of its members in the fields of civil and political rights as well as the economic, social, and cultural rights. The Centre was also elected to chair the Asia Pacific Forum (APF) for National Human Rights Institutions, a regional network founded in 1996, which currently includes 27 members from countries across Asia and the Pacific, and aims primarily to support national human rights institutions and strengthen their efforts to protect and promote human rights in their respective countries. Furthermore, the Centre has become a member of the Permanent Executive Committee of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), composed of 16 members representing the four continents, tasked with discussing the issues and topics relevant to the work of the NHRIs that are members of the Alliance.

The report seeks to provide actionable recommendations aimed at improving policies and practices at the national level in the field of human rights, through the review of legislation, policies, and practices. The report presents (155) recommendations whose content focuses on urging the continuation of efforts to protect human rights through three tracks: legislation, policies, and practices. These recommendations address the three main axes contained in the report: civil and political rights, economic, social, and cultural rights, and the rights of those most in need of protection.

Through this report, the Centre reaffirms its role in advancing the human rights situation in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan through a comprehensive and participatory approach, by monitoring the state of human rights and empowering citizens and residents within the Kingdom's territory to access their rights as enshrined in the Constitution and in accordance with regional and international human rights standards. This is particularly significant in light of an enabling environment for the advancement of human rights across the three levels (policies, legislation, and practices), which is clearly demonstrated by the presence of a supportive political will for modernization and progress along the political, administrative, and economic tracks — in line with the founding principles upon which the Jordanian state is based.

Civil and Political Rights Axis

The Right to Life, Liberty, and Physical Integrity

The right to life, liberty, and physical integrity is considered one of the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Jordanian Constitution, as well as by relevant national legislations¹ and the international treaties to which the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is a party. This right is regarded as non-derogable, imposing a legal obligation on the state to protect and promote it.

According to international human rights standards, the right to life is a fundamental right that must not be arbitrarily violated or infringed upon. This right requires that individuals enjoy personal liberty and physical integrity, and that the state protects them from any threats or violations that may affect these rights. This necessitates the implementation of policies and laws ensuring effective protection of individuals from any form of threat or violence.

The normative scope of this right encompasses monitoring and following up on several issues including: the imposition and execution of the death penalty, the prevention of torture and ill-treatment, including cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, cases of suicide, deaths resulting from traffic accidents and drowning, incidents of firearm discharge, and issues related to drug trafficking and abuse.

In 2024, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan underwent a review of its human rights record through the Universal

Periodic Review (UPR) of Human Rights (2024), which was endorsed by the Human Rights Council. The review included Jordan's acceptance of 204 recommendations,² among which were those related to reviewing the use of administrative detention, limiting its duration, improving detention conditions, continuing efforts to implement alternative penalties and alternatives to detention, and calling for amendments to the Jordanian Penal Code.

Imposition and Execution of the Death Penalty

International human rights law affirms the right to life as an inherent and non-derogable right. It further associates this right to the most serious crimes in society and stipulates that this penalty should only be applied pursuant to a final judgment issued by a competent court, that ensures the provisions of fair trial guarantees.³

Legal provisions in the Penal Code ensure that the death penalty is applied only in the narrowest cases, including exemption for individuals under the age of 18 from the death penalty, and the commutation of death sentences for pregnant women to life imprisonment.⁴ These provisions are consistent with the 2006 Convention on the Rights of the Child⁵ and the Arab Charter on Human Rights.⁶

¹ Article (3): "Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and personal security" — Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Article (6) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights — published in Official Gazette No. 4764 dated 15/06/2006 on page 2227. Articles (5) and (6) of the Arab Charter on Human Rights. Article (8) of the Jordanian Constitution.

² Prime Ministry Letter No. 37725/18/11/1 dated 27/11/2024

³ Article (6) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

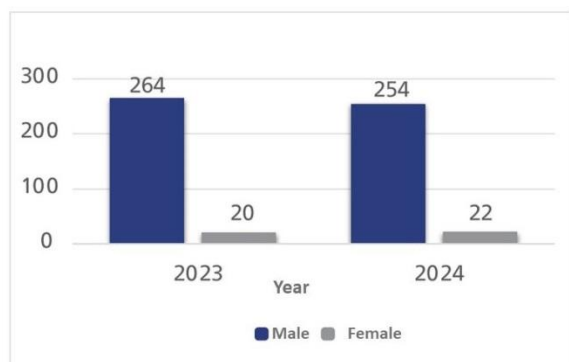
⁴ Article (17) of the Penal Code

⁵ Article (37) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, published in the Official Gazette No. 4787, page 3993, dated 16/10/2006

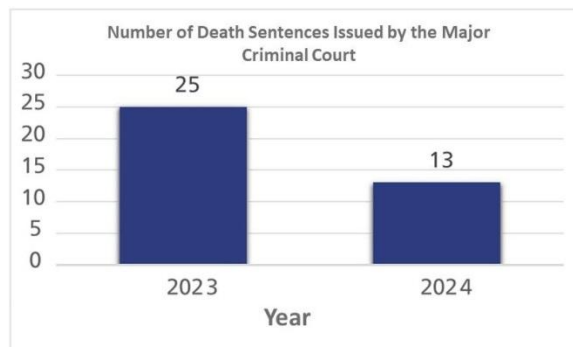
⁶ Article (6) of the Arab Charter on Human Rights, published in the Official Gazette No. 4675, page 4478, dated 16/09/2004

The chart below shows the number of prisoners sentenced to death in the years 2023–2024, showing a decline in the number of death sentences during 2024.

Chart (1): Number of Prisoners Sentenced to Death During the Years 2023⁷ - 2024⁸



The number of death sentences issued by the Grand Criminal Court (GCC) also declined in 2024 to 13 sentences, compared to 25 sentences in 2023, as shown in the chart below:



For the third consecutive year, no death sentences were issued by the State Security Court. This is shown in the table below.

Table 1: Death Sentences Issued by the State Security Court

Year	Number of Death Sentences Issued by the State Security Court
2022 ¹¹	0
2023 ¹²	0
2024 ¹³	0

In 2024, the General Amnesty Law No. (5) of 2024 was issued on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of His Majesty the King's assumption of his constitutional powers. The number of inmates who benefited from the General Amnesty Law reached 10,827 individuals.¹⁴

Chart (2): Number of Death Sentences Issued During the Years 2023⁹ - 2024¹⁰

⁷ The 20th Annual Report on the State of Human Rights in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the year 2023 — Section on the Right to Life, Freedom, and Physical Integrity

⁸ Public Security Directorate Letter No. (40Q/Transparency/511/2024) dated 19/02/2025; Center's Letter No. (H.A20/1095) dated 12/2024

⁹ The 20th Annual Report on the State of Human Rights in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the year 2023 — Section on the Right to Life, Freedom, and Physical Integrity.

¹⁰ Judicial Council Letter No. (888/30/1/2) dated 11/03/2025 in response to the Center's Letter No. (H.A/20/1107) dated 09/12/2024 (subsequently).

¹¹ State Security Prosecution Letter No. (M.A/12/2/State Security 981/) dated 04/04/2023.

¹² The 20th Annual Report on the State of Human Rights in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the year 2023 — Section on the Right to Life, Freedom, and Physical Integrity.

¹³ Military Judiciary Directorate Letter No. (M.A/12/2/State Security 2745) dated 03/03/2025 — Center's Letter No. (H.A2025/174) dated 24/02/2025.

¹⁴ Public Security Directorate — Transparency and Human Rights Office — Letter No. (42Q/2024/47670) in response to the Center's Letter No. (H.A20/1096) dated 05/12/2024.

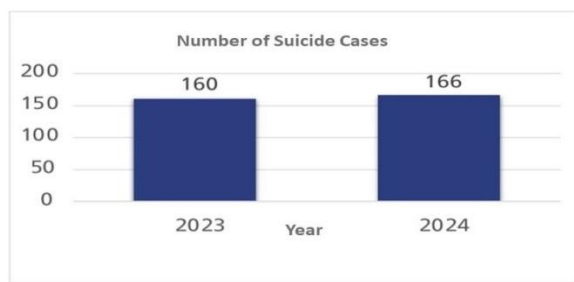
• Fallen Officers in the Line of Duty

In 2024, Second Lieutenant Mohammad Majed Ahmad Al-Fawaris¹⁵ (may God have mercy on him) was martyred in the line of duty.

• Suicide Cases for 2024

Data issued by the National Center for Forensic Medicine, affiliated with the Jordanian Ministry of Health, indicated an increase in suicide cases during 2024, with 166 deaths recorded compared to 160 cases in 2023, marking an increase of 6 cases.¹⁶

Chart (3): Number of Suicide Cases During the Years 2023¹⁷ – 2024¹⁸



According to statistics from the National Center for Forensic Medicine, 23 suicide cases involved individuals under the age of 18, highlighting the growing need to focus on children and adolescents in preventive

programs and psychological support. This is shown in the table below:¹⁹

Table 2: Suicide Cases by Age Group — 2024

Age Group	Number
Under 15 years	5
15–18 years	18
19–24 years	30
25–34 years	55
45–54 years	14
55–64 years	8
Over 65 years	1
Total	166

In terms of the methods used for suicide, hanging ranked first with 83 cases, followed by self-inflicted gunshot wounds with 28 cases, falling from heights with 20 cases, and burning with 16 cases, while 19 other cases were distributed among various other means such as poisoning and drowning. This is shown in the table below:²⁰

Table 3: Suicide Cases by Method

Method	Number
Hanging	83
Burning	16
Firearm	28
Falling from heights	20
Other	19

The Center affirms the importance of not criminalizing attempted suicide and stresses the need to provide social, health, and psychological support, along with more preventive programs, in order to address the underlying causes that lead to such actions.

¹⁵ Public Security Judiciary Directorate / Transparency and Human Rights Office — Letter No. (40Q/2024/511 Transparency) dated 19/02/2025 — Center’s Letter No. (H.A20/1095) dated 05/12/2024.

¹⁶ Ministry of Health Letter No. (Human Rights 1250) dated 13/04/2025 in response to the National Center for Human Rights’ Letter No. (H.A20/1079) dated 05/12/2024, following up on Letter No. (H.A/20/193) dated 19/12/2024.

¹⁷ The 20th Annual Human Rights Report, page 17 — Ministry of Health Letter No. (2024/453/2/44).

¹⁸ Ministry of Health Letter No. (Human Rights /1250) dated 13/04/2025 in response to the National Center for Human Rights’ Letter No. (H.A20/1079) dated 05/12/2024, following up on Letter No. (H.A/20/193) dated 19/12/2024.

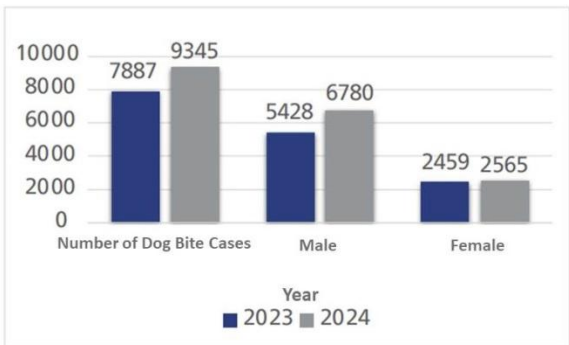
¹⁹ National Center for Forensic Medicine — Letter No. (300/2/2) dated 28/04/2025.

²⁰ National Center for Forensic Medicine — Letter No. (300/2/2) dated 28/04/2025.

• **Stray Dogs — 2024**

- The Center monitored the continued spread of stray dogs in residential neighborhoods and on public streets in most areas of the Kingdom, posing a threat to the safety of citizens and residents, and causing fear among children as they leave their homes in the mornings to go to school.
- Statistics from the Ministry of Health, shown in the table below, indicate an increase in the number of dog bite cases in 2024 compared to 2023, as follows:

Chart (4): Dog Bite Cases During the Years 2023–2024



In this regard, the Center recommends reconsidering the measures and procedures undertaken by the relevant authorities to address the phenomenon of stray dogs.

• **Traffic Accidents — 2024**

The Jordanian Traffic Institute, as part of the traffic system under the Public Security Directorate and in accordance with the Traffic Law No. (49) of 2008, is responsible for raising the level of road safety, reducing accidents and their human and material consequences, contributing to developing and implementing awareness and cultural traffic programs. It also provides traffic

consultations, and train workers in the traffic sector, including repeat offenders of accidents and violations, in both the public and private sectors.

The Center also monitored the issuance of the Amendment to the Traffic Points System Regulation No. (48) of 2024, which shall be read in conjunction with Regulation No. (31) of 2018.²¹ The Center welcomes the approach adopted in Article (9) of the amended regulation, which allows a driver who accumulates 12 points to have those points cleared upon completing a rehabilitation course.

Additionally, the Center noted that the Traffic Department’s social media page published numerous videos explaining traffic violations and their penalties.²² The Center regards this as a commendable step forward, as it contributes to enhancing traffic awareness among community members, promoting a traffic culture that protects the safety of individuals and society, and mitigates human and material losses.

• **Drowning Incidents**

In 2024, the number of drowning cases increased by 10 cases compared to 2023, as shown in the table below:

Table No. (4): Number of Drowning Cases during 2023–2024

Year	Number of Drowning Cases	Injury		Deaths	
		Male	Female	Male	Female

²¹ Published in the Official Gazette No. (5942) dated 01/08/2024.

²² https://www.facebook.com/Traffic.dept.jo/?locale=ar_AR

Year	Number of	Injury		Deaths	
2023 ²³	163	81	30	63	10
2024 ²⁴	173	110	42	38	13

In this context, the Center monitored the continuation of national efforts to reduce this phenomenon, including the launch of the "Safe Summer" initiative. This initiative aimed to raise awareness, promote education, provide a safe environment for citizens, and protect them from accidents caused by negative behaviors during the summer season. This is achieved through practical and field measures to prevent common summer-related accidents, such as drowning caused by random swimming.²⁵

Cases of Firing Gunshots:

- The Center monitored the annual campaign by the Public Security Directorate titled "Don't Kill Me with Your Joy," aimed at raising awareness about firing gunshots and the strict measures taken against offenders. In the same context, the Public Security Directorate dedicated a special number to report those who fire gunshots, in addition to the emergency number (911).
- The Ministry of Interior issued an electronic document to involve citizens in controlling the firing of gunshots during celebrations.²⁶ This enables citizens, regardless of their place of residence or presence, to

electronically access and sign a commitment to the document's terms. These include taking the following measures: the event organizer must place a clear sign stating "Firing Gunshots is Prohibited," guests must leave the venue immediately once gunshots begin, notifying law enforcement about individuals firing shots, adopting judicial procedures solely regarding the consequences of firing shots, prohibiting the families of the shooters from approaching official authorities and leaving the matter to judicial procedures, and taking stricter judicial and administrative measures against those who fire gunshots.

- Anyone who fires gunshots is considered a criminal, in addition to the legal handling of gunshot cases as murder or attempted murder. Moreover, firing gunshots without just cause is criminalized under the provisions of the Penal Code No. (16) of 1960.²⁷ Additionally, the act of firing gunshots has been criminalized under the Special Weapons and Ammunition Law and its amendments No. (34) of 1952.²⁸

²³ The Twentieth Annual Report on the State of Human Rights in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the year 2023 — Axis: The Right to Life, Liberty, and Physical Integrity.

²⁴ Letter No. 40/2024/Q. Transparency /511 dated 19/02/2025 from the Public Security Directorate / Office of Transparency and Human Rights, in response to the Center's Letter No. H.A 20/1095/ dated 05/12/2024.

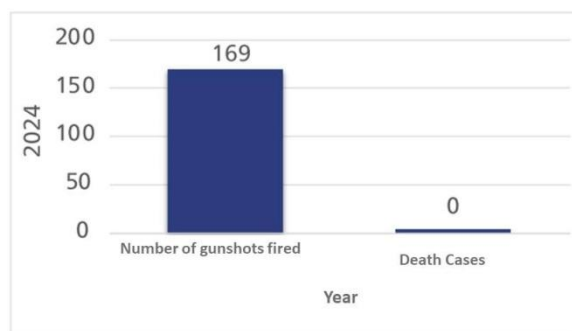
²⁵ <https://www.psd.gov.jo/ar>

²⁶ <https://www.moi.gov.jo>

²⁷ Article (1/330) Bis of the Penal Code No. (16) of 1960, which states: "Anyone who fires a gunshot or arrow without justification shall be punished by imprisonment for a period of three months or a fine of one thousand dinars, or both penalties; the penalty shall be doubled in case of repetition or multiple victims."

²⁸ Article (/11-c) of the Firearms and Ammunition Law and its Amendments No. (34) of 1952, which states: "Notwithstanding any provision in any other legislation, anyone who fires a gunshot without justification or uses explosive material without prior approval shall be punished by imprisonment for three months or a fine of one thousand dinars, or both penalties; the weapon used shall be confiscated whether licensed or unlicensed."

Graph (5): Gunshots Fired during 2024²⁹



Drugs

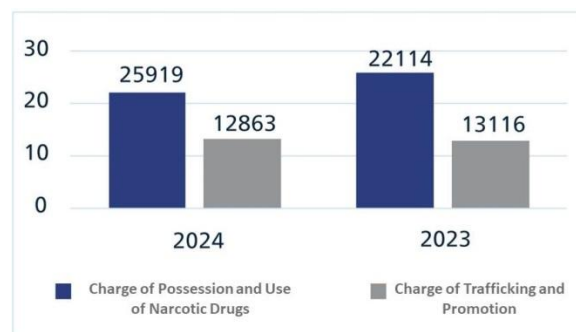
In 2024, the Public Security Directorate launched the National Strategy for Combating Drugs (2024-2026) on March 19, 2024. The strategy aims to fight the scourge of drugs and focuses on two main objectives: the first is to raise awareness about the dangers of drugs, and the second is to promote a culture of rehabilitating addicts and reintegrating them into society.

The Anti-Narcotics Department sustained its efforts to curb the drug proliferation by organizing awareness courses and seminars on drug prevention and addiction treatment. These included specialized training sessions to educate female employees in the government sector, conducted in cooperation with the Prime Ministry.

Graph (6): Types and Number of Drug-Related Crimes during 2023³⁰-2024³¹

²⁹ Letter No. /2024/40 Transparency /511/ dated 19/02/2025 from the Public Security Directorate, Office of Transparency and Human Rights, in response to the Center's Letter No. H.A 20/1095 dated 05/12/2024.

³⁰ The 20th Annual Report on the State of Human Rights in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the Year 2023 — Section on the Right to Life, Liberty, and Physical Integrity.



The Right to Liberty and Personal Security

The Jordanian Constitution guarantees, in its articles, the right to liberty and personal security.³²

International conventions have also affirmed every person's right to liberty and personal security; no one shall be arbitrarily detained or arrested, and no one shall be deprived of their liberty except for reasons provided for by law and in accordance with legal procedures.³³

Administrative Detention

In 2024, there was a significant decrease in the number of people held under administrative detention compared to 2023. The total number of administrative detainees in 2024 reached 20,437, as shown in the graph below:

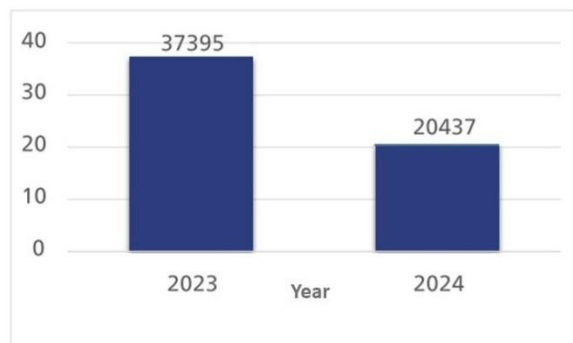
Graph (7): Number of Administrative Detainees during 2023³⁴-2024³⁵

³¹ Letter No. 40/2024/Q Transparency 511 dated 19/02/2025 from the Public Security Directorate / Office of Transparency and Human Rights, in response to the Center's Letter No. H.A 20/1095 dated 05/12/2024.

³² Articles (7), (8), and (9) of the Jordanian Constitution

³³ Article (9) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

³⁴ The 20th Annual Report on the State of Human Rights in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the Year 2023 — Section on the Right to Life, Liberty, and Physical Integrity.



No amendments were made in 2024 to the Crime Prevention Law No. (7) of 1954, with the National Center reaffirming its position calling for the repeal of this law, in line with the principle of the separation of powers. Until consensus is reached on repealing the law, the Center points out the necessity of introducing a set of amendments to it, including:

- Calling on the House of Representatives to discuss the Crime Prevention Law, ensuring a balance between its modernization and its practical application.
- Respecting the authority of judicial rulings as they represent the truth.
- Regulating detention powers by clearly defining the sequence of procedures and limiting the discretionary authority of administrative governors.
- Relying on the judicial criminal record instead of the security record maintained by the Public Security Directorate.

The Center also welcomes the Ministry of Interior's decisions to release administrative detainees, aiming to provide them with an opportunity to reintegrate into society and resume their normal lives with their

families. The Center issued a statement published on its website on May 8, 2024.³⁶

Rehabilitation and Correction Centers

International conventions affirm the obligation to treat all persons deprived of their liberty with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person³⁷ — a principle also guaranteed by the Jordanian Constitution.³⁸

In 2024, there was an increase in the number of inmates in correction and rehabilitation centers, with a total reaching (25148) as shown in the table below:

Table No. (5): Number of Inmates and Visits Carried Out by NCHR to the Correction and Rehabilitation Centers (2023³⁹–2024⁴⁰)

Year	Number of Inmates	Number of Center Visits to Correction and Rehabilitation Centers
2023	24,240	100
2024	25,148	92

In 2024, the Center conducted 92 visits, during which it met with 111 inmates — of whom 65 inmates were visited through 62 visits based on complaints submitted by their families, while 46 inmates were visited based on the Center's monitoring through 30 visits.

³⁶ <http://www.nchr.org.jo/ar>

³⁷ Article (10) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

³⁸ Articles (7) and (8) of the Jordanian Constitution and its Amendments

³⁹ The 20th Annual Report on the State of Human Rights, p. 21. Letter from the Public Security Judiciary Directorate No. (44/1 Cooperation), dated 23/01/2023.

⁴⁰ Letter No. (40/2024 Transparency), dated 19/02/2025. Public Security Directorate / Office of Transparency and Human Rights, in response to the letter from the Center No. (H.A 20/1095), dated 05/12/2024.

³⁵ Letter No. (71980/670/30) dated 23/12/2024 from the Ministry of Interior, in response to the Center's Letter No. (H.A 20/1108) dated 09/12/2024.

The main issues observed by the Center during these visits were:

1. Overcrowding remains as a persistent problem that adversely affects the dignity and health conditions of inmates, constituting a violation of minimum standards for the treatment of prisoners.
2. The shortage of beds forces some inmates to sleep on mattresses on the floor, thereby restricting their movement inside the prison wings.
3. The spread of unpleasant odors results from the excessive pressure on sanitary facilities inside the wings, which have become inadequate due to the substantial increase in the inmate population.

The National Center for Human Rights monitored the achievements of the Public Security Directorate (PSD) in several areas:⁴¹

Human Resources

- Establishment of the *Azimah* Vocational Training Center within the Swaqa Correction and Rehabilitation Center.
- Expansion of the Swaqa Correction and Rehabilitation Center with an additional capacity of 512 inmates, along with the provision of the necessary personnel to fulfill the required duties.

Judicial Field

Expansion of the remote trial system: In cooperation with the Ministry of Justice,

work continued on upgrading the operating system for many laptops to screens, and five new courtrooms were established, bringing the total number to 53 — of which 45 operate via screen systems and 8 via laptops.

- Digitalization of the legal aid system through the Ministry of Justice / Directorate of Legal Aid: Some correction and rehabilitation centers were equipped with computers electronically linked to the Ministry of Justice to speed up the submission and documentation of legal aid requests, saving time, effort, and cost. Coordination is underway to equip the remaining centers with this system.
- In cooperation with the Sharia Judiciary, the partnership with the Chief Justice Department was expanded and the joint cooperation mechanism was developed to reduce the number of inmates convicted in Sharia-related cases and shorten their detention periods. An agreement was reached to appoint liaison officers from both parties and to prepare an electronic linkage project with the PSD and the Correction and Rehabilitation Centers Administration. A standardized form was adopted for detention and release warrants issued by the Chief Justice Department, in line with the format used in the civil judiciary.
- A permanent committee was formed to follow up on the files of foreign administrative detainees. The committee comprises members from the Regional Security Commands, the Royal Desert Police Command, and relevant departments, to find solutions for stranded individuals who are unable to secure travel

⁴¹ Public Security Judiciary Directorate / Office of Transparency and Human Rights. Letter No. (40/2024 Transparency), p. 511, National Center for Human Rights Letter No. (H.A 20/1095), dated 05/12/2024.

tickets, pay fines for their cases, or who do not possess passports or identification documents.

Healthcare Services

- The working hours coverage for doctors at the clinics inside the correction and rehabilitation centers was increased to 24 hours at the following centers: *Irbid, Al-Muwaqqar 1, Zarqa, Al-Ramimin, Al-Juwaida, and Ma'an*.
- The clinics at correction and rehabilitation centers across the Kingdom were equipped with various medical supplies and equipment, in addition to the technical and medical maintenance of all ambulances operating in these centers.

Programs Provided to Inmates

- A total of 155 courses were held during 2024, benefiting 3,712 inmates. In addition, 95 inmates were qualified for professional practice exams through the Vocational and Technical Skills Development and Enhancement Authority.
- A training program was implemented in cooperation with an educational institution to train inmates in new crafts aligned with labor market needs. This included training 20 female inmates at the Women's Correction and Rehabilitation Center and 20 male inmates at Al-Muwaqqar 1 Correction and Rehabilitation Center in the craft of *resin casting and molding*, followed by a graduation ceremony at both centers.
- Two inmates participated in the Hashemite Quran Memorization

Competition under the supervision of the Ministry of Awqaf, Islamic Affairs, and Holy Places. They reached the final stage on March 7, 2024, with one inmate winning fourth place nationwide in the "20 Juz" category and being awarded 1,215 JOD and a certificate of appreciation from the Ministry.

- The Public Security Directorate responded swiftly and removed obstacles to enable one of its inmates to meet the requirements for obtaining a Master's degree (comprehensive track) during his sentence. He was transferred to Karak Correction and Rehabilitation Center, where a suitable classroom was prepared and access for faculty members was facilitated.

Facilities and Infrastructure Equipped

- A tailoring workshop was set up at the Women's Correction and Rehabilitation Center.
- An external visitation hall was equipped at the Women's Correction and Rehabilitation Center.
- The Center also received a complaint from the mother of an inmate who wished to enroll her son in the secondary education program but was unable to pay the fees. In coordination with the *Idmaj* Post-Release Care Association, the fees were covered, enabling the inmate to benefit from academic and vocational education opportunities available at correction and rehabilitation centers.
- The Public Security Directorate quickly responded to enable another inmate to meet the requirements for his Master's degree (comprehensive track) during his sentence. He was

transferred to Karak Correction and Rehabilitation Center within 48 hours, coordination was made with Mutah University to facilitate admission and registration procedures through the online portal, study materials and books were provided, and he was allowed extra study hours in the library.⁴²

The Right to Be Free from Torture and Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment

The Center did not observe any developments in 2024 regarding the legislative framework for combating torture. The three main legal issues persist as follows:

1. The crime of torture and its consequences remain subject to statutes of limitation and amnesty provisions.
2. Jurisdiction over the investigation of such cases remains vested in the police prosecution and special courts.
3. There is a legal shortcoming regarding compensation for victims of torture.

Notable Cases Received by the Center:

- The Center received a complaint from a woman (E.A.), stating that at dawn on Friday, November 8, 2024, a patrol from the Emergency Police found her brother lying on the roadside under the influence of alcohol and transferred him to Madaba West Police Station. His family was informed of his presence at the station under the influence of alcohol for their reassurance. The complainant claimed that on the

evening of Saturday, the deceased's family viewed a video showing Emergency Police officers kicking her brother in the head while he was intoxicated. The Center addressed this matter with the Public Security Directorate through official letter No. (H.A/735/S.Sh) dated November 13, 2024. The Public Security Directorate responded via letter No. (2024/1857/Transparency/45216) dated December 2, 2024, indicating that the accused officers had been referred to trial.⁴³

- The Center also received a complaint from Ms. (H.A.), the mother of an inmate, alleging that her son suffered due to frequent transfers between correction and rehabilitation centers, negatively affecting his health, as he suffers from recurring major epileptic seizures and stiffness in his left hand. She further claimed that her son was beaten inside Karak Correction and Rehabilitation Center on his kidney area, resulting in blood in his urine and severe pain. The Center addressed this matter with the Public Security Directorate via official letter No. (H.A/287/S.Sh) dated May 27, 2024. The Public Security Directorate responded via letter No. (2024/1102/Transparency Court) dated August 21, 2024, indicating that the accused officers had been referred to trial before the Public Security Court.⁴⁴

⁴³ National Center for Human Rights Letter No. (H.A /735/ Sh), dated 13/11/2024, Response from the Public Security Directorate by Letter No. (45216/Transparency/2024/1857), dated 02/12/2024.

⁴⁴ National Center for Human Rights Letter No. (H.A /287/ Sh), dated 27/05/2024, Response from the Public Security Directorate by Letter No. (1102/2024 Transparency Court), dated 21/08/2024.

⁴² <https://www.psd.gov.jo/ar>

Recommendations:

1. Address legislative gaps pertaining to the criminalization of torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment and the provision of compensation to victims. This includes the amendment of Article (208) of the Penal Code to ensure that torture crimes are not subject to amnesty or statutes of limitation, criminalizing attempted torture, to explicitly recognizing victims' right to compensation, to establish a dedicated fund to support them, and to provide for their psychological and physical rehabilitation.
2. Take all necessary measures by all concerned entities to reduce overcrowding in correction and rehabilitation centers, including expanding alternatives to custodial sentences and pretrial detention.
3. Ensure that all parties, including individuals, strictly comply with the provisions of the Firearms Discharge Prohibition Document to control the indiscriminate firing of firearms.
4. Implement effective measures by the relevant authorities to monitor agricultural ponds to ensure public safety and reduce drowning incidents, which mostly involve children.
5. Strengthen national efforts to raise awareness about the dangers of drug abuse.

The Right to Access to Justice and Guarantees of a Fair Trial

The right to access to justice and to fair trial guarantees is among the fundamental rights enshrined in international, regional, and national human rights instruments. The Jordanian Constitution safeguards this right

by adopting a set of established legal principles that ensure a fair trial. These principles include the principle of separation of powers, which guarantees the independence of the judiciary from the executive and legislative branches; the presumption of innocence, which ensures that an accused person is presumed innocent until proven guilty; and the principle of public hearings, which guarantees transparency and allows society to monitor the course of justice. These principles fall within the framework of fair trial guarantees as stipulated in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and relevant regional⁴⁵ and national⁴⁶ agreements, to which the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is committed.

First: At the Legislative and Policy Level

- In 2024, Article (191/1) of the Civil Procedure Code No. (24) of 1988 was amended, raising the minimum threshold for cases eligible for appeal before the Court of Cassation. Judgments issued by the Courts of Appeal in non-pecuniary claims or claims exceeding twenty thousand Jordanian dinars may now be appealed, instead of the previous threshold of ten thousand dinars.⁴⁷ The Center believes that raising the minimum threshold for cases eligible for appeal before the Court of

⁴⁵ Article (9) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and Article (14) of the same Covenant, which was ratified and published in the Official Gazette, Issue No. (4764), dated 15/06/2006, in addition to General Comment No. (32) on "*Right to Equality Before Courts and Tribunals and to a Fair Trial*" — Human Rights Committee, 2007.

⁴⁶ Articles (27) and (101) of the Jordanian Constitution.

⁴⁷ Article (2) of the Amending Law to the Civil Procedures Law for the year 2024, published in the Official Gazette, Issue No. (5922), dated 16/04/2024.

Cassation will help reduce the duration of litigation, especially since the principle of a two-tiered litigation system remains guaranteed through the right to appeal on the merits.

- In 2024, the General Amnesty Law No. (5) of 2024 was issued and published in the Official Gazette.⁴⁸ Under this law, all felonies, misdemeanors, infractions, and criminal acts committed before March 19, 2024,⁴⁹ were exempted, and the state of criminality is nullified in accordance with Article (2) of the law. However, certain crimes were explicitly excluded from the amnesty under Article (3). Unlike the previous General Amnesty Law No. (5) of 2019, the 2024 law did not include an exemption for certain crimes if accompanied by a waiver of personal rights, as stipulated in Article (3/b) of the 2019 law, which read: *“The exemption referred to in paragraph (a) of Article (2) of this law shall include the following crimes, whether committed by the principal perpetrator, accomplice, accessory, or instigator, and shall also include attempts to commit any of them if accompanied by a waiver of personal rights or payment of the claimed principal amount or the adjudged amount, even if the judgment has become final...”*⁵⁰ In

addition, the General Amnesty Law No. (5) of 2019 reduced the penalty

shall also cover attempted commission of any of them if accompanied by a waiver of personal rights or payment of the principal amount claimed or adjudged, even if the judgment has become final:

1. Homicide crimes stipulated in Article (326) and paragraphs (1) and (3) of Article (327) of the Penal Code No. (16) of 1960, and attempts as stipulated in paragraphs (2) and (4) of Article (327) and Article (328) of the same Code.
2. Crimes of causing death in violation of Article (343) of the Penal Code No. (16) of 1960 and Article (27) of the Traffic Law No. (49) of 2008.
3. Crimes of battery leading to death as stipulated in Article (330) of the Penal Code No. (16) of 1960.
4. Crimes of bodily harm as stipulated in Articles (334 bis) and (335) of the Penal Code No. (16) of 1960.
5. Crimes of brawling as stipulated in Article (338) of the Penal Code No. (16) of 1960.
6. Crimes of fraud, cheque crimes, and breach of trust crimes as stipulated in Articles (417–421) and Article (423) of the Penal Code No. (16) of 1960.
7. Crimes of fraudulent bankruptcy as stipulated in paragraph (1) of Article (438) and Article (439) of the Penal Code No. (16) of 1960, and crimes of fraud in the type of goods as stipulated in Article (433) of the Penal Code No. (16) of 1960.
8. Crimes of false accusation, perjury, and false oath as stipulated in Articles (210), (214), and (221) of the Penal Code No. (16) of 1960.
9. Crimes committed in violation of Articles (379), (455), and (456) of the Penal Code No. (16) of 1960, and crimes committed in violation of the Water Authority Law No. (18) of 1988 and the General Electricity Law No. (64) of 2002.
10. Crimes of arson in violation of Articles (368–373) of the Penal Code No. (16) of 1960.
11. Felony theft and robbery crimes as stipulated in Articles (400–405 bis) of the Penal Code No. (16) of 1960, if the offender is not a repeat offender for any of the crimes listed in this item.
12. Crimes of forgery as stipulated in Article (265) of the Penal Code No. (16) of 1960.”

⁴⁸ General Amnesty Law No. (5) of 2024, published in the Official Gazette, Issue No. (5919), dated 02/04/2024.

⁴⁹ 49. Regarding the number of persons released under the General Amnesty Law, no figure has been provided to the Center to date.

⁵⁰ Article (3/B) of the General Amnesty Law No. (5) of 2019: “B. The exemption stipulated in paragraph (A) of Article (2) of this Law shall cover the following crimes, whether committed by the principal perpetrator, accomplice, accessory, or instigator, and

for homicide if accompanied by a waiver of personal rights,⁵¹ which was not stipulated in the 2024 General Amnesty Law.

In this regard, the Center submitted a set of recommendations regarding the draft General Amnesty Law of 2024 to both the Senate and the House of Representatives. The Center recommended that the economic impact of the draft law be studied to ensure it does not affect individuals' rights and the conduct of transactions in all their forms. The Center also recommended that the law simultaneously achieves the principles and frameworks of restorative justice, as highlighted by His Majesty King Abdullah II in his directives. The Center further recommended that the crime of torture should not be included among the crimes covered by the general amnesty, in light of Jordan's international obligations under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The Committee against Torture, in its general comment, confirmed that amnesty decisions regarding the crime

of torture are inconsistent with states parties' obligations under the Convention.⁵²

The Legal Aid System was issued under the Bar Association of Lawyers Law No. (87) for the year 2024 on 17/11/2024. The system included the establishment of a Legal Aid Fund within the Bar Association of Lawyers. This fund aims to provide legal aid represented by legal representation before the regular courts, administrative judiciary, public prosecution departments, special courts, execution departments, and provision of legal advice.

The system also referred to the establishment of a Legal Aid Unit within the Bar Association to receive legal aid requests, verify the fulfillment of necessary conditions, and submit them to the Legal Aid Committee, which will decide to accept or reject the request based on criteria, foundations, and conditions to be specified by instructions.⁵³ Additionally, the system mandated the formation of the Legal Aid Committee in the Bar Association, defining its tasks, the financial resources of the fund, and other provisions to regulate the provision of legal aid.

The system indicated that instructions including eligibility criteria for legal aid will be issued by the Bar Association Council.⁵⁴

⁵¹ Article (4) of the General Amnesty Law No. (5) of 2019: "Article 4 — Notwithstanding the provisions of Article (3) of this Law, the penalty prescribed for crimes committed before 12/12/2018 and accompanied by a waiver of personal rights shall be reduced as follows: A. To half of the penalty imposed for the crime of homicide stipulated in paragraphs (2) and (4) of Article (327) of the Penal Code No. (16) of 1960. B. 1. To fifteen (15) years if the penalty imposed is the death penalty for the crime of homicide stipulated in Article (328) of the Penal Code No. (16) of 1960, unless it is connected with a felony not covered by the provisions of this Law. 2. To half of the penalty if the penalty imposed under Article (328) of the Penal Code is less than the death penalty, unless it is connected with a felony not covered by the provisions of this Law."

⁵² National Center for Human Rights Letter No. (H.A 31-3/256/), dated 28/03/2024, addressed to the President of the Senate; National Center for Human Rights Letter No. (H.A 31-3/257/), dated 28/03/2024.

⁵³ Pursuant to Articles (2), (3), and (7) of the Legal Aid By-law of the Jordanian Bar Association, published in the Official Gazette, Issue No. (5962), dated 17/11/2024.

⁵⁴ Paragraph (B) of Article (6) of the Legal Aid By-law of the Jordanian Bar Association provides: "*The Council shall set the criteria, bases, and conditions for entitlement to legal aid and the fees of the attorney assigned to provide it, pursuant to instructions issued by the Bar Council for this purpose.*"

Accordingly, the Center recommends that these instructions include broader eligibility criteria covering more categories of legal aid beneficiaries than those stipulated in Article (3) of the Legal Aid System No. (119) of 2018, which required the applicant's income not to exceed 400 Jordanian dinars and was limited to felony cases only, among other criteria.⁵⁵

Regarding the determination of lawyers' fees, the Center recommends establishing minimum and maximum limits commensurate with the type of offense, the effort exerted by the lawyer, and the type of legal representation provided. This should include a detailed statement of fees for all stages of litigation and the timing of fees disbursement for each stage separately, without conditioning payment on the issuance of a final judgment in the case.

The system did not specify a timeframe for accepting or rejecting the legal aid request, whether by the Legal Aid Committee or by the Chairman of the Fund's Board of Directors. It also did not regulate legal aid requests referred by the Minister of Justice under paragraph (6/c/2) of the Legal Aid System No. (119) of 2018⁵⁶, which granted

the Minister the authority to refer legal aid requests submitted to the Ministry to the Bar Association of Lawyers.

Therefore, the Center recommends amending the system to ensure acceptance or rejection of the legal aid request within a specified period and regulating legal aid referred by the Minister of Justice.

Below is a table showing the numbers of beneficiaries of legal aid services according to the provisions of Article (7/100) of the Bar Association of Lawyers Law No. (11) of 1972 during the year 2024.⁵⁷

Table No. 6: Number of Beneficiaries of Legal Aid Services During 2024

Beneficiaries	Number of Rejections	Cases Referred from the Ecclesiastical Court
56 beneficiaries for Meeting Eligibility Criteria	160 requests were rejected due to non-compliance with conditions and criteria	4 cases were provided with legal aid. 3 requests were rejected due to non-compliance with the criteria.

In 2024, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan underwent a review of its human rights record under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism. The report was adopted by the Human Rights Council, and Jordan accepted 204 recommendations in total. Some of these recommendations⁵⁸ related to the right of access to justice and fair trial guarantees include:

- Taking concrete measures to limit the use and duration of

provide full legal aid to the applicant in accordance with the provisions of the applicable legislation."

⁵⁷ Letter of the Bar Association No. (1882/1/4/1), dated 24/03/2024.

⁵⁸ Universal Periodic Review of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan – Fourth Cycle, electronic link: <http://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/index-jo>

⁵⁵ Article (3) of the Legal Aid By-law No. (119) of 2018 provides: *A. The following criteria shall apply for entitlement to legal aid:* 1. The total monthly income of the applicant for legal aid shall not exceed (400) dinars. 2. The applicant for legal aid shall not own any immovable property except for the residential house, or any movable property except for the monthly income stipulated in item (1) of this paragraph. 3. The type of crime shall be a felony. *B. Notwithstanding the provisions of item (2) of paragraph (A) of this Article, the Minister may, in special and justified cases, approve the provision of legal aid to those who own movable or immovable property.*

⁵⁶ Article (6/C/2) of the Legal Aid By-law No. (119) of 2028 provides: *"In case the Minister approves the legal aid request: 2. The Bar Association shall*

administrative detention and ensuring access to legal aid.

- Expanding the use of modern technologies in judicial procedures.
- Enhancing and expanding the scope of free legal aid beyond the criminal field.
- Continuing to educate law enforcement officers on human rights and strengthening fair trial guarantees, as well as ensuring that allegations of torture are properly investigated.

Secondly, monitoring developments at the level of public policy and conducting field and practical monitoring of practices:

Right to litigation:

- The number of petitions for cassation by special order submitted to the Minister of Justice reached 786 requests, of which 238 were accepted, 466 were filed, and 82 were under consideration.⁵⁹
- The number of requests for retrial submitted to the Minister of Justice reached 235 requests, of which 25 were accepted, 188 were filed, and 22 were under consideration.⁶⁰
- In 2024, the results of the first cycle (2023–2024) of the Distinguished Court Award were announced. The evaluation criteria were based on a scientific methodology aligned with institutional excellence award standards. Courts were categorized into three groups: First category (Courts of First Instance), Second category (Magistrate's Courts), and Third category (Public Prosecution

Offices). The adopted evaluation standards included performance (achievement rate), quality of procedures and judgments, synchronous and historical archiving achievements, leadership and planning, process management, digital enablement, creativity, and innovation.⁶¹ The Center commends this award as it contributes to developing the judiciary and creating a work environment that motivates court administrations and prosecution offices to improve institutional performance.

- In 2024, the Judicial Council of Jordan launched the first phase of the Electronic Case File Project at the Irbid Court of Appeal on 11 February 2024, in line with the Justice Sector Strategic Plan (2022–2026). This plan aims to enhance the technical infrastructure of the sector, accelerate and simplify litigation procedures, and achieve swift justice.⁶² The Center commends these efforts.

Litigation before the Administrative Judiciary:

The number of lawsuits filed with the Administrative Court reached 861 cases in 2024,⁶³ compared to about 751 cases in 2023. This increase confirms the Center's previous recommendation regarding the need to establish administrative courts in the northern and southern regions. The Center also stresses the need to set litigation fees based on clear criteria and not to leave this

⁵⁹ Ministry of Justice Letter No. (1928/7/3), dated 02/02/2025.

⁶⁰ Ministry of Justice Letter No. (1928/7/3), dated 02/02/2025.

⁶¹ The Judicial Council was addressed regarding the Distinguished Court.

⁶² The Judicial Council was addressed regarding the electronic judicial file.

⁶³ The Annual Report on the Status of Regular Courts, Administrative Judiciary, and Public Prosecution issued by the Judicial Council.

to the discretionary power of the President of the Administrative Court or to the nature of the case.

Alternatives to Custodial Sentences:
In 2024, the Center observed a decrease in the number of judgments imposing alternatives to custodial sentences, with 2,392 judgments⁶⁴ issued in 2024 compared to approximately 3,921 judgments in 2023 and 4,193 judgments in 2022.

Judicial Detention and Alternatives to Detention:
As of the date of preparing this report, the Center has not received the data on the number of persons held in judicial detention in 2024. However, the number of persons detained judicially reached 19,163 in 2023 and 37,850 in 2022, as shown in the following table:

Table (7): Number of Persons Held in Judicial Detention for the Years 2022–2024

Year	Number of Detainees
2024	Not reported
2023	19,163
2022	37,850

In this context, the Center reiterates its emphasis on the necessity of adhering to the legal safeguards governing detention as stipulated in Article (114) of the Code of Criminal Procedure No. (9) of 1961 and its amendments, and on the need to activate the use of alternatives to detention. The number of decisions issued imposing alternatives to detention, whether by the courts or the

⁶⁴ The Annual Report on the Status of Regular Courts, Administrative Judiciary, and Public Prosecution issued by the Judicial Council.

public prosecution offices, amounted to (2,176) decisions during 2024, compared to approximately (2,279) decisions during 2023. The following table shows these alternatives:

Table (8): Number of Decisions Issued for Alternatives to Detention⁶⁵

Alternative	Number of Decisions
Home confinement	7
Geographical area confinement	None
Electronic monitoring	43
Travel ban	2,115
Posting of a financial deposit	2
Provision of a judicial bond	9
Ban on visiting specific locations	None
Total	2,176

Remote Trials:

The number of remote trial sessions held before Jordanian courts during 2024 reached (130,708) sessions, compared to (133,581) sessions in 2023. During 2024, (11) new halls were established in correction and rehabilitation centers, in addition to (16) new halls set up in Jordanian courts.⁶⁶ The table below shows the number of halls added in 2024 and equipped for remote trial procedures.

Table (9): Number of Halls Added for Remote Trial Procedures in 2024

Location	Number of Added Halls
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⁶⁵ The Annual Report on the Status of Regular Courts, Administrative Judiciary, and Public Prosecution issued by the Judicial Council.
⁶⁶ Ministry of Justice Letter No. (1928/7/3), dated 02/02/2025.

Location	Number of Added Halls
Swaqa Correction and Rehabilitation Center	2
Grand Criminal Court	3
Jwaideh Correction and Rehabilitation Center / Women	1
Amman Palace of Justice – Abdali	2
East Amman Court	1
Marka Correction and Rehabilitation Center	2
Sahab Magistrate Court	1
Muwaqqar Magistrate Court	1
Northern Badia Magistrate Court	1
Zarqa First Instance Court	1
Zarqa Correction and Rehabilitation Center	1
Jiza Magistrate Court	1
Naour Magistrate Court	1
Ein Al-Basha Court	1
Balqa Correction and Rehabilitation Center	1
Bani Ubaid Magistrate Court	1
Irbid First Instance Court	1
Tafila Correction and Rehabilitation Center	1
Irbid Correction and Rehabilitation Center	1
Ma'an Correction and Rehabilitation Center	1
Aqaba Correction and Rehabilitation Center	1
North Amman Court	1
Total	27

Additionally, Article (3/A) of the Regulation on the Use of Modern Technology in Criminal Procedures No. (96) of 2018⁶⁷

⁶⁷ Article (3/A) of the By-law on the Use of Modern Technology Means in Criminal Procedures No. (96) provides: “For the purposes of implementing the provisions of this By-law, modern technology means

allows for the use of modern technology in any place designated for the detention of detainees or convicted persons. Accordingly, the Center recommends equipping halls for holding remote trials in public hospitals to which detainees or convicted persons are referred for treatment purposes, as this would shorten the litigation period while ensuring inmates’ right to receive healthcare at the same time. The Center further stresses its previous recommendations on the need to uphold fair trial guarantees during the implementation of remote trials.

Recommendations:

1. Establish administrative courts in the northern and southern regions and set clear criteria for determining litigation fees, avoiding leaving the matter to the discretionary power of the president of the administrative court or depending on the nature of the case.
2. Ensure compliance with the legal safeguards for detention as stipulated in Article (114) of the Code of Criminal Procedure No. (9) of 1961 and its amendments, and activate the use of alternatives to detention and freedom-restricting alternative penalties.
3. Equip halls for holding remote trials in public hospitals where detainees or convicted persons are referred for treatment, which would reduce the duration of litigation and ensure inmates’ right to receive healthcare simultaneously.

shall be used: A. In courts, public prosecution offices, rehabilitation and correction centers, and any other place designated for the custody of detainees or convicts.”

The Right to Nationality, Residency, Freedom of Movement, and Asylum

The Right to Nationality

The right to nationality is one of the fundamental rights that determines an individual's legal affiliation to a particular state, which entails rights and obligations that distinguish the person from foreigners. According to Article 15 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, "*Everyone has the right to a nationality, and no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.*"⁶⁸ This right reflects the principle of non-discrimination in legal rights and affirms the protection of individuals from arbitrary deprivation of their legal identity.

In the Jordanian context, the right to nationality holds particular significance, as Article 5 of the Jordanian Constitution stipulates that "*Jordanian nationality shall be defined by law,*" reflecting the Jordanian legal system's commitment to defining and regulating this right in line with international human rights standards.

The right to residency and freedom of movement is also considered a fundamental right that guarantees individuals the freedom to move within the borders of their country or outside it, with the right to return to their homeland without restrictions or obstacles. International human rights instruments⁶⁹—

particularly Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights—affirm that this right also includes protection against any arbitrary deprivation of the right to residency or freedom of movement, in accordance with the principles of freedom of movement emphasized by relevant international and regional conventions.

In the Jordanian legal context, this right is considered part of the fundamental guarantees enshrined in national legislation in line with the country's international obligations in this regard. The State must provide a legal environment that protects individuals' rights to movement and residency in accordance with democratic principles and the safeguarding of civil rights.

1. In 2024, there were no amendments to the Residency and Foreigners Affairs Law No. 24 of 1973, under which the conditions for foreigners' residency in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan are regulated, including provisions governing their entry and stay in the country. However, there remains an urgent need to revisit certain provisions to keep pace with current developments,⁷⁰ particularly regarding Syrian refugees and voluntary repatriation.
2. In 2024, the General Amnesty Law No. 5 of 2024 was enacted, which had the effect of exempting violators

⁶⁸ The Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

⁶⁹ Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights provides: "*Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State.*"

"*Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.*"

Similarly, Article 12 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights provides: "*Everyone lawfully within the territory of a State shall have the right to freedom of movement and freedom to choose his residence.*"

"*Everyone shall be free to leave any country, including his own.*"

"*These rights shall not be subject to any restrictions except those provided by law and which are necessary to protect national security, public order, public health or morals, or the rights and freedoms of others, and are consistent with other recognized rights under this Covenant.*"

No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of the right to enter his own country.

⁷⁰ Website of the Jordanian House of Representatives

from paying fines for overstaying their residency permits and work permit penalties.

Asylum

The right to asylum is one of the fundamental human rights recognized under international law. This right guarantees the protection of individuals who face persecution or threats in their home countries on grounds of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. A refugee is defined under the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol as a person who faces a risk or persecution and is unable or unwilling to return to their home country due to such threats. This legal framework forms the basis for addressing asylum issues at the international level and obliges signatory states to these conventions to provide legal protection to refugees and guarantee their human rights, in accordance with the principles of non-refoulement and non-discrimination. Accordingly, states must ensure the rights of refugees in line with international human rights standards, which aim to protect them from persecution and provide them with safe means of living in host countries.

- The Department of Palestinian Affairs is responsible for the file of the 13 Palestinian refugee camps in the Kingdom, which provide daily and logistical services in addition to coordinating with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) and following up on its activities and services to secure financial support from donor countries.

- No significant developments occurred regarding the situation of Palestinian refugees. However, as a result of the

aggression on the Gaza Strip, UNRWA faced challenges in delivering its services under the current circumstances, and the agency's financial crisis has continued for the fifth consecutive year. Jordan has played a leading role in providing humanitarian and relief aid to the Gaza Strip throughout 2024.⁷¹

- In 2024, there was a decrease in the number of Syrian refugees, as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) revealed that the number of registered Syrian refugees in Jordan dropped to fewer than 620,000.⁷²

- The Ministry of Labor confirmed that the exemption granted to Syrian laborers from paying work permit fees since 2016 expired at the end of June 2024, and that Syrian workers are now required to obtain work permits under the work permit fee system, similar to other non-Jordanian workers.⁷³

In Practice

- In 2024, a memorandum of understanding was signed between Yarmouk University and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) with the aim of establishing a Higher Education Alliance in Jordan. The goal is to achieve a 15% increase in refugee enrollment in higher education by 2030. The memorandum also stipulates strengthening cooperation to expand access for registered refugees to higher education as well as to vocational and technical training, in addition to enhancing awareness and coordination to support the enrollment of refugee students and Jordanian students from the most vulnerable groups in higher education and vocational

⁷¹ Website of the Palestinian Affairs Department.

⁷² Website of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

⁷³ Website of the Ministry of Labor.

and technical training. The intended outcome is a positive impact on refugees' educational and training opportunities and their overall quality of life. The memorandum further provides that all refugee students of any nationality are to be treated equally to Jordanian students within the "parallel program" across all academic degrees, and that the term "refugee" shall be added alongside the student's original nationality/nationalities in the university registration system.⁷⁴

- In 2024, a new alliance was launched to facilitate refugees' access to higher education through a partnership between universities, Syrian businesspeople, Jordanian charitable organizations, and UNHCR. Each member of the newly established "Higher Education Alliance in Jordan" pledged to remove barriers for refugees to access universities, technical and vocational training, on-the-job training, and other opportunities. The number of universities in Jordan that make education more accessible to refugees will increase from four universities currently to eleven. Some universities — such as Yarmouk, Al-Balqa, Al al-Bayt, and Tafila Technical University — have reduced tuition fees for refugees to match those paid by Jordanians in the parallel program. This allows refugees of all nationalities to pursue studies at a lower cost than other international students since 2023.⁷⁵

Field Monitoring by the Center

- On 24 July 2024, a team from the National Center for Human Rights conducted a visit to Al-Azraq Camp to assess the living conditions of its residents. It was found that

the official authorities supervising the camp had addressed most of the issues previously highlighted in the Center's annual reports, including organizing and clarifying sponsorship mechanisms, regulating vehicle permits, and facilitating voluntary repatriation to Syria. Other improvements included regulating gate operations, installing baggage inspection devices, increasing the number of distribution centers in coordination with relevant international organizations, curbing the sale of tents and caravans by requiring their return to the responsible international agency upon sponsorship or repatriation, limiting smuggling in and out of the camp through the construction of an earthen barrier, and establishing offices for family protection, anti-narcotics, and juvenile police. The camp currently hosts 25 organizations providing services to refugees, has 15 schools operating on morning and evening shifts, and four commercial markets with 352 shops. It also has one hospital and three health centers providing services to a refugee population of 42,520, of whom 49% are male and 51% are female.

- However, the monitoring team observed the following:

1. Electricity supply is not continuous throughout the day but is limited to specific hours, which increases the residents' hardship.
2. The water problem persists as water is pumped from artesian wells and transported to shared tanks for camp residents, with no direct water network supplying individual caravans.
3. The issue of shared toilets remains unresolved, as there are still no private toilets for each caravan within the camp.

⁷⁴ Website of Yarmouk University, [<https://rdfmisc.yu.edu.jo/index.php/newarcat>]

⁷⁵ Website of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Recommendations

1. It is necessary to amend the Residency and Foreigners Affairs Law No. 24 of 1973 to align with modern developments and to simplify residency and movement procedures.
2. Strengthen international support and ensure sustainable funding for refugees in Jordan.
3. Continue official efforts to safeguard the continuity of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) to enable it to provide services to Palestinian refugees.

The Right to Vote and Run for Office

The right to vote and to run for office is among the fundamental civil and political rights guaranteed by national constitutions and international human rights standards. Under Jordanian law, this right constitutes one of the essential pillars that promote active citizen participation in political life. It rests on three core principles: the integrity of the electoral process, the periodicity of elections, and fairness in representation. The right to vote and stand for election affirms every citizen's right to participate in the conduct of public affairs, either directly or through freely chosen representatives, without discrimination, while ensuring that elections are free, periodic, and conducted by secret ballot. This ensures fair representation of citizens, allowing voters to freely express their will without interference.

Article (68/1) of the Jordanian Constitution provides for the principle of periodic elections, stipulating that elections for the House of Representatives shall be held every four years, with exceptions limited to

extending the term of the House or postponing elections in exceptional circumstances that necessitate such measures. This discretionary power is vested in the Head of State (His Majesty the King), who acts as the guarantor of constitutional supremacy and the balance among the three branches of government, thereby enhancing the stability of the political system in Jordan and reinforcing constitutional legitimacy.

Legislation and Policies

In 2024, Article (49/A) of the Elections Law No. (5) of 2022 was amended to read as follows: *“Each list that exceeds the threshold shall receive seats in proportion to the number of votes it obtained out of the total votes received by lists that surpassed the threshold in the local electoral district. If fewer than three lists secure seats in districts with three contested seats or more, or fewer than two lists in districts with two contested seats, the Commission shall reduce the threshold by one percent successively until the number of winning party lists reaches at least three in districts with three contested seats, and at least two in districts with two contested seats.”*

In its 19th Annual Report on the State of Human Rights in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for 2022, the National Center for Human Rights previously noted that Jordan had amended the Constitution and enacted a package of laws regulating political life, including the Elections Law No. (4) of 2022. The Center considers this amendment to be in line with His Majesty the King's vision for political modernization in the Kingdom's second centennial, aimed at strengthening reform and political empowerment through the consolidation of political pluralism and ensuring the broadest possible representation of political forces in the House of Representatives.

The Twentieth Parliamentary Elections of 2024

In 2024, elections for the Twentieth House of Representatives were held. The National Center⁷⁶ for Human Rights monitored the electoral process through the following stages:

- Preparatory Stage:

From the date on which the Independent Election Commission announced 10 September 2024 as the date for holding the constitutional elections for the Twentieth House of Representatives, the Center began exercising its mandate and powers pursuant to its Law No. (51) of 2006 and its amendments. For the purpose of monitoring the voting stage, the Center formed a team comprising 572 monitors, including 474 field observers, who were distributed across polling centers in various regions of the Kingdom. This covered approximately 28.7% of polling centers and 8.19% of ballot boxes. The Center ensured that its team of observers reflected the diversity of society, including youth, university students, civil society organizations, activists, and others. The formation of the team also took into account the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the monitoring process.

- Election Day Stage

The Center's team commenced monitoring the polling process from the opening of ballot boxes. In this regard, the Center developed an electronic application for election monitoring, in line with the governing legislation and comprising a series of monitoring forms based on the legislative framework regulating the electoral process. This was aimed at ensuring prompt reporting and providing individuals with information on the conduct

of the elections. Monitors were trained to use this application, whose key features include determining the monitor's exact location within the polling center being covered, manual entry of monitoring forms, verifying the source of information, and restricting its use to the designated geographic location.

The application is characterized by its speed in receiving data, information, and observations submitted by monitors, enabling the Center to manage the election monitoring process from the moment the polls open until the final counting of ballots. Monitors are also able to document information and observations by attaching photos and videos. The application can only be used by individuals authorized by the Center and provides election results in the form of graphs and tables, along with access to preliminary results according to the number and distribution of monitors. It is noteworthy that the National Center for Human Rights' Operations Room, comprising a specialized team, operated around the clock on election day to receive complaints and observations, which were reflected in the Center's statements and final report.⁷⁷

- Results Stage

The electoral process for the Twentieth House of Representatives in 2024 was marked by smooth and transparent procedures for managing the elections. However, the Center recorded certain observations noted in this report, which did not reach a level of severity that would affect the conduct of the elections or their final outcome. Nevertheless, addressing and overcoming these observations in any future

⁷⁶ See the Parliamentary Elections Monitoring Report for the Twentieth House of Representatives for the year 2024, published on the Center's website (Data).

⁷⁷ See the Parliamentary Elections Monitoring Report for the Twentieth House of Representatives for the year 2024, published on the Center's website.

elections would contribute to further progress in managing the electoral process.

To safeguard the integrity of the electoral process, the National Center for Human Rights submitted 93 observations, recorded on election day, to the Independent Election Commission for immediate action. The Center noted tangible responsiveness from the Commission in addressing these observations in a timely manner.

Student Union Elections

The Center also monitored the student union elections at the University of Jordan, Yarmouk University, and the Hashemite University. The monitoring team recorded several observations that did not affect the electoral process or its outcome. These included:

- Lack of objection forms at some polling and counting committees.
- Failure of some committees to prepare official closing reports for ballot boxes.
- Limited space in some polling and counting rooms, causing overcrowding during the counting process, and the failure to use modern technological means instead of traditional methods for vote counting.
- Crowding in front of certain polling rooms.
- Attempts at impersonation, which were unsuccessful.
- One university using an open proportional list instead of a general list, which led to delays in announcing the election results.

Recommendations⁷⁸:

1. Amending Article (20/b) of the House of Representatives Elections Law No. (4) of 2022, which relates to granting individuals the right to announce their intention to run for elections, in a manner that ensures the establishment of the necessary controls and standards in this regard.
2. Amending the House of Representatives Elections Law No. (4) of 2022 to include penalties for those who assault members of polling committees or use children in election campaigning, and to allocate a quota for persons with disabilities in the House of Representatives, similar to the quota allocated for women.
3. Amending the law to explicitly prohibit the conduct of internal elections, as they restrict individuals' freedom to run for office and simultaneously influence the will of voters and candidates, while also perpetuating discriminatory practices against women.
4. Reviewing the executive instructions for the aggregation and announcement of the general electoral district results for 2024, which stipulate: *"The following groups shall be permitted to attend the results aggregation at the local electoral district site by approved methods: (1) Accredited local and international observers; (2) Accredited journalists."* The Center recommends reconsidering this provision to allow candidates or their representatives to attend this stage.

⁷⁸ See the Parliamentary Elections Monitoring Report for the Twentieth House of Representatives for the year 2024, published on the Center's website.

5. Reviewing the executive instructions for accrediting journalists, media personnel, photographers, technicians, and employees of local and international audiovisual and print media to cover the 2024 electoral process, which stipulate in Article (2/6) that photographers may enter polling and counting rooms in coordination with the head of the polling committee and according to available space. The Center recommends amending this article to also allow journalists to enter polling and counting rooms for media coverage, thereby ensuring their right to monitor and perform their professional duties, in accordance with standards and safeguards that guarantee the integrity and proper conduct of the electoral process.
6. Establishing a clear mechanism, explicitly provided for in applicable instructions, for verifying the identity of veiled women voters.
7. Expanding the dissemination of information on how to file objections and inquire about the locations of polling centers through all official audiovisual media channels.
8. Raising awareness on the importance of individuals' participation in public affairs, of which parliamentary elections are a key manifestation. The Center observed a general decline in voter turnout at polling stations.
9. Increasing citizens' awareness of the stage for displaying preliminary voter lists, the locations and timeframes for personal objections and objections against others, the procedures for transferring polling centers, and the mechanisms for communication and inquiry regarding the electoral district and polling center.
10. Providing the necessary facilities for observers accredited by the Independent Election Commission, including allowing the use of mobile phones inside polling and counting rooms and explicitly stipulating this in applicable instructions, given the advancements in monitoring processes and the use of electronic applications to monitor polling and counting, which require observers to submit forms via the application, as is the case with the Center's election monitoring app.
11. Training and qualifying public security personnel on procedures for allowing authorized persons to enter polling and counting centers at any time on election day.
12. Training and qualifying heads of polling and counting centers and polling and counting committees on how to interact with observers and facilitate their mission.
13. Adopting the "Sanad" application to verify the voter's identity in addition to the civil status ID card.
14. Since election-related cases and electoral crimes are heard before Courts of First Instance and are granted expedited status, such cases must be heard before specialized judicial panels for electoral justice, duly trained for this purpose.
15. Installing voting booths in a manner that ensures greater privacy.
16. Expanding awareness programs on the possibility for persons with disabilities to change their polling and counting centers.
17. Increasing the participation rate of women and persons with disabilities in electoral committees and their leadership, and building their

capacity in managing the electoral process.

18. Preparing all polling and counting centers to receive persons with disabilities of various types.
19. Establishing a database to identify the number of registered voters with disabilities, their proportion, and their geographical distribution to ensure their allocation to polling centers equipped for persons with disabilities.
20. Building the capacity of media outlets to cover the rights of persons with disabilities to vote and run for office, in a manner that helps change stereotypes and raise awareness among the public in this context.
21. Implementing awareness programs for female candidates on how to prepare their electoral statements, campaign effectively, and gain support from voters for their candidacy.
22. Expanding concepts of the right to vote and run for office within school curricula and raising students'

awareness of their rights and duties towards the electoral process through increased extracurricular activities.

23. Amending internal instructions and guidelines governing electoral processes to ensure: allocation of a quota seat for students with disabilities through elections and defining a clear mechanism for objections.
24. Training polling and counting committees by higher election committees within universities on the proper procedures for the entire electoral process, to ensure smooth conduct in line with the procedures specified in the instructions and internal regulations.
25. Using modern technological tools to enhance the integrity, fairness, and smooth conduct of elections, such as: adopting electronic registers of voters' names; activating a barcode reader system during voting; installing cameras to record ballots during the counting process.

The Right to Freedom of Opinion, Expression, Press, Media, and Access to Information

The right to freedom of opinion and expression is one of the human rights guaranteed by international and national instruments⁷⁹ and regulated by a broad set of relevant national laws and regulations. The normative content of this right is considered an essential condition for realizing the principles of transparency and accountability. Protecting this right is among the most significant means of safeguarding human rights, combating corruption, contributing to the advancement of society economically, politically, socially, and culturally, and is a cornerstone of a democratic state and an indicator of the state's commitment to further enhancing rights and freedoms. It is an indispensable requirement for realizing and exercising all human rights.

At the level of legislation and policies:

In 2024, no amendments were made to the Cybercrime Law No. (17) of 2023. The Center has closely followed the draft Cybercrime Law of 2023 since it was submitted to the House of Representatives. The Center conducted a comprehensive study of the draft law in all its dimensions within the framework of the Jordanian Constitution, specifically Article 15 thereof, which guarantees the right to freedom of opinion and expression and freedom of the press and media. The study also considered the international human rights standards ratified by Jordan, foremost among them the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, specifically Article 19 thereof. For

⁷⁹ Article (19) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights provides for the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and Article (15) of the Constitution.

this year, the Center attaches a specialized annex titled: *“Study of Outputs and Recommendations of the Legislative Impact Assessment of the Cybercrime Law.”*⁸⁰

Based on this specialized study, the monitoring conducted, and the recommendations provided by stakeholders during consultative sessions, the Center reached a set of recommendations to refine and develop the law, the most prominent of which are:

- To suffice, with regard to the crime of defamation, libel, and insult, with the general provisions contained in the Penal Code No. (16) of 1960 and its amendments, given the sufficiency of the existing provisions therein, in order to avoid legislative duplication and maintain general consistency among these legislations. Should the provision remain within the Cybercrime Law, the penalty should be reduced in line with the Penal Code No. (16) of 1960 and its amendments, to ensure that pretrial detention is avoided.
- To re-draft the legislative provisions related to certain crimes, such as character assassination, to ensure that individuals are able to understand, apply, and comply with the provisions clearly, and to prevent resorting to varying interpretations and discretionary readings. This includes clarifying the elements of such crimes.
- To clearly define the criminal acts stipulated in certain articles of the law, especially those related to hate speech, by specifying the elements of such speech in accordance with Article 20 of the International

⁸⁰ See the report annex.

Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Likewise, to clearly define other terms used in the law, such as false news.

- To adhere to the general principles of criminal legislation, particularly regarding the rules of criminal participation, and to apply the principle of individualized sentencing in this regard. The Center calls for a review of Article (27) of the law.
- To codify the conditions of permissible criticism established by the esteemed Jordanian judiciary, especially in its applications regarding cases of publications and publishing.
- To explicitly stipulate that journalists shall not be prosecuted for performing their professional and journalistic duties except under the Press and Publications Law, as it is the legal framework governing and regulating journalists' work in Jordan.
- To Expand the use of alternative penalties, especially with regard to certain crimes stipulated in the law, in order to also alleviate overcrowding in correctional and rehabilitation centers.

In 2024, the Right to Access Information Law was enacted, which included many developments, most notably: the inclusion of a provision on proactive disclosure and the mandatory publication of a range of information related to the entities subject to the law's application; the reduction of exceptions related to information requests; shortening the response period to fifteen days; granting foreign residents in the Kingdom the right to request information provided they have a legitimate interest and on a reciprocal basis; providing assistance to

the elderly and persons with disabilities; expanding the scope of the law to cover any entity that receives full or partial funding from the government, as well as political parties and unions; restructuring the Information Council to ensure pluralism and representation of civil society; requiring the publication of the Information Council's report; clarifying that exceptions do not apply to war crimes, crimes against humanity, and human rights violations; and affirming that exceptions are not absolute but that disclosure of some information shall be subject to the Council's discretion.

At the same time, the Center stresses several points that it hopes will be amended in the future, including the need to establish guarantees and standards concerning the appointment and removal of certain members of the Information Council; to stipulate the binding nature of the Council's decisions; to provide that in urgent cases the response period shall be reduced to 48 hours; to define an expedited mechanism for journalists enabling them to obtain information from its sources in light of the nature of their work, which depends on both speed and accuracy; and to emphasize that the Right to Access Information Law shall have priority of application over other legislation, ensuring the complete removal of any legislative conflicts.

In practice:

During 2024, the Center monitored the detention of some individuals due to participation in certain gatherings or due to posts on social media platforms. The charges brought against individuals focused on assaulting public property, unlawful assembly, threats to use force, participation in riots, and the crime of using electronic means to publish content that could incite sedition, sectarianism, or disturb societal

peace, or that could incite hatred and the crime of publishing false news threatening societal peace and national security, in violation of the Penal Code and the Cybercrime Law. These measures followed incidents during some protests that included assaults and deviations from the principle of peaceful demonstration. The Center visited the detainees and took the necessary actions, in addition to monitoring cases of individuals who were administratively detained. It is worth noting that the vast majority of detainees were released.⁸¹

Freedom of the Press, Audiovisual Media, and News Websites:

In 2024, the Center observed that the Media Commission continued blocking certain online publications, with (9) electronic publications being blocked. In this regard, the Center emphasizes that international standards and best practices confirm that electronic publications should not be required to register but should merely notify the relevant authority upon establishment. In the event of any violation of national legislation, they should be referred to the judiciary, as blocking constitutes a restriction on freedom of expression.

Likewise, the Center also monitored, in the same context, the referral of a widely circulated Jordanian satellite media channel by the Media Commission to the Public Prosecutor. The Commission also reported three violations related to the audiovisual media sector and referred them to the judiciary, in addition to filing a criminal

complaint against a satellite station broadcasting without a license according to the Commission. Moreover, the Commission circulated a judicial decision imposing a publication ban.

As for statistics related to audiovisual media and online news websites for the year 2024, as reported by the Media Commission, they were as follows:⁸²

- The number of newly licensed electronic publications was (9), bringing the total number of licensed publications to 134. Meanwhile, (9) electronic publications were blocked pursuant to Article (49/Z) of the Press and Publications Law, as they were deemed unlicensed by the Commission according to its official correspondence.
- No entity applied for a satellite broadcasting license during the year; the total number of licensed satellite stations remains at (18).
- Three radio broadcasting stations were licensed, bringing the total number of licensed radio stations to (41).
- No new radio rebroadcasting stations were licensed, with the total number of rebroadcasting licenses standing at only two.
- A total of (243) films were reviewed during 2024, with (237) films approved, while (6) films were rejected for containing scenes contrary to public morals and values, pursuant to Article Four of the Regulation on Licensing and Monitoring Audiovisual Works and its amendments No. (63) of 2004,

⁸¹ With regard to the number of cases related to Articles (150, 191, and 195) of the Jordanian Penal Code, no figures were received from the relevant authority at the time of preparing the report. As for cases related to the Cybercrimes Law, please refer to the annex on the legislative impact assessment of this law attached to this report.

⁸² Media Commission letter No. Q N 227/ dated 21/01/2025.

according to the Media Commission's correspondence.

- The number of books that entered the Kingdom was (1,267,000). The Commission reviewed (248) book titles, approving (222) titles and withholding (40) titles for violating the provisions of the applicable Press and Publications Law. The violations varied between indecent content, insults to divine religions and religious beliefs, and other legal reasons contrary to legislation, according to the Commission's correspondence.

Press and Publications Cases:

Separately, the number of press and publications cases in 2023 reached (46) cases, while the Center did not receive figures related to such cases for 2024 by the time this report was prepared.

Right to Access Information:

The number of complaints received by the Information Council during 2024 was (6) compared to three complaints in 2023,⁸³ while in 2022 there was one complaint filed by a journalist, for which the Council decided to accept the request and contacted the relevant entity to respond accordingly.⁸⁴ In 2021, there were three complaints, one of which was filed by a journalist, compared to (14) complaints in 2020.

Regarding the number of requests for access to information, the number of entities that responded to the circular issued by the Information Council requesting them to provide the number of access to information

requests for 2024 was (3,062); of these, (2,891) requests were answered and (171) were rejected. The total number of access requests in 2023 was (3,930), with (3,795) answered and (135) rejected.⁸⁵ In 2021, the total number of requests was (3,834), with (3,550) answered and (284) rejected, compared to (2,300) requests in 2020, of which (2,135) were answered and (165) rejected, compared to (8,534) requests in 2019, of which (99) were rejected.

As for the status of information requesters in 2024, the number of requests submitted by journalists and media professionals reached (35) requests.

In this regard, and for the purpose of raising awareness of the right to access information, a National Training Team for the Right to Access Information was formed under the management of the National Library. This team began training the relevant entities tasked with implementing the law on these protocols. A training program entitled "Institutionalizing Procedures for the Enforcement of the Right to Access Information Law / Document Management and Archiving" was prepared. During 2024, the total number of training courses under this framework reached (64) training courses, noting that these courses started in 2022. The total number of training courses held in 2024 was (25), compared to (26) courses in 2023 and (14) courses in 2022.

The target groups were as follows:

- (13) training courses were conducted for the Jordanian Armed Forces, with (199) trainees.
- (51) training courses were conducted for public sector institutions, with

⁸³Report on the Right to Access Information for the year 2023.

⁸⁴ Information Council letter No. (M.M/T13/), dated 20/03/2023.

⁸⁵ Information Council letter No. (M.M/T13/), dated 20/03/2023.

(1,218) trainees from various ministries, institutions, authorities, and government departments. The total number of trainees was (1,417).

Recommendations:

1. The need to develop a national media strategy aimed at advancing the reality of media freedoms and providing a legislative environment that guarantees freedom of the press and media.
2. Amending the legislation related to freedom of expression and freedom of the press and media as a unified legislative framework to prevent contradictions and legislative overlap, including amending the Audiovisual Media Law in accordance with what has been stated in the Center's previous reports and amending the Cybercrime Law to ensure greater precision and clarity in defining criminal acts.
3. Reducing the blocking of electronic publications by the Media Commission and adhering to international human rights standards in this regard, and minimizing the referral of complaints against the audiovisual media sector by resorting to alternatives that would advance the profession of journalism, in line with international human rights standards.
4. The Center reiterates the recommendations contained in the body of the report regarding the amendment of both the Right to Access Information Law and the Cybercrime Law.
5. Continuing current efforts to raise awareness among relevant entities about the right to access information and expanding such efforts, especially after the adoption of the amending law to guarantee the right to access information.

The Right to Peaceful Assembly

The right to peaceful assembly is one of the rights guaranteed by international human rights standards, foremost among them the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*.⁸⁶ This right is considered an essential component of democracy and includes meetings, sit-ins, strikes, gatherings, activities, and protests.

The Jordanian Constitution⁸⁷ also guarantees this right, as Article (16/1) stipulates: “*Jordanians shall have the right to assemble within the limits of the law.*” This right is closely linked to the right to form associations and establish political parties, the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and other political rights.

In the context of legislative developments, it is worth noting that the year 2024 did not witness any developments related to this right, as no amendments were made to the *Public Gatherings Law No. (7) of 2004 and its amendments*. In this regard, the Center reaffirms its previous recommendations regarding amending the Law.⁸⁸

As for practices, the year 2024 witnessed a number of sit-ins, marches, work stoppages, solidarity stands, public speeches, gatherings, and protests, totaling (3,812), with the number of marches reaching (378).⁸⁹

Table No. (10): Number of Assemblies during 2023–2024

Type of Assembly	2023 ⁹⁰	2024
Sit-ins, work stoppages, solidarity stands, public speeches, gatherings, and protests	812	3,812
Marches	433	378

In line with its mandate, the Center monitored several peaceful assemblies, including labor protests, solidarity stands, and other sit-ins for various demands, as follows:

- On 22 February 2024, 22 owners of freight vehicles staged an open-ended sit-in, demanding inclusion in the priority system for phosphate and white mine shipments. They argued that all freight vehicles in the governorate should benefit from this grant, as it was granted to the entire governorate, not specific individuals.
- The Center followed up on sit-ins staged by retirees of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) in front of the company’s headquarters in Amman. The retirees demanded that JPMC abide by the agreement concluded with them on 24 October 2021, which stipulates the protection of their health insurance benefits and the transfer of the health insurance scheme back under the company’s umbrella instead of the current insurance provider. The Center addressed the Chairman of the Board of Directors

⁸⁶ The Universal Declaration of Human Rights; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the Arab Charter.

⁸⁷ Article (16/1).

⁸⁸ Nineteenth Annual Report on the State of Human Rights in Jordan, p. 52, Recommendations.

⁸⁹ Ministry of Interior letter No. (670/30 8321) dated 08/02/2024.

⁹⁰ The Twentieth Annual Report on the State of Human Rights in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan / 2023 — Section on the Right to Peaceful Assembly.

regarding the reasons for the sit-ins, but has not yet received a response.

- The Center also monitored a sit-in by around 500 retired personnel from the Arab Army and security agencies in front of the House of Representatives, demanding that they be granted customs exemptions similar to those enjoyed by retired officers ranked Major and above.
- In 2024, the Center conducted field monitoring of solidarity stands in support of the people of Gaza, including follow-ups on related detention cases through the formation of a specialized field monitoring team and the issuance of multiple statements. The Center recorded approximately 32 solidarity stands held by various individuals and groups, mainly in Downtown Amman near Al-Husseini Mosque and in the Rabieh area near Al-Kalouti Mosque. The Center noted that, generally, individuals were enabled to exercise their right to peaceful assembly. However, a few of these stands witnessed deviations from peacefulness, including damage to public property and confrontations with law enforcement. In some instances, assemblies were dispersed by force, and several individuals were detained—most administratively, then released later. Some were charged with unlawful assembly and damaging public property and were referred to the judiciary.

In this context, the Center conducted visits to detainees in correction and rehabilitation centers to investigate the reasons for detention and the circumstances of these assemblies. The Center also addressed the Ministry of Interior to secure the release of

those administratively detained, which was subsequently achieved. The Center's efforts contributed to expediting their release and included following up on cases where there were concerns that detainees might be dismissed from their jobs due to absence caused by detention. These efforts were successful, resulting in their timely release.

In the same context, the Center issued a number of statements related to its monitoring of the solidarity gatherings and its follow-up on the circumstances and events that accompanied these gatherings. These statements emphasized the necessity of expressing opinions by peaceful and lawful means as enshrined in the Constitution, refraining from assaults on law enforcement agencies and public and private property. The statements also affirmed individuals' right to express their opinions and to exercise the right to peaceful assembly through legitimate and peaceful means, while adhering to international human rights standards and the national legislative framework, which itself affirms that detention must be an exceptional measure and used only as a last resort and in the narrowest scope. In this same vein, the Center pointed out that expressing solidarity through lawful and peaceful means is the appropriate approach to supporting our people in the Gaza Strip, and stressed the importance of backing the strenuous efforts made by the Jordanian state since the beginning of the aggression to achieve a ceasefire and to ensure the delivery of all necessary aid.

The National Center further stressed, in its statements, the need for concerted efforts to stop the occupation authorities' plans for the forced displacement of Palestinians as part of a systematic policy of ethnic cleansing—one of the occupation's core laws under the *Jewish Nation-State Law*. These measures

include the killing of civilians, genocide, demolition of homes and properties, collective punishment, assaults on journalists and violations of their protected status under the *Third Geneva Convention* and the *1977 Additional Protocol I* thereto. Such direct and deliberate targeting of journalists constitutes not only an attack on truth but a war crime, including the destruction of private movable or immovable property. The Center also condemned assaults near the Jordanian field hospital in Gaza, the blocking of medical supplies, and threats to the safety of medical personnel, which ultimately forced the hospital to cease operations and hindered its ability to provide humanitarian services.

The Center praised the efforts of the Jordanian diplomacy led by His Majesty King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein, may God protect him, in the framework of stopping the ongoing attacks and violations. The Center followed His Majesty's efforts aimed at halting the severe escalation and the war on Gaza, protecting civilians, combating collective punishment policies, forced displacement, and the exportation of the crisis to neighboring countries. This included facilitating urgent humanitarian corridors to deliver medical and relief aid, along with subsequent practical steps in this regard, including His Majesty's tour of several European capitals to mobilize international positions to stop the aggression against Gaza and its humanitarian repercussions.

The Center called on the international community in all its components for immediate intervention to deter the occupation state and stop the massacres committed against civilians in Gaza, and to take necessary measures to halt these heinous attacks on the Gaza Strip. It emphasized the need to apply international

humanitarian law, especially the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, which guarantees the protection of civilians in occupied territories. The Center also called for the facilitation of humanitarian corridors to allow the entry of medical and relief aid to Gaza and to provide electricity and water.

Recommendations:

1. Review the Public Gatherings Law, including the definition of "gathering" stipulated in Article (2) of the Public Gatherings Law, with a clear distinction between public gatherings and private meetings, as the latter are not subject to the Public Gatherings Law. Additionally, establish regulations on the powers related to dispersing gatherings as mentioned in the law, along with other amendments detailed in the Center's previous reports.
2. Raise awareness of the right to peaceful assembly among individuals and all concerned entities to ensure the exercise and enjoyment of this right in accordance with international human rights standards and the Jordanian Constitution.
3. Limit detention operations to the narrowest possible extent and as an exceptional measure in line with international human rights standards, the Jordanian Constitution, and national legislation.

The Right to Establish and Join Political Parties

This is one of the fundamental rights guaranteed by international⁹¹ and national⁹² covenants. It is considered a constitutional right protected by the Jordanian Constitution, which grants Jordanians the right to form political parties provided that their objectives are legitimate and their methods peaceful.⁹³

The Center monitored the normative content elements of the right to political parties for the year 2024, based on the comprehensive legal protection of its components both legislatively and in practice, and followed legal developments regulating the practice of political parties. This included their right to establish and practice, exemplified by the ongoing adjustment of political parties' statuses according to the legal requirements and regulations issued under the new Political Parties Law No. (7) of 2022. It also assessed the parties' ability to form coalitions and achieve integration, in addition to measuring indicators of enabling women, youth, and persons with disabilities to establish and join political parties, seek participation in public affairs management, propose programs, and participate in elections, including nominating candidates

⁹¹ This is stated in Article (20) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, Article (22) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article (21) of the European Convention on Human Rights, and Articles (24 and 35) of the Arab Charter on Human Rights.

⁹² Political Parties Law No. (7) of 2022.

⁹³ Article 16/2: The right to form associations, unions, and political parties, provided that their purpose is legitimate, their means are peaceful, and their regulations do not contradict the provisions of the Constitution.

under an independent legislation framework and a neutral supervisory authority.⁹⁴

Regarding Legislation and Policies:

1. In 2024, executive instructions related to the establishment of political parties and the follow-up of their affairs were issued pursuant to clause (8) of paragraph (A) of Article (9) of the Political Parties Law No. (7) of 2022.⁹⁵

Political Parties and Participation in Parliamentary Elections:

- On September 10, 2024, parliamentary elections were held following the issuance of the political parties and election laws, stemming from the outputs of the Political Modernization Vision. One of the goals was to empower political parties to participate in elections through a national general list dedicated to parties, accounting for 41 seats. These elections included the full participation of party lists for the first time in the history of Jordanian parliamentary elections. The number of party lists contesting the parliamentary elections reached (25) lists⁹⁶, in addition to the participation of some parties at the local districts level. This was in line with the provisions of the Election Law No. (4) of 2022, which approved the party list for the first

⁹⁴ Definition by the Special Rapporteur on the right to peaceful assembly in his report on the right to peaceful assembly.

⁹⁵ Published in the Official Gazette No. 5908 dated 15/02/2024.

⁹⁶ For more details, see the 2024 Parliamentary Elections Report by the Independent Election Commission, published on the website: <https://www.iec.jo/ar>

time with 30% of the seats in the House of Representatives, with periodic increases guaranteed in future elections, and ensuring prominent positions for women and youth within these lists. The elections allowed each voter to cast two votes: one at the local electoral district level for local candidates, and another at the general district level for a party list.

- The number of party lists and their coalitions contesting the elections reached (25) lists, and the number of candidates who declared their party affiliation in the local list reached (269).⁹⁷
- The number of political parties that participated in the elections within the party lists at the general district level reached 36 parties out of a total of 38 parties, whether by running independently or through alliances among them, as follows: ⁹⁸

Table No. 11: Number of Parties That Ran in the 20th House of Representatives Elections for 2024

Number of Parties	Running in the Elections
20	Ran with individual lists
16	Ran within 5 party alliances

The number of political alliances that participated in the parliamentary elections was (5) alliances, as follows:

Alliance Name	Participating Parties
Jordanian National Democratic Alliance	Jordanian Torch Party Nationalist Movement Party Jordanian Tomorrow Party Jordanian Role Model Party Jordanian Equality Party Jordanian Youth Party
Nama Party & Labor Party	Nama Party Labor Party
Unified and National Constitutional Alliance	Jordanian Democratic Unionist Party National Constitutional Party Jordanian Ansar Party
Al-Nuhoud List Alliance	Democratic People's Party (Hashd) Jordanian Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party Reform and Renewal Party (Hasad)
National Current Alliance	Jordanian Social Democratic Party Civil Democratic Party

- In 2024, several relevant bodies implemented capacity-building programs for political parties through specialized training courses aimed at leadership levels, focusing on building organizational structures for parties and managing election campaigns.
- In 2024, a Strategic Planning Guide for Political Parties was issued in cooperation with civil society organizations, serving as a roadmap for the work of political parties.
- In 2024, a dedicated platform for political parties was launched on the Independent Election Commission's website at: <https://parties.iec.jo> . It is accessible to all citizens and contains comprehensive information about political parties, enabling voters to review the existing parties, their programs, and objectives to help them make informed choices in elections.

⁹⁷ Report of the Independent Election Commission on the conduct of the 2024 electoral process, published on the Commission's official website.

⁹⁸ Report of the Independent Election Commission on the conduct of the 2024 electoral process, published on the Commission's official website.

- The National Center for Human Rights conducted 10 training courses outside the electoral monitoring framework, focusing on the Political Parties Law and Electoral Law. These courses targeted university students as part of awareness and education efforts to enhance political participation.
- During 2024, the National Center for Human Rights did not receive any complaints from any political party regarding their participation in the parliamentary elections or any procedures related to the electoral process.

Appeals submitted by political parties regarding the elections:

Based on the provisions of Article (15/H2) of Election Law No. (4) of 2022, two appeals were submitted to the Court of Appeal, particularly concerning the general lists. The Court of Appeal rejected both appeals.⁹⁹

Type of Appeal	Reason for Appeal	Summary of Judgment
Appeal against acceptance of the party list	Request to annul the party's decision to form the general list and the commission's decision to accept the list	Appeal rejected
Appeal against acceptance of the party list	Request to annul the party's decision and the commission's decision	Appeal rejected

Women and Youth Participation in Elections:

The number of women candidates on party

lists reached 187, representing 27% of the total candidates, as follows:

Table No. 13 The women's participation percentages in the 2024 parliamentary elections party lists

Women's Participation by List Ranking	Number / Percentage
Candidates ranked 1-3	25 (13%)
Candidates ranked 4-6	31 (17%)
Candidates ranked after 6 th position	131 (70%)

The number of youth candidates (under 35 years old) for the elections reached 154, representing 22% of the total candidates, as follows:¹⁰⁰

Table No. (14): Percentages of Youth Participation in the 2024 Parliamentary Elections

Youth Representation in Party Lists	Number / Percentage
Number of female youth candidates	47 (31%)
Number of male youth candidates	107 (69%)

In 2024, the Economic and Social Council launched a specialized study titled: *"The Economic and Social Content of Political Parties in the Elections of the 20th House of Representatives."*

The study reached the following conclusions:

- There were significant differences in the economic and social content among all 38 political parties, both in form and substance. Some parties

⁹⁹ Report of the Independent Election Commission on the conduct of the 2024 electoral process, published on the Commission's official website.

¹⁰⁰ Report of the Independent Election Commission on the conduct of the 2024 electoral process, published on the Commission's official website.

expressed their interest in economic and/or social issues through their slogans/logos, while others reflected this in their vision and mission statements.

- In terms of campaign advertising, parties focused on highlighting the names and photos of their candidates rather than promoting their economic and social programs.
- Regarding party alliances, which included five lists comprising 16 parties, there were no significant differences observed in economic and social slogans. The main focus was on arranging the order of candidates on the lists, with two lists differing over the first seat.
- Numerically, the study concluded with specific percentages related to the analysis of the economic content of the political parties.

Table No. (15): Analysis of the Economic Content of Political Parties

Economic Content in the Party's Program, Bylaws, or Electoral Campaign	Percentage
Combating corruption and promoting equal opportunities	84.2%
Supporting education, training, vocational education, and human resource development	78.9%
Addressing poverty, sustainable development, and local community development	68.4%
Achieving food security and focusing on agriculture	52.6%
Attracting foreign investment and supporting local investment	42.1%

The study also concluded the following percentages in analyzing the social content of political parties, as shown in the table below:

Table No. (16): Analysis of the Social Content of Political Parties

Social Content in the Party's Program, Bylaws, or Electoral Campaign	Percentage
Focus on women's and youth issues	76.3%
Social justice and equal opportunities	65.8%
Focus on combating corruption and enhancing transparency and integrity	44.7%

The National Center for Human Rights believes that the true test for political parties, regarding their vision and programs, lies under the parliamentary dome, where political realism and competition among parties should lead to practical solutions, executable programs, and viable visions.

Formation and Establishment of Political Parties:

- The total number of political parties licensed in accordance with the law reached 38 parties.

Table No. (17): Digital Map of Jordanian Political Parties for 2024

Summary of Political Parties for 2024	
Total number of active political parties	38 parties
Total party members	94,995 members <u>52,752 Male members</u> 42,243 Female members
Youth members (under 35 years old)-Male & Female	35,999 members

Recommendations

1. It is necessary for the visions of economic, political, and

administrative modernization to serve as a foundation for developing the economic, political, and administrative programs of political parties.

2. Political parties are encouraged to activate the role of specialized committees on economic and social issues and/or the assistants to the Secretary-General for economic and social affairs to develop their detailed plans and programs for the upcoming stage.
3. Continue national efforts aimed at enhancing the participation of women, youth, and persons with disabilities in political parties.
4. Increase transparency and governance in the mechanism for selecting candidates on party lists.
5. Ensure that the electoral campaigns of political parties are based on their economic and social programs that contribute to achieving sustainable development goals in society.

The Right to Establish and Join Associations

The right to establish and join associations is one of the fundamental rights guaranteed by national, regional, and international instruments. The Jordanian Constitution guarantees the right of Jordanians to form associations, limiting the role of the law to regulating the method of establishing associations and overseeing their resources only. Article (16/2) stipulates that: *"Jordanians shall have the right to form associations provided that their objectives are lawful, their means are peaceful, and they have internal regulations that do not contradict the provisions of the Constitution."*

Likewise, the International Bill of Human Rights guarantees the right to form and join associations for all citizens¹⁰¹ and affirms that no restrictions may be placed on the

exercise of this right other than those necessary in a democratic society.¹⁰² Furthermore, the Arab Charter on Human Rights also guarantees this right.¹⁰³

The standard content of the right to establish and join associations for the year 2024 is based on the integrated legal protection of its elements, both legally and in practice. This is ensured through the enforcement and strengthening of guarantees for its protection by monitoring several aspects: guaranteeing individuals' right to form associations with various legitimate objectives that are compatible with the requirements of society; providing guarantees for establishing associations; ensuring each association's right to organize events and meetings; drafting its internal bylaws; freely accessing financial resources to implement its activities; and forming alliances and coalitions with other similar associations.

At the level of legislation and policies:

In 2024, the Planning and International Cooperation Law No. (10) of 2024 was enacted, which stipulates in Article (7/A) that the Ministry shall handle funding provided to associations, non-profit companies, cooperative societies and unions, and any other entity designated by the Council of Ministers by: aligning funded projects with national priorities; facilitating procedures for obtaining the necessary approvals to accept funding in accordance with the legislation; and monitoring the progress of funded projects, both at the project level and at the overall funding level,

¹⁰¹ Article (20) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states:

"1. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

2. No one may be compelled to belong to an association."

Article (22) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights states:

"1. Everyone shall have the right to freedom of association with others, including the right to form and join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

2. No restrictions may be placed on the exercise of this right other than those prescribed by law and which are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security, public safety, public order, the protection of public health or morals, or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others. This article shall not prevent the imposition of lawful restrictions on members of the armed forces or the police in the exercise of this right.

3. Nothing in this article shall authorize States Parties to the International Labour Organization Convention of 1948 concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize to take legislative measures or apply the law in a manner that would impair the guarantees provided for in that Convention."

¹⁰² See Articles (21) and (22/2) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

¹⁰³ Article (28) of the Arab Charter on Human Rights states:

"Citizens have the freedom of assembly and peaceful association. Neither of these freedoms may be exercised except as required by considerations of national security, public safety, or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others."

in coordination with ministries, departments, and official and public institutions.

1. The King Abdullah II Fund for Development launched the *Tamkeen* project to support political initiatives¹⁰⁴ in conjunction with His Majesty's Silver Jubilee and in line with the political modernization process led by His Majesty. This initiative was launched as part of the Fund's role as a national institution supporting the state's efforts to encourage political participation. The project targeted civil society organizations and non-profit companies working in the field of political awareness. Qualified projects received financial support ranging from 10,000 to 35,000 Jordanian Dinars.
2. On December 5, 2024, the Associations Register and the Companies Control Department, in partnership with the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, held a workshop entitled "*Enhancing the Enabling and Supportive Environment for Civil Society Organizations and Stakeholder Engagement in Jordan.*"¹⁰⁵ The workshop was part of the activities under the first commitment of the Fifth National Action Plan within the Open Government Partnership Initiative (2021–2025) related to "*Improving Governance among Civil Society Organizations and Protecting Them from the Risks of Exploitation in*

Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing Operations."

It specifically focused on convening a meeting between civil society organizations and relevant government entities to discuss the challenges these organizations face. The workshop aimed to strengthen the enabling and supportive environment for civil society organizations in Jordan and to learn from international practices to enhance transparency, accountability, and stakeholder participation in the public decision-making process.

3. In 2024, a study was published entitled "The Role of Jordanian Civil Society Organizations in Empowering Women in Politics." The study highlighted that women's participation in the political process holds a central place in development and democratic transformation in any country, and that the level of such participation determines the society's progress and civilization, as well as the success of the political reform efforts it seeks to achieve.¹⁰⁶ The study concluded with proposals to empower women politicians and strengthen their role in public life, including:

1. Directing the media to portray the image of women in politics not as an exception, but rather as a normal representation of the capabilities of Jordanian women.
2. Civil society organizations concerned with women's

¹⁰⁴ For more details, see the website of the Abdulla Al-Emlek Development Fund: <https://www.kafd.jo/news.as?p=nid403>

¹⁰⁵ For more details, see the website of the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation: <https://www.ogp.gov.jo/ar>

¹⁰⁶ A study prepared by Phenix Center for Economics & Informatics Studies, 2024, published electronically on Phenix Center website.

issues must pay attention to the nature of their discourse aimed at changing social attitudes and perceptions that divide spaces between males and females. They should review their methods and tools of community messaging so that society is prepared to accept and support women's full and comprehensive participation in political life. This includes organizing awareness campaigns and public dialogues on the importance of women's roles in political life and their positive value in decision-making.

3. Strengthen alliances among parties and forces that believe in the importance of women's political participation, starting with women themselves, their organizations, the feminist movement, and extending to those who see women's participation as an added value that cannot be ignored — especially the human rights movement and civil society at large. Enhancing women's political participation is not just a women's issue, but a matter that concerns society as a whole.
4. Provide training programs and workshops to help women politicians develop leadership and communication skills, improve their decision-making capabilities, raise legal awareness of their

rights, and launch awareness campaigns to strengthen the concept of citizenship and political identity rather than sub-identities.

5. Include combating violence against women politicians as one of the government's political priorities, establish a coordination and exchange network among associations working to combat violence against women, and ensure that national laws are aligned with relevant international agreements and treaties, both in substance and form, in a way that guarantees women's full citizenship rights, by submitting proposals for these laws to the competent authorities.

In 2024, the annual forum of the Civil Society Organizations Coordination Commission "HIMAM" was held under the title "Human Rights at Stake," with the participation of a number of local and international human rights experts, as well as local civil society organizations and international organizations. The forum concluded with several recommendations, including: (a) Establishing a mechanism to support and advocate for civil society organizations facing unfair pressure from donors; (b) Rejecting any donor conditions that require recognition of the Zionist entity or abandonment of principles related to defending the rights of the Palestinian people; (c) Formulating a national plan and conducting a national dialogue to reach internal consensus on developments in Palestine, Gaza, and Lebanon.

4. The number of institutions and civil society organizations that contributed to the collective submissions for the Universal

Periodic Review (UPR) of human rights reached 159 institutions in 2024, compared to 55 institutions in 2018, reflecting significant growth in the level of participation and an expansion of the role of civil society. This progress demonstrates the government's commitment to strengthening the space available to civil society and institutionalizing partnerships with various sectors within a comprehensive vision to enhance the human rights system.

On the policy and practice front:

The current legislation still reveals that the reality of civil society organizations shows a multiplicity of legal references supervising the work of CSOs. These are distributed across eight categories: associations, professional and labor unions, sports clubs, youth organizations, employers' unions, chambers of commerce, chambers of industry, and not-for-profit companies.

Establishment and Formation:

The number of licensed associations by the end of 2024 reached 6,112 associations, distributed among the following ministries:¹⁰⁷

Number of associations according to the relevant ministries	
Ministry	Number of Associations
Ministry of Interior	907
Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation	1
Ministry of Culture	761
Ministry of Environment	193
Ministry of Political and Parliamentary Affairs	158
Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities	96

¹⁰⁷ Letter from the Ministry of Social Development, No. Sh.Q/3/2431, dated 2025-02-09.

Number of associations according to the relevant ministries	
Ministry	Number of Associations
Ministry of Social Development	3,735
Ministry of Health	106
Ministry of Agriculture	74
Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs	28
Ministry of Justice	6
Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply	32
Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship	11
Ministry of Water and Irrigation	4
Total	6,112

- The number of associations dissolved in 2024 according to Article 20 of the Associations Law reached 574 associations. Most cases of dissolution occur either by judgment due to inactivity for more than one year, violation of the law, or voluntary dissolution requests.
- The number of associations that received local funding was 823.¹⁰⁸
- The Center monitored the following reasons for dissolving some associations:
 - Inactivity for one year.
 - Failure to elect an administrative body according to the association's bylaws and relevant laws after exhausting the

¹⁰⁸ Local support includes the following: productive projects, credit funds, the Royal Highness's grant, the Associations Support Fund (projects, cash), Associations Directorate (cash).

- procedures under Article 19 of the law.
- Some associations retained or used donations or funding from non-Jordanians, violating Article 17 of the law.
- Repeated violations for which the association was previously warned but did not correct the issue, according to Article 19 of the law.

Associations Registered under the Ministry of Political and Parliamentary Affairs¹⁰⁹:

- Total licensed associations by end of 2024: 146
- Associations dissolved in 2024: 55 (due to voluntary reasons or inactivity for more than one year based on Article 20/A1 of Associations Law No. 51 of 2008 and its amendments)
- Associations funded by foreign and local sources by end of 2024: 6
- No associations had ongoing court cases in 2024.

Associations Registered under the Ministry of Culture¹¹⁰:

- Total cultural associations licensed by end of 2024: 26
- Cultural associations dissolved by end of 2024: 35 (due to decisions by the general assembly or inactivity)
- Cultural associations with local funding: 125

- Cultural associations with foreign funding: 33
- Number of associations with ongoing court cases: 3

Associations Registered under the Ministry of Environment¹¹¹:

- Total licensed associations by end of 2024: 183
- Number of projects funded by foreign funding for environmental associations by end of 2024: 18

On the Level of Practices:

During 2024, the Center monitored a set of internal challenges and obstacles faced by associations, including:

1. Many associations did not adhere to the values of democracy and good governance; examples include the absence of records in some associations and failure to submit financial and administrative reports.
2. Low numbers of general assembly members in many associations, which negatively impacted the holding of free, fair, and regular internal elections.
3. Many general assembly members were unwilling to pay membership fees, often requiring candidates for the administrative board presidency to pay fees on behalf of general assembly members.
4. Most association officials were women, especially in rural areas, but they did not participate in activities conducted in the capital, indicating a low number of women in administrative and general boards.

¹⁰⁹ Letter from the Minister of Political and Parliamentary Affairs No. 703/58/1 dated 2025/01/28.

¹¹⁰ Letter from the Minister of Culture No. 3/15/344 dated 2025/01/20

¹¹¹ Letter from the Ministry of Environment No. 540/1/9 dated 2025/01/29

5. Many associations failed to adhere to their specified geographical scope of work as per their internal bylaws and practiced activities and objectives different from those for which they were licensed.
6. Some associations did not comply with providing minimum wages to their workers and deprived them of registration in social security and health insurance systems.
7. Several associations did not publish financial reports on their websites due to: (1) Lack of websites for many associations. (2) Weakness of activities implemented by associations. (3) The impact of low activity levels and small annual budgets on acquiring foreign funding.

within associations' work to reduce corruption.

2. Achieve effective integration between civil society organizations' activities and their programs, focusing on achieving the goals and objectives for which they were established.
3. Develop sustainable plans for the work of associations and coalitions to generate positive impact across all development fields.
4. Prepare financial and administrative reports periodically and on time, and encourage their publication on websites. If an institution cannot maintain its own website, allocate a dedicated section on the relevant ministry's website to publish the administrative and financial reports of the institutions affiliated with it.

Recommendations:

1. Strengthen the values of democracy, transparency, and good governance

The Right to Form and Join Trade Unions

The right to form and join trade unions is one of the fundamental rights guaranteed by national¹¹² and international¹¹³ legislation ratified by the state, which has become part of the national legal framework. Professional and labor unions are among the most important sectors and institutions of civil society, as they represent wide segments of the community. Their role goes beyond merely defending the interests of their members and the groups they represent; they are active bodies that participate in managing public affairs and play an influential role in guiding and raising awareness of economic, social, and political development plans.

On Legislation and Policies

No developments were recorded in 2024 regarding amendments to the legislation governing this right. The key legal texts regulating this right are as follows:

¹¹² Article (2/16) of the Jordanian Constitution states: “Jordanians have the right to form associations, unions, and political parties, provided that their purpose is legitimate, their means are lawful, and their regulations do not contradict the provisions of the Constitution.” Article (23) states: “The state protects labor and establishes legislation and free trade union organization within the limits of the law.”

¹¹³ Article (4/23) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights provides: “Everyone has the right to form and join trade unions for the protection of his interests.” Article (8) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights states: “Everyone has the right to form trade unions with others and to join the trade union of his choice, without any restriction other than those prescribed by the organization concerned, with the aim of promoting and protecting his economic and social interests...” Article (22) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights states: “Everyone shall have the right to freedom of association with others, including the right to form and join trade unions for the protection of his interests...”

- **The Jordanian Constitution:**

The Constitution guarantees Jordanians the right to form associations and trade unions but does not grant this right to foreign residents on the Kingdom’s territory. This is inferred from the term “Jordanians” in Article 16, which states: *“Jordanians shall have the right to form associations, trade unions, and political parties, provided that their objectives are lawful, their means are peaceful, and they have regulations that do not contradict the provisions of the Constitution.”*

- **Labor Law No. 8 of 1996 and its Amendments:**

Chapter Eleven of the Labor Law regulates the legal provisions related to labor unions and employers' unions. These provisions cover agreements to combat forced and compulsory labor, eliminate discrimination in employment and occupation, abolish child labor, and ensure the right to organize and collective bargaining. The Center reiterates its recommendations included in its previous annual reports, which call for amending certain articles of the Labor Law related to union activities, including:

1. Depriving workers of the tools for resolving collective disputes under Article 2, as the definition is limited to workers who have labor unions.¹¹⁴

¹¹⁴ Article (2): “Labor dispute is any disagreement that arises between the union on one side and the employer or the employers’ association on the other side regarding the application or interpretation of a collective labor agreement, or related to working conditions and terms. The definition is limited to workers who have labor unions, especially since the

2. Depriving workers without unions of the right to collective bargaining under Article 44¹¹⁵, which grants this right exclusively to unions.
3. Granting the General Federation of Trade Unions the right to draft the bylaws of both the federation and the unions, without leaving any organizational role for the union's general assembly or administrative body, as per Article 100¹¹⁶.

The Center believes that to enhance the quality of the Labor Law and align it with international standards, a committee should be formed that includes all stakeholders, including representatives of labor unions, employers, relevant government bodies, and civil society organizations, to produce modern legislation that strengthens social justice and supports economic growth.

vast majority of workers are deprived of union representation."

¹¹⁵ Article (44): "A. Collective bargaining may be conducted between employers and the union concerning any matters related to improving working conditions and labor productivity. Such negotiation shall be initiated upon the request of either the employer or the union and shall not exceed twenty-one (21) days from the date the written notification is delivered by the party wishing to negotiate to the other party. The notification must include the subject of the negotiation and its reasons, and a copy must be sent to the Minister within forty-eight (48) hours from the date of issuance."

¹¹⁶ Article (100): "The General Federation of Labor Unions shall establish internal regulations for the unions, provided that they do not conflict with the provisions of the prevailing legislations. These regulations shall be ratified by the Registrar of Unions and the Employers' Associations immediately upon their approval. The regulations must include the following matters..."

On Practices

In 2024, the Center monitored the activities of professional and labor unions in various fields, including:

- Solidarity activities in support of people in Gaza and protest marches against the aggression on Gaza.
- Demands by professional unions and the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions to raise the minimum wage in line with the inflation rate¹¹⁷, which reached 1.56% in 2024 compared to 2023.

Professional Unions

In 2024, the new Medical Fee Schedule¹¹⁸ for 2024 was issued following demands by the Jordan Medical Association. A committee of relevant specialists was formed to reach an agreement that satisfies citizens and guarantees the rights of doctors and workers in the medical field. The new schedule included a 60% increase in fees, divided into three phases: 20% after thirty days from its publication in the Official Gazette, another 20% after one year of implementation, and a final 20% after two years. The Center believes that the new schedule took into account the interests of all parties, established a reference framework for procedures, and resolved disputes about previously unregulated fees, which had caused significant price differences among doctors. The new schedule covers about 3,100 procedures.

¹¹⁷ For the inflation rate, see the website of the Department of Statistics at the following link: <https://dosweb.dos.gov.jo/ar/>

¹¹⁸ For the Medical Wage Schedule for the year 2024, see the Official Gazette, Issue No. (5956), dated 15/10/2024.

Professional Union Elections

In 2024, elections were held to elect new councils for the professional unions, including electing the head and council members. For example: The Jordanian Artists' Association elections¹¹⁹ were held on March 1, 2024, with 256 voters out of 320 eligible members participating. A team from the National Center¹²⁰ monitored the elections, praised their integrity, and made several recommendations to the Association's president, including:

1. Amending the Jordanian Artists' Association Law No. 9 of 1997 so that the candidate who obtains the highest number of votes wins directly, regardless of the number of candidates for the presidency.
2. Issuing regulations to implement the provisions of the Association's Law under Article 52, including specifying the opening and closing hours of polling stations and the possibility of extending the voting period.
3. Training election committees on election mechanisms in line with international standards governing electoral processes and the national legal frameworks regulating them.
4. Considering the possibility of involving the Independent Election Commission in organizing and managing future elections.

Professional Syndicates' Funds

In 2024, syndicates were included in the audit plans of the Audit Bureau in

accordance with Article 4(c) of its Law No. 28 of 1952, which stipulates that "the Audit Bureau shall audit any entity whose accounts the Council of Ministers decides to have audited by the Bureau if the entity's funds are considered public funds or if their collection is done in accordance with the law." This measure aims to prevent financial and administrative violations and to strengthen members' trust in the syndicates.

In the same year, on 2024/10/5, the Council of Ministers approved the reasons for canceling the retirement and insurance system of the Jordanian Geologists Association¹²¹, which suffers from a financial deficit that prevented it from fulfilling its obligations toward retirees. It thus became the second syndicate to close its pension fund after the Journalists Association.

The pension funds of both the Doctors Association and the Engineers Association are also facing crises, as both stopped paying retirement salaries at some point. However, the General Assembly of the Engineers Association amended its pension fund system in an attempt to address the fund's deficit problems. In 2024, the Administrative Court rejected an appeal by 340 engineers who challenged the amended pension system for the Engineers Association's members (Regulation No. 84 of 2023). The decision confirmed that the Administrative High Court, upon reviewing the case documents, found that the claim of unconstitutionality lacked seriousness and dismissed it for lack of valid grounds.

¹¹⁹ For more information, see the website of the Jordanian Artists Syndicate at:
<https://www.jasyndicate.org/ar?lang=ar>

¹²⁰ To view the report of the National Center for Monitoring the Elections of the Jordanian Artists Syndicate, see the link: <https://www.nchr.org.jo>

¹²¹ For more information, see the website of the Jordanian Geologists Syndicate at:
<http://jo.org.jga>

The National Center also monitored amendments to the pension system¹²² issued by the Council of Ministers following an actuarial study¹²³ conducted by the Association. The most important amendments included: (a) mandatory subscription to the pension fund; (b) distributing the financial burden of the fund between contributors and retirees and requiring retirees to bear 10 percent of the retirement salaries paid to retirees and beneficiaries; (c) deducting 50 percent from practicing engineers; (d) gradually raising the statutory retirement age by two years for males and three years for females, at a rate of six months each year.

It is clear that the amendments to the Engineers Association's pension fund system were conducted properly and based on a specialized assessment of the fund's financial position, in line with Article 27(a)(b) of the Engineers Association Pension System No. 1 of 2018.

The Center believes that empowering pension funds within syndicates requires continuous review of the laws and regulations governing the management of the funds, periodic reassessment of pension returns and paid salaries, and linking them to the subscribers' ages in line with inflation rates and eligibility conditions, in accordance with the actuarial studies carried out by the associations and with full compliance with their outcomes.

Some syndicates have maintained the sustainability of their funds' revenues, such as the Lawyers Association, the Dentists Association, and the Pharmacists Association. This is due to the financial policies adopted by their councils and the mandatory subscription stipulated in the regulations governing these syndicates' pension and social security funds¹²⁴.

Labor Unions

There are 17 labor unions and 58 employers' unions¹²⁵ aiming to improve working conditions, ensure decent work standards, increase wages, guarantee justice and equality among workers, and combat all forms of discrimination under the umbrella of the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions.

In 2024, the General Conference of the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions elected a President and Vice-President for the Federation in an extraordinary session that achieved the legal quorum with a participation rate of 90%¹²⁶. The session was held under the slogan: "Towards a Democratic Labor Union to Achieve Decent Work and Strengthen Social Dialogue."

The Center also monitored the activities and events organized by the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions with government entities and union bodies at the local level,

¹²² Amended retirement system for members of the Engineers Syndicate, No. (84) of 2023. See Official Gazette No. (5899) dated 2023/12/17.

¹²³ To review the ninth actuarial study as presented in the Engineers Retirement Fund financial report for 2022, see the link: <https://www.jea.org.jo/ar/List/%D8%AA%D9%82%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B5%D9%86%D8%AF%D9%88%D9%82>

¹²⁴ To review the retirement system of the Jordanian Bar Association, see the link: <https://www.jba.org.jo>

¹²⁵ According to the records of the Ministry of Labor at the following link: <https://www.mol.gov.jo>

¹²⁶ The General Conference held an extraordinary session on 2024/8/10, electing a president and a deputy for the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions.

(173) members out of (153) conference members participated in the elections, representing (17) labor unions.

aimed at improving workers' conditions and defending their rights. The most notable activities included:

1. Supervising the signing of 28 collective agreements during 2024 between labor unions and employers to reach agreements that meet workers' needs and safeguard their rights.
2. Automating the "Unified Contract" that applies to workers in the private education sector, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Labor.¹²⁷

Women's Participation in Labor and Professional Syndicates:

The Center observed weak representation of women in decision-making positions and administrative bodies of professional syndicates; in some professional councils, women's representation does not exceed one or two members only — as is the case in the Engineers Association (Agricultural), the Medical Association, the Geological Association, the Pharmacists Association, the Nurses Association, and the Dentists Association. Other syndicates lack any female representation on their councils altogether, such as the Artists Syndicate, the Engineers Syndicate, the Lawyers Syndicate, and the Journalists Syndicate.

As for women's participation in labor unions, the first woman was appointed as President of the Food Industries Workers Union in 2021. Although she assumed this position by acclamation rather than through the ballot box, it was still a positive first step for women's engagement in union work. The Center believes that to strengthen

women's participation in union activities, the following actions should be taken:

- (a) Implement awareness programs for women in workplaces to increase their understanding of the importance of engaging in union activities;
- (b) Provide programs to qualify and develop women's capacities in union work and decision-making positions;
- (c) Organize awareness courses for female unionists in managing election campaigns, communication, and outreach.

Recommendations

1. Develop consensual visions among all parties — the government, labor unions, and employers — to adopt a modern Labor Law that aligns with the Constitution and international standards, including:
 - (a) Amending Article 116¹²⁸, which grants the Minister of Labor the authority to dissolve the administrative board of a union and appoint a temporary board, and replacing it with the previous provision — prior to the amendment — so that the Minister of Labor has the right to file a lawsuit before the judiciary to dissolve a union if certain conditions are met.
 - (b) Amending Article 100¹²⁹, which

¹²⁷ To review the unified contract for private schools and kindergartens, see the link: <https://gtu.org/>

¹²⁸ Article (116B): In case the violation continues, the Minister, based on the recommendation of the Registrar of Trade Unions, may issue a decision to dissolve the administrative body. This decision is subject to appeal before the Administrative Court within thirty days from the date of notification.

¹²⁹ Article (100): "The General Federation of Trade Unions shall establish internal regulations for the unions that do not conflict with the provisions of the applicable legislation. These regulations shall be approved by the Registrar of Trade Unions and the Employers' Unions immediately upon their ratification, and shall include the following matters....."

grants the General Federation of Trade Unions the exclusive right to establish the internal regulations for both the Federation and the unions, without leaving any organizational role for the union itself (whether its General Assembly or its Administrative Board), making them merely an executive tool for the Federation's instructions.

(c) Amending Article 98¹³⁰, which imposes restrictions on workers' right to form trade unions to defend their interests.

(d) Amending Articles 2¹³¹ and 44¹³², which deprive groups of workers who are not members of unions from benefiting from dispute resolution

mechanisms and the right to collective bargaining.

2. To strengthen pension funds within the unions:
 - (a) Review the laws and regulations related to fund management.
 - (b) Link pension revenues and paid salaries to the ages of subscribers, in line with inflation rates, based on actuarial studies and accurate statistical ratios and indicators, to serve as a sound scientific reference for any decision taken by the competent authority.
3. To increase women's participation in union work:
 - (a) Amend the electoral regulations of labor and professional unions to allocate seats within administrative bodies either through proportional representation or quota systems.
 - (b) Provide programs to qualify and develop women's capacities in union work.

¹³⁰ Article (98): "d. The Minister, through the Registrar of Trade Unions, shall classify industries and economic activities in which unions may be established, in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs (a) and (b) of this article, provided that there shall be no more than one union representing any industry or economic activity, taking into account the Arab and international classifications."

¹³¹ Article (2): "A labor dispute is any disagreement that arises between the union on one side and the employer or employers' union on the other side regarding the application or interpretation of a collective labor agreement or related to working conditions and terms. The definition is limited to workers who have labor unions, especially since the vast majority of workers are deprived of union representation."

¹³² Article (44): "A. Collective bargaining may be conducted between employers and the union regarding any matters related to improving working conditions and workers' productivity, provided that this negotiation takes place upon the request of either the employer or the union, within no more than twenty-one (21) days from the date the written notification, which is sent by the party wishing to negotiate to the other party, is received. The notification must include the subject and reasons for the negotiation, and a copy must be sent to the Minister within no more than forty-eight (48) hours from the date of issuance."

Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights Axis

The Right to Development and an Adequate Standard of Living

The right to development¹³³ and the right to an adequate standard of living¹³⁴ are among the fundamental, inalienable rights affirmed by international human rights instruments, as they are considered an essential pillar for promoting human dignity and achieving social justice. The right to development is based on the principle of equal opportunities and economic and social empowerment, to ensure that individuals and peoples enjoy their resources and have the capacity to participate effectively in making development decisions.

These two rights contribute substantially to achieving stability and human progress by combating poverty and unemployment, ensuring food security, promoting public health and well-being, providing quality education, securing clean water, and guaranteeing the right to decent work and

¹³³ (1) Article (22) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article (1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and Article (1) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, in addition to the resolutions of the Human Rights Committee — Resolution No. (33-D4) dated 21 February 1977, Resolution No. (5-D) dated 2 March 1979, and Resolution No. 174/35 dated 15 December 1980 — and the Declaration on the Right to Development adopted by the United Nations General Assembly by Resolution 41/128 in December 1986.

¹³⁴ (2) The right to an adequate standard of living is considered the core of economic and social rights. It is guaranteed under Article (25) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article (11) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and Articles (26/27) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as it is one of the rights that ensures human dignity.

sustainable economic growth. Realizing these rights constitutes a legal and moral obligation on states to ensure inclusive and sustainable development policies in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and to guarantee a fair distribution of resources to enhance the effective enjoyment of human rights.

In 2024, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan continued its path of comprehensive reform across all development sectors, building on a legacy of achievements and driven by a national will to confront challenges and obstacles that hinder progress, prosperity, and comprehensive development. The three modernization visions launched by Royal directives — the modernization of the political system, the Public Sector Modernization Roadmap, and the Economic Modernization Vision — were successively introduced as guiding frameworks for the work of Jordan's state institutions, serving as a national action agenda and an overarching development plan that transcends governments to accelerate comprehensive reform in ways that positively reflect on citizens' lives and livelihoods.

The three modernization tracks have given significant attention to achieving development goals in all areas, as follows:

First: Progress in Implementing National Development Plans and Programs in 2024

- In 2024, work continued on implementing the Executive Indicative Program (2021–2024) across several sectors, including:

Investment Sector:

- In 2024, twelve new investment opportunities were launched on the

“Invest in Jordan” platform, bringing the total investment opportunities listed on the platform to thirty-nine since its launch in July 2023.

- Additionally, 4,996 companies registered on the Integrated Investment Services Platform from January 2023 until now, with 33,400 applications submitted through the platform.¹³⁵

In 2024, the mechanisms for automating investment services were reviewed and developed, electronic linkage with relevant entities was strengthened, and work began on redesigning, developing, and updating the “Invest in Jordan” platform (Invest.jo). This included enhancing the platform’s content and updating the templates of available investment opportunities on the interactive “Invest in Jordan” investment platform. Additionally, twelve new investment opportunities were launched in various economic sectors (tourism, industry, mining, and energy).

The first phase of the National Investment Roadmap project was completed, which included identifying partners and conducting a comprehensive review and analysis of all relevant national and sectoral documents and strategies. The second phase of the project has begun, which involves preparing an initial rapid assessment report to include the results of the strategic document review, mapping stakeholders, and identifying the parties concerned with the project.¹³⁶

Industry Sector

- In 2024, the Industrial Policy Action Plan (2024–2028) was prepared and

approved as part of efforts to develop and launch the “Made in Jordan” local product promotion policy.¹³⁷

Agriculture and Food Security Sector¹³⁸

Ensuring farmers’ rights and empowering them economically and socially is a fundamental pillar for achieving food security in Jordan. This requires legal and institutional reforms, in addition to implementing comprehensive strategies to protect their basic rights, strengthen their economic empowerment, and enhance their access to markets, resources, and technology, thereby contributing to building a sustainable agricultural sector capable of facing future challenges.

Food security in Jordan remains a matter of strategic importance, especially given the economic, environmental, and regional challenges. The Kingdom faces significant obstacles in this regard but is working to implement strategies to address them. These efforts align with the National Food Security Strategy 2021–2030, which aims to position Jordan as a regional hub for food security despite water and economic challenges. A Food Security Council was established to improve food security by increasing local production, encouraging farmers to adopt smart and sustainable agriculture technologies, and providing financial and technical support to enhance production efficiency. The efforts also include managing water resources through projects such as desalination and reuse in agriculture, strengthening water harvesting strategies,

¹³⁵ Letter of the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, No. 2426/10/4/12, dated 20 March 2025.

¹³⁶ The official page of the Ministry of Investment — Invest in Jordan platform.

¹³⁷ For more details regarding the National Center’s field visits related to the industrial sector, refer to the Right to Work section in the same report.

¹³⁸ For more details regarding the National Center’s field visits related to certain groups working in the agricultural sector, refer to the Women’s Rights section in the same report.

diversifying import sources, investing in agricultural technology, developing modern irrigation systems, encouraging hydroponics and greenhouse farming, and enhancing regional and international cooperation by leveraging international aid to build agricultural capacity and participate in regional initiatives to secure food supplies.

In 2024, the Food Security Council launched the first national Food Security Information Management System in Jordan, in cooperation with the Department of Statistics and the World Food Programme¹³⁹. This system aims to strengthen national capacity to monitor progress towards achieving food security and sustainable development goals, and to support decision-making processes in this field. The system is a digital platform for collecting and analyzing food security data from national and international sources through a unified platform, enabling data classification, processing, importing, exporting, and displaying as needed, based on specific indicators. The system will allow government institutions and their partners to track food stock levels, forecast supply conditions, and ensure the rapid distribution of resources, contributing to enhanced access to nutritious food across Jordan. The system adheres to the highest standards of integration with national and international information systems and compliance with Jordan's data protection regulations. It works in partnership with ministries and government institutions such as the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Industry and Trade, as well as relevant academic and community institutions. In addition, the system includes advanced tools such as electronic dashboards and an early warning system,

¹³⁹ The official website of the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation: <https://www.moa.gov.jo>

providing periodic reports on the state of food security and sectoral initiatives.

In 2024, loans amounting to 4,828,072 Jordanian dinars were provided under the project for the rehabilitation and utilization of irrigated and rainfed agricultural lands, benefiting 519 borrowers since January.¹⁴⁰

Water Security

Water security is directly linked to Sustainable Development Goal 6, which aims to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. Water security remains one of the most pressing challenges facing Jordan, especially in 2024, due to limited water resources and the growing demand for them. Jordan relies mainly on groundwater, which constitutes about 57% of the total available water—approximately 500 million cubic meters annually. However, 10 out of 12 groundwater basins in the Kingdom are classified as severely depleted, threatening their sustainability.

Current challenges such as population pressure place Jordan among the most water-scarce countries in the world. The per capita share of renewable freshwater is about 61 cubic meters per year, which is significantly below the global water poverty line of 500 cubic meters per person.¹⁴¹ Additionally, climate change negatively affects rainfall levels, reducing the availability of surface water sources. Repeated illegal encroachments on water pipelines also contribute to the depletion of significant water quantities.

¹⁴⁰ 140. Letter from the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, No. 2426/10/4/12, dated 20 March 2025.

¹⁴¹ (Ministry of Water and Irrigation, <https://u.pw/JSJ78KYI>)

Tourism Sector

The tourism sector is one of the main pillars of the Jordanian economy, as it plays a significant role in providing job opportunities and boosting national income. However, workers in this sector, especially owners of small and medium-sized tourism enterprises, have faced severe economic hardship due to successive challenges—starting with the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to a complete shutdown of tourism establishments, and more recently, the repercussions of the war in Gaza, which has negatively impacted tourist inflows and caused a sharp decline in revenues. This situation has led to the closure of many businesses and the loss of numerous job opportunities, particularly in governorates that rely heavily on tourism as a main source of income.

In 2024, the archaeological site of Umm Al-Jimal, located in Mafraq Governorate, was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Petra Development and Tourism Region Authority

The Petra Development and Tourism Region Authority, in cooperation with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), launched the Petra Tourism Strategic Plan 2024–2033. This plan includes measures to enhance the competitiveness of the tourism sector, address the impact of the regional situation on the national tourism sector, develop mechanisms to attract tourists, extend their stay in Petra, and upgrade tourism facilities to draw more visitors.

The Annual Report for 2024 under the Executive Programme of the Economic Modernization Vision 2023–2025, within the axis “Jordan as a Global Destination”,

presented key details on the progress made in the tourism sector during the past year. The report highlighted major projects completed in 2024, including the continuation of incentive programmes for charter, scheduled, and low-cost flights, the ongoing development and promotion of tourism patterns, and the implementation of various promotional and marketing campaigns through both digital and traditional channels.

According to the report, the number of international visitors arriving in the Kingdom during 2024 reached about 1.6 million visitors, while tourism revenues for the same period amounted to approximately 1.5 billion Jordanian dinars. The number of workers in the tourism sector in 2024 reached around 56,000 employees, and about 182,000 passengers arrived in the Kingdom via contracted low-cost carriers during the same period, while 163,000 passengers arrived through charter flights. Sales of the Jordan Pass reached around 1.99 thousand passes.

The report also indicated that 1,100 trainees—job seekers, workers in the tourism sector, and tourism service providers—received training, in addition to 200 people trained in the fields of maintenance and antiquities up to September 2024.

Regarding the development of archaeological and tourist sites, the report noted that Jabal Al-Qalaa (the Citadel) and the Jordan Museum were prepared to receive people with disabilities, and that the studies, engineering designs, and tender documents for the implementation of a project for new sanitary units at Barqash Forest in Irbid were completed.

In the area of heritage conservation and development, campaigns were carried out to remove encroachments at the Petra archaeological site, and 100 job opportunities were provided for women in Um Sayhoun village through the allocation of 20 kiosks in the cultural village, along with the implementation of comprehensive restoration and maintenance projects.

Regarding legislative development, an amended Tourism Law for 2024 was issued, and drafts were prepared for several regulations, including:

- The Hotel Establishments Regulation,
- The Amended Regulation for the Jordan Hotels Association,
- The Jordanian Tourism and Travel Agencies Regulation, and
- The Amended Regulation for the Jordan Society of Tourism and Travel Agencies.

Additionally, a draft Tourism Sector Development and Promotion Fund Regulation for 2024 was prepared based on the provisions of the amended Tourism Law of 2024 and is currently under review with partners before proceeding with formal approval procedures.

Energy Sector

Key developments in national legislation related to the energy sector for 2024:

1. The Draft Electricity Law for 2024 was enacted with the aim of improving the business environment in the energy sector, enhancing self-generation of electricity, and developing energy storage systems. The law also seeks to reduce reliance on energy imports and increase the

share of renewable energy in the national energy mix.¹⁴²

2. The Regulation No. (58) of 2024, governing the connection of renewable energy sources to the electricity grid and exempting renewable energy systems and energy efficiency measures, was issued.¹⁴³ According to this regulation, the Council of Ministers determines the size, nature, and mechanism for connecting renewable energy installations and systems for any project deemed strategic. The Council also sets the sale price for energy generated by such projects and any additional fees related to renewable energy installations and systems.

- The Centre also recorded that 51% of the target for installing smart meters was achieved in 2024.¹⁴⁴

3. The year 2024 witnessed reforms in the natural gas sector, which focused on encouraging industrial use and connecting industrial cities to the natural gas network.¹⁴⁵

4. The year 2024 also saw the enactment of legislation concerning green hydrogen. Future direction: In 2024, the Jordanian government began establishing the legislative foundations for developing a green hydrogen industry, with an emphasis on activating this sector as part of the future clean

¹⁴² (Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources of Jordan, <https://u.pw/wTA0oPst>)

¹⁴³ Published in the Official Gazette, Issue No. 5948, dated 2 September 2024.

¹⁴⁴ Letter from the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, No. 2426/10/4/12, dated 20 March 2025.

¹⁴⁵ Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources of Jordan, <https://u.pw/Q1BOydJf>

energy strategy.¹⁴⁶ Additionally, amendments were introduced to the Environmental Law with a focus on sustainability; these amendments include encouraging the use of clean energy sources and setting stricter environmental standards for projects with environmental impact.

5. Legislation to support investments in renewable energy: The new laws include the provision of tax incentives for investors in renewable energy projects, in addition to facilitating the legal procedures related to investment in this sector.

Unemployment

Unemployment Rates for Jordanians (2020–2024)	
Year	Unemployment Rate (%)
2020	23.2%
2021	24.1%
2022	22.8%
2023	22.3%
2024	21.4%

The Department of Statistics issued its annual report on the unemployment rate in the Kingdom for 2024,¹⁴⁷ indicating that the unemployment rate reached 21.4% in 2024 — a decrease of 0.6 percentage points compared to 2023, when it stood at 22.0%.

The unemployment rate among males in 2024 was 18.2%, compared to 32.9% for females in the same year. Comparing these figures to 2023, the unemployment rate for males decreased by 1.4 percentage points,

while for females it increased by 2.2 percentage points.

The Center believes that the government and relevant ministries bear responsibility for addressing the unemployment issue by aligning educational and training outputs with the needs of the labor market. This requires adopting a strategic approach based on studying labor demand across various economic sectors. It involves analyzing market dynamics, identifying required skills, and designing training and qualification programs targeting unemployed groups to enable them to acquire the necessary competencies and capabilities for integration into the labor market.

Moreover, it is necessary to strengthen partnerships between the public and private sectors to provide sustainable training and employment opportunities, alongside developing innovative employment policies that support entrepreneurship and small businesses. Such efforts contribute to narrowing the gap between supply and demand in the labor market and increasing employment rates in line with performance and efficiency standards.

Climate Change and Human Rights¹⁴⁸: Climate change remains one of the pressing challenges facing Jordan in 2024. The Kingdom is affected by rising temperatures, declining rainfall, and an increase in extreme weather events. The impacts of climate change on Jordan are evident, with recorded decreases in rainfall in 2024, exacerbating water scarcity and worsening the country’s water crisis — with catastrophic implications for the water and

¹⁴⁶ (23) Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources of Jordan, <https://u.pw/EGCKqOlh>

¹⁴⁷ *Labour and Unemployment Report*, Department of Statistics, 2024.

¹⁴⁸ For more details about the National Center’s field visits concerning certain groups working in the agricultural sector, see the section on the Right to a Healthy Environment in the same report.

agricultural sectors, especially in the Jordan Valley and the Ghor region. These regions, once considered Jordan's food basket, are now threatened and unable to sustainably maintain production levels.

Consequently, this poses a significant threat to social security in Jordan and requires a comprehensive response from all stakeholders. The frequency of extreme climate phenomena in Jordan — such as severe droughts, floods, and wildfires — continues to rise, adversely affecting the environment and the national economy.

A key challenge remains the lack of sufficient funding to implement climate adaptation projects, such as reforestation, rangeland restoration, and water projects.

National efforts to address climate change include:

- The Ministry of Environment launched Jordan's National Climate Change Policy for 2022–2050, which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen climate change adaptation.
- Collaboration with international organizations to raise community awareness about climate change and to develop educational and awareness programs for local communities to build their capacity to adapt and mitigate its impacts locally and globally. According to the 2021 report by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Jordan is among the countries most vulnerable to drought due to climate change.

Sustainable Development

The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Dashboard indicates that Jordan's performance has largely stagnated in terms of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the period 2015–2023¹⁴⁹. Over the past nine years, Jordan has achieved only modest progress, with an average annual improvement rate of just 0.3%.

According to the SDG Index Report, Jordan's best performance was recorded in 2020, ranking 78th out of 167 countries, while its weakest ranking was in 2017, when it ranked 86th out of 167 countries.

In the SDG Index for the years 2015 to 2023 — which measures countries' progress in achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations — Jordan made notable progress in 8 goals:

- Jordan achieved significant progress in 8 out of 16 assessed goals (excluding Goal 14: Life Below Water). The most notable improvement was in Goal 13: Climate Action, where Jordan advanced by 16 ranks, marking a qualitative leap that should be leveraged to develop effective strategies for sustaining and expanding this progress to other areas.
- Regression in some goals: Conversely, Jordan saw a decline in 7 goals, with the largest drop in Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals, where it fell by 21 ranks. This decline calls for intensified efforts by the relevant

¹⁴⁹ Report issued by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) in June 2024.

stakeholders to address the challenges behind this regression.

- **Stability in performance:** Jordan maintained its performance in Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, with no change in its ranking.
- The Center also observed that, in the context of tracking progress toward achieving the SDGs, Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) and Goal 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) are the areas showing the most notable progress.

The latest review also revealed quantitative improvements in other goals, including: Goal 1 (No Poverty), Goal 4 (Quality Education), Goal 5 (Gender Equality), Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities), Goal 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), Goal 13 (Climate Action), Goal 14 (Life Below Water), Goal 15 (Life on Land), Goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), and Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).¹⁵⁰

Jordan's Progress on the Seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (2015–2023) according to the Knowledge is Power Report¹⁵¹

According to the Knowledge is Power Report, Jordan has made significant efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) since 2015. However, the country continues to face various challenges that affect its progress in this regard, including:

- **Regional and global events and crises:** These include the refugee crisis, regional conflicts, the COVID-19 pandemic, and its subsequent repercussions.
- **Economic impacts of these events:** Such events have exacerbated challenges like high unemployment rates, increased public debt, a growing trade balance deficit, declining productivity, and a drop in per capita GDP.
- **Real economic growth rate and unemployment:** The report highlighted the relationship between economic growth and unemployment in Jordan during **2014–2023**, indicating that a slowdown in economic growth has been accompanied by rising unemployment rates, especially in recent years.
- **Public debt:** The report revealed that Jordan's public debt witnessed a significant increase between **2018 and 2023**, indicating mounting fiscal pressures on the Jordanian government.
- **Real GDP per capita:** Jordan's real per capita GDP showed a slight decline between **2010 and 2022**, pointing to a deterioration in the standard of living in the country.

It is worth noting that the National Center for Human Rights chairs the working group responsible for preparing the progress report on Goal 16 of the SDGs (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions). This working group includes representatives from various relevant ministries, institutions, and civil society organizations, as part of Jordan's efforts to prepare voluntary national reports on its progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

¹⁵⁰ Official letter/document from the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation No. 2426/10/4/12 dated 20/03/2025

¹⁵¹ Knowledge is Power Report, and Sustainable Development Goals: Small Steps and a Long Path / October 2024

Recommendations

1. Investment must be the foundation for financing projects, industries, and economic infrastructure in Jordan, with an emphasis on utilizing resources as an alternative to foreign aid and international borrowing.
2. Enhance public awareness: Awareness must be raised about the importance of rationalizing water consumption and applying modern irrigation technologies.
3. Develop infrastructure: Water distribution networks should be improved, and technical and administrative water losses reduced.
4. Promote Jordan's image as a safe and sustainable tourist destination despite recurring regional unrest.
5. Improve the quality of services provided at all sites and raise the standard of tourism facilities.
6. Promote the use of technologies and innovations that improve the efficiency of water and energy use, such as solar and wind power and smart agriculture, to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.
7. Implement measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the agricultural sector, such as using organic fertilizers, minimizing fossil fuel use, and adopting sustainable farming systems.
8. Develop new agricultural technologies that are resistant to climate change, and benefit from the experiences of other countries facing similar climate challenges.
9. Strengthen scientific research in climate change and technological innovation to develop effective solutions.
10. Raise community awareness of the importance of climate adaptation and adopting environmentally friendly practices.
11. Collect and analyze food security data from national and international sources through a unified platform.
12. Classify food security data, imports, and exports according to defined indicators.
13. Enable government institutions to track food stocks and forecast supply conditions to ensure efficient resource distribution.
14. Enhance integration with national and international information systems in line with applicable data protection regulations in Jordan.
15. Integrate advanced tools such as electronic dashboards and early warning systems to provide regular reports on the state of food security.
16. Launch a Tourism Establishments Support and Recovery Fund aimed at providing grants or soft loans to owners of affected tourism projects, especially in the governorates, to help them restart operations and cover losses.

Achieving food security requires strengthening farmers' rights and providing an enabling environment that ensures the sustainability of the agricultural sector through:

- a. Ensuring farmers' access to agricultural land, water, high-quality seeds, and modern agricultural technology to boost productivity.
- b. Developing legislation to protect farmers' rights to own and use their land, and prevent disputes over agricultural land ownership.
- c. Improving working conditions for farmers, including social security, health insurance, and fair compensation, to ensure a safe and sustainable working environment.
- d. Providing funding and soft loans, along with training in smart and sustainable

agriculture to increase productivity and achieve environmental sustainability.
e. Opening new markets for Jordanian agricultural products, encouraging investment in agricultural technology, and developing modern irrigation systems such

as hydroponics and greenhouses.
f. Establishing emergency funds to compensate farmers for losses caused by climate change, natural disasters, or economic fluctuations.

The Right to Work

The right to work is one of the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Jordanian Constitution, relevant national laws, and ratified international standards, which have become an integral part of the Kingdom's legal system.¹⁵²

In 2024, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan submitted its periodic report for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), which included a set of recommendations related to the right to work, totaling 25 recommendations (numbers 67–92). These recommendations focus on combating human trafficking, alleviating youth unemployment, and increasing inspection

¹⁵² The Jordanian Constitution guarantees the right to work, as do international human rights standards, which ensure every person has the opportunity to work in a manner that allows them to live with dignity—particularly as set forth in the declarations and conventions issued by the International Labour Organization (ILO). The right to work is fundamental for the realization of other human rights; it is an inseparable part of human dignity and inherently rooted in it. The State is therefore obligated to provide this right by guiding and advancing the national economy. Article 23 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Articles 6, 7, and 8 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights guarantee this right. Domestic legislation also ensures the right to work through laws, regulations, and instructions, foremost among which is the Labor Law No. (8) of 1996 and its amendments. Decent work is work that respects basic human rights as well as workers' rights regarding working conditions, safety, and wages. It provides an income that enables workers to support themselves and their families, as outlined in Article 7 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Furthermore, these fundamental rights include safeguarding workers' physical and mental safety while performing their duties.

The practice of work, in all its forms and levels, encompasses interconnected and essential characteristics: availability, accessibility, acceptability, and quality.

visits to ensure the protection of workers and their rights.¹⁵³

On the legislative front:

- In 2024, the General Amnesty Law No. (5) of 2024 was enacted. This amnesty covered criminal acts committed before March 19, 2024, in violation of the Labor Law and certain provisions of its articles. Among the labor-related violations included in the amnesty were offenses such as engaging in employment mediation for Jordanians without a license, employing migrant workers illegally—including employing workers without a work permit, with expired permits, or in unauthorized occupations. The amnesty also covered wage-related violations such as delayed wages, violations of the minimum wage, internal work regulations, child labor, women's work, and violations of occupational safety and health requirements.

The General Amnesty Law did **not** include work permit fees¹⁵⁴, which are normal fees collected by the Ministry of Labor from employers when issuing or renewing work permits, even retroactively. These fees are neither crimes, fines, nor violations. Moreover, any financial entitlements due to the worker under the Labor Law remain valid and are not waived by the General Amnesty Law if the employer has violated

¹⁵³ Universal Periodic Review, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Jordan, 18 June – 12 July 2024, Human Rights Council. [Link: documents.un.org]

¹⁵⁴ Official website of the Ministry of Labor: The general amnesty does not include fines for late renewal of work permits. <https://mol.gov.jo/Ar/NewsDetails/8%D1%B8%D7%A8%D2%B8%D9%88%D/%>

any provisions of the Labor Law; the worker retains the right to claim these entitlements through the relevant authorities, in accordance with the Jordanian Labor Law.

- In 2024, the Public Sector Human Resources Management Bylaw No. (33) of 2024 was issued under Article (120) of the Jordanian Constitution¹⁵⁵. The National Center views this bylaw as a safeguard against exploiting public office for the benefit of any political party to which an employee may belong. While it does not prohibit political party activity — which is governed by other laws — it prevents the misuse of public office for partisan purposes.
- Also in 2024, an amendment to the Civil Service Bylaw No. (34) of 2024 was issued. The Center considers that this amendment aligns with the administrative reform plan by empowering employees, attracting qualified talent, and making salaries more competitive to reflect the importance of public service and ensure the best services for citizens. For the first time, an incentive system will be applied in the public sector to reward distinguished employees based on their performance level. The new bylaw allows the recruitment of qualified personnel under annual or fixed-term comprehensive contracts, with contract renewal dependent on performance evaluations.

The new bylaw obliges ministries and institutions to improve the work environment to foster innovation and

productivity. It also introduces several positive changes related to performance evaluation and incentives for exceptional performance, providing financial rewards of 150%, 100%, or 50% of the employee's salary based on their performance evaluation for the previous year. The amended bylaw also allows public sector employees to work outside official working hours, under conditions and controls that ensure productivity is not affected and conflicts of interest are avoided.

Under the amendment, employees appointed to positions listed in the staffing table are permitted to work outside official working hours, provided they obtain prior approval from the competent authority. Such work must be performed outside the official working hours specified by the department, must not affect the employee's ability to carry out their duties and responsibilities, nor affect their productivity or the department's ability to fulfill its tasks.

In 2024, Flexible Work Bylaw No. (44) of 2024 was issued pursuant to Articles (2) and (140) of Labor Law No. (8) of 1996.¹⁵⁶ This bylaw aims to increase employment rates in the labor market, contribute to reducing unemployment rates, and boost women's economic participation. It also seeks to ease the work burden on employees and allow them to perform their jobs in ways that align with their family responsibilities and social circumstances, and to keep pace with new work patterns. Additionally, it aims to lower employment costs, reduce turnover rates, and enable the Ministry of Labor to carry out its legally defined roles in organizing the labor market in general, and regulating flexible work arrangements in particular.

¹⁵⁵ Published on page (3213) of Official Gazette No. (5935), dated 1 July 2024.

¹⁵⁶ It was approved by the Cabinet in its session held on 25/6/2025 and published in the Official Gazette No. (5942) issued on 1/8/2024.

The National Center believes that the bylaw does not include clear provisions regarding wages and leaves this to agreement between the employer and the employee. It also does not address the requirement that wages must not fall below the legally established minimum wage under the Labor Law. This omission may create a significant loophole for circumventing the minimum wage requirement, which could have adverse social and economic impacts on workers and the social protection system. As for the form of flexible work known as the compressed workweek, there must be regulations fully aligned with the Social Security Law and its bylaws to ensure that workers remain covered under the Social Security Law. The provision in Article (10/B) of the bylaw alone is insufficient in this regard, especially given that, under the Social Security Law, daily wage workers are only covered if they work for at least 16 days in a given month.

Practices and Policies:

- At the end of 2024, the Ministry of Labor issued a series of regulatory measures concerning non-Jordanian workers, aiming to simplify and facilitate procedures for employers across various sectors and economic activities. These measures relate to employing non-Jordanian workers who are in violation of residency laws within the Kingdom, the process of transferring a non-Jordanian worker from one employer to another, and the renewal of expired work permits. The goal is to enable different sectors and economic activities to benefit from the existing non-Jordanian workforce in violation of the law, and to ensure that this workforce operates in accordance with the Labor Law and the regulations and instructions

issued under it. These regulatory measures do not include any exemptions from work permit fees or fines for delays in renewing expired permits.

- In 2024, the Ministry of Labor continued conducting inspection campaigns to regulate the labor market and control the movement of labor between productive and service sectors. These campaigns resulted in the detection of 1,542 violating migrant workers, either for violations of the Labor Law or the Residency Law, and deportation orders or office deportation decisions were issued against them. As a result, 1,509 migrant workers were deported.¹⁵⁷
- Through its inspection directorates, the Ministry of Labor carried out 29,087 inspection visits to industrial, commercial, and service institutions and establishments during this year. These visits resulted in the issuance of a total of 5,024 labor violations related to inspection activities. Additionally, a total of 7,095 warnings were issued. The directorates also handled 9,298 complaints through the “Himaya” (Protection) platform, of which 9,228 were resolved, and legal actions were taken as necessary in the interest of workers.¹⁵⁸

Protests and Sit-ins:

In 2024, the Ministry of Labor handled 35 labor disputes, compared to 50 disputes in 2023. Of these, 29 disputes were resolved through direct negotiation between workers and employers in 2024, while 41 disputes

¹⁵⁷ Response of the Ministry of Labor in letter No. (Legal /1/ 5969) dated 6/2/2025.

¹⁵⁸ Response of the Ministry of Labor in letter No. (Legal/1/ 5969) dated 6/2/2025.

were resolved in the same manner in 2023. The Conciliation Board was used to resolve 1 dispute in 2024, the same number as in 2023. Additionally, 1 labor dispute was resolved through direct intervention by the Minister in 2024, with the same number resolved this way in 2023. One labor dispute was referred to the court in 2024, whereas no disputes were referred to the court in 2023.

Table No. (19): Number of Labor Disputes and Measures Taken for 2023–2024

Number of Labor Disputes and Measures Taken for 2023–2024	2024 ¹⁵⁹	2023
Number of labor disputes	35	50
Resolved through direct negotiation	29	41
Resolved through the Conciliation Board	1	1
Resolved through Minister's intervention	1	1
Referred to courts	1	0

Labor Strikes:

The number of labor strikes resolved in 2024 was 17¹⁶⁰, compared to 22 strikes in 2023.

Table No. (20): Labor Strikes Resolved in 2023–2024

Year	2024	2023
Number of labor strikes resolved	17	22

Additionally, the number of collective labor agreements filed in 2024 was 31

agreements, benefiting 50,151 workers¹⁶¹, compared to 46 agreements filed in 2023, which benefited 267,195 workers at the time.

Table No. (21): Number of Collective Labor Agreements and Beneficiaries for the Years 2023–2024

Year	2024	2023
Number of collective labor agreements filed	31	46
Number of beneficiaries of collective labor agreements	50,151	267,195

Child Labor

In 2024, inspectors in the Child Labor Unit at the Ministry of Labor carried out a number of field visits to workplaces across various governorates in the Kingdom to combat child labor. These visits uncovered 294 cases of child labor. The field inspections by the Ministry's inspection committees and the Child Labor Unit revealed that factories and other workplaces are still employing children, in violation of applicable national legislation and international human rights standards. As a result, 201 warnings were issued and 181 violations were recorded against employers.¹⁶²

¹⁵⁹ Response of the Ministry of Labor in letter No. (Legal/1/ 5969) dated 6/2/2025.

¹⁶⁰ Response of the Ministry of Labor in letter No. (Legal /1/ 5969) dated 6/2/2025.

¹⁶¹ Response of the Ministry of Labor in letter No. (Legal /1/ 5969) dated 6/2/2025.

¹⁶² Response of the Ministry of Labor in letter No. (Legal/1/ 5969) dated 2025/2/6.

Table No. (22): Number of Child Labor Cases and Actions Taken for the Years 2022–2024¹⁶³

Year	2024	2023	2022
Number of child labor cases	294	371	520
Number of warnings issued	201	172	142
Number of employer violations	181	156	160

On the occasion of the World Day Against Child Labor, which falls on June 12 each year, the National Center issued a statement emphasizing a set of recommendations, including the need to establish an effective child labor monitoring system.¹⁶⁴

Human Trafficking

The number of cases classified as human trafficking cases in 2024 reached 63 cases, compared to 43 cases in 2023. The number of victims of human trafficking crimes in 2024 was 104 victims, compared to 58 victims in 2023. Meanwhile, the number of perpetrators of human trafficking crimes in 2024 totaled 151 offenders, compared to 92 offenders in 2023.¹⁶⁵

Table No. 23: Human Trafficking Cases Statistics for 2024¹⁶⁶

Crime Type	Number of Cases	Male Victims	Female Victims	Male Perpetrators	Female Perpetrators
Sexual Exploitation	8	2	13	12	7
Organ Removal (Kidney)	11	14	2	20	1
Forced Labor	12	1	14	12	10
Child Selling	1	1	0	0	3
Migrant Trafficking	31	49	8	81	5
Total	63	67	37	125	26
Overall Total		104		151	

Article (4) of the Human Trafficking Law No. (9) of 2009 and its amendments state that the Commissioner General of the National Center for Human Rights is a member of the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking¹⁶⁷, which issued the National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking for the years 2024–2027. The Center participated as part of the team that prepared this strategy, which is considered a comprehensive national plan aimed at enhancing efforts to combat human trafficking.

¹⁶³ For more information, see the annual reports of the Ministry of Labor for the years 2022–2024.

¹⁶⁴ "Statement on the occasion of the International Day Against Child Labor" dated 2024/6/12, available on the website of the National Center for Human Rights: <https://www.nchr.jo/ar/>

¹⁶⁵ Response of the Public Security Directorate in letter No. (9/2025/Transparency /4946) dated February 2, 2025.

¹⁶⁶ Response of the Public Security Directorate in letter No. (9/2025/Transparency /4946) dated February 2, 2025.

¹⁶⁷ A committee called the "National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking" shall be formed, headed by the minister and including as members: 4. The Commissioner General of the National Center for Human Rights.

The strategy included an assessment of the human trafficking situation in Jordan to open horizons for cooperation with the international community in combating human trafficking crimes, which are transnational crimes, while respecting national sovereignty. The strategy is based on four main pillars:

1. **Prevention:** Through adopting preventive measures to prevent human trafficking and combat forms of exploitation in trafficking crimes.
2. **Protection:** By providing mechanisms and tools necessary to ensure the protection, recovery, and social integration of trafficking victims, guaranteeing their rights, and preventing their exploitation or trafficking.
3. **Investigation and Judicial Follow-up:** By investigating and prosecuting human trafficking offenders and enforcing strict penalties on those proven guilty of committing these crimes.
4. **Partnership and International Cooperation:** By activating and enhancing partnerships and cooperation with countries and relevant entities locally and regionally to provide the best possible response to combat this crime.

Among the most prominent achievements in 2024 was the activation of the Victims' Fund for Human Trafficking in the last quarter of the year, as recommended by the Center. Also, travel tickets were secured for the safe voluntary return of three trafficking victims at the expense of the fund.¹⁶⁸

¹⁶⁸ Response of the Ministry of Justice No. (/17/5 B/1443) dated 2025/1/26.

Qualified Industrial Zones:

In 2024, the National Center conducted several field visits to qualified industrial zones to assess the situation of workers and the extent to which their labor rights are respected, as well as to evaluate the suitability of their working environments¹⁶⁹.

The Center recorded the following observations:

1. Some factories did not comply with issuing work and residency permits.
2. Non-compliance with the law concerning the rights of persons with disabilities in employing a percentage of workers with disabilities.
3. Non-compliance with the decision regarding medical emergency means and devices for workers in institutions for the year 2024¹⁷⁰.
4. Non-compliance with instructions on occupational hazards sources, precautions, and necessary preventive measures issued in 2023 according to Article (79) of the Jordanian Labor Law, as well as non-compliance with occupational safety, health, and hazard prevention

¹⁶⁹ A visit was conducted to the Fourth Generation Ready-Made Garments Factory, the Genius Ready-Made Garments Factory, the Southern Ready-Made Garments Factory, and the Atlanta Southern Garments Factory located in the industrial clusters area (Sahab City) in the Capital Governorate, as well as the Needle Craft Factory for Ready-Made Garments in the Dhleil Industrial Area in Zarqa Governorate.

¹⁷⁰ The provisions of item (4) of paragraph (A) of Article (78) of the Jordanian Labor Law No. (8) of 1996 and its amendments, published in Official Gazette No. (5925) dated 2024/5/1, which came into effect as of the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

regulations in institutions No. (31) for 2023¹⁷¹.

5. Delay by some factories in paying workers' salaries beyond the legally specified deadline, which should not exceed the seventh day of each month.
6. Lack of job security and stability, and absence of social and health protection in many workplaces.
7. Failure of the doctor to maintain daily presence at the clinic of one of the ready-made garment factories in Sahab Industrial City¹⁷².
8. Many factories rely on artificial lighting (neon lights), but in some sections, the lighting is insufficient.
9. Spread of unpleasant odors caused by industrial activity and food smells in some factories and their surroundings.
10. Insufficient availability of occupational health and safety requirements, such as most workers not wearing work masks, some machine operators not wearing protective iron cuffs, lack of special gloves for ironing, and absence of rubber flooring.
11. Lack of gas, fumes, and dust extraction systems caused by the manufacturing process in some factories.
12. Overcrowding in workers' and laborers' housing rooms.
13. Lack of cleanliness in some accommodations, spread of

unpleasant odors, humidity, insects, and cockroaches inside, and poor ventilation and lighting in most of them.

14. Use of small gas stoves inside rooms for cooking, which poses a danger to workers' safety inside the accommodation and is considered a violation of occupational health and safety regulations. Work instructions emphasize that workers should not cook inside the rooms or have gas cylinders inside them.

In follow-up to the observations and recommendations regarding the status of workers, their labor rights, and the adequacy of their working environments as monitored by the National Center, five (5) official correspondences were sent to the Ministry of Labor during 2024 concerning the findings from monitoring visits to the qualified industrial zones.

In this context, the Ministry of Labor indicated its readiness to conduct inspection tours by labor inspectors and the National Center team to review the conditions of the factories. Among the key measures taken by the Ministry based on the Center's correspondences and field visits are the following:

1. Issuing warnings to factories violating the decision regarding medical emergency means and devices for workers, pursuant to Article 78, paragraph (A), item 4 of the Jordanian Labor Law.
2. Issuing warnings to factories violating the instructions on occupational hazard sources, precautions, and necessary protective measures for 2023, pursuant to Article 79 of the Jordanian Labor Law and Article 10 of the

¹⁷¹ The Occupational Safety, Health, and Prevention of Occupational Hazards Regulation No. (31) of 2003, issued pursuant to paragraph (C) of Article (85) of Labor Law No. (8) of 1996, published in Official Gazette No. (5868) dated 2023/6/15, and effective sixty (60) days after its publication in the Official Gazette.

¹⁷² One of the factories operating in Sahab Industrial City provided the Ministry with a visit report dated 2024/8/27.

Occupational Safety, Health, and Hazard Prevention Regulation No. (31) of 2023.

3. Issuing warnings to factories delayed in paying workers' salaries beyond the legally stipulated deadline, which must not exceed the seventh day of each month.
4. Issuing warnings to some factories due to most workers not wearing work masks. The visiting team also noted the lack of special gloves for ironing and the absence of rubber flooring.
5. Raising awareness among factory management by labor inspectors and giving them the opportunity to comply with recently issued occupational safety and health systems.
6. Granting a three (3) day grace period to some factories to regularize workers' status concerning work and residency permits.
7. Labor inspectors continue inspection visits to ensure employers fulfill their legal obligations and correct their violations according to the Jordanian Labor Law and related regulations and instructions.

Recommendations:

1. Amend Article (25) of the Public Sector Human Resources Management Regulation No. (33) of 2024 to require clarification of the reasons for terminating an employee during the probation period, based on the principles of justice and transparency.
2. Amend the Flexible Work Regulation No. (44) of 2024 to include specific controls related to wages consistent with the minimum wage, and to require that workers engaged in any form of flexible work be covered under social security.
3. Work towards establishing an effective monitoring system for child labor.
4. Provide a definition for "organized begging" as regulated in the Human Trafficking Prevention Law No. (9) of 2009 and its amendments, to enable monitoring of such cases and to take legal actions against perpetrators, including referring them to the judiciary or providing protection to victims. Also, ensure necessary funding is allocated to the Victims' Assistance Fund for human trafficking to enable it to fulfill its mandated role according to the applicable legislation and objectives.
5. Take all necessary measures to enforce national legislative provisions concerning the employment of persons with disabilities.
6. Continue efforts to implement effective inspection and monitoring by the Ministry of Labor to ensure all companies and factories operating in industrial zones across the Kingdom comply with occupational health and safety requirements.
7. Provide occupational safety and health conditions in workplaces through dissemination of strategies and training of relevant personnel.

The Right to Education

The right to education is one of the fundamental human rights guaranteed by international standards and national legislation, including the Jordanian Constitution under Article (6/3).¹⁷³ Likewise, the Child Rights Law No. (17) of 2022¹⁷⁴ and the Education Law No. (3) of 1994 stipulate the obligation and free access to education. International standards ratified by Jordan also safeguard this right, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights¹⁷⁵, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights¹⁷⁶, and the 1960 UNESCO Convention Against Discrimination in Education¹⁷⁷. Furthermore, the fourth goal of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education for all.

¹⁷³ Article (3/6) of the Jordanian Constitution states: "The state guarantees work and education within the limits of its capabilities and guarantees reassurance and equal opportunities for all Jordanians."

¹⁷⁴ Articles (15, 16, 17, 25) of the Child Law No. (17) of 2022.

¹⁷⁵ Article (26) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states the right to education: 1. Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be generally available. Higher education shall be accessible to all based on merit. 2. Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance, and friendship among all nations and all racial or religious groups, and further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace. 3. Parents shall have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

¹⁷⁶ Articles (13) and (14) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

¹⁷⁷ Adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on 14/12/1960 at its eleventh session, effective as of 22/5/1962.

In 2024, the right to education was monitored through tracking developments in legislation, policies, and practices, covering aspects such as the learning environment, school dropouts, and kindergartens.

First: Monitoring Developments in the Legislative Framework Governing the Right to Education

In 2024, several regulations and instructions were issued governing the right to education as follows:

1. **E-Learning Regulation in School Educational Institutions No. (19) of 2024, issued pursuant to Article (45) of the Education Law No. (3) of 1994¹⁷⁸:**

This regulation defines an educational institution as any kindergarten, school, or center, and defines e-learning as a non-traditional education system that relies primarily on communication through information and communication technology and its platforms¹⁷⁹. The law permits the shift to e-learning to ensure the continuity of education during exceptional emergencies or force majeure that prevent teachers and students from reaching their schools¹⁸⁰. This is to be done through establishing educational platforms by the Ministry of Education or under its license¹⁸¹, creating an integrated

¹⁷⁸ Published in the Official Gazette No. (5923), page (2025), dated 18/04/2024.

¹⁷⁹ Article (2) of the Electronic Education System in School Educational Institutions, No. 19 of 2024.

¹⁸⁰ Article (3) of the Electronic Education System in School Educational Institutions, No. 19 of 2024.

¹⁸¹ Articles (4 and 5) of the Electronic Education System in School Educational Institutions, No. 19 of 2024.

system for managing, securing, and protecting e-learning, and providing a suitable technical environment for students, including students with disabilities.

2. Scholarship Regulation for Children of Teachers in the Ministry of Education No. (20) of 2024¹⁸²:

This regulation addresses scholarships for the children of employees in the Ministry of Education in public universities or community colleges to obtain a bachelor's degree or intermediate diploma¹⁸³. It also allows the inclusion of students accepted into any Jordanian university established under a special law¹⁸⁴. The regulation provides for the formation of a Higher Scholarships Committee and a Technical Scholarships Committee within the Ministry to issue decisions approving the scholarships¹⁸⁵. Article (7) sets out the conditions required for applicants, while Article (12) requires that each student has a guarantor to ensure compliance with scholarship conditions¹⁸⁶. According to the instructions, applicants are ranked nationwide according to their

averages in the Jordanian General Secondary Education Certificate, and are accepted into specializations according to the Unified Admission Policy, taking into account the seats allocated for each governorate. The percentage of seats allocated for each governorate is calculated as follows: (the total number of applicants from the governorate divided by the total number of applicants from all governorates). The instructions also specify how the number of seats per governorate is determined and set the number of seats for students holding non-Jordanian General Secondary Education Certificates “as applicable” and according to a specific formula. The instructions indicate that seats in human medicine, dentistry, doctor of pharmacy, and pharmacy are distributed among students with the highest averages in each governorate according to a specific formula for this purpose.

3. Amending Regulation for Cultural Centers No. (71) of 2024¹⁸⁷:

This regulation amends the original Regulation No. (110) of 2008 in line with public sector modernization efforts and aims to facilitate procedures for applicants seeking to license these centers. The new amendments abolished previous licensing procedures under the Ministry of Education, while retaining its role in oversight, follow-up, and cultural inspection in accordance with instructions issued by the Minister.

¹⁸² Issued pursuant to Article (114) of the Jordanian Constitution and its amendments of 1952, published in the Official Gazette No. (5923), page (2028), dated 18/04/2024.

¹⁸³ Article (2) of the Scholarship System for the Children of Teachers in the Ministry of Education No. 20 of 2024.

¹⁸⁴ Article (3) of the Scholarship System for the Children of Teachers in the Ministry of Education No. 20 of 2024.

¹⁸⁵ Articles (4 and 5) of the Scholarship System for the Children of Teachers in the Ministry of Education No. 20 of 2024.

¹⁸⁶ Article (6) of the E-Learning System in School Educational Institutions No. 19 of 2024.

¹⁸⁷ Published in the Official Gazette, Issue No. (5957), page (5661), dated 16/10/2024.

4. **Instructions for Accrediting and Licensing Foreign Programs No. (1) of 2024, issued pursuant to paragraph (B) of Article (8) of the Regulation for Licensing Private and Foreign Educational Institutions No. (87) of 2023**¹⁸⁸. These instructions regulate the accreditation and licensing of foreign educational programs, which are internationally authorized programs by an accreditation body or examination boards¹⁸⁹. A committee for accrediting and licensing foreign programs is formed at the Ministry of Education to review licensing applications for foreign programs, establish guidelines for transferring students between national and foreign programs or between different foreign programs, follow up on the implementation of foreign programs, and oversee their application, in addition to any other matters referred to it by the Minister¹⁹⁰. Article (4) of the instructions clarifies how to submit a licensing application and the conditions for its approval. The instructions also set out the criteria and conditions for transferring from one foreign program to another or from the national program to a foreign program¹⁹¹.

¹⁸⁸ Published in the Official Gazette, Issue No. (5915), page (1482), dated 17/3/2024.

¹⁸⁹ Article (2) of the Instructions for Accrediting and Licensing Foreign Programs No. (1) of 2024.

¹⁹⁰ Article (3) of the Instructions for Accrediting and Licensing Foreign Programs No. (1) of 2024.

¹⁹¹ Articles (6–8) of the Instructions for Accrediting and Licensing Foreign Programs No. (1) of 2024.

5. **Instructions for Teacher Ranks in the Ministry of Education No. (2) of 2024**¹⁹²:

These instructions address the issue of teacher promotions, including the conditions for eligibility, application deadlines, and the formation of subcommittees and a central committee dedicated to promotions¹⁹³. They also provide for the establishment of an Accreditation Committee within the Ministry, tasked with approving standards and certificates¹⁹⁴, as well as outlining the conditions for accrediting service providers, international programs, and trainers.¹⁹⁵

6. **Instructions for the Conditions and Procedures for Licensing Private and Foreign Educational Institutions No. (3) of 2024**¹⁹⁶:

These instructions specify the conditions required of a license applicant¹⁹⁷ and allow for the possibility of submitting the application electronically¹⁹⁸. They grant the applicant the right to appeal

¹⁹² Published in the Official Gazette, Issue No. (5915), page (1486), dated 17/3/2024.

¹⁹³ Articles (3 and 4) of the Teacher Ranks Instructions in the Ministry of Education No. (2) of 2024.

¹⁹⁴ Article (8) of the Teacher Ranks Instructions in the Ministry of Education No. (2) of 2024.

¹⁹⁵ Articles (9–11) of the Teacher Ranks Instructions in the Ministry of Education No. (2) of 2024.

¹⁹⁶ Published in the Official Gazette, Issue No. (5927), page (2254), dated 16/5/2024.

¹⁹⁷ Article (3) of the Instructions for the Conditions and Procedures for Licensing Private and Foreign Jordanian Educational Institutions No. (3) of 2024.

¹⁹⁸ Article (4) of the Instructions for the Conditions and Procedures for Licensing Private and Foreign Jordanian Educational Institutions No. (3) of 2024.

a decision rejecting the license¹⁹⁹, and they enable the license holder to change their trade name or transfer the license under certain conditions defined in the instructions²⁰⁰. Furthermore, Article (16) of these instructions guarantees the rights of persons with disabilities within private educational institutions, subject to specific conditions²⁰¹.

7. **Amended Instructions for Student Discipline in Public and Private Schools No. (6) of 2024²⁰²:** The key amendments addressed conditions for student elections and the penalties imposed on students who violate regulations²⁰³. The amendments included revisions regarding violations that warrant the penalty of transferring a student outside the schools of the directorate, by a decision of the principal based on the recommendation of the council. Such violations include: repeated commission of any of the infractions specified in Article (7) of these instructions; possession of a sharp instrument or attempted assault on any school staff or students; impersonation or forgery of school documents; defamation, insult, or contempt directed at any school staff; and the dissemination or

promotion of extremist ideas or beliefs that contradict governing legislation²⁰⁴.

8. **Instructions for Study Scholarships for Children of Teachers in the Ministry of Education No. (7) of 2024²⁰⁵:** These instructions cover the submission of applications for scholarships, the process for submitting them electronically, and the procedures for their follow-up and review²⁰⁶. They also define the method for distributing scholarship seats among students based on faculties and governorates according to fixed percentages,²⁰⁷ as well as the mechanism for organizing the required guarantees.²⁰⁸
9. **Instructions for Granting Advances to Employees of the Ministry of Education and Settling Financial Obligations Owed to the Social Security Fund for Employees of the Ministry of Education No. (8) of 2024²⁰⁹:** These instructions set out the procedures for settling general financial obligations owed by employees of the Ministry from the Social Security Fund for Employees

¹⁹⁹ Article (6) of the Instructions for the Conditions and Procedures for Licensing Private and Foreign Jordanian Educational Institutions No. (3) of 2024.

²⁰⁰ Articles (10 and 39) of the Instructions for the Conditions and Procedures for Licensing Private and Foreign Jordanian Educational Institutions No. (3) of 2024.

²⁰¹ Article (16) of the Instructions for the Conditions and Procedures for Licensing Private and Foreign Jordanian Educational Institutions No. (3) of 2024.

²⁰² Published in the Official Gazette, Issue No. (5942), page (3832), dated 1/8/2024.

²⁰³ Article (6) of the Amending Instructions for Student Discipline in Public and Private Schools No. (6) of 2024.

²⁰⁴ Article (10) of the Amending Instructions for Student Discipline in Public and Private Schools No. (6) of 2024.

²⁰⁵ Published in the Official Gazette, Issue No. (5945), page (4023), dated 12/8/2024.

²⁰⁶ Article (4) of the Instructions for Study Scholarships for Children of Teachers in the Ministry of Education No. (7) of 2024.

²⁰⁷ Articles (7 and 8) of the Instructions for Study Scholarships for Children of Teachers in the Ministry of Education No. (7) of 2024.

²⁰⁸ Article (10) of the Instructions for Study Scholarships for Children of Teachers in the Ministry of Education No. (7) of 2024.

²⁰⁹ Published in the Official Gazette, Issue No. (5947), page (4318), dated 1/9/2024.

of the Ministry of Education to the Social Security Corporation²¹⁰, and specify the conditions for employees and teachers within the Ministry to apply for advances²¹¹.

10. Instructions for Network Councils and Educational Development Councils No. (9) of 2024²¹²:

These instructions define the procedures for forming the School Development Team, its membership, and its tasks²¹³; the procedures for forming the Directorate Development Team, its membership, and its tasks²¹⁴; as well as the formation of the General Assembly of the Network Council, its membership, its role, and the criteria for its members. They also outline the formation, membership²¹⁵, and election procedures of the Educational Development Council²¹⁶.

²¹⁰ Article (3) of the Instructions for Granting Advances to Employees of the Ministry of Education and Settling Financial Obligations Related to the Social Security Fund for Employees of the Ministry of Education No. (8) of 2024.

²¹¹ Article (5) of the Instructions for Granting Advances to Employees of the Ministry of Education and Settling Financial Obligations Related to the Social Security Fund for Employees of the Ministry of Education No. (8) of 2024.

²¹² Published in the Official Gazette, Issue No. (5962), page (6571), dated 17/11/2024.

²¹³ Article (3) of the Instructions for Network Councils and Educational Development Councils No. (9) of 2024.

²¹⁴ Article (4) of the Instructions for Network Councils and Educational Development Councils No. (9) of 2024.

²¹⁵ Articles (5–8) of the Instructions for Network Councils and Educational Development Councils No. (9) of 2024.

²¹⁶ Articles (12–14) of the Instructions for Network Councils and Educational Development Councils No. (9) of 2024.

11. Instructions for Literacy and Dropout Education Centers No. (10) of 2024²¹⁷:

These instructions define the learner as any person enrolled in the program under these instructions, including learners with disabilities, who are defined as persons with long-term impairments in physical, sensory, mental, psychological, or neurological functions which, when interacting with physical barriers or behavioral obstacles, hinder them from performing a major life activity or exercising a basic right or freedom independently²¹⁸.

12. Instructions for Remuneration of Examination Workers No. (11) of 2024²¹⁹:

These instructions regulate the disbursement of remuneration for examination workers, which covers examinations intended to monitor the quality of education at the basic education stage, diagnostic tests, performance tests, or any other specialized tests conducted by the administration, other than the General Secondary Education Certificate Examination²²⁰. The instructions also specify how examination committees are formed, their duties, and the amounts of their fees and remuneration²²¹.

²¹⁷ Published in the Official Gazette, Issue No. (5962), page (6579), dated 17/11/2024.

²¹⁸ Article (2) of the Instructions for Centers for Education and Learning of Dropouts No. (10) for the year 2024.

²¹⁹ Published in the Official Gazette No. (5965), page (6858), dated 01/12/2024.

²²⁰ Article (2) of the Instructions for the Wages of Workers in Examinations No. (11) for the year 2024.

²²¹ Articles (5 and 6) of the Instructions for the Wages of Workers in Examinations No. (11) for the year 2024.

13. Instructions for the General Secondary Education Certificate Examination No. (21) of 2024²²²:

These instructions govern the work of local committees and examinations through the formation of the General Examination Council, the General Examination Committee, and Local Examination Committees to organize the administration of the General Secondary Education Certificate Examinations, including the distribution of educational streams, examination procedures, and the calculation of scores and averages.

The Educational Process and Its Environment

The total number of schools in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan by the end of 2024 reached approximately 7,649 schools, compared to 7,505 schools in 2023. Of these, 4,083 are public schools, 51 are other governmental schools, 3,354 are private schools, and 161 are schools affiliated with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA)²²³, as shown in the table below:

Table No. (24): Number of Schools in the Kingdom during 2023–2024²²⁴

Education Sector	2023	2024
Public Schools	4,062	4,083
Private Schools	3,234	3,354
Other Governmental	48	51
UNRWA Schools	161	161

The total number of students enrolled in all schools across the Kingdom for the academic year 2023/2024 was 2,265,146 students. The total number of Jordanian students across all sectors was 2,005,536 students, with 1,585,421 students enrolled in the basic education stage. The number of Syrian students in various schools across the Kingdom was 166,251, while the number of students of other nationalities in different schools was 93,359, as shown in the table below²²⁵.

²²² Published in the Official Gazette No. (5965), page (6869), dated 01/12/2024.

²²³ Response from the Ministry of Education via the official email of the National Center for Human Rights (NCHR Mail), correspondence number (H A20/39), dated 15/01/2025.

²²⁴ According to the statistical reports of the Ministry of Education for the years 2022–2024. For more information, please see: <https://moe.gov.jo/reports>.

²²⁵ Response from the Ministry of Education via the official email of the National Center for Human Rights (NCHR Mail), correspondence number (H A20/39), dated 15/01/2025.

Table No. (25): Number of Students in the Kingdom for the Academic Year 2023/2024
Statistics of Student Numbers for the Academic Year 2023/2024²²⁶

Supervising Authority	Ministry of Education	Private Sector	Other Governmental	UNRWA	Total
Total Students	1,590,054	541,721	20,773	112,598	2,265,146
Basic Education Students	1,093,410	380,822	16,211	94,978	1,585,421
Kindergarten Students	65,693	96,202	176	0	162,071
Jordanian Students	1,384,629	505,436	20,493	94,978	2,005,536
Syrian Students	152,306	13,270	151	524	166,251
Students of Other Nationalities	53,119	23,015	129	17,096	93,359

On the other hand, the total number of teachers working in all schools across the Kingdom during the academic year 2023/2024 reached (147,649) teachers, of whom (44,320) are male teachers, and (103,329) are female teachers, as shown in the table below²²⁷:

Table No. (26): Number of Teachers in the Kingdom's Schools for the Academic Year 2023/2024

Statistics of the Number of Teachers for the Academic Year 2023/2024²²⁸

Supervisory Authority	Ministry of Education	Private Sector	Other Governmental	UNRWA	Total
Total Teachers	97,128	44,397	2,235	3,889	147,649
Male Teachers	35,788	4,803	1,882	1,847	44,320
Female Teachers	61,340	39,594	353	2,042	103,329

Integration of Human Rights Concepts and Values into School Curricula:

In 2024, the National Center for Curriculum Development continued its work within the framework of the Jordanian general curriculum document²²⁹, which had been officially approved

²²⁶ Response from the Ministry of Education via the official email of the National Center for Human Rights (NCHR Mail), correspondence number (H A20/39), dated 15/01/2025.

²²⁷ Response from the Ministry of Education via the official email of the National Center for Human Rights (NCHR Mail), correspondence number (H A20/39), dated 15/01/2025.

²²⁸ Response from the Ministry of Education via the official email of the National Center for Human Rights (NCHR Mail), correspondence number (H A20/39), dated 15/01/2025.

²²⁹ The General Framework Document for the Jordanian curricula includes a set of general guidelines covering educational goals, core values, principles, and general directives, in addition to cross-cutting issues and transversal concepts across study subjects. These include life skills, critical thinking, environmental issues, humanitarian, political, and national matters, personality building, work-related issues, ethics, time-related issues, human rights, and health issues.

earlier. Cooperation between the National Center for Human Rights and the National Center for Curriculum Development was also institutionalized through the signing of a joint memorandum of understanding. This memorandum aimed to enhance the inclusion of human rights topics during the development of educational curricula and the preparation of joint studies, with the goal of consolidating human rights both in thought and practice and promoting a culture of human rights in Jordan at all levels. This includes the right to freedom of expression and respect for differing opinions, based on the principle of rights and responsibilities as an integral part of a rights-based culture. This requires increasing attention, especially in light of the information revolution and the widespread use of social media.

Within the framework of partnership between the National Center for Human Rights and the National Center for Curriculum Development to disseminate and promote a culture of human rights, the National Center contributed during 2024 to the continuation of the review of educational curricula that began in 2023, assessing the extent to which they include human rights in accordance with the Jordanian Constitution and international human rights standards. The review covered the following subjects: Social Studies, Arabic Language, Islamic Education, History, National and Civic Education, and Geography. This review included the following grades: Grade 1, Grade 4, Grade 7, Grade 9, Grade 10, and Grade 12 across all its branches.

In the same context, the National Center for Human Rights participates in specialized working groups for curriculum review to ensure the integration of international human rights standards therein.

School Dropout

The issue of school dropouts continues to pose a challenge for the Ministry of Education despite the implementation of various preventive and awareness programs to limit it. During the 2023–2024 academic year, the number of students dropping out of schools increased, reaching 11,720 students from the basic education stage, accounting for 0.60% of total basic education students, compared to 10,372 dropouts in the 2022–2023 academic year, which represented 0.57% of the total number of students in this stage.²³⁰ This situation calls for the Ministry of Education to reconsider the programs and plans currently in place and to intensify efforts among all relevant stakeholders.

In this context, the National Center for Human Rights appreciates the Ministry's responsiveness to observations regarding student dropouts and absenteeism rates. The Ministry has adopted certain procedural plans to reduce absenteeism rates, which were previously at 40% and have now been reduced to 20% according to the criteria for passing, failing, and completion for the 2024–2025 academic year. The Center also recommends the need to strengthen programs aimed at reducing school dropout rates in all schools under the Ministry of Education.

²³⁰ Response from the Ministry of Education via the official email of the National Center for Human Rights (NCHR Mail), correspondence.

Learning Loss

The State also bears the responsibility of addressing learning loss caused by various factors such as economic and social crises, technological transformations, natural disasters, and pandemics. This requires a serious commitment from educational institutions, including schools and universities, to develop comprehensive policies and strategies that ensure the recovery of lost learning and promote equal opportunities for access to education. Such policies should include intensive academic support programs, the development of flexible curricula, the expansion of digital learning, and the strengthening of guidance and counseling programs to ensure the integration of students whose academic performance has been affected and to enable them to achieve academic progress equal to that of their peers.

Status of Educational Services in Schools Based on the National Center's Monitoring

Despite the efforts exerted by the Ministry of Education to develop and improve the educational services provided to students, the National Center's team carried out a number of field visits in 2024 to primary and secondary schools across various governorates of the Kingdom²³¹, with the

²³¹ A total of 16 field visits were conducted to a number of primary and secondary schools in the southern governorates of Aqaba (Al-Reesha Mixed Primary School, Menishir Mixed Secondary School, Aqaba Girls' Secondary School, and Wadi Al-Qamar Mixed Primary School), and the central governorates: Madaba Governorate (Al-Jadida Boys' Secondary School, Al-Jabal Girls' Secondary School, Balota Mixed Primary School, Al-Jadida Girls' School, Makaour Primary School, Al-Deir Mixed Primary School, Al-Jarwan Mixed Primary School, Al-Qurayyat Mixed Primary School, Makaour Boys' Primary School, and Al-Namiya Mixed Primary

aim of assessing the actual conditions of schools in terms of the level of services and care available, and determining their readiness to achieve the intended educational mission. The team observed that some schools still suffer from a range of issues that hinder them from fully achieving their goals, as follows:

1. The continued implementation of the double-shift system in approximately 800 public schools.
2. The continued leasing of schools, which reached about 2,552 schools²³² in 2024, to meet the demand for public schools and to provide safe and comfortable seating for students in overcrowded areas and in regions where there are no Ministry of Education schools.
3. Complaints from some parents about high school fees, especially given the economic conditions they face.
4. Overcrowding in many classrooms, with the number of students in a single classroom reaching up to 50 students, depending on the classroom size.
5. A shortage of resource rooms in some primary schools for students with learning difficulties or disabilities. Where resource rooms exist, they are often located on upper floors, making access difficult for students with physical or visual disabilities, which hinders their academic progress.

School). Zarqa Governorate (Al-Zarqa Mixed Secondary School and Prince Hamzah Primary School). Detailed reports on the outcomes of these visits were provided to the Ministry of Health.

²³² Response from the Ministry of Education via the official email of the National Center for Human Rights (NCHR Mail), correspondence, incoming number (H A20/39/), dated 15/01/2025.

6. A lack of sports fields designated for activities such as football and basketball in some schools.
7. Schools' reliance on simple heating methods, such as kerosene heaters, which are inadequate and unsafe. They emit harmful gases and unpleasant odors that negatively impact public health. Many schools also need solar power installations and a shift to central heating systems to ensure student safety.
8. The need to provide safe shading areas in many schools' courtyards²³³.
9. School restrooms need maintenance and must be adequate for the number of students.
10. Many buildings are old and deteriorating, and require painting and moisture-proof coatings for the walls.
11. A review of school feeding programs is needed in terms of quantity, quality, and coverage to include more schools.
12. Some schools still need proper boundary walls, as wire fencing is still used in many of the schools observed.
13. Many individual wooden desks in primary school classrooms are old and worn out.
14. Some access roads leading to schools are not in good condition²³⁴.
15. Some secondary schools need to rehabilitate their vocational workshops and equip them with the necessary tools.
16. Many schools in the Al-Areed District require student transportation to and from schools.
17. The Madaba Governorate, Theeban District, and Jabal Bani Hamida area are infested with stray dogs, which pose hazards and cause disturbances to students, pedestrians, and residents alike. Students are not safe from these risks while commuting to and from school. The National Center for Human Rights has addressed the Ministry of Local Administration regarding this issue.
18. It is necessary to improve the school learning environment by providing sufficient space for students inside classrooms, interactive whiteboards, science laboratories, and theaters for students in some secondary schools.
19. There is a need to strengthen inclusive education for persons with disabilities in all schools in the Al-Areed District.
20. A number of teachers need qualifying professional development courses, but the available courses are short and scattered over long periods, requiring teachers to collect enough credit hours to attain higher ranks.
21. There is a shortage of male teachers, particularly in vocational schools and in subjects such as English and Mathematics, which forces schools to rely on teachers from other specializations, such as engineering, and to compensate through additional teaching assignments.

In the context of following up on the observations and recommendations related to the conditions of primary and secondary schools in terms of the level of services and care provided, and assessing their readiness to fulfill the intended educational mission, the National Center issued seventeen (17) official correspondences to the Ministry of Education during 2024. These communications included the findings from

²³³ Schools under the jurisdiction of Al-Areed District.

²³⁴ Playgrounds are not available in some schools within the jurisdiction of Al-Areed District.

monitoring visits to a number of primary and secondary schools in the southern region (Aqaba Governorate) and the central region (Madaba and Zarqa Governorates). In response, the Ministry of Education took measures within its available human and material resources to enhance the level of educational services and care provided. According to the Ministry's responses received by the Center, the most notable actions included the following:

1. Vacating the old rented building of Prince Hamzah Primary School / Directorate of Education / Zarqa Second Area, and leasing a new building in good condition and suitable for students.
2. Taking several remedial measures, in coordination with the relevant departments, to address the phenomenon of school dropouts, including:
 - Activating preventive measures to reduce school dropout.
 - Following up by school counselors on repeated absences and students' family situations.
 - Creating a safe and attractive school environment for students who suffer from repeated absences, with the School Safe Environment Council cooperating to provide psychosocial support for students alongside school counselors through initiatives that motivate students toward education.
 - Raising awareness among parents and students about the principles of passing, repeating, and completing academic years.
- Educating parents and students about the student discipline regulations and the impact of repeated absences on academic performance.
- Increasing parents' awareness of the importance of their children's regular attendance and the negative effects of school dropout on students and society, emphasizing their role as partners in the educational process through regular meetings.
- Enhancing students' motivation to learn to improve their academic performance.
- Activating group counseling sessions.
3. After study and communication with the Directorate of Education in Aqaba, it was found that some classrooms are overcrowded and lack a science laboratory and vocational workshop. These issues will be resolved by adding new classrooms, administrative rooms, as well as a science laboratory and vocational workshop.
4. The nomination to construct a kindergarten wing consisting of two classrooms for the Munayshir Second Mixed School / Aqaba Governorate was submitted for the grant provided by the Abu Dhabi Fund for the construction of kindergarten rooms²³⁵.
5. Including the necessary maintenance works for some of the schools visited by the National Center's team²³⁶ in

²³⁵ Letter No. (3/114/34915) issued by the Ministry of Education, dated 31 July 2024.

²³⁶ Schools in Al-Areed District, Madaba Governorate (including Al-Namiyah Mixed Basic School, Al-Deir Mixed Basic School, Al-Jabal

the upcoming tenders of the Ministry of Education, according to the level of risk involved.

In the same context, an official communication was sent to the Ministry of Local Administration to study and take the necessary measures and precautions to prevent the spread of stray dogs inside and outside the school grounds in the Al-Areed District in Madaba Governorate—whether these dogs are for guarding, livestock herding, or are stray dogs—since this poses a threat to students’ safety and disrupts the educational process. This step aims to strengthen children’s right to physical safety and provide an appropriate environment for the educational process, in accordance with the Constitution, international human rights standards, and the Child Rights Law No. (17) of 2022. A response was received from the Ministry of Local Administration²³⁷ indicating that instructions were given to the Head of the Jabal Bani Hamida Municipality to take the necessary actions.

Recommendations

1. Provide transportation for students to and from schools, especially in remote areas, due to the long distance between students’ residences and school locations.
2. Improve the school learning environment by ensuring sufficient

space for students inside classrooms and providing interactive whiteboards.

3. Provide adequate and safe heating for schools, either by supplying safe and sufficient heating equipment or by installing solar energy systems.
4. Strengthen programs to reduce school dropout rates in all schools affiliated with the Ministry of Education.
5. Enhance inclusive education for persons with disabilities in all schools across the Kingdom.
6. Address the problem of overcrowding inside classrooms in public schools.

Secondary School for Girls, and Al-Jadida Secondary School for Boys); Wadi Al-Qamar Mixed Basic School / Aqaba Governorate, Munayshir Mixed Secondary School / Aqaba Governorate, Al-Risha Mixed Basic School for Boys / Aqaba Governorate.

²³⁷ Letter No. (5/3/15/431) issued by the Ministry of Local Administration, dated 19 May 2024.

The Right to Health

The right to health is a fundamental human right that is indispensable for the enjoyment of other human rights. Every person has the right to the highest attainable standard of health, which enables them to live with dignity. It is one of the core rights guaranteed to all individuals. International conventions have accorded special attention to the right to health due to its vital significance to human rights. National legislation has also regulated this right, most notably the Public Health Law No. (47) of 2008 and its amendments, in addition to the regulations and instructions issued pursuant thereto.

The normative content of the right to health is based on integrated legal protection of its components both in legislation and in practice, through the enforcement and strengthening of guarantees for its protection by monitoring and addressing several issues, including: monitoring developments in the legislative framework governing this right, the measures taken by the Ministry of Health to advance the health sector and improve the services provided to citizens, preventive health, HIV/AIDS, the Ministry of Health's strategy for 2023–2025, health insurance, food and drug safety, and the status of health services in hospitals and comprehensive health centers.

Within the mandate of the National Center to monitor, receive, and follow up on complaints until cases of violations are resolved, the Center received 26 complaints related to the right to health in 2024, compared to 27 complaints in 2023.

First: Monitoring Developments in the Legislative Framework Governing the Right

No amendments or legislative developments were made to the Public Health Law No. (47) of 2008 and its amendments; it remained in force.

However, 2024 witnessed the issuance and amendment of several relevant laws, regulations, and instructions, including:

- The National Center monitored the issuance of the Instructions for the Establishment of Fertilization Units/IVF Units in Private Hospitals for the year 2024²³⁸, which granted existing private hospital IVF units in the Kingdom a period not exceeding six months to rectify their status in accordance with the new instructions published in the Official Gazette. These instructions require compliance with spatial and technical standards that do not affect the structural safety and stability of the building, excluding structural area requirements. The Ministry of Health approved a fee of JOD 5,000 for establishing a new unit and JOD 3,000 for renewing a unit's license every five years. The instructions specified the approved assisted reproductive technologies (ART) and stipulated that the introduction of any globally recognized ART must be approved by the Minister of Health upon the recommendation of

²³⁸ Published in the Official Gazette, Issue No. (5954), page (5028), dated 1 October 2024. In this context, Jordan is considered the first country in the Middle East to have conducted in vitro fertilization (IVF) procedures in the past 35 years. IVF procedures began in Jordan in 1986, and there are currently 24 fertility centers operating in the Kingdom.

the competent committee. The unit may be subject to closure and referral to the competent judicial authorities, upon a recommendation by the Minister or their designee, if any unlicensed physician performs oocyte retrieval or embryo transfer, or if gametes or embryos are used for commercial purposes, or if unfertilized or fertilized viable oocytes or sperm are used for research without the consent of the spouses or concerned persons and the relevant official bodies, or if necessary safeguards are not taken leading to lineage confusion. It also prohibits the establishment of commercial egg or embryo banks and requires units to maintain comprehensive records of all ART-related procedures in accordance with the provisions of these instructions, documenting the number of embryos transferred and retaining this information in special records for periodic review by relevant committees. The obligation to rectify the status of IVF units stems from the responsibility of the competent health authorities to protect family and child rights.

- The National Center also monitored the issuance of the Instructions for the Establishment of Dialysis Units in Private Hospitals for the year 2024²³⁹, which stipulate that a unit may not have an independent license; rather, the license must be issued in the name of the hospital, and the unit must be established within the premises of the private hospital. The unit must include a qualified medical team, including

unit physicians and a licensed nephrology specialist who supervises the unit, as well as a general practitioner licensed to practice and present within the unit. Additionally, licensing requires that the unit's head nurse must be a licensed registered nurse with at least three years of experience in dialysis.

- The National Center recorded the issuance of the Blood Transfusion Services Regulation No. (21) of 2024²⁴⁰, which aims to regulate the procedures for non-Jordanian blood donations and allows private university hospitals to establish blood banks.
- Furthermore, in 2024, the Ministry of Health launched the National Strategy for Tobacco Control for 2024–2030 and its accompanying Action Plan for 2024–2026, in response to the directives of His Majesty King Abdullah II to confront the threat of smoking. The strategy and action plan aim to activate the roles of relevant entities across institutions in combating tobacco use and include new guides highlighting best practices for tobacco control in line with Jordan's commitment to implementing the provisions of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

Second: Ministry of Health Measures

In 2024, national efforts by the Ministry of Health to advance the health sector and improve services for citizens continued through the following:

Public Hospitals and Health Centers: 2024 saw the opening of the Kafr Asad

²³⁹ Published in the Official Gazette, Issue No. (5930), page (2481), dated 2 June 2024.

²⁴⁰ Published in the Official Gazette, Issue No. (5925), page (2055), dated 1 May 2024.

Health Center and the expansion of the Kafr Youba Comprehensive Health Center, with the addition of specialist clinics, in line with the Ministry of Health's 2023–2025 strategy. This strategy has adopted the public health and preventive medicine model and the family health model in primary healthcare and considers it a key axis for achieving one of its main goals: improving access to high-quality, equitable primary and preventive healthcare services with effective community participation.

Preventive Health:

The National Center conducted several monitoring visits to the Ministry of Health and documented various measures taken by the Ministry in 2024 to limit the spread of communicable and non-communicable diseases, including:

- Continued supervision of the implementation of national infection control policies and procedures in public and private sector hospitals and health centers.
- Continued epidemiological surveillance of communicable diseases and the implementation of necessary preventive measures to curb their spread.
- Activation of the counseling center and national AIDS program hotline for sexually transmitted infections.²⁴¹

Nevertheless, the year 2024 witnessed an increase in the number of infections for certain communicable diseases.

The number of recorded cases of Hepatitis A rose to 344 cases, compared to 158 cases in 2023. Cases of brucellosis increased to 460 cases, compared to 323 cases in 2023. Malaria cases rose to 64, compared to 45 cases in 2023. Schistosomiasis cases slightly increased to 25 cases, compared to 24 cases in 2023. The number of chickenpox cases rose significantly to 27,434, compared to 17,582 cases in 2023. Epidemic meningitis cases increased to 5, compared to 4 cases in 2023. In addition, the number of swine flu (H1N1) cases rose sharply to 422, compared to 41 cases in 2023. The number of HIV/AIDS cases increased to 168, including 89 cases among Jordanians and 79 cases among non-Jordanians, compared to 104 cases in 2023 (48 Jordanians and 56 non-Jordanians). On the other hand, there was a significant decrease in the number of Hepatitis B cases to 1 case, compared to 78 cases in 2023. Reported cases of food poisoning dropped to 549, compared to 969 cases in 2023. Cutaneous leishmaniasis cases decreased to 96, compared to 103 cases in 2023. The number of measles cases dropped to 473, compared to 1,317 cases in 2023. There was also a sharp decline in non-epidemic meningitis cases to 10, compared to 491 cases in 2023, as shown in the table below.

²⁴¹ In fulfillment of Sustainable Development Goal 3, which includes the elimination of the following epidemics by 2030: AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, neglected tropical diseases, and the combatting of viral hepatitis, waterborne diseases, and other communicable diseases.

Table No. (27): Number of Communicable Disease Cases for the Years 2023–2024

Disease Name	Number of Cases 2023	Number of Cases 2024
Hepatitis A	158	344
Hepatitis B	78	1
Food Poisoning	969	549
Brucellosis	323	460
Malaria	45	64
Schistosomiasis	24	25
Chickenpox	17,582	27,434
Cutaneous Leishmaniasis	103	96
Suspected Measles	1,317	473
Epidemic Meningitis	4	5
Non-Epidemic Meningitis	491	10
Seasonal Influenza (H1N1)	41	422
HIV/AIDS	104	168

In 2024, the National Center monitored²⁴² the preventive measures taken to reduce the incidence of West Nile Fever. This prompted the Jordanian government to maintain preparedness and adopt proactive measures to control mosquito breeding, especially in water bodies and stagnant water which provide a favorable environment for its spread. Awareness messages were disseminated on the disease, its modes of transmission, and methods of prevention and

²⁴² West Nile Fever is a viral disease first identified in 1937 in Uganda, on the western bank of the Nile River, hence the name "*West Nile Fever*." The disease is transmitted by mosquitoes, specifically the *Culex* species, which must first acquire the virus from infected birds in order to transmit it to humans through bites. The disease is not transmitted through food, drink, or physical contact, but only via mosquito vectors.

control, within the framework of the “One Health” approach. Citizens were urged to ensure that water tanks are properly sealed, that window screens are installed to prevent mosquitoes from entering homes, and to avoid mosquito bites as much as possible to prevent the disease from reaching Jordan.

The total number of visitors to the Expatriates Department during 2024 amounted to 336,941, while the number of visitors to the Tuberculosis and Communicable Diseases Department was 34,696. The total number of discovered tuberculosis cases was 274, of which 169 were pulmonary tuberculosis cases (85 Jordanians and 84 non-Jordanians), and 105 were extra-pulmonary tuberculosis cases (72 Jordanians and 33 non-Jordanians).²⁴³

Number of Visitors and Tuberculosis Cases – 2024

Department	Number of Visitors	Pulmonary TB Cases	Extra-Pulmonary TB Cases
Tuberculosis Department	34,696	169	105

In this context, the National Center calls for the adoption of all necessary preventive and therapeutic measures to prevent and halt the increase in the spread of communicable diseases. It also stresses the need for the Ministry of Health to intensify preventive and awareness measures, in addition to providing free and repeated examinations for patients, particularly in remote areas, to prevent infection and the spread of communicable diseases.

²⁴³ Letter from the Ministry of Health, No. (), dated 2025.

Universal Health Coverage

The National Center monitored the issuance of the Cabinet's resolution approving the Health Financing Reform and Universal Health Coverage Plan for the years 2024–2030²⁴⁴, which aims to provide primary

healthcare as a first stage and focuses on foundations that include structural and legislative reforms and financial sustainability, in accordance with its phased implementation.

²⁴⁴ For further details, please refer to the letter of the Prime Ministry No. 10/10/1/26058, dated 11 June 2024, which includes the following:

First: Preparation of the necessary legislation to develop a national health insurance system by including new groups in addition to those currently covered (mandatorily) by health insurance. This includes:

1. Identifying the target groups for mandatory health insurance, such as: private sector employees, public university staff, foreign residents, and any other relevant groups.
2. Defining the health benefits package provided to each group and its associated cost.
3. Establishing a dedicated account for the new insurance system, specifying the areas of expenditure from this account, and ensuring that funds are spent solely for the purposes for which the account was created.
4. Defining the general governance framework for the national health insurance system.
5. Determining contribution amounts, percentages, and co-payment fees for each group, proportionate to income levels and the health benefits offered, with a review after two years of implementation.
6. Allowing for strategic purchasing agreements to acquire health services from all service providers in both the public and private sectors.
7. Enabling agreements with various entities to collect insurance deductions from the target groups, including the Social Security Corporation, the Ministry of Social Development, and other relevant bodies.
8. Making the necessary amendments to Civil Health Insurance Regulation No. (83) of 2004, currently in force, as well as related instructions and any other legislation to align with the above plan.

Second: Establishing a governance framework for primary healthcare within the Ministry of Health to enable implementation of the new national health insurance system, including:

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1. Restructuring the Ministry of Health, particularly in the area of primary healthcare, to enhance decentralization.
 2. Preparing a financial flow plan to ensure coverage of services provided to insured individuals.
 3. Establishing a general framework for monitoring, evaluation, and accountability.
 4. Reviewing and improving the quality and standards of health services and client satisfaction levels.
 5. Developing unified guidelines for the benefits package offered at healthcare centers.

Third: Preparing a clear plan to enhance the readiness of Ministry of Health centers to receive new beneficiaries, including:

1. Improving the infrastructure of health centers to ensure delivery of the benefits package.
2. Activating the family health team model, enhancing the patient journey, and building the capacity of medical and administrative staff.
3. Ensuring the availability of laboratory tests and treatments included in the benefits package.
4. Improving the work environment in health centers.
5. Activating telemedicine, appointment systems, and medical referrals.
6. Activating electronic payment systems and claim invoicing.

Fourth: Coordinating with all relevant parties to adopt a unified digital ID card for foreign residents for use in all official and financial transactions, to facilitate broader coverage under the mandatory health insurance project.

Fifth: Preparing a communications strategy to build support for launching the first phase of the plan mentioned above. This should include raising awareness among target groups about the importance of the health financing reform and universal health coverage, and informing them about the services and benefits they will receive in this phase.

In 2024, the first phase of the Universal Health Coverage Plan was launched²⁴⁵. According to Ministry of Health statistics, the percentage of insured Jordanians under health insurance rose to about 67% in 2018. This was achieved by insuring the elderly (60 years and above) and families whose monthly income does not exceed 300 JOD through the Social Safety Network, covering about 300,000 citizens. In addition, children under the age of six and pregnant women were included in health insurance, and all cancer patients (uninsured) were considered covered under civil health insurance. Some costly chronic diseases, such as growth hormone deficiency, multiple sclerosis, and certain medical devices like ventilators, were also covered. Furthermore, 138,000 citizens benefiting from the Complementary Support Program were added, raising the coverage rate to about 70%.

Moreover, the government health insurance covers a portion of Jordanians working in the public sector, whose number together with their families reaches about 3 million people, representing 45–50% of the insured population. Overall, all Jordanians are considered insured, meaning they can access treatment coverage through exemptions granted by the Royal Court or the Prime Ministry. Consequently, insured Jordanians working in the public, military, university, and private sectors constitute about 72% of the population, compared to 28% uninsured. Military insurance, which includes army and armed forces personnel, accounts for about 3% of the total insured population.

Despite the high insurance coverage rates, there are still challenges that hinder achieving full universal health coverage for

all citizens, the most prominent of which are:

- The rising costs of healthcare services, slow economic growth, and increasing public debt.
- The multiplicity of governmental health sectors and the duplication of services provided.
- Lack of coordination or integration among them due to the presence of multiple independent bodies operating with separate financial, administrative, programmatic, and oversight frameworks, competing for limited government resources.
- The multiplicity of insurance entities within the public sector, the variance in insurance premiums, and the duplication of government health insurance.
- Weak investment in primary healthcare services, which is considered the cornerstone for achieving universal health coverage.
- The absence of an effective referral system for patients from health centers to hospitals.
- Weak health information systems and the absence of integrated information linkage systems.

In the same context, the National Center held a specialized dialogue session²⁴⁶ entitled “The Reality of the Health Sector: Universal Health Coverage as a Model,” during which the current state of the health sector was reviewed and the challenges facing the health sector were highlighted.

²⁴⁵ It was approved by the government in June 2024.

²⁴⁶ The session was held on 2 December 2024 at the National Center's headquarters. This session is part of a series of dialogue meetings previously announced by the Center within the framework of developing the methodology for preparing the annual human rights report issued by the Center annually pursuant to Article 12 of its law.

Possible strategic solutions were discussed within a comprehensive participatory approach involving all stakeholders. The session concluded with the following observations and recommendations:

1. There are significant challenges facing the health sector system, the most notable of which are:
 - a) The absence of equity in the distribution of services across all regions of the Kingdom.
 - b) The lack of fairness in health insurance coverage.
 - c) The Ministry of Health has no authority over other health sectors.
 - d) Increased healthcare expenditure and the high cost of health services, especially in the private sector.
 - e) Shortage of medical staff.
 - f) Significant waste in medicines.
2. Weak or absent salary systems and the absence of incentives to reward and attract outstanding competencies.

Food and Drug

In 2024, the Public Food and Drug Administration continued its health monitoring of food establishments and factories²⁴⁷. It conducted approximately 66,496 inspection visits to food institutions and factories and 541 inspection visits to pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical establishments, to ensure compliance with health and public safety requirements in all parts of the Kingdom.

These inspection visits resulted in 35,511 warnings issued to food institutions and

factories, including 35,370 warnings to food establishments and factories and 141 warnings to pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical establishments.

In 2024, 1,766 food institutions, factories, and pharmacies were referred to the judiciary, including 1,665 food establishments and 101 pharmaceutical or non-pharmaceutical establishments. A total of 492 food institutions, factories, and pharmacies were shut down, distributed as follows: closure of 412 food establishments and factories, closure of 77 pharmacies, and closure of 3 factories. These closures were due to the detection of spoiled, expired, or damaged food products, as well as the non-compliance of these institutions and factories with health and public safety conditions²⁴⁸.

On another note, in 2024, the Public Food and Drug Administration reduced the prices of 604 pharmaceutical items, most notably antibiotics and medicines for chronic diseases such as digestive system drugs, diabetes, hypertension, heart and vascular diseases, cholesterol medications, cancer treatments, antibiotics, and psychiatric medications²⁴⁹.

The Center also monitored the closure by the Public Food and Drug Administration of 77 pharmacies in 2024 out of approximately 4,150 pharmacies²⁵⁰ operating in the Kingdom. These closures resulted from the discovery of counterfeit drugs, expired medicines, unauthorized medical supplies, unknown-source medicines, medicines

²⁴⁷ Letter No. (1/1/14/7821) issued by the Food and Drug Administration, dated 21 February 2024.

²⁴⁸ Letter No. (1/1/14/7821) issued by the Food and Drug Administration, dated 21 February 2024.

²⁴⁹ Letter No. (1/1/14/7821) issued by the Food and Drug Administration, dated 21 February 2024.

²⁵⁰ According to the website of the Jordan Pharmacists Association.

stored outside their original packaging, non-compliance with official pricing, non-compliance with prescription-only dispensing requirements, non-compliance with licensing requirements for operating pharmacies, operating without the required legal permits, the presence of unqualified individuals working in the pharmacy, purchasing medications from unauthorized sources, and the sale of sedatives and controlled substances without a medical prescription.

Additionally, two warnings were issued by the Directorate of Medical Devices and Supplies to factories operating in this field, and 121 institutions, factories, and shops were referred to the judiciary, along with the issuance of 12 warnings and the closure of 24 institutions, factories, and shops operating in this field until they rectify their status²⁵¹.

The National Center, in this regard, recommends continuing inspection efforts and effective oversight by the Ministry of Health and the Food and Drug Administration to ensure that all food establishments, factories, and restaurants operating throughout the Kingdom comply with health and public safety requirements.

In this context, the National Center held a specialized dialogue session²⁵² entitled “Healthy Food Industries in Jordan,” during which the importance of expanding the healthy food industry sector in Jordan and

ensuring its inclusivity was discussed. The session also highlighted the field challenges facing the health sector and the necessary mechanisms to overcome them within a comprehensive participatory approach among all stakeholders. The session concluded with the following recommendations:

1. Develop a general policy for health communication and healthy food awareness, coordinated and agreed upon among all relevant parties. This policy should be integrated into school curricula and implemented in school canteens across all public and private schools, and it must meet three main conditions: (a) It must be technically rigorous, which requires conducting research and studies and directing master’s and doctoral students towards priority research topics for each food manufacturer, with these priorities determined in coordination with the Scientific Research Fund, enabling decision-makers to make evidence-based decisions. (b) The policy must be acceptable and publicly declared, aiming to raise awareness among the community at large, not only patients, especially concerning the prevention of chronic diseases. This means adopting awareness methodologies aimed at behavior change, while considering supply and demand—achieving alignment between the healthy food producer (the manufacturer) and the consumer (the citizen). This alignment must be properly guided, clear, and take into account the following factors: the financial ability to purchase healthy foods, ease of access to these products, and availability to all citizens in all areas. (c) There must

²⁵¹ Food and Drug Administration Letter No. 1/1/14/7821

²⁵² The session was held on 12/2/2024 at the headquarters of the National Center. This session is part of a series of dialogue sessions previously announced by the Center as part of developing the methodology for preparing the annual human rights report, which the Center issues annually in accordance with Article 12 of its law.

- be a responsible entity for implementation, primarily the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health, to follow up on the implementation of previously established indicators for this purpose.
2. Work to enhance and improve the quality of education in Jordanian universities in departments specializing in food industries and nutrition, in addition to providing specialized training for university students before graduation, which would strengthen trust between the academic and industrial sectors, benefiting local industry and the Jordanian citizen first and foremost.
 3. Graduation projects for bachelor's, master's, and doctoral students at Jordanian universities should support the food industries sector to build bridges of cooperation between the industrial sector and universities.
 4. Highlight the importance of awareness programs about healthy nutrition to change citizens' consumption patterns and create a broader market for manufacturers.
 5. Emphasize the importance of reviewing international food classifications and distinguishing between healthy food and safe food.
 6. Establish a legal framework to serve as a tool for implementing the national strategy for the right to adequate food in terms of both quantity and quality, including obligations of respect, protection, fulfillment, ensuring adequate food provision, facilitating food access, and sustainability for all individuals, including vulnerable groups such as patients with chronic diseases like obesity, diabetes, heart disease, atherosclerosis, cancer, children, and the elderly.
 7. Develop mechanisms to monitor progress in providing safe and sufficient food in both quantity and quality to citizens and raise community awareness on the importance of this issue.
 8. The need to establish a national or regional specialized research center to strengthen the partnership between the industrial sector and Jordanian universities in this regard.
 9. Work to increase the number of qualified human resources in the field of nutrition policies and graduate qualified Jordanian experts in this area.
 10. Develop an action plan derived from the food security strategy.
 11. Ensure that the partnership initiative between universities and the industrial sector originates from the Chamber of Industry, and that the activities to be implemented are specific and clear.

Status of Health Services in Hospitals, Comprehensive Health Centers, and Primary Health Centers:

The total number of hospitals in the Kingdom reached 120 hospitals providing services to Jordanian and non-Jordanian patients. These include: 70 private hospitals, 31 governmental hospitals, 17 military hospitals, and 2 university hospitals, with a total bed capacity of approximately 16,200 beds, at a rate of 14 beds per 10,000 persons.

Table No. (28): Number of Hospitals Operating in the Kingdom for the Year 2024

Number of Hospitals Operating in the Kingdom as of 2024:	
Governmental hospitals	31 hospitals
Private hospitals	70 hospitals
University hospitals	2 hospitals
Military hospitals	17 hospitals
Total	120 hospitals

In 2024, the Center conducted a number of field visits to hospitals and comprehensive and primary health centers in various governorates of the Kingdom²⁵³, with the aim of assessing the status of health, treatment, and preventive services provided to citizens. The Center recorded the following observations:

1. Many comprehensive health centers are in need of the electronic connectivity program (Hakeem).
2. Some comprehensive health centers have not obtained accreditation from the Health Care Accreditation Council (HCAC).
3. There is a shortage of medical staff and necessary equipment in most government hospitals and primary and comprehensive health centers across the Kingdom, especially in the southern governorates.
4. There is a shortage of specialist physicians in most government hospitals, such as in the fields of cardiology, vascular surgery, neurosurgery, nephrology, gastroenterology, and others.
5. There is an urgent need to restructure the specialist clinics building at Al-Karak Governmental Hospital, as the building is unfit to receive patients of various clinics due to the large number of visitors and the diversity of medical specialties. Additionally, the design of the pharmacy section hinders the entry of supplies into the department.
6. The psychiatric clinic should be separated from the outpatient clinics at Al-Karak Governmental Hospital.
7. Ma'an Field Hospital should be converted into a specialized children's hospital and provided with the following medical staff: pediatric specialists and resident pediatricians, in addition to nursing staff, to bring the total bed capacity to 200 beds.
8. Ma'an Governmental Hospital should be provided with a pediatric echo device (Echo) and the medical and nursing staff should be trained on its use to avoid referring cases that require pediatric echo.
9. The Visiting Physician Program should be implemented at Ma'an Governmental Hospital to provide comprehensive and integrated healthcare services in innovative and sustainable ways for specialties not available in the hospital, specifically for its patients and visitors.
10. Ma'an Governmental Hospital should be accredited as a teaching hospital, so that physicians can work under a residency system, which would positively impact citizens' right to health through services provided by specialists, consultants, and highly experienced staff.
11. The infrastructure of some departments at Queen Rania Al Abdullah Governmental Hospital is outdated and deteriorated. Issues

²⁵³ Field visits were conducted to a number of hospitals and comprehensive and primary health centers in the southern governorates (Karak, Ma'an, and Aqaba) and the central governorates, and detailed reports were provided to the Ministry of Health on the progress of these visits.

include the need to address sewage problems in all departments, including the male wards (internal medicine, orthopedic surgery), ensuring a safe door system for departments—particularly the ICU and CCU, the deterioration of sanitary facilities and broken tiles, the worn-out condition of nurses' accommodation, the old and deteriorated patient beds that need upgrading, the need for curtains for windows and patient beds in some departments, the maintenance of patient waiting areas, and addressing the widespread moisture problem in most hospital departments.

12. The absence of an alarm system in the kidney department at Queen Rania Al Abdullah Governmental Hospital poses a danger to dialysis patients. Additionally, there is no secure storage facility dedicated to the kidney department.
13. Providing reasonable accommodations to receive patients with disabilities, including: (1) requirements for access to health services for persons with disabilities; (2) medical and nursing staff qualified and capable of dealing with all persons with disabilities regardless of the type of disability; (3) provision of dedicated spaces for dealing with and admitting them while receiving services; (4) provision of sign language interpreters for persons with hearing impairments; (5) installation of display screens in corridors to show instructional and educational materials for all patients and visitors.
14. The medical and nursing staff working in government hospitals and comprehensive and primary health centers require training courses on

how to deal with persons with disabilities, regardless of the type of disability.

15. Nursing staff working in neonatal intensive care units in government hospitals require advanced training courses in neonatal CPR.

In the Context of Following Up on Observations and Recommendations
As part of the follow-up on the observations and recommendations concerning the status of hospitals and comprehensive and primary health centers in terms of the health, treatment, and preventive services provided to citizens, and in order to review the improvement measures undertaken by the Ministry of Health in hospitals and comprehensive and primary health centers as monitored by the National Center, a total of twenty-three (23) official correspondences were sent to the Ministry of Health. These included the outcomes of the monitoring visits conducted in 2024 to a number of hospitals and comprehensive, primary, and subsidiary health centers in the southern region governorates (Aqaba Governorate) and the central region governorates (Madaba Governorate and Zarqa Governorate).

The Ministry of Health responded to the National Center's correspondences, outlining a set of measures taken within its available human and material resources, aimed at raising the level of health, treatment, and preventive services provided to citizens. The most notable of these measures are:

1. Renewal of the pediatric specialist's contract to ensure that one of the southern hospitals does not remain without the only pediatric specialist.
2. The Minister of Health instructed the relevant parties to form a committee

to consider the recommendations and observations contained in the National Center's official letters and to take the necessary actions accordingly.

In the same context, two correspondences were addressed to the Greater Amman Municipality concerning medical waste and its disposal methods, including the disposal mechanism of household medical waste generated by Ministry of Health facilities and the disposal of (treated) medical waste in some hospitals so that it becomes non-infectious household waste. The response confirmed the increase in the number of waste containers for health facilities and the necessity of periodic removal of medical waste, while emphasizing that the concerned entity (the owner of the medical facility) is responsible for providing a sufficient number of medical waste containers and for arranging periodic waste removal through private companies.

A correspondence was also sent to the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which included the National Center's observation regarding the need for medical and nursing staff working in hospitals and health centers to receive training courses on how to deal with persons with disabilities, regardless of the type of disability. In response, the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities stated that during 2024, it had assessed certain hospitals and health centers regarding the availability of accessibility, and subjected medical and nursing staff in some hospitals and health centers to training on the rights-based approach and etiquette of effective communication with persons with disabilities, as well as on ensuring their access to health services. Moreover, the Council confirmed that it has projects scheduled for implementation in 2025 to

evaluate and study the accessibility of sixty (60) health centers and eight (8) hospitals through the Accessibility Directorate within the Council. Based on this, efforts will be coordinated, and a joint cooperation mechanism will be established between the National Center, the Higher Council, and the Ministry of Health²⁵⁴ to contribute to enhancing the rights of persons with disabilities and the elderly in society.

Recommendations

1. Address the challenges related to infrastructure, medical staff, equipment, availability of medicines, and other observations included in the body of this report or previously communicated by the Center to the Ministry of Health in detail.
2. Restructure the healthcare sector in a manner that ensures greater productivity and efficiency, improves the quality of medical services provided, enhances individuals' access to healthcare services, and strengthens governance and oversight mechanisms to effectively overcome the existing challenges.
3. Take the necessary measures to achieve universal health coverage in a way that guarantees individuals' right to enjoy the right to health on an equal footing, including unifying the entity responsible for health insurance.
4. Institutionalize home healthcare services for certain groups, particularly the elderly, persons with disabilities, and other groups that may require such care, thereby reducing pressure on health centers

²⁵⁴ Reply from the Higher Council via the official email dated June 6, 2024

and hospitals while taking into account the specific needs of these groups.

5. Institutionalize and expand electronic linkage processes to cover all healthcare institutions, given the importance of electronic connectivity in accessing patients' medical histories, especially in emergency cases, which enhances the quality of medical services provided and the accuracy of diagnoses.
6. Upgrade the level of primary and subsidiary health centers and expand the establishment of comprehensive health centers to alleviate the burden on hospitals, enhance accessibility, improve the quality of medical services provided, and strengthen preventive, reproductive, maternal, and child health services.
7. Establish a specialized center for organ transplantation and donation, and raise awareness among all groups on the importance of organ donation and the promotion of this culture, including within educational curricula.
8. Expand the national immunization program, ensure the availability of sufficient quantities of necessary vaccines, and simultaneously raise awareness of their importance and their impact on individuals' future well-being.
9. Activate and implement the National Strategy for Combating Tobacco and Smoking in all its forms, monitor its enforcement in the relevant institutions, and ensure full implementation of all its components.
10. Enhance the competencies and capabilities of medical and nursing staff working in government hospitals and comprehensive and

primary health centers on how to interact with persons with disabilities regardless of their type of disability.

11. Provide the necessary environmental facilities and accessibility accommodations for persons with disabilities and the elderly in all hospitals and health centers.
12. Strengthen preventive and reproductive health services to limit diseases and their spread, improve individuals' quality of life, and consequently reduce spending on the healthcare sector.
13. Activate and implement the National Strategy for Combating Tobacco and Smoking in all its forms, monitor its enforcement in the relevant institutions, and ensure full implementation of all its components. *(Note: This point appears to be repeated and can be merged with point 9 if needed)*
14. Continue efforts to ensure effective inspection and oversight by the Ministry of Health and the Jordan Food and Drug Administration to ensure that all institutions, food factories, and restaurants across the Kingdom comply with health and safety requirements.
15. Encourage the business sector to expand the production of healthy food products for individuals with chronic diseases as part of its social responsibility, and raise awareness among all groups about the importance of such products and the need to consume them. This includes taking the necessary legislative and administrative measures and providing economic and investment incentives to healthy food manufacturers to support production and promotion.

16. Develop general policies or integrate existing policies to ensure the expansion of healthy food industries targeted at individuals with chronic diseases, which would reduce the expected costs on the healthcare sector due to their preventive role in reducing diseases and mitigating their complications, thus ensuring individuals' right—especially those with chronic diseases—to enjoy the right to food in line with their health conditions and financial capabilities.
17. Enact a law to protect health data and ensure its privacy within the new digital system.
18. Launch a national hospital performance observatory that provides published indicators on quality, satisfaction, and appointment scheduling.
19. Implement the goals of the National Action Plan for Mental Health and Addiction, including training, establishment of new centers, and full insurance coverage.

The Right to a Healthy Environment

The right to a healthy environment is one of the human rights guaranteed by many international, regional²⁵⁵, and national conventions. It is regulated by the Environmental Protection Law No. (6) of 2017 and a number of regulations and instructions aimed at protecting ecosystems that provide health and well-being for humans, despite the absence of any explicit reference to this right in the Jordanian Constitution.

The normative content of the right to a healthy environment is based on the integrated protection of its components, both legally and in terms of policies and practices, through enforcing and strengthening protection guarantees by monitoring and tracking a number of issues, namely: developments in the legislative framework, policy-level developments, and following up on practices on the ground.

This includes: the Global Environmental Performance Index, the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations, the Center's field monitoring, fires and their impact on the environment, waste and its management, as well as inspection and oversight.

²⁵⁵ Among the most important of these agreements are: the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal of 1992; the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change of 1993; the Convention on Biological Diversity of 1994; the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification of 1996; the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants of 2004; the World Charter for Nature of 1982; the Nairobi Declaration of 1982; and the Rio Declaration of 1992.

At the legislative and policy level:

In 2024, the Agricultural Waste Management Regulation No. (32) of 2024 was issued pursuant to paragraph (T) of Article (10) and Article (31) of the Waste Management Framework Law No. (16) of 2020²⁵⁶. The regulation aims to regulate the provisions and procedures related to untreated organic waste, including defining its types, collection and transportation mechanisms at production sites, enabling the Ministry of Agriculture to oversee and inspect the transportation process, apprehend violators, take legal action against them, treat or dispose of confiscated waste in coordination with the relevant authorities, and establish an electronic tracking system for waste transport vehicles and determine the timings and locations for their transport.

Additionally, the Organic Agriculture Regulation of 2024 was issued pursuant to Articles (7) and (71) of the Agriculture Law No. (13) of 2025²⁵⁷, with the aim of keeping pace with developments in the organic agriculture sector—both plant and animal—organizing the roles and tasks of relevant ministries and institutions in the organic agriculture sector, simplifying licensing procedures, and fulfilling the requirements of the Law on Inspection and Oversight of Economic Activities.

Within the Center's mandate to monitor, receive, and follow up on complaints until violations are resolved, the Center received three complaints related to the right to a healthy environment during 2024. These complaints were followed up through the necessary monitoring, verification, and

²⁵⁶ Published on page 2789 of Official Gazette No. 5931 dated 6/6/2024.

²⁵⁷ Published on page 2783 of Official Gazette No. 5931 dated 6/6/2024.

coordination with the relevant authorities, as follows:

- The Center received a complaint about the accumulation of waste near a kindergarten in Jerash Governorate; the concerned authorities were addressed, and the complaint is still under follow-up.
- The Center received a complaint about noise and disturbance caused by water pumps installed on the rooftop of a house in the Capital Governorate; the necessary measures were taken.
- The Center received a complaint about an old abandoned bus left for many years in front of the complainant's house, which resulted in a health nuisance due to the accumulation of waste inside and around the bus and the gathering of reptiles; the necessary action was taken, the relevant municipality was addressed, and the required measures were implemented.

In 2024, Jordan advanced seven ranks on the Environmental Performance Index²⁵⁸ and ranked first in the Middle East and North

²⁵⁸ The Global Environmental Performance Index (EPI) is one of the most important global environmental indicators and is issued every two years. This index covers the years 2022 and 2023, during which Jordan advanced seven ranks and secured the seventy-fourth position out of one hundred and eighty countries worldwide. The Global Environmental Performance Index includes three main indicators:

First: Environmental Health, which covers air quality, drinking water, sanitation, and water sources.

Second: Ecosystems, which mainly includes biodiversity and habitats.

Third: Climate Action, which primarily involves reducing the phenomenon of climate change.

The Global Environmental Performance Index contains 58 sub-indicators covering the three main indicators mentioned above.

Africa region for climate action. Jordan also ranked first in the region on the air pollution reduction indicator²⁵⁹.

A session of the Universal Periodic Review on Jordan was held to discuss the fourth report on the state of human rights in the Kingdom during the 45th session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva on January 25, 2024²⁶⁰. During the session, several countries praised the Kingdom's efforts regarding climate change, including the preparation of the National Climate Change Policy and measures taken to promote women's rights in relation to climate change. Eleven recommendations were made on the right to a healthy environment, most notably:

1. Continue implementing the National Climate Change Policy (2022–2050) to contribute to achieving carbon neutrality²⁶¹.
2. Enhance the capacities of children and youth and support their participation in decision-making processes on climate-related issues²⁶².
3. Continue strengthening the country's capacities in waste management to achieve environmental sustainability and safeguard public health.²⁶³
4. Enhance cooperation between public institutions and civil society in development projects that consider ecological concerns.²⁶⁴

²⁵⁹ Jordanian Ministry of Environment website, dated 23/6/2024, at the following link: <http://www.moenv.jo>

²⁶⁰ It is noted that the center attended the Universal Periodic Review and submitted a parallel report as part of interaction with international mechanisms.

²⁶¹ Recommendation No. 114

²⁶² Set of recommendations from No. 115 to No. 121

²⁶³ Recommendation No. 122

²⁶⁴ Recommendation No. 123

5. Strengthen efforts to raise awareness about the importance of green bonds in supporting climate-related activities and their impact on investment.²⁶⁵

At the level of practices:

First: On June 25, 2024, the Center conducted a monitoring visit to Ajloun Governorate and its surrounding villages to monitor the spread of quarries and stone pits in order to assess their impact on the right to a healthy environment in all its aspects²⁶⁶. The following observations were recorded:

1. Accumulation of waste at the monitored sites.
2. Some forested areas monitored were exposed to fires.
3. Certain sites containing inactive stone quarries need rehabilitation projects to meet environmental and public safety requirements and to repurpose these sites for other uses.
4. The significant environmental impact of stone quarries on the surrounding environment, which has led to deforestation and negatively affected nearby residential areas.
5. Environmental and noise pollution due to the presence of stone quarries, which has affected many individuals in the area.

Second: On September 25, 202, the National Center conducted a monitoring visit to the Industrial Estates City/Sahab in the Capital Governorate to examine the

surrounding environment of the industrial estates area and recorded the following observations:

1. Accumulation of waste in various locations within the city, some of which contain large quantities of flammable fabrics, posing a risk to public safety.
2. The widespread presence of stray dogs in different parts of the city, which also poses a threat to public safety.
3. The existence of wastewater pools in several areas of the city, causing damage to the environment within the Industrial Estates City and its surrounding external environment, and posing a threat to public health and the health of workers in the city.
4. Emission of gases and vapors from some factories.
5. The spread of insects and flies in various parts of the city, causing environmental and health damage.

It is worth noting that the Center addressed the Minister of Environment with the observations, challenges, and issues identified during the visit and meetings with relevant stakeholders; however, no response has been received to date.

Third: On 30 October 2024, the National Center team conducted a monitoring visit to the Al-Dhulail Industrial Area in Zarqa Governorate, where several environmental challenges were observed, and the following notes were recorded:

1. The urgent need for a sewage network in Al-Dhulail area, given the widespread use of cesspits due to the absence of a sewage network. This contributes to the spread of foul odors when these cesspits overflow

²⁶⁵ Recommendation No. 124

²⁶⁶ The center conducted a monitoring tour to the following areas: the internal villages of Ajloun Governorate, specifically the following villages: (Abeen, Ableen, the Abeen-Ableen triangle, Sakhray), and the area located between Ajloun and Irbid Governorates known as (Al-Shuqfan area).

and leads to the proliferation of insects, flies, and rodents. It is noted that cesspits, over time, pose a threat to groundwater sources and the structural safety of buildings.

2. The location of factories within a densely populated residential area, which has caused harm to the health of local residents due to the emission of vapors and the dispersion of dust from some factories in the area.

It is worth noting that, as part of the follow-up on these observations, the Center addressed the Ministry of Water and Irrigation and the Ministry of Environment and received some responses. The Ministry of Water and Irrigation addressed the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation to secure the necessary financial allocations to update the outdated studies and implement the sewage network project. The technical studies will be updated, tender documents prepared, and the project implemented once the required funding is secured and in accordance with applicable procedures.²⁶⁷

Fourth: The Center conducted a monitoring visit to the site of the former Pepsi Pool in Al-Rusaifa on 17 December 2024 and recorded the following environmental observations and challenges:

1. The site is divided into three sections: (A) a building known as the Administration Building, which receives attention and care from the Greater Amman Municipality. Section (A), also known as Farah Park, includes an area planted with trees, a multipurpose hall, a playground, children's play areas, an

adult library, a children's library, and a training center. Sections (B) and (C) form part of and an extension of the old pool, but no tangible care is provided to them.

2. Approximately 1,900 trees have been planted on the site, but the visiting team observed around 400 trees only.
3. Encroachment on forest resources at the site, as newly planted trees are subject to tampering and breakage.
4. The continued existence of technical and financial challenges to completing the second phase of the site rehabilitation project.
5. The need to ensure continuous routine maintenance of the water drainage system within the site to guarantee its sustainability.
6. The lack of general cleanliness within the site and the adjacent residential area due to several reasons, including the insufficient number of waste containers compared to the population in the area, according to residents, and the dumping and burning of household waste within the site by residents of the area and neighboring areas.
7. The widespread presence of stray dogs within the site.

It is worth noting that, as part of the follow-up on these observations, the Center addressed the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Local Administration, and the Greater Amman Municipality and received some responses, including the Ministry of Environment addressing the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Local Administration, and the Greater Amman Municipality to instruct the concerned

²⁶⁷ Ministry of Water and Irrigation Letter No. (7/2/24111) dated 12/12/2024

parties to take the necessary action as per their respective competences²⁶⁸.

Fires and Their Environmental Impact:

The Center monitored a fire that affected dry grass in the area adjacent to the Amman National Park, which was extinguished by Civil Defense teams that took all necessary measures on 26 June 2024. No injuries were recorded as a result of this fire, and losses were limited to a number of forest trees²⁶⁹.

On the occasion of the International Day of Forests, the Center issued a statement appreciating national efforts in protecting forests and forest resources in Jordan through the implementation of special plans to limit human encroachments such as illegal logging and the development of emergency plans to reduce forest fires. The statement also highlighted the role of the relevant authorities and all components of society in protecting and preserving forests and forest resources, emphasizing that it is a shared responsibility requiring the concerted efforts of all parties.

The Center, in the statement, stressed the need to innovate solutions and mechanisms to protect forests and forest resources as one of the components of the right to a healthy environment, while also raising awareness among individuals about the importance and centrality of these resources in realizing all elements of the right to a healthy environment and achieving sustainable development²⁷⁰.

Waste and Waste Management:

In 2024, several measures were implemented by the Ministry of

Environment and relevant stakeholders in the field of waste and hazardous materials management, the most important of which are summarized as follows²⁷¹:

1. Preparation of the National Implementation Plan for monitoring pesticide and pollutant residues in vegetables and fruits for the years 2024–2025.
2. Launching a study to assess the status of construction and demolition waste management in the following governorates: Amman, Zarqa, and Irbid.
3. Preparation of the guidance manual on “Preparation of Waste Management Plans for Producing Facilities.”
4. Development of infrastructure at the Hazardous Waste Treatment Center in Swaqa to improve hazardous waste management at the site.

In 2024, a total of 5,781 tons of hazardous waste was received at the Hazardous Waste Treatment Center in Swaqa, as detailed below:

Table No. (29): Types and Quantities of Hazardous Waste Received and Treated During 2024

Classification of Hazardous Waste	Quantity (tons or m³)
Organic	2,123
Inorganic	1,734
Inert	1,924
Total	5,781

²⁶⁸ Ministry of Environment Letter No. (14/7/684) dated 03/02/2025

²⁶⁹ Al-Dustour Newspaper website, June 26, 2024

²⁷⁰ For more information on this matter, please visit the National Center for Human Rights website on 21/3/2024 at the following link: www.nchr.jo

²⁷¹ Information obtained from the Ministry of Environment according to the Center’s letter No. H.A/104/20 dated 28/1/2025, with the response received via email dated 5/2/2025.

Monitoring and Inspection:

Regulatory authorities, represented by the Ministry of Environment, the Royal Department for Environmental Protection, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Jordan Food and Drug Administration, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, the Greater Amman Municipality, the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority, the Natural Resources Authority, and the Water Authority, monitor the environmental situation in the Kingdom through the implementation of laws, regulations, and instructions related to environmental protection for institutions whose activities may affect the environment. The main monitoring tools used include the following:

a. Licensing:²⁷²

In 2024, the Ministry of Environment received 2,115 applications for environmental approvals for various development projects. A total of 1,763 applications were approved, having met the requirements of the Environmental Classification and Licensing Regulation No. (69) of 2020 and its amendments, with an approval rate of 83%. The Ministry also reviewed 59 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies for high- and medium-risk development projects. These studies were approved after fulfilling all the requirements stipulated under Regulation No. (69) of 2020. Additionally, 32 consultation sessions were held with stakeholders and members of the local

²⁷² Information obtained from the Ministry of Environment according to the Center's letter No. H.A/104/20 dated 28/1/2025, with the response received via email dated 5/2/2025.

community for each project according to its location.

Table No. (30): Environmental Licenses and Their Numbers for the Years 2023–2024

License Outcome	Year 2023	Year 2024
Approved	1,644	1,763
Not Approved	323	352
Total	1,967	2,115

b. Environmental Violations²⁷³:

In 2024, a total of 5,349 environmental violations were recorded, the most notable of which include:

1. Seizure of approximately 592 vehicles carrying 2,020 tons and 370 kilograms of untreated organic fertilizer (manure).
2. Seizure of 21 non-compliant cleaning materials.
3. Recording of 2,033 violations for waste dumping.
4. Recording of 13 violations for disposal of excavation debris (fill) from vehicles.
5. Recording of 65 violations for discharge of wastewater.
6. Recording of 170 violations for spillage of materials from vehicles.

c. Complaints and Closures²⁷⁴:

In 2024, the Ministry of Environment handled 403 environmental complaints and closed or suspended 87 establishments

²⁷³ Information obtained from the Ministry of Environment according to the Center's letter No. H.A/104/20 dated 28/1/2025, with the response received via email dated 5/2/2025.

²⁷⁴ Information obtained from the Ministry of Environment according to the Center's letter No. H.A/104/20 dated 28/1/2025, with the response received via email dated 5/2/2025.

compared to 78 establishments closed in 2023, as shown in the table below.

Table No. (31): Number of Environmental Complaints and Closures during 2023–2024

Action	2024	2023
Complaints	403	323
Closures	87	78

d. Legal Cases²⁷⁵

In 2024, a total of 80 facilities that violated the provisions of the Environmental Protection Law No. (6) of 2017 were referred to the Public Prosecutor for the necessary legal action and were subsequently transferred to the competent courts, compared to 94 facilities referred in 2023, as shown in the table below.

Table No. (32): Number of Environmental Cases During 2023–2024

Action	2024	2023
Legal Cases	80	94

Recommendations

1. Reconsider the legislative frameworks governing the licensing of stone quarries, ensuring that no licenses are granted for quarries within forests or wooded areas to safeguard the environment and the ecosystem in general and to protect forested areas in particular. Moreover, no quarry license should be granted near residential

communities, and comprehensive environmental and social impact assessments must be conducted prior to issuing any license.

2. Raise the fences surrounding the park that was established on the former Pepsi Pool site by installing iron mesh fencing to limit waste dumping inside the site and prevent stray dogs from entering.
3. Intensify monitoring of the park established on the former Pepsi Pool site along all its boundaries by increasing the number of security guards and installing surveillance cameras, in order to reduce waste disposal, prevent the presence of children in unsafe areas, and keep stray dogs out.
4. Expand awareness campaigns by the Ministry of Environment targeting residents living near the former Pepsi Pool site to encourage them to maintain the area's cleanliness and to cooperate with the authorities supervising the park.
5. Develop the infrastructure of the water drainage system constructed at the former Pepsi Pool site.
6. Take further measures aimed at protecting forest resources and increasing public awareness of their importance.

²⁷⁵ Information obtained from the Ministry of Environment according to the Center's letter No. H.A/104/20 dated 28/1/2025, with the response received via email dated 5/2/2025.

Cultural Rights

Cultural rights are among the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Jordanian Constitution²⁷⁶, as well as by binding international standards (international treaties that explicitly recognize cultural rights, such as Articles 19, 26, and 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights²⁷⁷, Articles 13–15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights²⁷⁸, Article 1 of the Declaration of the Principles of International Cultural Cooperation, Article 1 of the Declaration on the Right to Development, and Article 2 of the Mexico City Declaration on Cultural Policies). In addition, various national legal texts safeguard these rights, including the Culture Care Law, the Copyright Protection Law, the Trade Names Law, the Architectural Heritage Protection Law, and other relevant legislation to protect cultural rights.

The intellectual property legal framework—foremost among which is the Copyright and Related Rights Protection Law No. 22 of 1992 and its amendments—stands at the forefront of cultural legislation, safeguarding authors' economic and moral rights. The Jordanian Court of Cassation, in its established jurisprudence, has deemed these rights to be inherent personal rights. This law aligns with the relevant international conventions. Additionally, the Culture Care Law No. 36 of 2006 and its amendments, along with the regulations and instructions issued under it, firmly entrench cultural rights and foster the creative

potential of Jordanian citizens across various fields.

The core normative content of these rights includes the right to participate in and contribute to cultural life, the right to benefit from scientific progress and its applications, the right of individuals to protect the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary, or artistic production of their own making, the freedom of scientific research and creative activity, the right to education, and the preservation of cultural heritage.

In general, the Center monitored the main developments related to cultural rights during 2024, as follows:

First: Tangible Cultural Heritage²⁷⁹

The Ministry of Culture, in partnership with the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, implemented several cultural events at archaeological sites, such as the Cultural Diversity Festival, cultural days, and the Heritage Tourism Cultural Routes Program in the governorates, which aims to highlight heritage and tourist sites, preserve the cultural legacy of tourist areas, and promote joint efforts to advance the handicrafts and traditional industries sector.

Second: Intangible Cultural Heritage²⁸⁰

In line with the vision of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to preserve and promote its intangible cultural heritage and showcase Jordan's folk heritage to the world, the Ministry implemented a series of projects through the Directorate of Heritage in 2024 in cooperation with relevant institutions, associations, craftsmen, and experts in the field of intangible cultural heritage. It is

²⁷⁶ The Jordanian Constitution issued in 1952 and its amendments, Articles (1, 2, 3, 4, 5/15, 3/6).

²⁷⁷ The Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10, 1948.

²⁷⁸ The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 16, 1966.

²⁷⁹ Ministry of Culture Letter No. (Th/3/15/922) dated 13/2/2025

²⁸⁰ Ministry of Culture Letter No. (Th/3/15/922) dated 13/2/2025

noteworthy that intangible cultural heritage is practiced in various aspects of daily life by all age groups without exception. Key initiatives include the Heritage Tourism Cultural Routes Program, heritage exhibitions and bazaars, and elements inscribed on UNESCO’s Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity for 2024.

In another context, the Institute of Fine Arts provides opportunities in various specializations (visual arts, performing arts, music, and screenwriting) through the following:

1. Learning and training in fine arts: A total of 222 students benefited under this component, distributed as follows:

- Visual arts (all departments): 78 students
- Music (all departments): 129 students
- Theater (all departments): 15 students

Additionally, branches of the Institute were opened in various governorates to enable citizens to access education outside the capital.

2. Right of persons with disabilities: Ten students with disabilities benefited from specialized programs.

3. Employment rights: The Institute recruited instructors and provided equal opportunities for both genders; a total of 22 teachers benefited.

4. Right to community participation: The Institute provided 89 hours of volunteer work for its students, benefiting approximately 75 students, including students with disabilities.

The Right to the Moral and Material Protection of Literary and Cultural Works

The Department of the National Library provides protection for cultural activity through both the deposit of works and the protection of copyright. In the area of legal deposit, the Department grants a deposit number to works subject to the Works Deposit System No. 4 of 1994 and its amendments, regardless of their medium, and ensures their actual deposit in the National Library. This deposit serves as evidence of ownership of literary and artistic works in cases of infringement and contributes to preserving the national intellectual output and making it accessible for future generations. In 2024, a total of **7,105** works received deposit numbers, of which **4,476** were actually deposited²⁸¹.

Table No. (33): Number of works deposited in 2024

Works granted a deposit number in 2024	Works actually deposited
7,105	4,476

In the area of copyright, significant progress has been made in strengthening moral and material protection related to cultural activity in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, which has positively impacted a large segment of cultural creators in obtaining their financial and moral rights. Through the Copyright Protection Office, rights holders are safeguarded in their cultural productions through the handling of complaints and the conducting of inspection campaigns in accordance with the provisions of the Copyright and Related Rights Protection Law No. 22 of 1992 and its

²⁸¹ Ministry of Culture Letter No. (Th/3/15/922) dated 13/2/2025

amendments. This has contributed to increased creativity and cultural activity in Jordan, in addition to Jordan's accession to and ratification of numerous international conventions regulating copyright and related rights.

In 2024, the Copyright Protection Office referred 14 infringement cases involving various types of works (such as dossiers, books, and receivers) to the relevant authorities. The Office also carried out more than 50 inspection campaigns across various governorates of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Additionally, the Office raises awareness of copyright through lectures, seminars, and workshops. Its staff delivered six lectures at institutions such as the General Command of the Army and the Criminal Investigation Department, among others. Furthermore, the Office coordinated with the Media Commission to block more than 300 websites that violated the Copyright and Related Rights Protection Law²⁸².

Number of inspection campaigns	Number of cases referred related to infringement on works
50	14

Formation of Cultural Institutions

- The number of cultural bodies registered under the supervision of the Ministry of Culture reached 748 associations enriching the public cultural scene with a striking mosaic of diversity, such as artistic groups, associations concerned with literature, criticism, tangible and intangible heritage, and specialized scientific bodies.

- Launch of the digital library "Al-Kotba," a digital platform providing free books aimed at spreading knowledge and promoting reading among all segments of society, thereby contributing to spreading cultural awareness and enhancing cultural education in the community.

Recommendations

1. Enhance cooperation between governmental institutions, security agencies, and judicial authorities to ensure the tracking and recovery of stolen antiquities, and protect heritage and natural sites from destruction or illegal use.
2. Develop awareness and educational programs in schools and universities to promote the culture of preserving heritage and the environment, considering them as part of national identity and collective responsibility.
3. Strict legislation should be enacted to protect tangible and intangible heritage, natural resources, and the environment from violations and assaults committed by some through illegal trading in antiquities and cultural heritage, or through attacks on trees and natural environmental resources. This requires activating strong monitoring mechanisms, tightening penalties on offenders, and raising societal awareness of the importance of preserving cultural and national identity.
4. It is necessary to consider fair geographical distribution when implementing cultural activities across all regions of the Kingdom.

²⁸² Ministry of Culture Letter No. (Th/3/15/922) dated 13/2/2025

Axis of those Most in Need of Protection

Women's Rights

One of the human rights guaranteed by general and specialized international conventions²⁸³, as well as by the Jordanian Constitution²⁸⁴ and related national legislation, aims to achieve gender equality at all stages of life.²⁸⁵

The normative content of women's rights is based on the integrated legal protection of its components through the enforcement and strengthening of its guarantees, by monitoring and following up on several issues, namely: developments in the legislative system, policy developments, and monitoring practices on the ground. In 2024, the Center recorded the following:

- Legislative developments and policies adopted to implement women's rights.
- The status of women's rights in care shelters and female workers in the agricultural sector, as well as monitoring women's participation in the 20th Parliamentary Elections.

²⁸³ All articles of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and Article 3 of both the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as well as other international agreements.

²⁸⁴ Article 6 of the Jordanian Constitution.

²⁸⁵ Articles (2, 3, 9) of the Nationality Law and its amendments; Articles (2, 15, 20, 34, 45, 61, etc.) of the Labor Law and its amendments; the Penal Code and its amendments of 1960; and other legal legislations.

At the legislative and policy level:

- In 2024, the Social Development Law No. 4 of 2024²⁸⁶ was issued, which defined the objectives of the Ministry of Social Development, including improving the quality of life for targeted citizens by providing them with the best protection and care services in a participatory and fair manner that ensures preserving their human dignity and maintaining their privacy. Under the provisions of the law, the Ministry works to provide protection and care for victims of domestic violence and women at risk.²⁸⁷ The issuance of the law aims to upgrade social services and shift them from mere care to development and empowerment, enhancing productivity, and taking into account the Center's recommendations²⁸⁸ to modernize the law in line with developments in social work, which will reflect positively on the programs and services provided. The Center hopes

²⁸⁶ Issued in the Official Gazette No. 5816 dated 24/3/2024.

²⁸⁷ The law requires service providers to obtain a license from the ministry; otherwise, they are subject to a fine of not less than five hundred dinars and not more than two thousand dinars. In case of repetition, imprisonment is imposed for a period of no less than three months and no more than two years, along with the maximum fine.

²⁸⁸ The center participated in a session of the Labor, Social Development, and Population Committee formed by the House of Representatives, as well as the Labor and Social Development Committee formed by the Senate, and presented its observations on the law before its issuance, many of which were adopted.

for the swift issuance of the regulations governing its implementation.²⁸⁹

- In 2024, Nursery Law No. 6 of 2024²⁹⁰ was issued to define the procedures for licensing nurseries of all types, clarify the inspection and oversight mechanisms, specify the penalties for violators, cancel the annual renewal requirement for all types of nurseries, and extend the waiting period for children up to 9 years of age²⁹¹. The issuance of this regulation contributes to establishing nurseries that serve early childhood needs and enable working women to continue their employment, thereby increasing their economic participation.
- In 2024, the Corporate Governance Instructions for Public Shareholding Companies were issued²⁹². Notably,

²⁸⁹ Regulation of the Profession of Social Work and Its Licensing.

²⁹⁰ Issued in the Official Gazette No. 5909 dated 20/2/2024.

²⁹¹ The legal age for daycare custody is set from one day old to 4 years and 8 months without exception. Home daycare licenses are canceled, and registration is only approved through the Ministry of Social Development to encourage women to transition from the informal sector to the formal sector. It was also permitted that the caregiver need not hold a high school diploma provided they obtain a training certificate from an accredited entity or practice a profession through the Vocational and Technical Skills Development Authority. The contract with a doctor was canceled to reduce the financial cost of daycares, given that children under six years are covered by health insurance. Among the key amendments is the development of a new profession called “Management and Operation of Daycare Centers” in public workplaces, simplification of daycare licensing procedures by canceling approvals from the Ministries of Health and Labor for all types of daycare licenses, and the formation of an appeals committee for applicants to promote the principle of transparency.

²⁹² Issued in the Official Gazette No. 5930 dated 2/6/2024.

Article (4/C) stipulates the obligation to ensure that women represent no less than 20% of the board of directors' members, with at least one seat reserved for a woman who meets the membership conditions stipulated in the Companies Law, whether in her own right or as a representative of a legal entity.²⁹³

- Issuing these instructions and requiring companies to ensure women's representation on boards of directors will help increase women's participation in boards and responds to the Center's recommendations in previous annual reports to enhance women's participation in economic life and decision-making positions.
- The Executive Instructions for Establishing Political Parties and Following Up on Their Affairs for 2024²⁹⁴ were issued in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 1 of Article 9 of the Political Parties Law. Notably, these instructions stipulate that women must constitute no less than 20% of the founding members, excluding females from the youth category unless the percentage of female youth exceeds the quota allocated for them. The issuance of these instructions helps increase the percentage of women in political parties.
- The Executive Instructions for Forming Electoral Committees for

²⁹³ The instructions were issued pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (A) of Article 151 of the Companies Law and its amendments, whereby the provisions of the instructions apply to public joint-stock companies and private joint-stock companies registered with a capital exceeding five hundred thousand Jordanian dinars.

²⁹⁴ Issued in the Official Gazette No. 5908 dated 15/2/2024.

2024²⁹⁵ were issued in accordance with Article 72 of the House of Representatives Elections Law and its amendments for 2022 and Article 12 of the Independent Election Commission Law and its amendments for 2012. Article 4 of these instructions stipulates that “A decision shall be issued by the Council to form an electoral committee for each local electoral district consisting of a chairperson and four members appointed by the Council, provided that at least one of them is a woman, in addition to the heads of the sub-offices affiliated with the local electoral district as stipulated in Article (6) of these instructions.” This amendment responds to the Center’s observations in its previous annual reports recommending increased women’s participation in electoral committees in local districts²⁹⁶.

At the level of policies and practices:

- The National Center records an increase in the percentage of women’s participation in the Senate for 2024, where the number of women in the Senate reached 10 out of 69 members, i.e., 14%, compared to 7 out of 65 members in the previous Senate of 2020, i.e., 10.7%.
- In 2024, the Independent Election Commission adopted a definition of electoral violence against women as: “Any act or omission (whether physical or moral) committed with the aim of depriving a woman or

hindering her from exercising any right, duty, or freedom stipulated in the Elections Law, based solely on her gender.”

- The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan submitted its national report for the fourth Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in January 2024 before the Human Rights Council in Geneva. Among the key recommendations related to women’s rights were: (1) Continuing efforts to empower women in public and political life; (2) Ensuring comprehensive and effective implementation of measures to eliminate violence against women and girls; and (3) Taking further measures to provide a safe working environment for women.
- The National Center discussed its parallel report on the Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights for 2024, which monitored the extent to which recommendations approved by the government in the third UPR cycle for the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan have been implemented²⁹⁷.
- In mid-2024, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan submitted its report on the periodic review of progress made towards implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 30 years after its adoption to the relevant United Nations regional commission, to be included in the consolidated regional report to be presented to the 65th session of the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations in New York in March 2025²⁹⁸. The report

²⁹⁵ Issued in the Official Gazette No. 5914 dated 10/3/2024.

²⁹⁶ Human Rights Situation Report in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the year 2020, published on the Center’s website: www.nc.jo

²⁹⁷ www.nchr.org.jo

²⁹⁸ The Jordanian National Committee for Women’s Affairs prepared the report under the direction of the Prime Ministry and supervision of the Ministerial

included progress made towards fulfilling Jordan's commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls within the objectives of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, as well as the identification of challenges, obstacles, priorities, and commitments, taking into account regional and national contexts. It also highlighted the role of the National Center for Human Rights in protecting and promoting women's rights and gender equality, and in monitoring the status of women²⁹⁹.

- On the occasion of the International Day of Women Judges, the National Center issued a statement highlighting the measures taken to empower women in the judiciary in general, and in leadership positions in particular, where women have assumed several positions within the judiciary at various judicial levels, whether internationally at the International Criminal Court, or domestically at the Court of Cassation — the highest judicial authority in Jordan's regular judiciary — as well as at the Orthodox Court of Appeal. Women have also held positions as Public Prosecutors, Director General of the Judicial Institute of Jordan, and Attorney General.
- On another note, the Center issued a statement on the occasion of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, calling for building on existing achievements and

intensifying the efforts of national institutions, civil society organizations, and the media to enhance and increase the participation of women and girls in the fields of science and technology, and to overcome the challenges and obstacles women face in this context. At the same time, in light of the ongoing brutal aggression on the Gaza Strip, which has caused the destruction of schools, universities, and other educational institutions, the Center calls on the international community to shoulder its legal responsibility by taking immediate measures to stop violations of the rights of women and girls and to protect them from violence perpetrated by the Israeli occupation in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

- In response to the Center's recommendation included in its previous annual reports³⁰⁰, the Victims of Human Trafficking Assistance Fund was activated by providing travel tickets for Ugandan domestic workers classified as victims of human trafficking under judicial rulings, who were accommodated at the Karama Shelter for Victims of Human Trafficking³⁰¹.

At the level of practices:

- The National Center monitored women's participation in the elections for the Twentieth House of

Committee for Women's Empowerment, as part of a national participatory effort involving the National Center for Human Rights, government institutions, the House of Representatives, and entities concerned with women's rights.

²⁹⁹ <https://www.women.jo/ar/node>

³⁰⁰The Center addressed the Ministry of Social Development, with a copy to the Ministry of Justice, via letter No. H.A/323/18 dated 17/4/2024, and the Center's recommendation was responded to by letter No. 17/5/B/1443 dated 26/1/2025 issued by the Ministry of Justice.

³⁰¹ The fund was activated in the last quarter of 2024.

Representatives and found the following³⁰²:

The percentage of registered female voters for the parliamentary elections for the Twentieth House reached 52.87%, while registered male voters accounted for 47.13%³⁰³. For the Nineteenth House, registered female voters were 52.6%³⁰⁴ and male voters 47.4%. The Center notes that the current percentage is similar to that of the Nineteenth House elections and hopes to see an increase in women's participation in voting. The percentage of women who actually cast their votes in the Twentieth House elections was 29.1% of all female voters, compared to 35.69% male voters. Women won 27 seats out of 138 seats in the Twentieth House — 9 seats from the local districts and 18 from the general list — marking an increase of 12 seats compared to the previous House. This represents the highest number of seats ever won by Jordanian women in parliamentary elections, bringing women's representation in the House to 19.56%.³⁰⁵

1. The Independent Election Commission launched an internal platform under the “e-Monitor” program to monitor and follow up on electoral violence against women. This platform includes several channels for reporting electoral

violence against women, whether through direct communication with the Commission, through civil society organizations, or via electronic or telephone contact.

2. The National Center for Human Rights strengthened women's roles in monitoring the electoral process by ensuring women's participation in the National Coalition for Election Observation, which operates under the Center's umbrella, with women comprising 45.5% of the observation team.

Monitoring the role of protection and care:

1. The Center monitored the Karama Shelter for Victims of Human Trafficking on March 25, 2024, and noted that the Ministry of Social Development has expanded the shelter's mandate to include potential victims, in addition to male, female, and child victims of human trafficking, in accordance with the amended Regulation for Shelters for Victims and Affected Persons of Human Trafficking for 2023. The shelter has also established an isolation room and ensured that its building and facilities are accessible to persons with mobility disabilities. In this context, the Center concluded a set of observations and recommendations regarding this group in the mentioned shelter³⁰⁶,

³⁰² For more details, please refer to the 2024 Parliamentary Elections Monitoring Report issued by the Center, which includes a special chapter on women's participation in these elections.

³⁰³ <https://www.iec.jo/sites/default>

³⁰⁴ www.iec.jo

³⁰⁵ <https://www.iec.jo/sites/default>

³⁰⁶ The Center addressed the Ministry of Social Development via letter No. H.A/323/18 dated 17/4/2024, with a copy sent to the Ministry of Justice. The Center received a response via letter No. Sh.Q/3/7562 dated 19/5/2024. The Center's recommendation was implemented as per letter No. 17/5/B/1443 dated 26/1/2025 issued by the Ministry of Justice.

including: (a) activating the Victims of Human Trafficking Assistance Fund in accordance with the provisions of the regulation; (b) increasing oversight of domestic worker recruitment agencies by regulatory bodies and the Ministry of Labor; and (c) enhancing coordination and cooperation with foreign embassies to find mechanisms to help provide travel tickets for foreign domestic workers who are victims of human trafficking so they can return to their home countries.

2. The Center monitored the “Amneh” Shelter for Women’s Protection and Rehabilitation on April 16, 2024³⁰⁷, and noted that the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Health, and relevant stakeholders have implemented some of the Center’s previous recommendations stated in its annual and specialized reports, including: (a) fully preparing an apartment within the shelter for use by beneficiaries with disabilities³⁰⁸; (b) building the capacity of shelter workers regarding the rights of persons with disabilities and case management; (c) equipping the gym with modern sports equipment and linking each beneficiary to an appropriate nutrition plan; (d) preparing a hall to display products made by

beneficiaries³⁰⁹; (e) assigning a gynecologist by the Ministry of Health to visit the shelter at least twice a week³¹⁰; and (f) providing the shelter with a 4D ultrasound device to monitor the health status of pregnant beneficiaries during their stay³¹¹. In addition, the Center recorded the following observations during its 2024 monitoring: (a) the need to provide the shelter with emergency maternity kits³¹²; (b) the need for a dedicated psychological specialist, as the current single specialist is insufficient given the number of beneficiaries; and the necessity of allocating a private room for the psychological specialist, equipped with tools that support her work (such as stress relief and energy discharge tools); and (c) the need to provide a medical bed and suitable mattress for persons

³⁰⁷ The National Center addressed the Ministry of Social Development via letter No. H.A/378/18 dated 29/4/2024, but no response was received.

³⁰⁸ Through providing reasonable accommodations and accessible features such as an electric elevator, a ramp in front of the apartment door, side handles on walls, and tactile indicators inside and outside the apartment, in addition to providing a restroom equipped for beneficiaries with disabilities.

³⁰⁹ During the economic empowerment courses held at the center, activities included jewelry making, children’s clothing, wool crafts, crochet, mosaic work, and others. The center’s management is currently working on preparing policies to market products electronically through an online store, with the proceeds going to the beneficiaries.

³¹⁰ This came based on the Center’s correspondence with the Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry of Health on this matter. (Letter to the Ministry of Social Development No. H.A/424/18 dated 18/10/2021; Letter to the Ministry of Social Development No. H.A/530/18 dated 28/8/2023; and Letter to the Ministry of Health No. H.A/424/18 dated 18/10/2021.)

³¹¹ The Ministry of Social Development was addressed by letter No. H.A/18/424 dated 18/10/2021, and the Ministry of Health was addressed by letter No. H.A/18/424 dated 18/10/2021, and the Center’s request was responded to.

³¹² The kit includes all necessary medical equipment and tools during the natural childbirth process (the center witnessed the delivery of one of the beneficiaries approximately seven months ago inside the center).

with disabilities inside the prepared apartment.

3. The Center monitored the Al-Wifaq Family Shelter in Aqaba on April 29, 2024, and noted the implementation of recommendations previously provided by the Center to the Ministry of Social Development during earlier visits, including: (a) the presence of a shaded play area in the garden for beneficiaries' children to protect them from the summer heat, equipped with all necessary supplies; (b) preparing the shelter to accommodate beneficiaries with disabilities; (c) intensifying programs aimed at economically empowering beneficiaries, such as courses on e-marketing, mosaic art, painting, handicrafts, soap and candle making, and others; and (d) raising awareness about the importance of the shelter for women victims of violence and highlighting the services provided to them through a segment broadcast on an FM Aqaba radio program.

Moreover, during its visits to the shelter in 2024, the Center recorded a number of observations, including: (a) The need to subject all managers and staff of the shelter to advanced training in human rights and the national legislation governing their work. (b) The need to reconsider the specialized mandate of family reconciliation shelters to ensure they are dedicated to women survivors of violence and their accompanying children, while referring juvenile girls to juvenile care homes or other appropriate institutions that meet their needs and age requirements, and ensure their physical, psychological, and mental

safety³¹³. This is because, although placing juvenile girls in family reconciliation shelters may offer protection, it may not fulfill all the requirements and considerations for the best interests of the child³¹⁴.

On the occasion of the International Day of Families and the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the National Center issued a statement calling for the need to unify and intensify national efforts to strengthen the status of families, preserve them, protect them from disintegration and violence, ensure their stability and cohesion, empower low-income families through the implementation of small, income-generating projects, and enable families of persons with disabilities to overcome the challenges they face while carrying out their parenting responsibilities. The statement also called for awareness programs for women who head households, informing them of their rights under international standards and national legislation, empowering them in all areas of life in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, disseminating awareness programs about the Domestic Violence Protection Law of 2017, and providing free counseling and psychological treatment programs for survivors of violence in all governorates. The Center also emphasized the need to train and expand programs for those about to marry, and to

³¹³ There is no legal classification, and placing juvenile girls in the Family Reconciliation Center is in accordance with the provisions of the Protection Homes Regulation. However, the Center calls for not placing juvenile girls with women over the age of 18 due to the difference in their needs, as explained above.

³¹⁴ The Center addressed the Ministry of Social Development via letter No. H.A/495/18 dated 2/6/2024, but no response was received.

work on reducing cases of family disintegration and underage marriage³¹⁵.

4. The Center monitored the conditions of female workers in the agricultural sector in Mafrqa Governorate and the Northern and Central Jordan Valley areas³¹⁶, and found the following: (a) The absence of transportation means that meet public safety requirements for transporting agricultural workers to and from farms. (b) The Agricultural Workers' Regulation of 2021 is not being implemented with regard to annual leave, sick leave, maternity leave, enrollment in social security, and compliance with the minimum wage. (c) There is weak commitment to occupational safety and health standards. (d) Many agricultural employers and female agricultural workers lack sufficient awareness of the Agricultural Workers' Regulation of 2021. (e) There is weak inspection by the Ministry of Labor of agricultural employers to monitor the application of the regulation's provisions.

On the occasion of International Women's Day, the Center issued a statement emphasizing the need to provide greater protection for women in all fields, including those working in the agricultural sector. On the occasion of the International Day of Rural Women, the Center issued another statement calling for the adoption of appropriate employment contracts for women working in agriculture that are compatible with their working conditions and protect their rights regarding working hours, wages, leave, social and health

insurance, and their rights during pregnancy and breastfeeding hours.

5. On 22 January 2025, the National Center organized a discussion session entitled "Women's Participation in Professional Associations" with stakeholders and experts, to examine the reality of women's and women with disabilities' participation in decision-making positions within associations from the perspective of legislation, policies, and practices, the challenges they face that hinder their participation, and to propose recommendations that would increase and strengthen women's representation in decision-making positions in associations.

The participants highlighted the following observations: (a) Weak representation of women in the boards of professional associations, and in some associations, women's representation is almost non-existent. (b) The heavy professional workload that hinders women's access to decision-making positions. (c) The need to enhance the participation of persons with disabilities when developing the internal plans and policies of labor and professional associations.

The discussion session concluded with a number of recommendations in this regard, including:

1. Amending the internal regulations of labor and professional associations to explicitly stipulate the allocation of specific seats for women on their boards.
2. Launching media plans that support women's rights and the rights of women with disabilities, by adopting policies aimed at raising societal awareness of the importance of women's participation in public life

³¹⁵ <https://www.nchr.org.jo/ar>

³¹⁶ The Center addressed the Ministry of Labor via letter No. H.A/63/S.B dated 31/1/2024. The response included an increase in inspections of agricultural employers, the taking of legal action against violators, and the reception of complaints from female workers in the agricultural sector.

and associations, their access to leadership positions, and strengthening their presence as essential partners in the decision-making process.

3. Subjecting all members of associations, of all types, to awareness and training programs on union work, building women's capacities regarding their roles in decision-making and leadership, and in electoral campaigns, grassroots organizing, and professional networking.

Recommendations:

1. Disseminate awareness programs about the Domestic Violence Protection Law and provide counseling and psychological treatment programs for victims of violence in all governorates, while continuing to build the capacities of service providers and staff working in family protection and care shelters.
2. Increase the percentage of women participating in electoral committees and presiding over them, and build their capacities in managing electoral processes.
3. Implement legal awareness programs for all segments and groups of society about women's right to vote.
4. Conduct awareness programs for female candidates on how to prepare electoral statements, run election campaigns, and gain support from voters for their candidacy.
5. Build the capacities of female parliamentarians in their legislative and oversight roles regarding human rights under the Constitution and the international standards that Jordan has committed to.

6. Strengthen oversight by the relevant authorities of workplaces employing women in the agricultural sector to ensure compliance with occupational safety and health standards, the provision of first aid, and the supply of protective equipment such as shoes, masks, and gloves to protect them from harsh working conditions, and other tools that guarantee their right to physical safety.
7. Adopt appropriate employment contracts for female agricultural workers that are compatible with their working conditions and safeguard their rights regarding working hours, wages, leave, social and health insurance, and their rights during pregnancy and breastfeeding hours.

Children's Rights

Children's rights are a fundamental part of human rights guaranteed by general and specific international standards³¹⁷, as well as by the Jordanian Constitution³¹⁸ and relevant national laws, most notably the Child Rights Law of 2022³¹⁹.

The normative essence of this right is based on providing legislative and non-legislative safeguards to protect, care for, and preserve every human being under the age of eighteen, regardless of gender, race, language, religion, or disability, and across all areas of life.

In general, during 2024, the National Center monitored legislative developments regulating children's rights and the main policies supporting their protection and promotion. The monitoring also included field visits conducted by the Center to some protection and care institutions.

At the legislative level:

The year 2024 witnessed the adoption and amendment of certain national legislations related to children's rights, including:

1. The issuance of the Social Development Law No. (4) of 2024³²⁰ in response to some of the Center's

observations and recommendations to modernize the law in line with contemporary developments³²¹. The law defines the groups that require care and protection, including children in need of care and protection, juveniles, and children of nursery age³²². This is expected to improve the quality of services provided to these groups, ensure the preservation of their rights, enhance their protection, and uphold their human dignity. The Center calls for the prompt issuance of the regulations governing its implementation³²³.

2. The issuance of the Nurseries Regulation for the year 2024³²⁴, aimed at encouraging the

³¹⁷ Such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which was ratified by Jordan and published in the Official Gazette in 2006.

³¹⁸ Article 6, paragraph five, as amended and published in Official Gazette issue No. 5770 dated 31/1/2022, states: "The law protects the rights of persons with disabilities and promotes their participation and integration in various aspects of life. It also protects motherhood, childhood, and old age, cares for youth, and prevents abuse and exploitation."

³¹⁹ The Child Rights Law No. (17) of 2022, published in Official Gazette issue No. (5820) dated 12/10/2022.

³²⁰ Published in Official Gazette issue No. (5916), page (1651), dated 24/3/2024, under which the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor Law No. (14) of 1956 was repealed in accordance with Article (27) of the Social Development Law No. (4) of 2024.

³²¹ The law regulates the profession of social work and defines the necessary conditions for practicing it under Article (5) of the Social Development Law No. (4) of 2024. This includes granting the Ministry the authority to issue licenses to practice the profession, allowing workers in the social work sector a grace period to rectify their status, and regulating the collection of donations for charitable purposes, including defining the conditions and methods for doing so, as stipulated in Article (14) of the same law.

³²² The Ministry of Social Development is responsible for establishing and licensing institutions and homes that provide services to these groups. It also oversees and monitors them. The law also defines the functions of these institutions and homes, which, under Article (7) of the Social Development Law No. (4) of 2024, include:

- Providing social care, protection, and shelter services.

- Providing social, educational, living, psychological, health, counseling, legal, and cultural services.
- Offering rehabilitation, employment, and training programs for the targeted groups.
- Building a database for beneficiaries.

³²³ Regulations issued in accordance with Articles (5/a), (8), (12/b), (13/b), (14/b), (15/b), and (26) of the Social Development Law No. (4) of 2024.

³²⁴ Published in Official Gazette issue No. (5909), page (1004), dated 20/2/2024.

establishment of nurseries³²⁵ and enabling parents to access a safe environment that stimulates the child's abilities and focuses on early childhood, which will positively reflect on children's rights. It will also empower women and encourage their participation in the labor market. The regulation cancelled the annual renewal of licenses for all nurseries, cancelled licensing of home nurseries, and made registration with the Ministry of Social Development sufficient. It also allowed nurseries to provide waiting services for children up to the age of nine outside school hours, subject to certain conditions, the most important of which is providing a separate room for this purpose and appointing a dedicated caregiver³²⁶.

3. The issuance of the E-Learning Regulation in School Educational Institutions for the year 2024³²⁷, aimed at integrating face-to-face and e-learning in educational institutions and promoting the use of technological tools and modern techniques in the educational process. This is expected to positively reflect on students' rights and ensure the continuation of education in schools during exceptional and emergency circumstances that prevent students or teachers from attending.

³²⁵ The regulation defines the licensing procedures for all types of daycare centers—whether institutional, private, or home-based. Article (34), paragraphs (a, b) of the 2024 Daycare Centers Regulation specify the procedures for oversight and inspection, while paragraphs (c, d, e) of the same article outline the violations that may be imposed.

³²⁶ Article (16) of the 2024 Daycare Centers Regulation.

³²⁷ Published in Official Gazette issue No. (5923), page (2025), dated 18/4/2024.

4. The issuance of the Licensing Conditions and Procedures Instructions for Private and Foreign Educational Institutions for the year 2024³²⁸, which specify the conditions that private and foreign educational institutions and institutions for persons with disabilities³²⁹ must meet to be licensed. The Center believes these instructions and their provisions will help guarantee and strengthen the rights of students with disabilities to inclusive education.
5. The issuance of the Executive Instructions for the Rules of Electoral Campaigns for the year 2024³³⁰, which prohibit the use of children in electoral campaigns. The Center commended the issuance of these instructions, which provide broader legislative protection for children from abuse and exploitation, including political exploitation.

At the policy level:

- In 2024, the Cabinet issued a decision dated 3/9/2023 approving the National Strategy for Juvenile Justice in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan³³¹ for the years 2024–2028.

³²⁸ Published in Official Gazette issue No. (5927), page (2254), dated 16/5/2024.

³²⁹ The Instructions for the Conditions and Procedures for Licensing Private and Foreign Educational Institutions for the Year 2024 define educational institutions for persons with disabilities, according to Article (2/a), as any private educational institution established under the regulations and these instructions, and that provides educational services or programs for persons with disabilities.

³³⁰ Published in Official Gazette issue No. (5914), page (1465), dated 10/3/2024.

³³¹ Prepared by the National Council for Family Affairs in partnership with the Steering and Technical Committees for Juvenile Justice, to serve as a reference for those working in the juvenile sector and for the purpose of defining roles and identifying

The decision assigned ministries and governmental and non-governmental institutions the responsibility to implement the strategy and incorporate it into their executive work plans³³². The strategy's key axes include prevention, awareness, regulatory legislation, services, coordination, networking, human resources, and training³³³.

- Regarding the development of school curricula, the Center monitored the ongoing national efforts led by the National Center for Curriculum Development to integrate human rights concepts into curricula. The Center proposed recommendations aimed at enhancing the culture of human rights³³⁴ to align with Article 6 of the Constitution, Article 29 of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the recommendations of the International Committee on the Rights of the Child submitted to Jordan.

In this context, the National Center for Human Rights reviewed school curricula including Social Studies for grades 1, 4, and 7; My Arabic Language for grades 1, 4, and 10; Islamic Education for grades 3, 6, and 9; History for grade 10;

needs, thereby contributing to the advancement of the juvenile justice sector. The strategy aims to reduce the rate of juvenile delinquency cases, enhance efficiency and effectiveness to ensure fair investigation and trial procedures for this group, improve the effectiveness of their rehabilitation in accordance with international best practices, include juveniles in need of protection and care, and improve the services provided to them.

³³² Incoming letter to the Center from the Prime Minister No. 24/Safar/1445 dated 10/9/2023.

³³³ <https://ncfa.org.jo/ar/album/policies-and-legislation-1>

³³⁴ Outgoing letter from the Center No. H.A/806/4-18 dated 4/12/2023.

Geography for grade 10; National and Civic Education for grade 10; Islamic Studies for grade 12; and Islamic Education for grade 12 for all literary branches, prepared by the National Center for Curriculum Development for the second semester.

Child labor:

According to statistics issued by the Child Labor³³⁵ Inspection Department under the Central Inspection Directorate at the Ministry of Labor³³⁶, from 1/1/2024 to 31/12/2024, the number of complaints received regarding child labor by directorates and inspection departments was 118 complaints. Of these, 110 complaints were resolved with employers, securing labor rights, while 8 cases remain under processing. The total number of inspected institutions reached 3,889. The total number of child labor cases recorded was 294, with 201 warnings and 181 violations issued to employers.

The Ministry conducted 20 awareness activities aimed at reducing child labor.

In the same context, and based on follow-up of its recommendations, the National Center published on its page recommendations included in its 19th annual report under the

³³⁵ Jordan is considered one of the first countries to ratify international conventions related to the protection of children from economic exploitation, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its two Optional Protocols, as well as International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions — namely, the Minimum Age Convention No. 138 and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention No. 182. National legislation related to combating child labour is fully aligned with these international conventions.

³³⁶ As published on the official website of the Ministry of Labour: www.mol.gov.jo

social protection of the child, emphasizing the need to tighten inspection over workplaces where child labor is concentrated, enforce legislation banning child labor, and implement and strengthen awareness campaigns regarding the negative effects of child labor.

At the level of practices:

First: Homes for Children Without Family Support

On April 29, 2024, the Center conducted an observational visit to the Jordanian Children's Villages (SOS) in Aqaba Governorate, as part of monitoring visits to homes for children without family support. The visit aimed to review the reality of children's rights, assess the services provided to them, and identify the challenges and difficulties they face.

The Center observed the implementation of the "community homes" project, which aims to integrate children with their peers. The villages responded to the National Center's recommendation to keep girls under alternative mother care to protect their psychological well-being and avoid transferring them to the girls' home. They also reduced the number of children per community home to four, enabling the alternative mother to provide the best care to meet all their living, educational, and other needs³³⁷.

During the 2024 visit, the Center noted several observations, including:

1. The village lacks financial independence, meaning it operates as a voluntary sector without financial

³³⁷ A reduction in the number of children to four was implemented at the SOS Children's Villages in the capital.

support from the government. The village implements its programs and activities through projects dependent on funding, and once funding ends, the programs cease.

2. There is a lack of employment opportunities for graduates, especially girls, in Aqaba governorate³³⁸, in addition to limited and non-diverse vocational training courses and openings³³⁹.
3. The psychological treatment unit at Prince Hashem Military Hospital is not activated, although one psychiatrist works three days a week at the Aqaba Comprehensive Center for Special Education. There is no government hospital with a psychiatrist, and children need access to psychiatric care.
4. Children enrolled in the home often discontinue their education, facing difficulty reintegrating into schools after prolonged absence.

To promote awareness of human rights and national legislation, the Center conducted a number of training courses in 2024 for service and care providers at the Jordanian Children's Villages (SOS), as part of activating the memorandum of understanding signed with the Center.

Second: The Child's Right to Play

The Center conducted a number of field visits in 2024 to a random sample of public parks and children's play areas across the three regions of the Kingdom, including the Al-Baqa refugee camp for Palestinian

³³⁸ If job opportunities were made available to youth, they would most likely work in the tourism sector — the issue lies in the lack of such opportunities and the youth's reluctance to engage in them.

³³⁹ Vocational training classes are not opened unless there is a sufficient number of trainees.

refugees. The visits aimed to assess the reality of the child's right to safe play, examine the design of parks friendly to children with disabilities, and availability of suitable play equipment for children with autism and disabilities. Observations were recorded, relevant authorities contacted, and recommendations submitted.

The Center noted the following³⁴⁰:

- It is necessary to take the required measures to activate Article 18/b of the Child Rights Law³⁴¹ and to generally develop parks, expand the establishment of parks and safe play areas for children according to specific standards that consider population density in certain areas. Also, special attention must be given to children with disabilities by providing safe play equipment that enables them to exercise their right to play on an equal footing.
- Expansion and increased dissemination of branches of the Zaha Center is needed to cover all governorates in the Kingdom and to ensure consistent quality of services.
- There is a disparity in the care given to public parks; the cleanliness and maintenance levels in the governorates are low compared to parks in the capital, Amman.
- Neglect and lack of regular maintenance work for most public parks, where some damaged playground equipment is dangerous and harms children's safety,

alongside poor cleanliness and lack of sanitary facilities and first aid³⁴².

- Disparity in the distribution of public parks, with no public park available in areas served by Sharhabil bin Hasnah Municipality, Muadh bin Waqqas Municipality, and Tabqat Fahl Municipality³⁴³ in the Northern Jordan Valley district in Irbid Governorate³⁴⁴.
- The location of Al-Mushir Habes Al-Majali Park needs to be relocated, as the land on which it was established was originally a deep valley that was filled. Multiple land subsidence and cracks in the buildings on the site

³⁴² A monitoring report on the right of children and children with disabilities to play in public parks and designated play areas in Amman — Tlaa Al-Ali Traffic Park, dated 22/10/2024. Greater Amman Municipality was addressed by letter No. (Ref: H A/979/18), dated 5/11/2024, including a set of observed remarks. A response was received from Greater Amman Municipality by letter No. (8/5/12823), dated 9/12/2024, indicating that the Mayor of Amman issued a decision to form an internal committee to follow up on the center's remarks and recommendations.

³⁴³ However, a branch of the Zaha Cultural Center was opened in the Al-Mashari' area, which is part of the Tabaqat Fahl Municipality.

³⁴⁴ Monitoring report on the right of children and children with disabilities to play in public parks and designated play areas in the Northern Jordan Valley District, dated 31/10/2024. The Ministry of Local Administration was addressed with the observed remarks via letter issued by the Center, No. (H A/1040/18), dated 19/11/2024. The Ministry responded with letters No. (M/176/44954), dated 27/11/2024; (M/176/44956), dated 27/11/2024; and (M/176/49663), dated 26/12/2024. The response indicated that the mayors of the mentioned municipalities were directed to take the necessary actions regarding the Center's observations and to conduct a study on the municipalities' need for public parks and the availability of suitable land plots for that purpose and to provide the Ministry with the findings so that the Ministry can further examine the matter within the available resources.

³⁴⁰ See the 19th Annual Report on the State of Human Rights in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the year 2022.

³⁴¹ This article guarantees the child's right to access safe and free playgrounds and parks, within the available capabilities.

have been recorded over past years³⁴⁵.

- Al-Baqa refugee camp park for Palestinian refugees in Ain Al-Basha district requires general maintenance, adaptation for use by people with disabilities, provision of suitable play equipment for children with disabilities, and the establishment of another public park to serve camp residents and accommodate large numbers, reducing pressure on the existing small park³⁴⁶.

Third: Observational Visits to Juvenile Detention Centers

On April 28-29, 2024, the Center conducted a number of field monitoring visits to juvenile detention centers at police directorates in the three regions. The Center commends the efforts by the Public Security Directorate to improve and develop services

³⁴⁵ Monitoring report on the right of children and children with disabilities to play in public parks and designated play areas in Karak Governorate, dated 21/10/2024. The Ministry of Local Administration was addressed by a letter issued by the National Center No. (H A/1011/18), dated 11/11/2024. The Ministry responded via letter No. (K/1/44190), dated 20/11/2024, instructing the Mayor of Greater Karak Municipality to review and study the observations included in the Center's letter and take the necessary action.

³⁴⁶ Monitoring visit report on the right of children and children with disabilities to play in public parks and designated play areas — Baqaa Palestinian Refugee Camp, in Ain Al-Basha District, dated 18/11/2024. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates was addressed by a letter issued by the National Center No. (H A/1092/18), dated 5/12/2024. A response was received from the Ministry by letter No. (12/589/63661), dated 17/12/2024, indicating that the Department of Palestinian Affairs had been instructed to examine the content of the letter. The Department will work on making the existing park suitable for use by children with disabilities. However, regarding the possibility of establishing another park to serve the camp's residents, this is currently not feasible due to the lack of available land for such a purpose.

provided to children in conflict with the law, starting with the presence of male juvenile detention centers in Ma'an and Aqaba governorates, and a female juvenile detention center in Aqaba governorate.

The Center recorded several important observations³⁴⁷, including:

- The need to establish a female juvenile detention center in Ma'an governorate, equipped for persons with disabilities, to facilitate visits for the families of juveniles residing in Ma'an. Currently, female juveniles are transferred either to the female juvenile detention center in Aqaba or to the capital, which poses a burden on families visiting them.
- Male and female juvenile detention centers in Aqaba require family rooms and attention to the cleanliness and preparation of sanitary facilities for people with disabilities.

Fourth: Children Victims of Drugs and Psychoactive Substances

The Center monitored the efforts by the Ministry of Social Development to respond to the recommendations of the National Center for Human Rights outlined in its annual reports³⁴⁸ and official correspondence³⁴⁹ concerning the need for the Ministry to follow appropriate mechanisms, in cooperation with the Public

³⁴⁷ Letter issued by the National Center to the Public Security Directorate, No. (H.A/496/18), dated 2/6/2024.

³⁴⁸ See the 20th Annual Report on the State of Human Rights in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the year 2023.

³⁴⁹ Correspondence letters issued by the National Center to the Ministry of Social Development: Letter No. (H.A/514/18), dated 5/6/2024, and Letter No. (H.A/444/18), dated 20/7/2023.

Security Directorate, to provide treatment for male and female juveniles addicted to psychoactive substances and drugs in national addiction treatment centers before placing them in social care institutions or rehabilitation centers.

A behavioral adjustment and children's rehabilitation center was established in Zarqa governorate and officially opened on Monday, November 11, 2024. It is a specialized institution under the Ministry of Social Development that provides treatment, psychological rehabilitation, and behavioral adjustment services to juveniles detained or sentenced in cases related to drug use or addiction.

The Center also conducted a monitoring visit to the behavioral adjustment and children's rehabilitation center to review the services provided and the conditions of this group. The Center's main observations and recommendations from the monitoring visit include³⁵⁰:

- The need to staff the behavioral adjustment and children's rehabilitation center with a general practitioner to monitor the health conditions of children during addiction treatment and follow-up of their treatment plans.
- The center is still in the establishment phase and is not yet fully equipped. Therefore, there is a necessity to develop a plan for non-curricular programs and recreational activities, supervise them, expedite

equipping the activities hall with necessary tools to enable beneficiaries to engage in non-curricular activities, expedite establishing the outdoor playground, and pay more attention to the psychological state of the children.

- The absence of a library or study hall requires establishing mechanisms, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, to help beneficiaries complete their education and homework, and to prepare a suitable study room.
- Cooperation with specialized legal institutions under memorandums of understanding to provide legal services and consultations needed by the beneficiaries, legal assistance before judicial authorities, and legal awareness through lectures and seminars held from time to time.
- Cooperation with the Anti-Narcotics Directorate to hold awareness lectures on the legal, social, health, and religious effects of drug use.

Fifth: Children Apprehended for Begging

The National Center for Human Rights conducted several monitoring visits to care and rehabilitation centers for beggars affiliated with the Ministry of Social Development, aimed at assessing the situation of homeless and begging children in need of protection and care, and to review their conditions in these temporary centers and their compliance with international human rights standards in general, and with the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in particular, which Jordan has ratified. These rights include the child's right to survival and development, protection from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

³⁵⁰ Monitoring visit report of the Behavior Modification and Rehabilitation Center for Children, dated 4/12/2024. The Ministry of Social Development was addressed regarding all the observations in letter No. (H.A/15/603), dated 8/1/2025.

The Center monitored the male beggars' care and rehabilitation center in Madaba governorate in May 2024 and recorded the following observations³⁵¹:

1. The center's building is not equipped for use by people with disabilities.
2. Lack of specialized staff holding university qualifications suitable for their work; most staff are old employees promoted to supervisors, with significant age differences between staff and beneficiaries.

The Center also monitored the male beggars' care and rehabilitation center in Amman governorate in May 2024 and recorded the following observations³⁵²:

1. The building and its facilities are not ready to receive begging children in the targeted age group (6-18 years), and are unsuitable for their intended use in terms of space and building nature, as the center was established inside an external annex of the Amman Juvenile Rehabilitation and Care Center.
2. The center only provides temporary care services and does not provide other services; there is no medical clinic, no equipped outdoor playground or designated play areas, no classroom, library, or hall for playing games, sports, or extracurricular activities, and no

offices for social or psychological specialists.

3. There is a need to pay more attention to the cleanliness of the center and the personal hygiene of the beneficiaries.

The Center also monitored the female beggars' care and rehabilitation center in Zarqa governorate, Al-Dhileel district³⁵³, and recorded the following:

1. The center's infrastructure requires rehabilitation, including general maintenance such as sewage networks, care of the outdoor garden and playground areas, and maintenance and increase of the number of playground equipment.
2. Difficulty in taking girls to outdoor yards and playgrounds in the morning because the female beggars' care and rehabilitation center is located inside the building of Al-Dhileel Center for the Care and Rehabilitation of Women with Disabilities, next to Al-Dhileel Secondary School for Boys, and the girls are only taken out to play after school hours.
3. Absence of vocational training programs inside the center. A sewing room was established and equipped with all necessary equipment but lacks a trainer; a beauty salon room was also established but lacks a trainer; and a vocational training and extracurricular activities room was fully equipped but lacks a trainer for activities.
4. The staff providing services at the center are insufficient and inadequate

³⁵¹ Monitoring visit report of the Care and Rehabilitation Center for Male Beggars in Madaba Governorate, dated 6/5/2024, and a letter issued by the National Center to the Ministry of Social Development No. (H.A/514/18) dated 5/6/2024.

³⁵² Monitoring visit report of the Care and Rehabilitation Center for Male Beggars in Amman Governorate, dated 13/5/2024, and a letter issued by the National Center to the Ministry of Social Development No. (H.A/515/18) dated 5/6/2024.

³⁵³ Monitoring visit report of the Care and Rehabilitation Center for Female Beggars, dated 21/4/2024.

for the number of children, which prevents them from fulfilling all their roles toward the beneficiaries, violating Article (7), paragraph (c) of the Temporary Child Care and Management Regulation No. 49 of 2009³⁵⁴.

5. The center received a number of children with intellectual disabilities (mild mental or physical disabilities or hearing impairment) without qualified staff to handle these disabilities.
6. The center has a fully equipped clinic but lacks a doctor or nurse, and psychological support and rehabilitation programs are not activated.
7. There is a shortage of technological tools; there are only three outdated computers in the computer lab.

Sixth: The Child's Right to Education

The Center conducted a monitoring visit to Abdullah Bin Maktoum Mixed Secondary School for the Blind in Marka District, with the aim of monitoring the status of the rights of children with disabilities in education. The Center commends the efforts made by the Ministry of Education and the school administration in improving and developing the services provided to students. Among the most notable positive developments observed by the Center was the increase in extracurricular activities for students, and

their achievement of national awards in sports and reading competitions³⁵⁵.

On the other hand, during its monitoring, the Center recorded a number of observations, the most prominent of which are³⁵⁶:

- The deterioration of conditions in the school in terms of low levels of cleanliness in the school building and its facilities, and the need to carry out general maintenance works for the entire school building.
- The dormitories for male and female students in the boarding section are located in the same section, separated only by a sliding door, with no supervisors present to oversee the male students' dormitories.
- The school is considered the only government educational institution in the Kingdom for the blind, yet some parents claim that the school does not achieve the goals for which it was established, namely enabling blind students to read and write in Braille and to learn life skills, both of which the school does not adequately provide.

Moreover, the Center met with parents of students from Abdullah Bin Maktoum School at the Mothers of Light Association for Supporting and Rehabilitating the Blind, with the aim of completing the verification procedures regarding the observations recorded by the National Center during its

³⁵⁴ Article (7/c) stipulates that: "It is required, for licensing shelter care centers for children, that the number of staff in the facility be appropriate to the number of children receiving care therein."

³⁵⁵ Monitoring visit report for Abdullah bin Maktoum Secondary School for the Blind (Coeducational) in Amman, Marka District, dated 9/5/2024.

³⁵⁶ Letter issued by the National Center to the Ministry of Education No. (H.A/479/18) dated 28/5/2024, and responses from the Ministry of Education by letters No. (68/13/26895) dated 5/6/2024 and No. (68/13/34085) dated 28/7/2024.

monitoring visit to Abdullah Bin Maktoum Mixed Secondary School for the Blind, in addition to verifying the validity of the claims made by some parents regarding violations and breaches. The students' guardians confirmed the observations recorded by the Center as stated in the monitoring report. A group of mothers of students at Abdullah Bin Maktoum School submitted a written complaint to the National Center for Human Rights, and the Center addressed the Ministry of Education in another letter³⁵⁷, which included a number of observations and allegations as conveyed by the students' guardians, in addition to confirming the contents of the Center's previous letter.

The Ministry of Education responded to the Center's letter, stating the following³⁵⁸:

- No complaints have been received by the Ministry regarding incidents of verbal or physical violence within the school, except for one case during the 2023–2024 academic year, for which legal action was taken.
- The Ministry has not received any complaints regarding drivers smoking inside school buses or making verbal assaults on students.
- The Ministry of Education is duly investigating the observation concerning several teachers providing private lessons to students.
- With regard to the boarding section, the Ministry is working with the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to provide alternatives to the boarding facility

starting from the 2024–2025 academic year.

Statements Issued by the Center:

- On the occasion of the Universal Children's Day, the Center issued a statement reiterating its recommendations on the necessity of implementing school building codes in all schools in the Kingdom, both old and new, to address the issue of overcrowded classrooms. The Center also called for increasing human resources in the education sector, especially social workers and psychologists, and additionally called on the international community to assume its legal responsibility and take immediate measures to stop violations of children's rights in Gaza and to provide them with the necessary psychological and social support, in addition to delivering humanitarian aid such as medicine, water, food, and other essentials.
- On the occasion of the World Day Against Child Labour, the Center issued a statement reaffirming its recommendations on the need to establish an effective monitoring system for child labour, to tighten official control over places where child labour is concentrated, to enforce legislation prohibiting child labour, to impose penalties on violators beyond merely paying fines, and to enhance the role of the media in conducting awareness campaigns about the negative effects of child labour.
- On the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression, the Center issued a statement calling on the international community to take

³⁵⁷ Letter issued by the Center to the Ministry of Education No. (H.A/614/18) dated 10/7/2024.

³⁵⁸ Letter from the Ministry of Education No. (68/13/31618) dated 16/7/2024.

action and assume its legal responsibility to stop Israeli occupation practices that constitute human rights and child rights violations in the Gaza Strip, in addition to facilitating the delivery of humanitarian aid to the Strip.

- On the occasion of the International Day of Families, the Center issued a statement calling for intensified national efforts to support and strengthen the family institution and to protect it from disintegration and violence, which would positively reflect on the upbringing of children.

Recommendations

1. Work to facilitate the enrollment of care home graduates in vocational training institutions by opening classes that take into account the needs of young men and women as well as the labor market requirements in Aqaba Governorate.
2. Emphasize the role of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and Holy Places and its effective role in combating begging by clarifying the religious ruling on the phenomenon of begging and encouraging citizens to give donations and alms to licensed entities so they can be delivered and distributed to those genuinely in need, whether individuals or accredited charitable associations specialized in this field.
3. The need to relocate the Male Beggars Care and Rehabilitation Center in Madaba Governorate to another site that ensures ease of access for parents to enable them to reach the center easily. The building must be accessible to persons with various disabilities, in compliance with the Persons with Disabilities Rights Law of 2017, which obliges centers to be inclusive of persons with disabilities by providing reasonable accommodations, accessible formats, and ease of access. The center must also be provided with more staff, particularly qualified social workers holding specialized academic degrees. In addition, it is necessary to develop a treatment plan for children caught begging and abusing drugs to ensure they receive treatment in specialized centers before being placed in beggars' care and rehabilitation centers.
4. Relocate the Female Beggars Care and Rehabilitation Center in Zarqa Governorate (Al-Dhlail District) to another building.
5. The Ministry of Education should carry out an assessment of conditions at Abdullah Bin Maktoum Secondary School for the Blind and tighten oversight of the school.
6. The Ministry of Local Administration should increase the number of municipal staff working in the parks department and supervising them to ensure more oversight of public parks, build the capacity of staff in park management and in dealing with children and children with disabilities, and design programs suitable for children's abilities and ages. Regular maintenance of parks, their facilities, and available playgrounds should also be increased.
7. It is necessary to provide the Behavioral Modification and Children's Rehabilitation Center with a general practitioner to follow up on the health conditions of children during their treatment phase for addiction and drug abuse, and to

monitor their individual treatment plans.

8. Implement legal awareness programs for male and female workers in SOS Villages about the legislation regulating the work of family protection shelters, and awareness programs about the Juvenile Law targeting children residing in the village and youth in youth homes.
9. Strengthen the role of the Ministry of Social Development and activate social defense programs for child beggars by intensifying inspection and follow-up campaigns in cooperation with the Public Security Directorate, and activate the role of the Aftercare Department at the Ministry of Social Development to ensure the success of the anti-begging process, which will only succeed with the availability of awareness and education programs, in addition to vocational training programs and aftercare services.
10. Establish a mechanism to increase cooperation between government entities and the private sector to secure job opportunities for male and female graduates of care homes alike, and establish a mechanism of cooperation between the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Ministry of Social Development, and other relevant entities to develop a specific plan to employ this category of youth in private companies.

Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The rights of persons with disabilities constitute one of the human rights guaranteed by general and specific international standards, as well as by the Jordanian Constitution and relevant national legislation³⁵⁹.

The normative content of the rights of persons with disabilities is based on the integrated protection of its components through legal means, by enforcing and strengthening protection guarantees through the monitoring and follow-up of several issues, namely: developments in the legislative framework, developments at the level of policies, and monitoring practices on the ground. In 2024, the Center observed the following:

1. Legislative developments and policies adopted to implement the rights of persons with disabilities;
2. The actual situation of the rights of persons with disabilities in residential care homes, day centers, and the right to mobility;
3. The participation of persons with disabilities in the elections of the Twentieth House of Representatives and others.

³⁵⁹ The term “person with a disability” is defined in Article (3/a, b) of the Persons with Disabilities Rights Law of 2017 as “any person who has a long-term impairment in physical, sensory, intellectual, psychological, or neurological functions, which, due to interaction with physical barriers and behavioral obstacles, hinders the person from performing one or more major life activities, exercising one of the rights, or enjoying one of the fundamental freedoms independently.” A long-term impairment, according to paragraph (a) of this article, is considered such if it is not expected to be removed within a period of no less than 24 months from the start of treatment or rehabilitation.

At the level of legislation and policies:

- In 2024, Social Development Law No. 4 of 2024 was enacted. This law outlines the objectives of the Ministry of Social Development³⁶⁰, which include improving the quality of life of citizens with disabilities by providing them with the best protection and care services in a participatory and equitable manner that safeguards their human dignity and preserves their privacy. The law also entrusted the provision of protection and care services for persons with disabilities to entities licensed by the Ministry of Social Development. Furthermore, the law stipulated the establishment of a fund called the “Social Protection and Care Fund” which provides financial support for protection and care programs offered by the Ministry for persons with disabilities and other groups. In this regard, the Center calls for the expedited issuance of the regulations governing its operation³⁶¹.
- Nursery Regulation No. 6 of 2024³⁶² was issued pursuant to Article 4 of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor Law and its amendments of 1956. The regulation applies to private nurseries, workplace nurseries established under the Labor Law, home-based nurseries, and public workplace nurseries established by official and public

³⁶⁰ Published in Official Gazette No. 5916, dated 24/3/2024.

³⁶¹ Regulation of the Social Work Profession and Its Licensing in accordance with the provisions of Article (5/a), as well as the regulations according to the provisions of Articles (13/b, 14/b, 15/a, 26) of the law.

³⁶² Published in the Official Gazette No. 5909, dated 10/2/2024.

institutions and municipalities. Article 9 of the regulation requires that the nursery premises provide the necessary environmental conditions, reasonable accommodations, and construction arrangements to enable children with disabilities to exercise their rights and access the services provided by the nursery on an equal basis with other children. The same regulation also obligates nurseries to accept children with disabilities without any discrimination on the basis of disability, unless they require special medical care. When accepting children with disabilities, the nursery must designate a number of caregivers to provide care and training for them in cooperation with the Ministry, and must appoint a qualified caregiver holding a degree in special education if the nature of the children's disabilities requires this or if the number of children with disabilities in the nursery exceeds five.

- The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan submitted and discussed its combined second and third national reports during the twenty-first session of the Arab Human Rights Committee – Charter Committee – in compliance with Article (48) of the Arab Charter on Human Rights, regarding the measures taken by Jordan to implement the recommendations and concluding observations of the Arab Charter on Human Rights. This took place in January 2023 and the report was submitted to the Arab Human Rights Committee of the League of Arab States. The Charter Committee provided its observations and recommendations to Jordan, including:

(a) increasing the participation rate of persons with disabilities in the labor market by providing more training and rehabilitation opportunities;

(b) supporting Jordanian organizations concerned with the rights of persons with disabilities and ensuring their participation and consultation in the adoption and implementation of related policies. The National Center for Human Rights also submitted its parallel report to the government report under the Arab Charter on Human Rights, monitoring the extent of implementation of the recommendations from the first report. The report praised national efforts exerted to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities³⁶³.

- The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan submitted its fourth Universal Periodic Review (UPR) report at the end of 2023 to the Human Rights Council in Geneva and accepted all recommendations made relating to the rights of persons with disabilities, including: (1) ensuring a safe working environment for workers with disabilities, and (2) working to protect persons with disabilities from violence and bullying³⁶⁴. The National Center for Human Rights also submitted its parallel report to the government's UPR report for 2023, monitoring the extent of implementation of the recommendations that the Jordanian government accepted when approving the recommendations of the third UPR report for the

³⁶³ www.nchr.org.jo

³⁶⁴ ile:///C:/Users

Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The report praised the efforts made to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities; however, challenges remain for persons with disabilities in various economic, educational, and health sectors due to the limited availability of reasonable accommodations, accessible formats, and means of access³⁶⁵.

- The Transport Strategy for the years 2024–2028³⁶⁶ was issued, with the aim of developing the transport system and its services at an affordable cost to achieve the goals of sustainable development so that transport services are accessible to all segments of society. The strategy includes several projects serving persons with disabilities, including:

- The Amman–Zarqa Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project,
- The Suweileh–Queen Alia Airport BRT project,
- A project to provide persons with disabilities with the necessary equipment in public transport facilities and means. The project aims to incorporate specifications that must be provided in buses for persons with disabilities and the elderly by ensuring two dedicated spaces for persons with disabilities in each bus (with a capacity of 35 passengers or more), in addition to a ramp with an appropriate incline and the provision of accessible general tourist transport in companies specializing in public tourist transportation. This is to be implemented during the period 2025–2027.

- In 2024, there was an increase in the number of identification cards issued by the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, due to an increase in awareness programs about their importance in all governorates of the Kingdom. As of 31 December 2024, the total number of issued cards reached 27,267, compared to 7,651 cards issued in 2023. However, through its monitoring visits to the governorates of Ma'an and Aqaba, the Center noted the low number of cardholders due to the distance of the liaison office of the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities located in Karak Governorate from Ma'an and Aqaba, along with the absence of accessible transport for persons with disabilities.

- In 2024, a circular was issued by the Prime Ministry to all ministries, government departments, and national institutions, requiring them to provide suitable environmental conditions to enable persons with disabilities to exercise their rights and to facilitate their access to services. This includes making all buildings, roads, facilities, and other public and private places accessible to the public, in compliance with building codes for persons with disabilities, with the aim of eliminating any physical barriers that prevent their access to various services³⁶⁷.

On the level of practices:

1. The National Center for Human Rights monitored the participation of persons with disabilities in the elections for the 20th House of Representatives and recorded the following observations:

³⁶⁵ www.nchr.org.jo

³⁶⁶ <https://www.mot.gov.jo/EBV4.0/Roo>

³⁶⁷ Prime Minister's Letter No. 21/11/1/39920 dated 29/12/2024.

- Measures were taken to enhance the participation of persons with disabilities in the elections, including:

(a) increasing the number of polling and counting centers equipped for persons with disabilities to 59 centers across all governorates and electoral districts of the Kingdom, to serve voters with disabilities and enable them to access polling centers and exercise their right to vote³⁶⁸, after the number was only 32 centers in previous elections;

(b) the Independent Election Commission published information on social media platforms, including in sign language, regarding the right of persons with disabilities to change their polling and counting centers within their electoral district³⁶⁹;

(c) awareness programs were implemented by the relevant authorities in all governorates of the Kingdom³⁷⁰, covering the right of persons with disabilities to participate in elections as voters and candidates;

(d) the Independent Election Commission and the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities published informational materials in sign language explaining the election law, candidacy and polling procedures, and the importance of the participation of women, youth, and persons with disabilities as candidates and voters, thereby contributing to knowledge

dissemination for persons with hearing disabilities;

(e) statistics were available identifying the number of persons with disabilities who hold an identification card among the registered voters for polling purposes, disaggregated by gender and geographic distribution. The total number of persons with disabilities was 3,567, of whom 1,882 were male and 1,685 were female³⁷¹.

The Center emphasized the need to intensify the dissemination of awareness programs on enabling persons with disabilities to change their polling and counting centers and to exercise their right to participate in elections through sign language and by preparing informational documents in Braille for the blind, as well as working to develop a database identifying the number of registered voters with disabilities, their percentage, geographic distribution, and types of disabilities, so that they may be allocated to polling centers equipped for persons with disabilities or provided with sign language interpreters.

- The Center monitored six polling and counting centers designated for voters with disabilities in the governorates of Amman, Jerash, Irbid, and Madaba³⁷², as well as

³⁶⁸ <https://www.iecc.jo/>

³⁶⁹ During the period from 6–16/7/2024, including an explanation of the steps to change the center.

³⁷⁰ www.nchr.org.jo

³⁷¹ The Center addressed the Independent Election Commission to inquire about the number of voters with disabilities through letter No. (H.A/788/39) dated 4/9/2024. The response included the number of voters with disabilities, as per the Commission's letter No. T H/5/4/2331 dated 8/9/2024.

³⁷² Qafqafa Comprehensive Secondary School for Girls in Jerash, Al-Huss Secondary Comprehensive School for Girls in Irbid, Second District; Bayader Wadi Al-Seer Basic School for Boys in Amman, Third District; Prince Hamzah Secondary

election committee headquarters in Madaba, to monitor the provision of reasonable accommodations and accessibility. The Center commended the efforts observed, which included preparing the schools that were monitored for use by persons with disabilities, starting from the entrances to the designated polling rooms. Ramps for persons with disabilities using wheelchairs were available at the entrances, equipped with handrails on both sides. The monitoring team also observed the presence of tactile indicators to facilitate the movement of persons with visual impairments inside and outside the buildings, as well as the use of non-slip rough flooring for persons with minor mobility disabilities and the elderly, and side handrails inside the school buildings.

Despite these efforts, the Center recorded the following observations: (a) Bayader Wadi Al-Seer Basic School for Boys in Amman's Third District was not prepared to receive voters with disabilities³⁷³;

(b) Prince Hamzah Comprehensive Secondary School for Boys in Madaba had a raised threshold at the main entrance, posing an obstacle for persons with disabilities, and lacked tactile indicators for persons with visual impairments;

(c) Haneena Women's Center, one of the election committee headquarters in Madaba, lacked tactile indicators to facilitate the movement of persons with visual impairments inside and outside the building³⁷⁴.

In the same context, the Center's team monitored some main polling and counting committee headquarters in Amman and noted during their visits the ease of access to these headquarters, their location in places well known to the public, and the presence of guidance signs inside the headquarters clarifying the objection procedures. The Center issued a statement noting the ease of access to these headquarters, the presence of clear instructions in this regard, the ease of procedures, and the availability of reasonable accommodations in the headquarters monitored for persons with disabilities — with the exception of one headquarters, for which the Independent Election Commission responded to the observation raised by the Center by providing the necessary reasonable accommodations to enable persons with disabilities and the elderly to move and access easily.

- No candidates with disabilities ran for local electoral districts, and the number of candidates with disabilities on the national list was three (two males and one female)³⁷⁵. The Center recorded that the number of candidates with disabilities in

Comprehensive School for Boys and Madaba Basic Mixed School, and the Election Committee Center in Madaba, First District.

³⁷³ Regarding the absence of ramps on the school sidewalks and the inability of wheelchair users with mobility disabilities to enter the school, due to raised thresholds at the main and secondary entrances, which constitute an obstacle. Additionally, there are no tactile indicators for the visually impaired and those with visual disabilities.

³⁷⁴ The Center addressed the Independent Election Commission by letter No. (H.A/706/39) dated 11/8/2024.

³⁷⁵ The Center addressed the Independent Election Commission to inquire about the number of candidates with disabilities through letter No. (H.A/788/39) dated 4/9/2024. The response included the number of voters with disabilities, as per the Commission's letter No. T H/5/4/2331 dated 8/9/2024.

local districts was two females, and on the national list four (two males and two females).

- The National Center formed a team to monitor the elections, comprising 572 observers deployed at polling centers across the various regions of the Kingdom, covering 28.7% of polling centers and 8.19% of ballot boxes. The formation of the team ensured the representation of persons with disabilities in the monitoring process³⁷⁶, with eight observers³⁷⁷ with disabilities participating. According to the final results from the monitoring templates for polling day events through the National Center's dedicated electronic application, persons with disabilities were given priority in voting at a rate of 83.3% as part of the Center's monitoring of all stages of the parliamentary elections for the 20th House of Representatives.
- The National Center for Human Rights received a number of remarks and complaints, which were forwarded to the Independent Election Commission for appropriate action. The most notable of these complaints was the lack of reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities at one polling center³⁷⁸ in the Southern Badia constituency³⁷⁹, as well as at several other polling centers, including: in Jerash Governorate — Souf Camp Secondary School for Girls; in Madaba Governorate — Al-Aliyah

Secondary School for Girls; in Mafraq Governorate — Al-Aleimat Neighborhood Secondary School for Girls and Khalid bin Al-Waleed Primary School for Boys; in Zarqa Governorate — Ramla Bint Abi Sufyan Secondary School for Girls; and in the Capital Governorate, Second District — Khawla Bint Al-Khuwaylid School, Al-Quds Secondary School for Girls, Al-Nuzha Primary School for Girls No. 1; and in the Third District — Al-Kamaliyah Secondary School for Girls; as well as in Zarqa Governorate — Al-Walid bin Abdul Malik Primary School for Boys³⁸⁰.

2. The Center monitored the right to mobility for persons with disabilities by conducting a number of monitoring visits³⁸¹ and commends the efforts made to improve and develop services provided to persons with disabilities, including:

(a) The Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project between Amman and Zarqa during its design phase and infrastructure preparation to ensure ease of use by persons with disabilities, thereby providing a safe, comfortable, and regular transportation system for persons with disabilities;

(b) The launch of the first bus enabling persons with disabilities to travel free of charge in Irbid Governorate on April 29, 2024;

³⁷⁶ <https://www.nchr.org.jo/ar>

³⁷⁷ Three (3) observers in Amman Governorate, two (2) in Zarqa Governorate, one observer with a disability in Madaba Governorate, one observer in Jerash Governorate, and one observer in Karak Governorate.

³⁷⁸ <https://www.nchr.org.jo/ar>

³⁷⁹ Queen Rania Basic Mixed School, and an electoral center in Balqa Governorate – Imam Ali Bin Abi Talib Second School for Sharia Sciences, Queen Rania Basic Mixed School.

³⁸⁰ The National Center issued statements including these observations.

³⁸¹ A monitoring visit was conducted to the Ministry of Transport and the Land Transport Regulatory Commission in the Capital and Aqaba Governorates, with meetings held with persons with disabilities, their families, and representatives from civil society organizations as well as the public and private sectors during dialogue sessions in Jerash and Ma'an Governorates.

(c) The requirement that operators contracted with the Transport Regulatory Commission provide a discount of no less than 50% of the fare set by the Council for persons with disabilities and a discount of no less than 25% for school and university students, according to the licensing conditions for public passenger transport routes for the year 2009 and its amendments;

(d) The obligation for taxi offices to provide vehicles equipped for persons with disabilities, at a rate of one vehicle for every 25 taxis³⁸²;

(e) Encouraging operators and investors by exempting them from annual service fees if they comply with the provisions of Articles 6 and 7 of the Annual Service Fee Instructions for 2003;

(f) The launch of a driver training project, one aspect of which includes training bus drivers on professional competence and traffic safety standards for persons with disabilities;

(g) The adoption of a Code of Ethical Conduct by the Board of Directors of the Land Transport Regulatory Commission; and

(h) The launch of a mobile application under the name *Mwasalati* (My Transport).

On the other hand, the Center recorded the following observations:

(a) Weak enforcement of Articles 35 and 36 of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities No. 20 of 2017, which define the responsibilities of relevant authorities

³⁸² Instructions and conditions for granting licenses and permits for offices, taxis, and vehicles operating under their management for the year 2011 and its amendments.

and their obligations³⁸³ to enable persons with disabilities to exercise their freedom of movement;

(b) Limited financial resources to implement the projects planned in the transport strategy, as reflected in the allocation of funding for transport projects in the general budget and the limited government support for the public sector³⁸⁴;

(c) The high cost of investment in the public transport sector, particularly passenger transport, which has led to weak private sector engagement³⁸⁵;

(d) The existence of unlicensed applications that exploit persons with disabilities through excessive charges and expose them to bullying³⁸⁶;

(e) Weak implementation of the Code of Ethical Conduct issued by the Land Transport Regulatory Commission for drivers and lack of activation thereof, as well as weak training of drivers on programs related to the rights of persons with disabilities and how to interact with them³⁸⁷;

³⁸³ Measures include equipping traffic signals with an auditory alert system, placing directional signs, and training staff—including traffic wardens—on effective communication methods with persons with disabilities; placing physical and visual guideposts and barriers at hazardous locations; and implementing accessibility on roads, buildings, and affiliated facilities.

³⁸⁴ A monitoring visit was conducted to the Ministry of Transport, which pointed out this challenge, noting it is recorded within the strategic plan on page 18.

³⁸⁵ Storage reference: https://www.mot.gov.jo/EBV4/Root_Storagjl/0

A monitoring visit was conducted to the Ministry of Transport, which pointed out this challenge and noted that it is documented in the strategic plan on page 18.

³⁸⁶ The Center monitored cases of bullying experienced by persons with disabilities when using unlicensed ride-hailing applications, such as mockery, ridicule, or refusal to assist them while boarding the vehicle. All applications are unlicensed except for Uber, Careem, Petra Ride, and Jeeny.

³⁸⁷ A monitoring visit was conducted to the Ministry of Transport, which referred to the above-mentioned

- (f) Insufficient provision of reasonable accommodations and accessibility³⁸⁸ in public places;
- (g) The absence of an academic course for engineering students at all Jordanian universities on requirements related to accessibility and reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, except at the University of Jordan;
- (h) The difficulty or lack of knowledge among public transport drivers of sign language and how to communicate with hearing-impaired passengers;
- (i) The absence of audible traffic signals for the benefit of persons with visual disabilities, as stipulated by the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for the year 2027;
- (j) The lack of sufficient designated parking spaces for vehicles of persons with disabilities in front of public and private institutions providing public services; and
- (k) Drivers' failure to refrain from parking in spaces designated for vehicles of persons with disabilities, given the low value of fines and the difficulty of having traffic officers monitor every parking space³⁸⁹.

challenge. The Center addressed the Ministry of Transport and the Chairman of the Board of the Land Transport Regulatory Commission with observations and recommendations through letter No. H.A/492/18 dated 2/6/2024.

³⁸⁸ Accessibility: Preparing buildings, roads, facilities, and other public and private places accessible to the public, and adapting them according to the building codes for persons with disabilities issued under the provisions of the Jordanian National Building Law and any special standards issued or approved by the Council.

³⁸⁹ The National Center addressed the Ministry of Transport and the Chairman of the Board of the Land Transport Regulatory Commission with the Center's observations and recommendations through letter No. H.A/492/18 dated 2/6/2024.

In this context, and on the occasion of World Health Day, the Center issued a statement calling for the provision of environmental accommodations in various hospitals, health centers, and public spaces necessary for persons with disabilities and the elderly³⁹⁰.

3. The National Center also monitored the Rehabilitation and Vocational Training Center in Irbid, and commends the efforts exerted to educate and train persons with disabilities in vocational skills. However, the Center recorded the following observations:

- (a) The building is very old and not equipped for persons with disabilities³⁹¹;
- (b) The number of trainers for the various programs offered by the Center is insufficient;
- (c) The Center's bus has not been maintained despite being needed, and it is used simultaneously to transport female beneficiaries with disabilities to and from the Center; and
- (d) There is a weakness in implementing awareness programs for the local community and persons with disabilities on their rights to training, rehabilitation, employment, and protection from violence and bullying.

It is noteworthy that the Center has recommended to the Ministry of Social Development that the Center's affiliation be transferred to the Vocational Training Corporation. The Center received a response indicating that a technical committee has

³⁹⁰ www.nchr.org.jo

³⁹¹ Regarding the absence of an elevator, incomplete readiness of sanitary facilities, and lack of outdoor areas in the center to carry out extracurricular activities, which poses significant danger to the beneficiaries, as it is located on a very busy main road.

been formed to follow up on all necessary procedures to transfer its affiliation to the Vocational Training Corporation³⁹².

4. The Center monitored the Aqaba Comprehensive Center for Special Education and recorded the Ministry of Social Development's response to its observations and recommendations set forth in previous annual and specialized reports, which included the following:

(a) Providing specialized doctors for disabilities through cooperation and coordination between the Aqaba Comprehensive Center and Prince Hashem Military Hospital, ensuring that specialized doctors are present at the Aqaba Center two to three days a week;

(b) Establishing an Early Intervention Unit to detect disabilities in children from birth up to six years old, whereby their disability and its degree are determined and they are referred to educational classes for the child and their family. The number of children enrolled in the educational classes is 36 students. A behavioral modification specialist is present every Tuesday, while an audiology specialist is available on Sundays and Thursdays;

(c) Establishing a Community Rehabilitation Unit in 2023 to:

(i) Train girls with intellectual disabilities aged 14–20 in handicrafts such as mosaics, beadwork, sewing, etc., and prepare them for employment through awareness programs on how to interact with employers and colleagues;

³⁹² The National Center addressed the Ministry of Social Development by letter No. H.A/172/18 dated 15/2/2024, with a reply from the Ministry of Social Development in letter No. Sh Q/3/5415 dated 4/4/2024.

(ii) Provide awareness programs by a specialized team (including a social worker, a special education specialist, an audiology specialist, etc.) on how to deal with persons with disabilities in schools, local communities, universities, civil society institutions, etc., as well as conducting home visits and meetings with families to offer guidance and support.

Through its monitoring in 2024, the Center recorded the following observations³⁹³:

(a) The Aqaba Comprehensive Center, which is responsible for early diagnosis of disabilities, remains under the supervision of the Ministry of Social Development despite the issuance of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities No. 20 of 2017 and the provisions stated in Article 23(e) of the Law³⁹⁴;

(b) The lack of availability of the specific medication for persons with autism called "Esparador";

(c) Weak acceptance by public school administrations, teachers, and the local community of children with disabilities, especially those with intellectual disabilities and autism, due to their lack of knowledge on how to deal with or integrate them. This is mainly due to the limited training programs for teachers on working with students with disabilities and the importance of inclusive education;

³⁹³ Correspondence to the Ministry of Social Development by letter No. (H.A/491/18) dated 2/6/2024.

³⁹⁴ Article (23/e) of the law: "The Ministry of Health shall design and implement early detection programs for disabilities and comprehensive multidisciplinary diagnostic programs for persons with disabilities."

(d) The need to provide the Center with an ENT specialist, a pediatric specialist, a psychiatrist, and an ophthalmologist;

(e) The need to provide two speech therapists, an occupational and physical therapist, two psychologists, and a guidance counselor to meet the needs of the beneficiaries;

(f) The need to provide the Aqaba Center with a dedicated vehicle for the Early Intervention Unit to conduct field home visits for children with disabilities for the purposes of detecting disabilities and implementing a follow-up care program for those who have enrolled in kindergartens;

(g) The need to train the staff of the Early Intervention Unit on programs other than the “Böring” program to ensure they are modern, advanced, and aligned with developments in the field of autism.

In this context, and on the occasion of World Autism Awareness Day, the National Center issued a statement commending the efforts made to protect and promote the rights of all persons with disabilities. The statement called for the need to increase the number of early detection centers for disabilities and distribute them geographically, to develop programs to raise awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities, to enhance inclusive education mechanisms, and to highlight the need to support children with autism and their families so they can live with dignity and achieve full participation in society, in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, relevant national legislation, and the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030³⁹⁵.

³⁹⁵ www.nchr.org.jo

5. The Center monitored the conditions of the beneficiaries at the Safe Shelter and Rehabilitation Home for Women (*Amina*), and noted the Ministry of Social Development’s efforts to fully prepare an apartment within the Home’s premises for the use of beneficiaries with disabilities by providing reasonable accommodation, accessible formats, and ensuring accessibility. In this context, the Center called for equipping the Home with a medical bed and a specialized medical mattress for persons with disabilities inside the prepared apartment, in addition to providing the Home with a wheelchair and mobility aids such as a walker and medical canes³⁹⁶.

6. The Center monitored juvenile detention facilities (*nazarat*) in the governorates of Ma’an and Aqaba, and called for the preparation of sanitary facilities in these detention units to ensure accessibility for juveniles with disabilities³⁹⁷.

7. The Center monitored the Male Beggars’ Care and Rehabilitation Center in Madaba, and called for relocating the Center to another location to ensure that families with children can access the care services, and to adapt the building for persons with disabilities by providing reasonable accommodation, in compliance with the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of 2017³⁹⁸.

³⁹⁶ Correspondence to the Ministry of Social Development with the content of the report by letter No. (H.A/387/18) dated 29/4/2024, and no response was received.

³⁹⁷ Correspondence to the Public Security Directorate No. H.A/496/18 dated 2/6/2024, and no response was received.

³⁹⁸ The National Center addressed the Ministry of Social Development by letter No. H.A/514/18 dated 5/6/2024, and no response was received.

8. The Center monitored the Greater Karak Municipality and the Muadh Bin Jabal Municipality in the Northern Ghor District and found that they require adaptation through the provision of reasonable accommodation measures to ensure accessibility for visitors with mobility and visual disabilities³⁹⁹. On the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, the Center issued a statement calling for the necessity of providing environmental accessibility and reasonable accommodation measures in the health and education sectors, workplaces, and other facilities⁴⁰⁰.

9. The Center monitored Abdullah Bin Maktoum School for the Blind and noted the Ministry of Education's efforts to improve and develop the services provided to students. Among the most notable positive developments observed by the Center were the increase in extracurricular activities for students and their achievement of national-level awards in sports and reading competitions.

On the other hand, the Center recorded the following observations and recommendations during its monitoring: (a) Low level of cleanliness in the school and its sanitary facilities;

³⁹⁹ The Center addressed the Minister of Local Administration regarding Greater Karak Municipality by letter No. H.A/1011/18 dated 11/11/2024, and received a copy of the letter sent from the Ministry of Local Administration to the municipality No. K/1/44190 dated 20/11/2024 including the Center's recommendations and instructions to implement them. The National Center also addressed the Ministry of Local Administration regarding Muadh bin Jabal Municipality by letter No. H.A/104/18 dated 19/11/2024, and received a copy of the letter sent from the Ministry of Local Administration to the municipality No. M/176/44954 dated 27/11/2024 including instructions to implement the Center's recommendations.

⁴⁰⁰ <https://www.nchr.org.jo/ar>

(b) The need for general maintenance of the school building and its facilities, and the necessity to fully separate the male dormitories from the female dormitories, and to assign supervisors to oversee the male students' dormitories;

(c) Allegations from students and their families of verbal abuse by bus drivers and some teachers towards male and female students⁴⁰¹.

Recommendations

1. Amend the Parliamentary Elections Law to stipulate a quota for persons with disabilities, and amend the Political Parties Law to require an increase in the percentage of participation of persons with disabilities in political parties.

2. Build and strengthen the capacities of persons with disabilities to enable and enhance their engagement in political parties and the electoral process.

3. Work on increasing the number of early detection centers for disabilities, ensuring their equitable geographical distribution, and providing them with qualified staff capable of working with persons with disabilities.

4. Ensure that all polling and counting centers across all regions of the Kingdom are accessible to persons with disabilities of all types.

5. Establish a database to identify the number of registered voters with disabilities,

⁴⁰¹ The National Center addressed the Ministry of Education by letter No. H.A/479/18 dated 28/5/2024 and received a response by letter No. 18/13/26895 dated 5/6/2024, stating that intensified supervisory and technical visits to the school will be conducted to follow up on the observations made by the National Center.

their percentage, and their geographical distribution, and to specify types of disabilities to facilitate their distribution to polling centers prepared to accommodate persons with disabilities.

incentives to companies that comply with employing them.

6. Create an up-to-date national database covering all persons with disabilities, specifying their numbers, percentages, geographical distribution, and types of disabilities, to guarantee the provision of appropriate services and the preparation of dedicated polling centers for them.

7. Amend educational curricula in schools and universities to ensure the integration of concepts related to the rights of persons with disabilities, promote a culture of acceptance and social inclusion, and provide them with tailored educational technologies.

8. Launch national awareness campaigns to raise public awareness about the rights of persons with disabilities, break negative stereotypes, and promote a culture of social and economic inclusion.

9. Provide environmental accessibility and reasonable accommodation in the health and education sectors, workplaces, the judiciary, places of worship, tourist sites, recreational and sports facilities, and other public spaces.

10. Establish a comprehensive social protection system that guarantees integrated health insurance and financial support for persons with disabilities who are unable to work, in addition to sustainable vocational rehabilitation programs to help them integrate into the labor market.

11. Oblige public and private institutions to meet fair employment quotas for persons with disabilities, monitor the implementation of laws that mandate their inclusion in the labor market, and offer

Rights of Older Persons

The rights of older persons are among the fundamental human rights guaranteed by general international instruments⁴⁰², which entail implicit obligations toward the rights of older persons in the absence of a dedicated international instrument that specifically protects their rights. These rights are also guaranteed by the Jordanian Constitution⁴⁰³ and relevant national legislation⁴⁰⁴.

The normative content of this right is based on providing legislative and non-legislative safeguards to ensure the protection and promotion of the rights of older persons through policy approaches and practices, and by taking appropriate measures across various domains of civil, political, economic, social, and cultural life.

It is worth noting that the monitoring reflected in this report aims to follow up on the State's fulfillment of its obligations to implement the recommendations of

international committees and the previous reports of the National Center.

In general, the Center recorded the following in 2024: legislative developments related to the rights of older persons, policies adopted to support their rights, and field monitoring of the conditions of older persons in residential care homes and elsewhere.

Developments in the Legislative Framework:

In 2024, the Social Development Law No. (4) of 2024⁴⁰⁵ was enacted, repealing the Social Affairs and Labor Law No. (14) of 1956⁴⁰⁶. Among the key positive aspects included in this law are:

- Defining the objectives and duties of the Ministry of Social Development.
- Identifying the categories that require care and protection, including older persons and vagrants⁴⁰⁷.
- Specifying the procedures for licensing social care institutions and residential homes, as well as their supervision and monitoring, including homes for the elderly.

⁴⁰² The committee concerned with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights issued Comment No. (6) regarding the economic, social, and cultural rights of older persons. For more information, please visit the following link: <http://hrli-brary.umn.edu/arabic/cescr-gc6.html>

⁴⁰³ Article six of the Covenant, specifically paragraph five, as amended and published in Official Gazette No. 5770 dated 31/1/2022, states: "The law protects the rights of persons with disabilities and promotes their participation and integration in various aspects of life. It also safeguards motherhood, childhood, and old age, nurtures the youth, and prevents abuse and exploitation."

⁴⁰⁴ These include the Social Development Law No. (4) of 2024, the Social Security Law, the Labor Law, the Personal Status Law, the Public Health Law, the licensing system for elderly care homes and their private clubs, as well as the instructions for licensing residential elderly care homes and the instructions for day clubs for the elderly.

⁴⁰⁵ Published in Official Gazette No. (5916), page (1651), dated 24/3/2024.

⁴⁰⁶ Article (27) of the Social Development Law No. (4) of 2024.

⁴⁰⁷ Article (6) of the same law states: "Subject to the relevant legislation, no natural or legal person may provide protection and care services to the following groups without obtaining a license from the Ministry: A. Children in need of protection and care. B. Elderly persons and vagrants. C. Juveniles. D. Victims of domestic violence and women at risk. E. Victims of human trafficking crimes. F. Persons with disabilities. G. Beggars. H. Children of nursery age. I. Any other category specified by the Minister."

The law also outlines the duties of these institutions and homes, which include⁴⁰⁸: providing social care, protection, and shelter services; social, educational, living, psychological, health, guidance, legal, and cultural services; and rehabilitation, employment, and training programs for target groups. It also stipulates the establishment of a dedicated database for beneficiaries.

Moreover, the law regulates the profession of social work and specifies the conditions for practicing it⁴⁰⁹, in addition to establishing the Social Protection and Care Fund, which is tasked with providing financial support for the protection and care programs offered by the Ministry. In this legislative context, the Center calls for expediting the issuance of the regulations governing its implementation⁴¹⁰.

In 2024, the Regulation on Licensing Elderly Care Homes and Their Private Day Clubs No. (98) of 2024⁴¹¹ was issued. The issuance of this regulation is expected to strengthen the rights and conditions of older persons and enhance the guarantees of their social protection. The regulation defines the procedures and conditions for establishing and licensing elderly care homes and their private day clubs, covering all aspects that would enhance and protect the rights of this group.

The regulation defines an *older person* as any individual over the age of sixty who requires protection and care, and a *vagrant* as any person without shelter or family care who takes public places as a refuge⁴¹² — provided they are not persons with intellectual disabilities⁴¹³. The regulation also addresses the surrounding physical environment for older persons and vagrants, requiring that the building of the home or day club meets health and public safety standards and construction licensing requirements in accordance with the building codes approved by the Jordanian National Building Council⁴¹⁴. It mandates the provision of furniture and care supplies that meet their needs⁴¹⁵ and stipulates an appropriate number of staff proportional to the number of older persons and vagrants⁴¹⁶.

The regulation further specifies requirements for healthcare services, including the appointment of a physician to conduct regular medical examinations, and ensures social care and personal care for this group, along with the provision of suitable programs and activities. It also requires the installation of a camera monitoring system⁴¹⁷. Additionally, the regulation allows the home to accept donations, grants,

⁴⁰⁸ Article (7) of the Social Development Law No. (4) of 2024.

⁴⁰⁹ Article (14) of the Social Development Law No. (4) of 2024.

⁴¹⁰ Regulations pursuant to Articles (5/A), (8), (12/B), (13/B), (14/B), (15/B), and (26) of the Social Development Law No. (4) of 2024.

⁴¹¹ Published in the Official Gazette, Issue No. (5965), page No. (6808), dated 1/12/2024, thereby repealing the Regulation on the Licensing of Elderly Care Homes and Private Day Clubs No. (81) of 2012.

⁴¹² Article (2) of the Regulation on the Licensing of Elderly Care Homes and Private Day Clubs No. (98) of 2024.

⁴¹³ Article (12) of the Regulation on the Licensing of Elderly Care Homes and Private Day Clubs No. (98) of 2024.

⁴¹⁴ Article (4/A/1) of the Regulation on the Licensing of Elderly Care Homes and Private Day Clubs No. (98) of 2024.

⁴¹⁵ Article (4/A/2) of the Regulation on the Licensing of Elderly Care Homes and Private Day Clubs No. (98) of 2024.

⁴¹⁶ Article (4/A/6) of the Regulation on the Licensing of Elderly Care Homes and Private Day Clubs No. (98) of 2024.

⁴¹⁷ Article (4/A) of the Regulation on the Licensing of Elderly Care Homes and Private Day Clubs No. (98) of 2024.

and aid, subject to the approval of the Prime Ministry if the source is foreign⁴¹⁸.

On the policy level:

The Jordanian National Strategy for Older Persons for the years 2025–2027 was issued, aiming to provide security, dignity, and well-being for older persons in Jordan. This strategy will replace the Jordanian National Strategy for Older Persons for the years 2018–2022⁴¹⁹, which was developed by the National Council for Family Affairs in a participatory approach with the National Center for Human Rights and all governmental and non-governmental entities concerned with older persons' issues.

The issuance of the strategy fulfills Jordan's obligations under international treaties and conventions. The strategy includes eight main pillars that have been established among the national priorities, such as social protection and financial security, healthcare, social care, intergenerational participation and solidarity, prevention of violence, abuse and neglect, supportive enabling environment, knowledge base, and coordination and partnerships.

On the practical level:

Based on the Center's legal mandate to conduct field monitoring of protection and social care homes, the Center continued in 2024 to carry out several monitoring visits to elderly care homes as follows:

- The Center conducted a monitoring visit to the *Princess Muna Center for Elderly*

⁴¹⁸ Article (18/B) of the Regulation on the Licensing of Elderly Care Homes and Private Day Clubs No. (98) of 2024.

⁴¹⁹ For more information, refer to the plan via: <https://ncfa.org.jo/ar>

Women in February 2024⁴²⁰ and noted the Center's need for additional specialized staff in rehabilitation and occupational therapy in accordance with Article (10/b/10/14) of the 2013 Licensing Instructions for Elderly Residential Care Homes, and for general maintenance work in one of the rooms.

The Ministry of Social Development responded to the Center's letter by letter No. (Sh Q/9577/3) dated July 2024, confirming its ongoing commitment to enhancing and protecting human rights in the Kingdom in cooperation with the National Center for Human Rights and its intention to address all observations recorded by the Center, including preparing a specialized health unit for rehabilitation and occupational therapy.

- The Center conducted a monitoring visit to the *Zahraa Elderly Home* in March 2024, followed by a subsequent field monitoring visit in November 2024 to follow up on the implementation of recommendations and observations in the Center's reports and previous communications. The Center noted the efforts exerted by the Ministry of Social Development⁴²¹ and the home's management and the positive developments reflected on the rights of the beneficiaries, including:

- Intensified monitoring and field inspections of the *Zahraa Elderly Home* and its facilities by the Ministry's Inspection and Monitoring Department.

⁴²⁰ Monitoring visit report for the Princess Mona Center for Elderly Women Care in Zarqa Governorate, dated 7/2/2024.

⁴²¹ Letter issued by the National Center to the Ministry of Social Development No. (H A/307/18) dated 16/4/2024, and the response from the Ministry of Social Development by letter No. (Sh Q/3/9576) dated 2/7/2024, which included acceptance of all observations and the rectification of the status of Al-Zahraa Elderly Care Home.

- The adoption of an evacuation and emergency plan for the Zahraa Elderly Home by the Civil Defense Directorate and training of all staff on this plan by Civil Defense personnel.
- Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Zahraa Elderly Home, under which the Council undertakes to provide technical and financial support to prepare the building and its facilities for use by persons with disabilities according to the Building Code for Persons with Disabilities, and to provide reasonable accommodation and accessible formats to ensure the integration and access of persons with disabilities and their receipt of services; work is ongoing to sign an agreement to begin implementation of the construction works.

At the same time, the Center recorded several observations⁴²² noted in its previous reports that had not been addressed as of the date of the visit, including:

- The medical clinic was unequipped and lacked any medical devices except for a hospital bed.
- The absence of recreational programs and activities except for watching television occasionally.
- The lack of side handrails on all walls (present only in limited sections), which constitutes a violation of Article (10) paragraph (b/11) of the 2013 Licensing Instructions for Elderly Residential Care Homes, which requires that

grab bars be installed on walls, in corridors, halls, bedrooms, and sanitary facilities.

- The number of supervisors working at the home was insufficient and disproportionate to the number and needs of the elderly residents.
- The lack of medical beds for all beneficiaries, with their availability depending on the beneficiary's health condition; the number of medical beds for older persons was low, with most being old iron beds with worn-out and unclean mattresses. Some rooms were overcrowded with beds, with no partitions in double rooms to ensure beneficiaries' privacy, which constitutes a violation of Article (10) of the 2013 Licensing Instructions for Elderly Residential Care Homes, which requires under paragraph (b14/2) that: *"medical beds appropriate to the mobility impairments and health conditions of older persons must be provided; the width of the bed must not be less than 90 cm in any case, with a side clearance of not less than 140 cm to facilitate the elderly person's transfer to the bed, and partitions must be installed in double rooms to ensure patient privacy in special cases."*⁴²³

The Center conducted a monitoring visit to the *Elders' Pioneers Forum* in May 2024 to assess the status and rights of older persons in day clubs. The Center recorded the efforts made by the administration to improve and develop the services provided and to implement many of the Center's recommendations

⁴²² See the observations regarding Al-Zahraa Elderly Care Home as included in the Center's Annual Report for the year 2023.

⁴²³ Also, letter No. (H A/1071/3-6) dated 2/12/2024.

included in annual and monitoring reports, including:

- Establishing a library within the Forum by the Greater Amman Municipality containing approximately 2,490 diverse books in various fields, which Forum members can read on-site or borrow.
- Preparing a project in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture for a Jordanian museum showcasing Jordanians' daily life, clothing, and heritage belongings using modern technological means.
- Launching the “*Umm Hafzi*” program, which involves hosting representatives from all governorates of the Kingdom (each governorate separately) in a celebration that promotes the rich heritage and traditions of the ancestors for the Forum's members.
- Reducing the Forum's annual membership fee from 120 Jordanian dinars to 50 Jordanian dinars to encourage older persons to join, participate, and integrate. It is noted that the number of elderly members is 100 men and women.

On the other hand, the Center noted some observations⁴²⁴ and addressed them to the Ministry of Social Development for the purpose of improving the level of services⁴²⁵, including:

- The need to establish public day clubs for older persons in all governorates of the Kingdom, to help them spend their leisure time,

promote intergenerational communication, and benefit from their expertise.

- The need to provide financial and in-kind support to the *Elders' Pioneers Forum* through cooperation with official and non-official bodies to enable the Forum to carry out its activities related to older persons.

In its reply to the Center's letter (Ref. No. Sh Q/11593/3 dated 6/8/2024), the Ministry of Social Development stated the following:

- The Ministry is studying a draft proposal to encourage charitable associations to license and support day clubs for older persons.
- Regarding providing financial and in-kind support to the *Elders' Pioneers Forum*, since the Forum is a private for-profit entity, the Ministry nevertheless seeks to provide support through any willing party or when the budget allows.

• The Center documented a fire incident that broke out in parts of the *Elderly Guest House* affiliated with the White Family Association, resulting in seven deaths and dozens of injuries. The Center acknowledges the Civil Defense teams' prompt response to the incident, evacuating the injured to hospitals in a short time, and the Ministry of Social Development's efforts in handling the incident by relocating beneficiaries to other elderly care homes and providing the necessary requirements. To prevent such incidents from recurring in the future, the Center calls for:

- Intensifying and tightening supervision over social care homes by relevant oversight bodies.
- Reviewing and regularly updating public safety procedures in all social

⁴²⁴ Monitoring visit report for the Pioneers Forum for the Elderly, dated 7/5/2024.

⁴²⁵ Letter issued by the National Center to the Ministry of Social Development No. (H A/497/18) dated 2/6/2024.

care homes, and adapting all facilities for use by older persons.

- Subjecting all staff working in social care homes to special training programs on dealing with crises and risks, such as evacuation, first aid, and others.
 - Reviewing the adequacy of staffing levels in social care homes, especially the number of social workers and psychologists, and implementing training programs for them on case management and dealing with the psychological and social conditions of older persons and providing necessary interventions.
- The Center monitored the participation of older persons in the 2024 parliamentary elections⁴²⁶, where the number of registered elderly voters was 245,564⁴²⁷. The number of candidates aged 70 years or older according to the Independent Election Commission was 69, of whom 65 were men and 4 were women⁴²⁸.
 - The National Center for Human Rights presented a set of recommendations to the Ministry of Social Development based on its monitoring visits to several residential homes for older persons⁴²⁹, which aim to

⁴²⁶ Refer to the report on monitoring the parliamentary elections for the Twentieth House of Representatives in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the year 2024, published on the official website of the Center: www.nchr.org.jo.

⁴²⁷ Pursuant to the letter of the Independent Election Commission No. (T H /2331/4/5) dated 08/09/2024, which was a response to the Center's letter No. (H A /39/788) dated 04/09/2024.

⁴²⁸ Pursuant to the letter of the Independent Election Commission No. (T H /2331/4/5) dated 08/09/2024, which was a response to the Center's letter No. (H A /39/788) dated 04/09/2024.

⁴²⁹ Letter issued by the Center to the Ministry of Social Development No. (H A/224/18) dated 17/03/2024.

protect and promote the rights of older persons in the Kingdom, including:

- Enacting a regulation for the temporary care of homeless persons, as there is a need to care for those who have made the streets or public places their shelter and who lack family support, within the age groups of 18–60 years for males and 18–55 years for females.
- Activating the Elderly Care Account Fund and working to provide home care services as stipulated in the *Instructions for Benefiting from and Spending the Elderly Care Account for the Year 2022*.
- Developing awareness and guidance programs on the rights of older persons.
- Imposing an obligation on the families of elderly persons to visit them regularly in residential care homes.
- Establishing public day clubs for older persons.

The response of the Ministry of Social Development⁴³⁰ to the Center's letter was as follows:

- The issuance of the *Regulation on Licensing Elderly Care Homes and Their Day Clubs* No. (98) of 2024.
- The issuance of the *Elderly Care Regulation* No. (97) of 2021 and the *Instructions for Benefiting from and Spending the Elderly Care Account* for the year 2022, which defined the terms and conditions for benefiting from the fund and the aspects of its expenditure. Currently, the fund is being supported with 10% of the

⁴³⁰ Ministry of Social Development's response by letter No. (Sh Q/3/6155) dated 23/04/2024.

proceeds of the lottery, pursuant to Article (6/A/3) of the *Jordanian Charitable Lottery Regulation* and its amendments No. (161) of 2019.

- The Ministry is working with partner entities on developing the *Jordanian National Strategy for Older Persons*, which was first launched in 2012 and is updated every four years. The strategy aims to create a society that protects older persons and their rights, recognizes their experience and capabilities, and provides them with a decent life and a supportive environment that respects their specific needs, through coordinating the efforts of all governmental and non-governmental entities to ensure their effective participation in society. There are six pillars forming the priorities for elderly and ageing issues in Jordan:

1. Social protection and financial security.
2. Health care for older persons.
3. Social care.
4. Participation and strengthening intergenerational solidarity.
5. Protecting older persons from violence and neglect, including in times of crises.
6. An enabling and supportive environment for older persons.

- Most cases of elderly persons being placed in care homes involve those who have lost family support or have been abandoned by their families. Families are encouraged to visit their elderly members in care homes, but there is no legal provision to oblige them to do so.
- In the capital, Amman, there is currently one day club for older persons. Three out of four day clubs

were closed during the period 2018–2022 due to their inability to cover operating costs because of insufficient support. However, currently, a second day club is in the process of being licensed in the Wadi Al-Haddadeh area, and the Samir Shamma Housing Association is working to reopen the existing day club within its facilities.

In this context, and on the occasion of the *World Elder Abuse Awareness Day*, the Center issued a statement on June 15th, emphasizing the need to adopt a special law for older persons to establish clear legal provisions supporting the protection and care of this group. The statement called for the addition of an explicit and direct provision criminalizing or holding accountable children who neglect the rights of their parents, particularly in cases of abandonment or refusal to care for them.

The Center also stressed the importance of raising the awareness of workers in residential care homes and day clubs for older persons, and providing them with qualified educational staff, so this can serve as a starting point for providing future home care services on a voluntary basis. The Center further called for more effective efforts to promote and protect the rights of older persons by developing national social policies and plans for the elderly in areas such as awareness, education, employment, training, family support, and more.

This includes promoting a participatory approach aimed at involving older persons in development and decision-making processes that concern them, as well as engaging the private sector, exchanging expertise, and promoting purposeful media outreach. The statement called for adopting

an elderly-sensitive budget and increasing the financial allocations earmarked in the budgets of relevant entities to support their efforts in caring for and protecting the rights of older persons, establishing public day clubs for older persons in all governorates of the Kingdom, and implementing specialized programs on the rights of older persons and their protection from violence by the competent government institutions and civil society organizations to support their rights.

It also emphasized strengthening the role of the media in raising awareness of older persons' civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights and the community's role in caring for them, as well as building a database and statistics classified by gender, age, disability, health, social, economic status, and other relevant aspects, so that the necessary interventions for protecting older persons' rights can be based on these statistical outputs.

Recommendations

1. Expedite the issuance of the regulations governing the implementation of the *Social Development Law* No. (4) of 2024.
2. Continue providing reasonable accommodations in various facilities and institutions for older persons, involve them in strategies and plans related to development goals, and encourage the private sector to offer financial, moral, psychological, social, and legal support to older persons. Support and encourage intergenerational communication and

create opportunities to benefit from the expertise of older persons in various fields. Adopt comprehensive programs, whether at the official or community level, to integrate older persons into social and cultural life and promote a culture of volunteerism to serve them or benefit from their experience.

3. Encourage the private sector and civil society to contribute to supporting elderly care programs by providing home care services, financial support, and volunteer activities that help improve their quality of life.
4. Enhance healthcare services directed at older persons by facilitating their access to medical services and providing specialized medical staff in geriatrics within healthcare institutions.
5. Include specialized psychological support programs for older persons to ensure that necessary psychological care is provided to those suffering from loneliness, depression, or other psychological issues, through employing psychological specialists in residential care homes and community centers.
6. Implement specialized programs on the rights of older persons and strengthen the role of the media in raising awareness of their rights.
7. Expand home healthcare programs, especially for older persons and those with chronic diseases.

The National Center for Human Rights

Appendix No. (1)

**Analysis of Complaints Submitted to the National Center for
Human Rights for the Year 2024**

Appendices

Complaints Received by the National Center for Human Rights in 2024:

The total number of complaints received by the Center in 2024 amounted to 709 complaints, compared to 638 complaints in 2023. Of these, 519 complaints were related to civil and political rights, 150 complaints concerned economic, social, and cultural rights, while only 40 complaints were related to the rights of groups most in need of protection, as detailed in the table below.

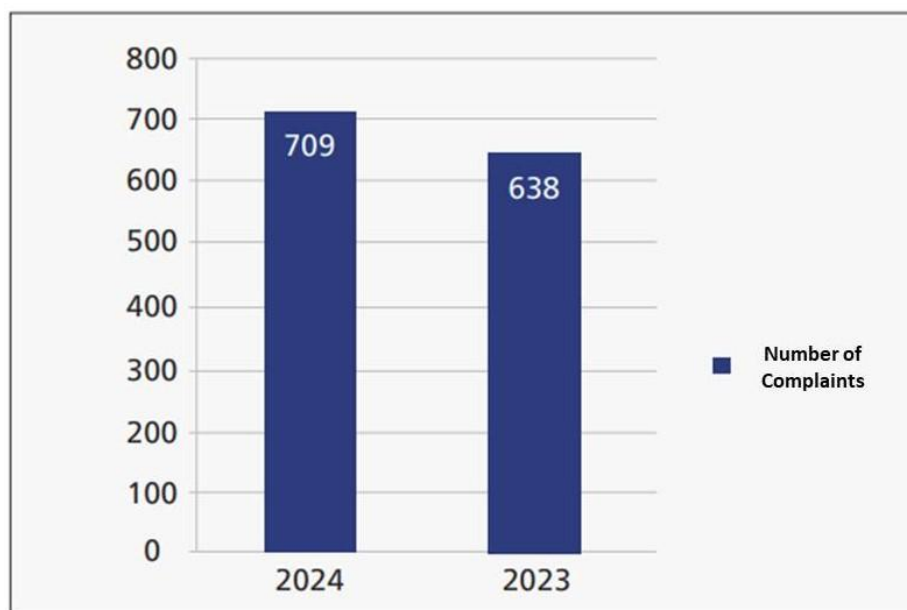
Subject Matter	No. of Complaints	Satisfactory Outcome	Unsatisfactory Outcome	Outside Center's Jurisdiction	Violation Not Proven	Complainant Did Not Cooperate	Based on Complainant's Request	In Case of Death	Under Follow-up	Archived	Appealed
Civil and Political Rights											
Right to Vote and Run for Elections	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Right to Recognition of Legal Personality (Nationality)	10	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	7	0	0
Right to Freedom of Residence and Movement	161	44	18	4	39	3	5	0	48	0	0
Right to Obtain Official Documents	15	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	10	0	0
Right to Access Information	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Right to a Fair Trial	90	22	3	8	30	0	2	0	25	0	0
Right to Liberty and Personal Security	19	5	0	2	5	2	1	0	4	0	0
Right to Humane Treatment	29	2	1	3	13	1	1	0	8	0	0
Right to	14	2	0	5	1	0	0	0	6	0	0

Subject Matter	No. of Complaints	Satisfactory Outcome	Unsatisfactory Outcome	Outside Center's Jurisdiction	Violation Not Proven	Complainant Did Not Cooperate	Based on Complainant's Request	In Case of Death	Under Follow-up	Archived	Appealed
Asylum											
Right to Physical Safety	56	6	3	0	21	3	2	0	21	0	0
Right to Life	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0
Rights of Inmates of Correction and Rehabilitation Centers	81	35	7	3	24	0	1	0	11	0	0
Right to Equality and Non-Discrimination	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Right to Privacy	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Right to Establish and Join Associations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Right to Peaceful Assembly	6	3	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Rule of Law	27	2	0	3	7	1	0	0	14	0	0
Right to Legal Aid	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Economic, Social and Cultural Rights											
Right to Health	26	3	0	2	8	0	0	0	13	0	0
Right to Work	43	8	0	2	11	2	1	0	19	0	0
Right to Adequate Standard of Living	30	6	1	3	14	0	0	0	6	0	0
Right to Education	17	6	0	1	8	0	0	0	2	0	0
Right to Hold	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

Subject Matter	No. of Complaints	Satisfactory Outcome	Unsatisfactory Outcome	Outside Center's Jurisdiction	Violation Not Proven	Complainant Did Not Cooperate	Based on Complainant's Request	In Case of Death	Under Follow-up	Archived	Appealed
Public Office											
Right to Social Security	14	2	0	1	5	0	0	0	6	0	0
Rights-related Claims	15	1	0	4	3	1	2	0	4	0	0
Right to Property	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Right to Development	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Right to a Healthy Environment	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Rights of Groups Most in Need of Protection											
Women's Rights	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Children's Rights	16	2	0	0	3	0	1	0	10	0	0
Juvenile Rights	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rights of Persons with Disabilities	16	4	0	0	7	0	1	0	4	0	0
Rights of the Elderly	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Family Rights	5	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Total	709	157	36	46	213	13	20	0	224	0	0
Percentage (%)		22.14%	5.08%	6.49%	30.04%	1.83%	2.82%	0%	31.59%	0%	0%

Graph illustrating the number of complaints received by the National Center during 2024

Number of Complaints in 2024



Methodology of the Center's Work in Handling Complaints

The Complaints, Follow-up, and Violations Resolution Unit is responsible for following up on complaints submitted to the Center. The work mechanism is implemented through the following sequential stages:

First Stage: Receiving the Complaint

This stage includes the following elements: all essential elements related to the subject of the complaint must be clearly presented in a sequential and comprehensive manner. It should include a detailed statement of the legal situation before and after the alleged violation occurred, as well as the impact of the violation at the legal, social, and economic levels — especially its effect on the complainant's family or household, if applicable.

Second Stage: Initial Verification Procedures

This stage involves two main procedures:

1. Preparing a comprehensive legal analysis of the complaint, based on the national legal system and international human rights standards, and uploading it to the system within a maximum of 24 hours from receipt of the complaint.
2. Developing a sound action plan with a short timeframe to follow up on the complaint and implement the necessary measures to resolve it. The action plan should include practical solutions for follow-up and ending the violation, such as: conducting an urgent field visit to the entity being complained against, sending an official letter including the legal

analysis of the complaint, forming a fact-finding team, or requesting relevant documents from the concerned entity.

Third Stage: Complaint Resolution (Simultaneous and Mandatory Stages)

This stage includes two main, simultaneous paths:

- **First Path:** Direct communication with the entity being complained against (as appropriate), and/or sending an official letter outlining the complaint supported by the legal analysis, and conducting a field visit if necessary. This action must be determined and executed within a maximum of 48 hours from receipt of the complaint. In urgent complaints where time is a critical factor, the action must be taken within 24 hours.
- **Second Path:** Monitoring allegations of recurring patterns of violations, whether related to the same entity or the nature of the violation.

Fourth Stage: Evaluation of Responses and Follow-Up Procedures

A decision to close the complaint shall be taken by the Commissioner General in the following cases: lack of jurisdiction, resolution of the violation, or non-cooperation by the complainant.

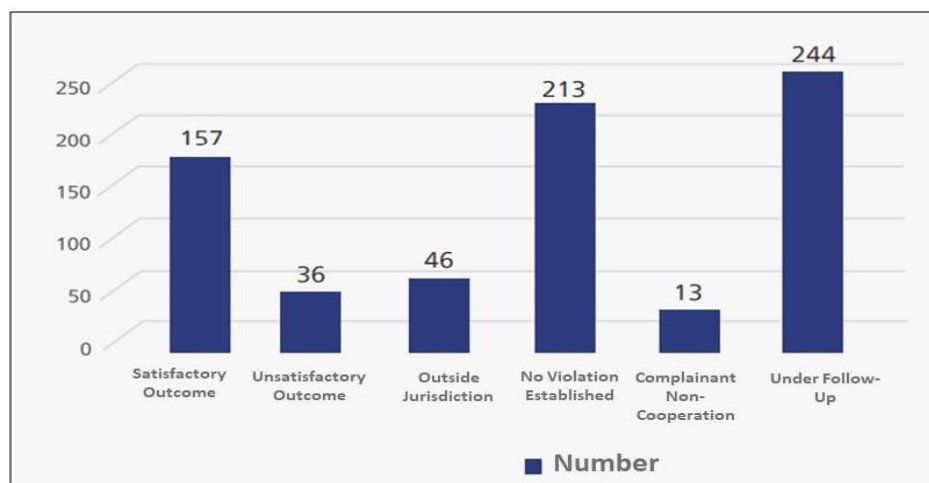
Results of the Follow-Up on Complaints Received by the National Center for Human Rights for the Year 2024

During 2024, the Complaints, Follow-Up, and Violations Resolution Unit received a total of **709** complaints. The complaints were handled and 157 complaints were resolved with a satisfactory outcome, representing 22.14% of the total complaints.

A total of 36 complaints were closed without reaching a satisfactory outcome, accounting for 5.08% of the total number of complaints, while 46 complaints were closed due to the Center's lack of jurisdiction, representing 6.49% of all complaints.

Additionally, 213 complaints were closed due to the absence of any verified human rights violation, which constitutes 40.03. Furthermore, 13 complaints were closed due to the complainant's non-cooperation, representing 1.83%. Meanwhile, 244 complaints remain under follow-up, representing 31.59% of the total number of complaints.

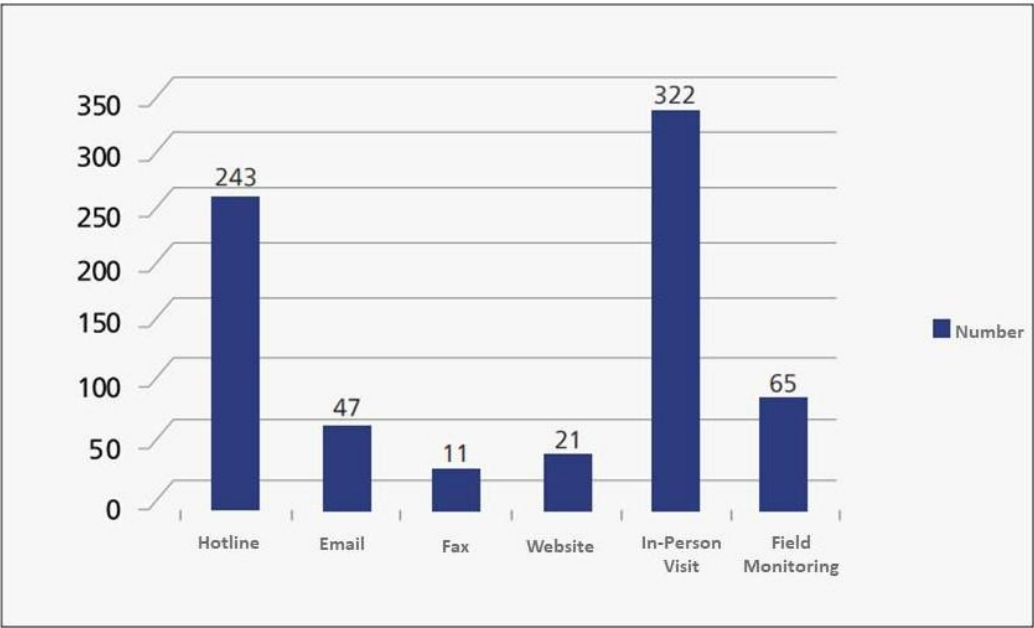
Graph Showing the Distribution of Complaints by Outcome During 2024
Number of Complaints by Outcome During 2024



It is noted that the number of complaints received by the Center increased in 2024 by 71 complaints compared to 2023. Complaints related to civil and political rights topped the list, with an increase of 75 complaints compared to 2023. Likewise, there was an increase in complaints related to economic, social, and cultural rights by 7 complaints compared to 2023, with the Center recording 150 complaints in this regard during 2024. Meanwhile, complaints related to the rights of groups most in need of protection decreased by 11 complaints compared to 2023.

It is worth noting that in-person attendance remains the primary method for submitting complaints, accounting for 45.41% of the total complaints received by the Center. There was also an increase in the percentage of complaints received through the hotline, which accounted for 34.3% of the total complaints. Additionally, 65 complaints, representing 9.16% of the total for 2024, were monitored through other means. By contrast, the percentage of complaints received through the website decreased to 2.96%, while complaints submitted via fax accounted for 1.55%, and those received by email accounted for 6.62%.

Graph illustrating the number of complaints received by the Center according to the method of submission



As for the distribution of complaints received by the Center across the Kingdom’s governorates, the chart shows that Amman, Zarqa, and Irbid have consistently recorded the highest numbers of complaints received by the Center for several years. The capital, Amman, remains the governorate with the

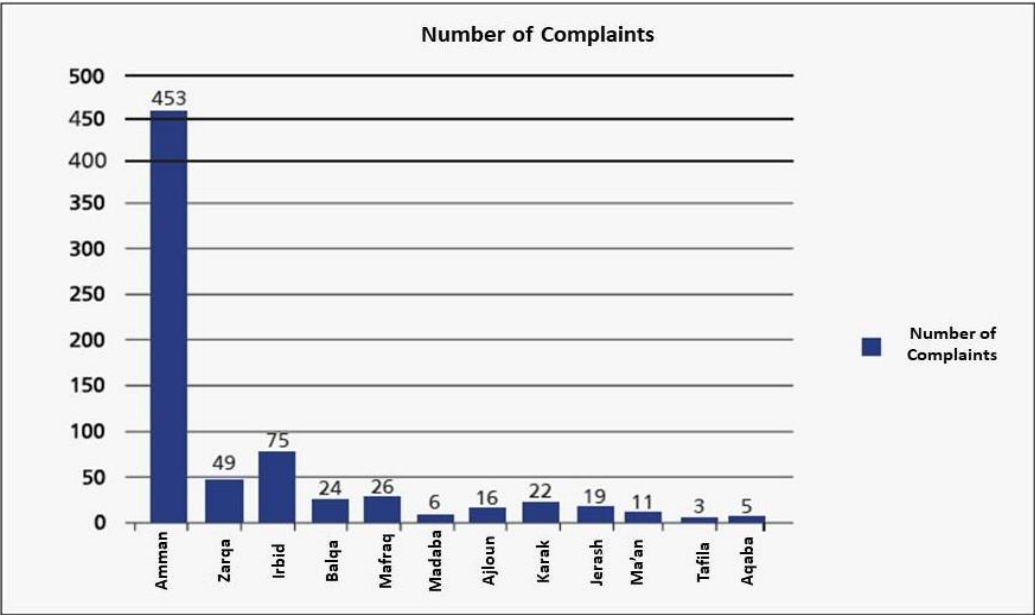
largest share, accounting for 63.89% of the total complaints.

Irbid ranked second in 2024 with 10.57% of total complaints, followed by Zarqa in third place with 6.91%. Mafraa came fourth with 3.66%, while Balqa ranked fifth with 3.38%. Karak ranked sixth with 3.10%.

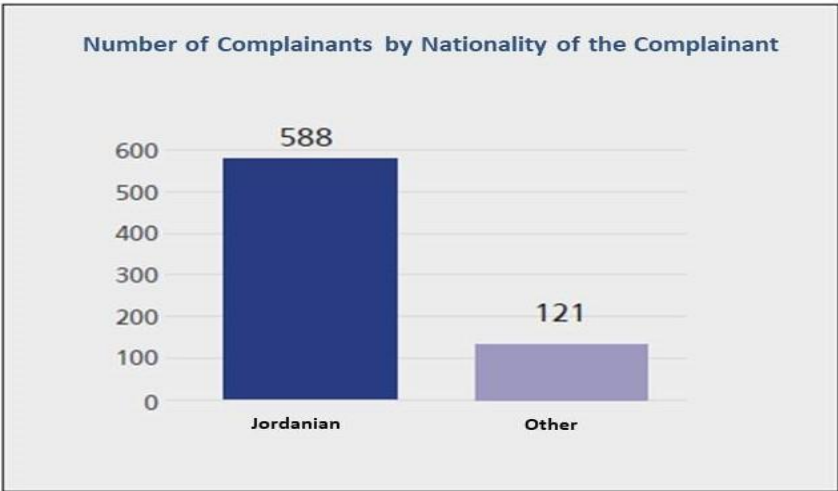
It is also worth noting that the Center has recorded an increase in the number of complaints from the southern governorates

(Aqaba, Karak, Tafileh, and Ma'an) for the third consecutive year, accounting for 5.78% compared to 2023.

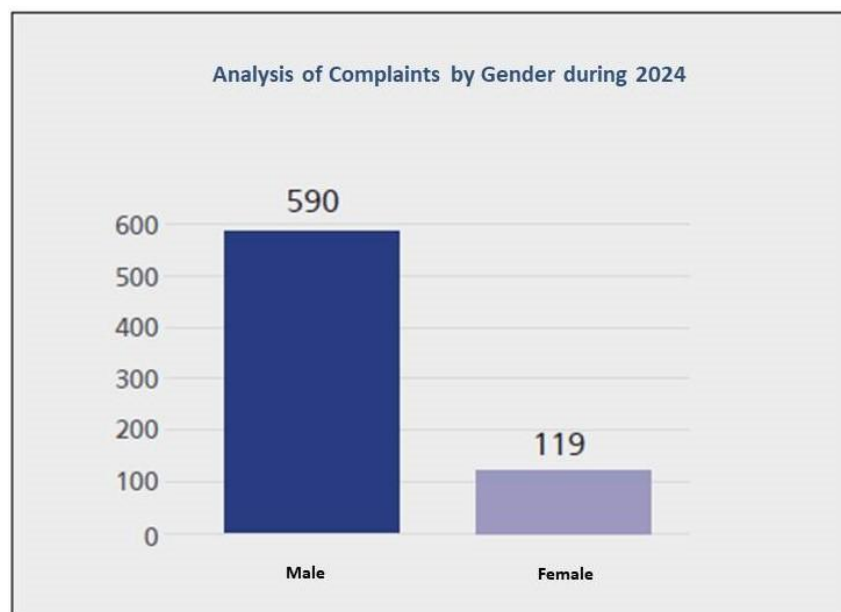
Graph illustrating the complaints received by the Center categorized by governorate during the year 2024.



Within the framework of the National Center for Human Rights' mechanism for monitoring the cases of citizens and residents on the territory of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, through receiving complaints and/or monitoring operations, the National Center has followed up on complaints submitted by residents within the Kingdom. The number of complainants holding non-Jordanian nationality constituted (17.06%) of the total number of complainants. The following graph illustrates the number of complainants according to the nationality of the complaint submitter.



The following graph shows the continued increase in the percentage of complaints submitted by males, which reached (83.21%) of the total number of complaints received by the Center.



Practical Procedures for Following Up on Complaints and Resolving Violations Received by the Center during the Year 2024:

1. Issuance of (741) correspondences to relevant authorities to follow up on complaints received by the Center. The Center received (563) responses regarding these complaint correspondences.
2. Provision of (121) legal consultations and services.
3. Cooperation and networking with Arab human rights organizations to follow up on complaints of Jordanians abroad, achieving satisfactory results in complaint follow-ups, such as with the Iraqi Human Rights Commission.
4. For the purpose of verifying complaints referred to the National Center, (92) visits were conducted to reform and rehabilitation centers, including (11) visits to Jouda Rehabilitation Center (Women), as well as a visit to the Detention Center of the General Intelligence Department.

Challenges:

There are several challenges facing the follow-up of complaints, the most prominent of which are:

1. Non-responsiveness or delayed responses from some concerned authorities, providing formalistic replies to complaints, or failure to provide the necessary documents required to complete the verification process in some complaints.⁴³¹

⁴³¹ With reference to a circular issued by the Prime Minister bearing No. 5820/18/11/1 dated 22 March 2011, which stipulates that the response period shall be within 30 days.

2. Complainants' unwillingness to pursue complaints for personal reasons and/or lack of cooperation in some cases.
3. The need to enhance the capacities of relevant personnel in ministries and official institutions to follow up on complaints related to the Center, and to equip them with legal knowledge and technical skills to handle complaints, observations, and inquiries received by the Center.

The National Center for Human Rights

Appendix No. (2)

**Outputs and Recommendations Related to the
Legislative Impact Assessment of the Cybercrime
Law and Its Applications, No. (17) of 2023.**

Introduction

The National Center for Human Rights has followed the initial stages of enacting the Cybercrime Law No. (17) of 2023, and has consistently affirmed the necessity of having a specific legislation to regulate the digital space and address emerging crimes, in principle, provided that it adheres to constitutional and human rights standards in accordance with international human rights norms.

Within this context, the Center actively engaged in the public dialogue on the Law during its early legislative stages. It conducted a thorough study of the draft law in all its dimensions within the framework of the Jordanian Constitution and international human rights standards. The Center also issued a statement on the matter, met with the Legal Committee in the House of Representatives, and presented its observations on the proposed draft law at the time. Subsequently, the Center continued to follow up on developments related to the draft law and met with the Legal Committee in the Senate, which adopted a number of the Center's observations—a response that the Center commended at the time.

In line with its mandate under Law No. (51) of 2006 and its amendments, which is to protect and promote human rights and disseminate its culture, the Center has monitored the implementation of this Law to ensure the safeguarding of constitutional rights and those enshrined in international human rights standards, and to ensure that this Law does not stand as an obstacle to the visions of modernization within the second centennial of the Jordanian state, nor hinder citizens from exercising freedom of expression, as emphasized by His Majesty King Abdullah II during his meeting with the Chairperson and members of the Board

of Trustees of the Center—an essential mission undertaken by the Center as the independent national mechanism for the protection and promotion of human rights.

Accordingly, the Center undertook the task of reviewing the legislative impact of the Law and its implications on society, taking into account the perspectives of all concerned parties, based on the Center's belief that legislation is not an end in itself but rather a means to achieve a goal that must be linked to serving the pure public interest in line with constitutional, legal, and universal human rights principles.

The Center established clear mechanisms to study the legislative impact of this Law over the course of an entire year since its entry into force on September 12, 2023—the same date on which the Center launched a public dialogue and a hotline to receive complaints and inquiries regarding the Law as part of its study of the Law's implementation and impact, with particular focus on Articles (15, 16, 17) of the Cybercrime Law No. (17) of 2023, which were a primary subject of the study to ensure their alignment with the Jordanian Constitution and international human rights standards.

In addition, the Center has remained committed to exercising its legal mandate through strengthening knowledge and cultural awareness by organizing training and awareness-raising courses and discussion sessions on the provisions of this Law. In this context, the Center participated in specialized training directed at judges designated to adjudicate cybercrime cases, focusing on the relevant constitutional and international standards governing freedom of expression.

The Center also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Center for Curriculum Development, which aims to intensify efforts to integrate human rights concepts into educational curricula, thereby providing a legal and cultural framework that serves as an approach throughout all stages of the educational process—ultimately striving for a secure digital space and a clear understanding of international human rights standards by all stakeholders.

Accordingly, this report presents the outcomes of the National Center for Human Rights' monitoring and dialogue with relevant parties regarding the impact resulting from the implementation of the Cybercrime Law No. (17) of 2023. It further provides related recommendations aimed at enhancing the Law, while emphasizing that this Law contains numerous provisions that have contributed to protecting individuals from the risks of cybercrimes and to strengthening the security of the digital space.

First: Mechanisms for Assessing the Legislative Impact of the Cybercrime Law

Since the meeting held between His Majesty King Abdullah II and the Chairperson and members of the Board of Trustees following the enactment of the Cybercrime Law—during which His Majesty emphasized the Center's independence and its important role in protecting and promoting human rights, highlighting its mandate to monitor the human rights situation, including assessing the practical impact of this Law—the Center has developed mechanisms to study the legislative impact of the Cybercrime Law.

These mechanisms include monitoring the Law's application to individuals and the number of those detained under it, including

conducting visits to meet them to examine the circumstances of the cases, reviewing issued judgments, and identifying the challenges that hinder the Law's implementation. To this end, the Center adopted a participatory approach by organizing several dialogue sessions with specialists and stakeholders.

To achieve this goal as well, the Center launched a dedicated hotline to receive complaints related to the Cybercrime Law.

The Center also examined comparative legislation, international human rights standards, and best practices in order to arrive at comprehensive recommendations that contribute to the development and amendment of the Law.

In parallel, and in line with its belief in the importance of building a comprehensive human rights culture, the Center has worked to contribute to the integration of human rights concepts into educational curricula by reviewing them and proposing necessary revisions. The Center has also contributed to training judges—in cooperation with the esteemed Judicial Council—who were specifically designated by the Council to hear cybercrime cases, ensuring specialization in adjudication and contributing to the proper application of the Law.

Second: Newly Introduced Provisions in the Cybercrime Law

The primary objective of cybercrime legislation is to regulate the digital space and establish clear legal frameworks for crimes that may target or be committed through information systems. In principle, the Jordanian Cybercrime Law was enacted to achieve this purpose.

The Cybercrime Law No. (17) of 2023 introduced a set of amendments and new provisions, the majority of which did not raise significant issues except in relation to the value of fines. However, a group of specific provisions—particularly Articles (15, 16, 17, and 25)—have posed certain challenges concerning the clarity of the restrictions they impose within the framework of the Jordanian Constitution and international human rights standards.

1. Amended or Newly Introduced Provisions under the Cybercrime Law

The Cybercrime Law includes a range of amendments and new provisions that have contributed to protecting individuals from cybercrimes, most notably:

- Increasing penalties for crimes related to pornography, incitement to debauchery and prostitution, or luring another person, or offenses against public morals.
- Expanding the scope of acts constituting the material element of the aforementioned crimes to ensure alignment with technological developments⁴³².
- Providing for aggravated penalties if the content relates to children, persons with intellectual disabilities, or those suffering from mental illnesses⁴³³—thus offering greater protection to these vulnerable groups.
- Introducing provisions to address existing legal loopholes, notably by criminalizing anyone who uses an information system, website, or social media platform to publish, edit, manipulate, or process any

recording, image, scene, or video of an individual that the individual seeks to keep private and undisclosed to the public, with the intent of defamation, harm, or obtaining a benefit⁴³⁴—thus safeguarding individuals' privacy in the digital space.

- Criminalizing extortion or threats aimed at coercing someone to perform or refrain from performing an act, or to obtain any benefit, through the use of an information system, information network, website, social media platform, or any other means of information technology⁴³⁵.
- Criminalizing the receipt or collection of funds from the public with the intent to invest, manage, employ, or grow them without a license using an information system⁴³⁶.

On another level, the amendments and new provisions include a group of articles—specifically Articles (15, 16, and 17)—which address the following offenses:

- The Cybercrime Law criminalizes the act of sending, resending, or publishing any false information that targets national security and social peace, or that involves defamation, libel, or insult⁴³⁷.
- It criminalizes the act of spreading, attributing, or ascribing to any

⁴³² Article (13/B/2, 13/C/2)

⁴³³ Article (13/B/1)

⁴³⁴ Article (20) of the Cybercrime Law No. (17) of 2023

⁴³⁵ Article (18) of the Cybercrime Law No. (17) of 2023

⁴³⁶ Article (23) of the Cybercrime Law No. (17) of 2023

⁴³⁷ Article (15) of the Cybercrime Law No. (17) of 2023

person acts that unjustly aim to assassinate character⁴³⁸.

- It criminalizes acts that incite strife or sectarianism, target social peace, incite hatred, call for violence or justify it, or show contempt for religions using an information system⁴³⁹.

Additionally, Article (25) of the Cybercrime Law expands the scope of presumed liability by stipulating that any person who exercises actual management of a website, social media platform, account, public page, group, channel, or any equivalent entity shall be held responsible for illegal content and shall be punished for crimes committed in violation of the Cybercrime Law's provisions regarding such content with the penalty prescribed for the principal offender.

Third: Discussion Sessions with Relevant Stakeholders

The National Center for Human Rights (NCHR) held several consultative sessions on the Cybercrime Law and its applications, focusing in particular on Articles (15), (16), and (17), with stakeholders, individuals, experts, civil society organizations, and professional associations.

These discussions concluded that the Cybercrime Law is a necessary measure to regulate the digital space and to ensure both general and specific deterrence for crimes committed through or by means of such space. However, the discussions also found that the Law entails certain challenges and issues that have impacted, or may impact, the soundness of its implementation. The most prominent points are:

- The broad scope of some terms used, such as “character assassination”, “false news”, and “hate speech”, without clear standards or defined parameters for these acts, which undermines the principle of legality stipulating that there shall be no crime or punishment except by explicit provision, leaving these acts open to varied interpretations and judicial discretion.
- Legislative duplication, which primarily appears between the Penal Code and the Cybercrime Law, whereby the same offenses — such as libel, slander, and defamation or incitement of sectarian strife — are criminalized in both laws, but with different penalties. Notably, pretrial detention is permitted under the Cybercrime Law for libel, slander, and defamation offenses, whereas the same acts under the Penal Code do not warrant detention.
- The possibility of imposing custodial sentences under Articles (15) and (16), despite best practices and international human rights standards advocating for civil compensation or fines only in such cases, given the severe repercussions of short-term imprisonment and the lack of serious criminal threat that would justify deprivation of liberty.
- The high value of fines as a penalty for certain offenses, which in many cases is disproportionate to the severity of the act and inconsistent with the current economic conditions of individuals and various entities, thus necessitating a reassessment of the economic impact of the Law.
- The psychological and social harm resulting from short-term imprisonment, and the risk of inmates acquiring criminal behavior from other detainees, which undermines the general and specific deterrent effect of such punishment.
- Increased self-censorship among journalists while performing their professional duties in the fields of journalism and media, for fear of any legal

⁴³⁸ Article (16) of the Cybercrime Law No. (17) of 2023

⁴³⁹ Article (17) of the Cybercrime Law No. (17) of 2023

liability or prosecution due to the broad scope of certain terms, particularly under Articles (15), (16), and (17).

- The expansion of presumed liability in the Cybercrime Law, especially under Article (25), which contradicts a fundamental principle of criminal justice systems — the principle of the personal nature of punishment.

Fourth: Dedicated Cybercrime Hotline

The Center launched a dedicated hotline for the implementation of the Cybercrime Law No. (17) of 2023, operating 24 hours a day as of 12 September 2023. Since its launch and up to this date, the hotline has received approximately 134 calls. The Center observed the following regarding calls received through the hotline:

- The majority of calls received from individuals were consultations about the Law, its application, and the relevant authorities that individuals may approach should they fall victim to cybercrimes.
- Inquiries about ways to communicate with competent authorities to file complaints regarding their exposure to cybercrimes, particularly cyber extortion.
- The Center received three complaints through the dedicated cybercrime hotline concerning cases related to freedom of expression, which fall within the scope of Articles (15), (16), and (17) of the same Law. All of these cases were pending before the Jordanian judiciary.
- A general lack of public awareness regarding the concept of cybercrimes, mechanisms for dealing with them, and insufficient information among individuals about this Law and the acts that constitute

offenses under it, whether committed by them or if they become subject to such acts.

- A lack of awareness regarding the conditions and standards for permissible criticism and the limitations consistent with international human rights standards and the Jordanian Constitution concerning the right to freedom of expression among individuals.

Fifth: Number of Cases

According to the statistics provided by the esteemed Judicial Council, the number of cases related to Articles (15), (16), and (17) of the Cybercrime Law No. (17) of 2023 during the period extending from 12 September 2023 until 26 September 2024 is as follows:

Firstly: Number of cases registered before the Courts of First Instance concerning the provisions of Articles (15), (16), (17), and (25) of the Cybercrime Law No. (17) of 2023 from 12 September 2023 until 26 September 2024⁴⁴⁰:

Legal Provision	2023	2024
Article (15)	448	2,480
Article (16)	1	17
Article (17)	49	175
Article (25)	Not Reported	Not Reported

This means that the total number of cases related to Articles (15, 16, and 17) reached (3,170) cases. It is noted that the largest number of cases fell under Article (15)⁴⁴¹ of

⁴⁴⁰ Judicial Council Letter No. 3489/30/1/2 dated 20 October 2024

⁴⁴¹ Article 15: a. Anyone who intentionally sends, re-sends, or publishes data or information via the information network, information technology, information system, website, or social media platforms that contains false news targeting national

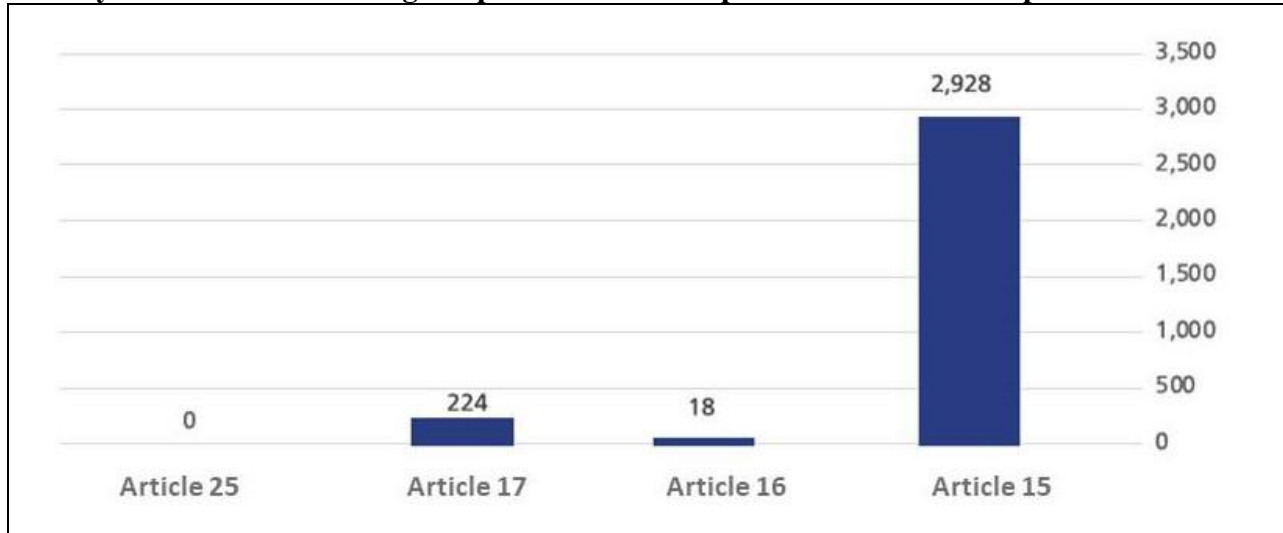
the Cybercrimes Law No. (17) of 2023, with a total of (2,928) cases. It should be noted that these cases also include personal disputes between individuals themselves related to defamation, slander, or insult. Meanwhile, the total number of cases related to Article (16) of the Law amounted to (18) cases, while the total number of cases related to Article (17)⁴⁴² of the same Law amounted to (224) cases. The Judicial Council's letter did not include any cases related to Article (25) of the same Law.

security and social peace, or defames, slanders, or insults any person, shall be punished by imprisonment for a period not less than three months or by a fine not less than five thousand (5,000) Jordanian Dinars and not exceeding twenty thousand (20,000) Jordanian Dinars, or by both penalties.

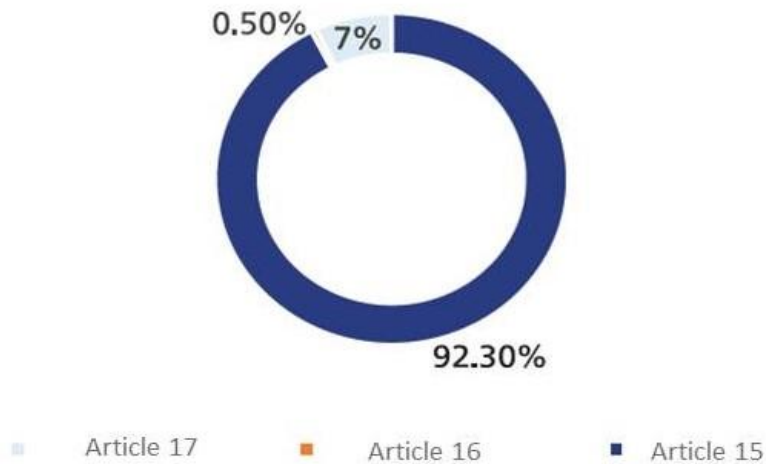
b. The crimes stipulated in paragraph (a) of this Article shall be prosecuted by the Public Prosecution without the need to submit a complaint or personal claim if they are directed against any authority of the State, official bodies, or public administrations.

⁴⁴² Article 17: Anyone who intentionally uses the information network, information technology, information system, a website, or a social media platform to publish anything that may incite sedition or sectarian strife, target social peace, incite hatred, call for or justify violence, or show contempt for religions shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of one to three years, or by a fine not less than five thousand (5,000) Jordanian Dinars and not exceeding twenty thousand (20,000) Jordanian Dinars, or by both penalties.

The chart illustrates the number of cases filed under Articles 15, 16, 17, and 25 of the Cybercrimes Law during the period from 12 September 2023 to 26 September 2024.



The chart illustrates the number of cases related to Articles 15, 16, and 17 of the law during the period from September 12, 2023, to September 26, 2024, noting that the total number of cases during this period is 3,170.



The letter received by the Center from the Honorable Judicial Council indicated that the data extracted, on which the above statistics were based, showed that the crimes committed under the provisions of Article (15) of the Electronic Crimes Law are mostly crimes of defamation, slander, and disparagement directed at specific natural persons. It is also worth noting that there is duplication in the cases mentioned above, as the statistics were prepared based on the legal article level, and some cases included multiple charges that fall under one or more of the above-mentioned articles⁴⁴³.

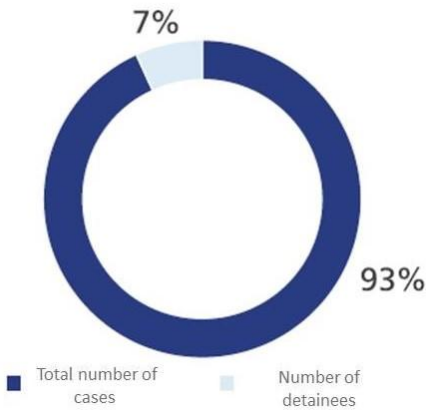
⁴⁴³ Judicial Council Letter No. 3489/30/1/2 dated 20/10/2024

Secondly: The number of detainees in the cases referred to according to the provisions of the articles mentioned in your letter, whether they were released or not, during the years 2023 and 2024 until the date 26/9/2024, was as follows⁴⁴⁴:

Year	Number of Detainees
2023	43
2024	189
Total	232

The chart illustrates the number of cases based on the legal articles (15, 16, 17) during the period from 12/9/2023 to 26/9/2024.

It should be noted that the total number of cases is (3,170) cases, and the total number of detainees is (232) detainees.



Third: The outcomes of the judgments issued in the cases mentioned in item (First), issued by the courts of first instance, whether final or not, are as follows:

Judgment Outcome	Legal Article (15)		Legal Article (16)		Legal Article (17)	
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
Conviction	128	427	1	1	14	57
Acquittal	30	101	0	0	4	15
Non-liability	29	78	0	3	24	38
(Referral, dismissal, suspension, etc.)	222	906	0	3	4	15

Sixth: Results and Recommendations

The Electronic Crimes Law fundamentally represents a necessary requirement to regulate and monitor newly emerging crimes committed via the digital space.

Moreover, the same law, according to the latest amendments, includes many positive developments by introducing some provisions that address existing legal gaps. Among the most notable is the inclusion of a provision related to the publication of recordings, images, or videos that a person strives to keep hidden or concealed from the public. This provision protects individuals’ right to privacy in the digital space. It also includes provisions concerning electronic extortion and threats.

Additionally, penalties have been intensified for perpetrators of acts against certain groups, such as children and persons with disabilities, in addition to criminalizing some acts in a specialized manner—such as the crime of electronic extortion, which is among the most common crimes.

The National Center for Human Rights, through its monitoring, follow-up, and discussion sessions, found that the comments mainly concerned the legislative

⁴⁴⁴ Judicial Council Letter No. 3489/30/1/2 dated 20/10/2024

drafting of a group of articles, primarily (15, 16, 17, 25), in addition to issues related to the rules of criminal participation.

According to the data provided by the esteemed Judicial Council, the total number of cases related to articles (15, 16, 17) during the period covered by the report, from September 12, 2023, to September 26, 2024, reached (3,170) cases. It is noted that the largest number of cases were under Article (15) of the Electronic Crimes Law No. (17) of 2023, amounting to (2,928) cases, while the total cases related to Article (16) were (18), and those related to Article (17) were (224).

As for the number of detainees based on these crimes, the total number of detainees, according to the letter received from the Judicial Council regarding the above cases, reached (232) detainees.

Regarding the hotline launched by the Center to monitor the enforcement of the Electronic Crimes Law, the Center received only three complaints, all of which were under judicial consideration. These were out of 134 calls received, mostly requesting legal advice on which authorities to approach due to exposure to electronic crimes.

Based on the above and relying on observations and recommendations made by stakeholders during consultative sessions, the Center reached a set of recommendations aimed at improving and developing the law, most notably:

- To achieve the principle of participation and in belief of the necessity to open a societal dialogue involving stakeholders in the legislative process, the Center calls for a societal dialogue and reaching

consensus on the key features of the Electronic Crimes Law, balancing public interest with the protection and promotion of human rights.

- To limit the crime of defamation, slander, and insult to the general provisions contained in the Penal Code No. (16) of 1960 and its amendments, as the existing provisions in the Penal Code are sufficient. This avoids legislative duplication and maintains general consistency between these laws. If this article remains in the Electronic Crimes Law, its penalty should be reduced in line with the Penal Code No. (16) of 1960 and its amendments to ensure no detention.
- To re-draft the legislative texts relating to some crimes such as “character assassination,” ensuring that individuals can understand, apply, and adhere to the provisions without resorting to varying judicial interpretations. Additionally, to clarify the elements of this crime.
- To regulate criminal acts stated in some provisions of the law, especially those related to hate speech, defining the elements of such speech in accordance with Article (20) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. At the same time, to clarify certain terms in the law, including “false news.”
- To adhere to the general rules of criminal legislation, especially those related to rules of criminal participation and to apply the principle of individualized punishment accordingly. The Center calls for a reconsideration of Article (27) of the law.
- To codify the conditions for permissible criticism established by the esteemed Jordanian judiciary,

particularly in its rulings related to publications and press cases.

- To explicitly state the inadmissibility of prosecuting journalists for performing their professional and journalistic work except under the Press and Publication Law, which is the legal framework governing journalists' work in Jordan.
- To expand the use of alternative punishments, particularly for some crimes stipulated in the law, to reduce overcrowding in rehabilitation and correction centers.
- To study the economic impacts resulting from the application of the Electronic Crimes Law, including the nature and amount of fines imposed on individuals and various entities. The Center emphasizes the necessity of hearing from relevant stakeholders in this field, including reducing the amount of fines imposed for some crimes and, in some cases, limiting penalties to fines based on the severity of the criminal act. This would also contribute to alleviating overcrowding in correctional facilities.
- To strengthen and activate the Right to Access Information Law to ensure smooth flow and proactive dissemination of information to

individuals, which would help reduce rumors, misinformation, and false news.

- To raise general awareness of the Electronic Crimes Law among individuals and all relevant entities.

In conclusion,

The Center reiterates its structural recommendation included in its annual reports regarding the necessity of institutionalizing an effective national system for legislation that aims to bridge the gap between legislation and society, based on a set of foundations including:

1. Participation of all relevant parties in the legislative process.
2. Analysis of social, economic, cultural, and political phenomena in society through impact studies of proposed legislation.
3. Compatibility with human rights legislation through a legislative policy that reviews related legislative matrices as a unified whole to ensure rights and freedoms as stipulated by the Jordanian Constitution and international human rights standards.

The National Center for Human Rights

Appendix No. (3)

Key Achievements of the National Center for Human Rights for the Year 2024

The National Center for Human Rights' 2024 Achievements Report presents the tasks carried out by the Center's commissions and monitoring departments in the areas of legislation, policies, and practices, in accordance with the powers vested in it under the National Center for Human Rights Law No. (51) of 2006 and its amendments during 2024. These tasks and activities constitute the main foundation and key resource upon which the content of the Twenty-First Annual Report for 2024 was built.

The Protection Commission, which consists of the following departments:

- Department for Groups Most in Need of Protection
- Department of Economic and Social Rights
- Department of Civil and Political Rights
- Department of International Mechanisms

Monitoring Focus Areas:

1. Monitoring the conditions of groups most in need of protection:

Women:

- Monitoring the situation of women and child workers in farms in Mafrq Governorate (Subha, Dafiana, Zamlat Al-Amir Ghazi).
- Monitoring the situation of female workers in the plant agriculture sector (three farms in the Central Jordan Valley/Balqa Governorate, three farms in the Northern Jordan Valley/Irbid, and two farms in the Southern Jordan Valley/Karak Governorate).

- Monitoring women's right to economic empowerment through income-generating projects in the Northern Jordan Valley.
- Monitoring six workshops in Sahab's agricultural area in the Capital Governorate.
- Monitoring the working conditions of citrus farm workers in the Northern Jordan Valley through a field visit to the Jordanian Citrus Agricultural Cooperative Association and the Directorate of Agriculture of the Northern Jordan Valley.
- Monitoring the Family Reconciliation Shelter in Aqaba.
- Monitoring the situation of at-risk women at the "Amanah" Women's Shelter and Rehabilitation Center in Amman.
- Monitoring the Karamah Shelter for victims of human trafficking in Amman.
- Monitoring the mock elections at Madaba Secondary School for Girls.

Children:

- Monitoring children's rights in the SOS Children's Villages in the Capital and Aqaba Governorates.
- Monitoring children's right to play in eight public parks in the Capital, Irbid, and Karak Governorates.
- Monitoring the care and rehabilitation centers for beggars in Madaba, Zarqa, and Amman, and the Anti-Begging Department.
- Monitoring juvenile detention centers in Ma'an, Aqaba, and the Capital.
- Monitoring the Behavioral Adjustment and Child Rehabilitation Center in Zarqa.

Persons with Disabilities:

- Monitoring the rights of persons with disabilities at the Rehabilitation and Employment Center for Persons with Disabilities in Irbid Governorate.
- Monitoring Ayah Gabi Park to assess its accessibility for children with disabilities in the Capital.
- Monitoring the comprehensive Aqaba Center for Special Education in Aqaba.
- Monitoring the right to mobility for persons with disabilities in Ma'an, Jerash, Aqaba, and the Capital Governorates.
- Monitoring the right to mobility through field visits to the Public Transport Regulatory Commission in the Capital and Aqaba, and the Jordanian Ministry of Transport.
- Monitoring six polling centers in the Capital, Jerash, Irbid, and Madaba Governorates announced by the Independent Election Commission as accessible for persons with disabilities.
- Monitoring the Saudi Center for the Training and Rehabilitation of Blind Women in Amman.
- Monitoring Abdullah Bin Maktoum School for the Blind in Amman.
- Monitoring the Care and Rehabilitation Center for Persons with Disabilities in Al-Dhulayl.
- Monitoring the availability of reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities at North Shouneh Municipality, Greater Karak Municipality, and Al-Baqa'a Camp.
- Monitoring the availability of reasonable accommodation, accessible formats, and ease of access in government service

institutions through field monitoring visits to:

- Al-Hussein Cultural Center under the Greater Amman Municipality in Ras Al-Ain
- Greater Amman Municipality building in Ras Al-Ain
- Medical and Insurance Committees Building/Social Security in Jabal Al-Hussein
- Examination and Testing Directorate/Ministry of Education in Al-Luweibdeh
- Directorate of Disability and Mental Health/Ministry of Health in Jabal Al-Hussein

Elderly:

- Monitoring Princess Muna Elderly Women's Center in Zarqa Governorate.
- Twice-yearly monitoring of Al-Zahraa Elderly Home in Amman.
- Monitoring Al-Amal Elderly Care Center in Amman.
- Monitoring the "Rowad" Elderly Club/Day Club.

Key Impact Achieved Based on the Center's Recommendations and Field Visits for Groups Most in Need of Protection⁴⁴⁵:

On 16 April 2024, the Center monitored the "Amneh" Women's Shelter and Rehabilitation Center⁴⁴⁶. It was noted that

⁴⁴⁵ For further details regarding the impact achieved based on the Center's recommendations and field visits for groups most in need of protection, please refer to the sections on women's rights, children's rights, the rights of persons with disabilities, and the rights of the elderly as contained in the same report.

⁴⁴⁶ The National Center for Human Rights addressed the Ministry of Social Development by official letter No. H.A/378/18 dated 29/04/2024; however, no response was received.

the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Health, and other relevant authorities had implemented several of the Center's recommendations contained in its previous annual and specialized reports, including:

- Fully equipping an apartment in the shelter for beneficiaries with disabilities⁴⁴⁷.
- Building the capacity of the shelter's staff regarding disability rights and case management.
- Equipping the gym with modern sports equipment and linking each beneficiary to an appropriate nutrition plan.
- Preparing a hall to display products made by the beneficiaries⁴⁴⁸.
- Assigning a gynecologist from the Ministry of Health to visit the shelter at least twice a week⁴⁴⁹.
- Providing the shelter with a 4D ultrasound device to monitor the

⁴⁴⁷ Through the provision of reasonable accommodation, accessible formats, and ease of access—such as the installation of an elevator, a ramp at the apartment entrance, side handrails on walls, tactile ground indicators inside and outside the apartment, and an accessible restroom for beneficiaries with disabilities.

⁴⁴⁸ As part of the economic empowerment programs conducted at the shelter, beneficiaries produced items such as jewelry, children's clothing, crochet and wool crafts, and mosaic works, among others. The shelter's administration is currently working on developing policies to market these products electronically through an online store, with proceeds going directly to the beneficiaries.

⁴⁴⁹ This action resulted from the Center's communications with the Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry of Health on this matter (official letter to the Ministry of Social Development No. H.A18/424/ dated 18/10/2021; letter to the Ministry of Social Development No. H.A/530/18 dated 28/08/2023; and letter to the Ministry of Health No. H.A/424/18 dated 18/10/2021).

health of pregnant beneficiaries during their stay at the shelter⁴⁵⁰.

The Center monitored the Dar Al-Wifaq Family Shelter in Aqaba on 29/04/2024. The monitoring team observed the implementation of the Center's previous recommendations provided to the Ministry of Social Development during earlier visits, including the following:

(a) the provision of a shaded area in the garden designated for the beneficiaries' children to play in, protecting them from the summer heat and equipped with all necessary requirements;

(b) adapting the shelter to accommodate beneficiaries with disabilities;

(c) intensifying programs aimed at economically empowering beneficiaries through training courses in areas such as e-marketing, mosaic art, painting, handicrafts, soap and candle making, among others;

(d) raising awareness on the importance of the shelter for women survivors of violence and highlighting the services provided to them through a dedicated episode broadcast on Aqaba FM Radio.

The Center also monitored the implementation of the community homes project in the SOS Children's Villages, which aims to integrate children with their peers. The Villages responded to the National Center's recommendation to keep girls under the care of alternative mothers—thus protecting their mental well-being and

⁴⁵⁰ The Ministry of Social Development was addressed by official letter No. H.A/242/18 dated 18/10/2021, and the Ministry of Health was also addressed by letter No. H.A/424/18 dated 18/10/2021. The request of the Center was met accordingly.

preventing their transfer to youth houses—and to reduce the number of children in each community home to four, enabling the alternative mother to provide optimal care that meets their living, educational, and other needs⁴⁵¹.

Regarding the rights of the elderly, the National Center for Human Rights provided a set of recommendations to the Ministry of Social Development based on field monitoring visits to several residential care homes for the elderly, aimed at protecting and promoting the rights of elderly persons⁴⁵² in the Kingdom. These recommendations included the following:

- Adopt a regulation for the temporary care of homeless persons who have taken to living on the streets or in public places and who lack family support, targeting females aged 18–60 and males aged 18–55.
- Activate the Elderly Care Fund and provide in-home care, in accordance with the instructions for benefiting from and spending from the Elderly Care Fund for the year 2022.
- Develop awareness and guidance programs on the rights of the elderly.
- Impose a requirement for family members to visit elderly residents regularly in residential care homes.
- Establish government-operated day clubs for the elderly.

⁴⁵¹ The recommendation to reduce the number of children to four per community home was submitted to the SOS Children's Villages in the Capital Governorate.

⁴⁵² This was communicated through an official letter issued by the Center to the Ministry of Social Development, reference number (H.A/18/224) dated 17 March 2024.

The Ministry of Social Development responded⁴⁵³ to the Center's letter mentioned above as follows:

- The issuance of the Regulation for Licensing Elderly Care Homes and Day Clubs No. (98) of 2024.
- The issuance of the Elderly Care Regulation No. (97) of 2021 and the instructions for benefiting from and spending from the Elderly Care Fund for the year 2022, which defined the rules and conditions for benefiting from the fund and its expenditure purposes. Currently, the fund is being supplemented with 10% of the proceeds from the Jordanian Charity Lottery, pursuant to Article (6/A/3) of the Jordanian Charity Lottery Regulation and its amendments No. (161) of 2019.

The Ministry is working with partner entities on developing the Jordanian National Strategy for the Elderly, which was first launched in 2012 and is updated every four years. This strategy aims to create a society that protects the elderly and their rights, recognizes their experience and capabilities, and provides them with a decent life and a supportive environment that respects their particular needs through the coordinated efforts of all governmental and non-governmental bodies to ensure their effective participation in society. The strategy outlines six key priority areas concerning ageing and older persons in Jordan:

1. Social protection and financial security.

⁴⁵³ The response of the Ministry of Social Development was provided in official letter No. (Sh Q/6155/3) dated 23 April 2024.

2. Healthcare for older persons.
3. Social care.
4. Participation and the promotion of intergenerational solidarity.
5. Protection of older persons from violence, neglect, and during crises.
6. An enabling and supportive environment for older persons.

Most cases of older persons being placed in care institutions involve individuals who have lost family support or have been abandoned by their families. While family members are encouraged to visit elderly relatives in care homes, there are currently no legal provisions to compel them to do so. Currently, there is only one day care center for older persons in the capital, Amman. Three other centers out of four that previously existed were closed between 2018 and 2022 due to their inability to cover operational costs as a result of insufficient funding. However, work is underway to license a second day care center in the Wadi Al-Haddadeh area, which is currently in progress. In addition, the Samir Shamma Homes Association is working to reopen the existing day care center within its facilities.

Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights:

1. The Right to Health:

A total of 23 monitoring visits were conducted to hospitals and comprehensive, primary, and sub-primary health centers. In addition, the following field visits were carried out to assess the right to health:

- Field visit to Tafila Governmental Hospital / Tafila Governorate.
- Field visit to Queen Rania Al Abdullah Governmental Hospital / Ma'an Governorate.
- Field visit to Ma'an Governmental Hospital / Ma'an Governorate.
- Field visit to Tafila Governmental Hospital / Tafila Governorate.
- Field visit to Karak Governmental Hospital / Karak Governorate.
- Field visit to Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Field Hospital in Aqaba.
- Field visit to the Forensic Medicine Unit in Aqaba – Field Office.
- Field visit to Al-Rashid Psychiatric and Addiction Hospital.
- Field visit to Ramtha Governmental Hospital / Irbid Governorate.
- Field visit to South Shouneh Governmental Hospital.
- Monitoring visit to Qatraneh Comprehensive Health Center / Karak Governorate.
- Monitoring visit to Aqaba Comprehensive Health Center / Aqaba Governorate.
- Field visit to Al-Qweirah Comprehensive Health Center / Aqaba Governorate.
- Risha Comprehensive Health Center / Aqaba Governorate.
- Princess Basma Comprehensive Health Center / Karak Governorate.
- Field visit to Naimeh Comprehensive Health Center / Irbid Governorate.
- Field visit to Azraq Governmental Comprehensive Health Center / Zarqa Governorate.
- Field visit to Qariyat Sub-Health Center / Madaba Governorate.
- Field visit to Wadi Rum Primary Health Center / Aqaba Governorate.
- Field visit to Rahmeh Primary Health Center / Aqaba Governorate.
- Three field visits to the Directorate of Environmental Health in the Capital, Amman.
- Monitoring of an incident involving the death of a 16-year-old boy during a septoplasty operation in a private hospital.

2. The Right to Education

A total of 91 monitoring visits were conducted to mixed-gender secondary and primary schools as follows:

- Field visit to Al-Risha Secondary Mixed School / Aqaba Governorate.
- Field visit to Aqaba Comprehensive Secondary School for Girls / Aqaba Governorate.
- Field visit to Munayshir Secondary Mixed School in Al-Qweirah District / Aqaba Governorate.
- Field visit to Azraq Secondary School for Girls / Zarqa Governorate.
- Field visit to Al-Jadida Secondary School for Boys / Madaba Governorate.
- Field visit to Al-Jadida Secondary School for Girls / Madaba Governorate.
- Field visit to Al-Jabal Secondary School for Girls / Madaba Governorate.
- Field visit to the School for the Blind / Capital Governorate.
- Field visit to Al-Qariyat Mixed Primary School / Madaba Governorate.
- Field visit to Al-Namiyah Mixed Primary School / Madaba Governorate.
- Field visit to Machaerus (Mukawir) Primary School for Girls / Madaba Governorate.
- Field visit to Machaerus (Mukawir) Primary School for Boys / Madaba Governorate.
- Field visit to Baluta Mixed Primary School / Madaba Governorate.
- Field visit to Al-Deir Mixed Primary School / Madaba Governorate.

- Field visit to Al-Jarwan Mixed Primary School / Madaba Governorate.
- Field visit to Prince Hamzah Mixed Primary School / Zarqa Governorate.
- Field visit to Al-Risha Mixed Primary School / Aqaba Governorate.
- Field visit to Wadi Al-Qamar Mixed Primary School / Aqaba Governorate.
- Field visit to Wadi Al-Qamar Mixed Primary School in Al-Qweirah District / Aqaba Governorate.

3. The Right to Work

Five monitoring visits were conducted as follows:

- Field visit to Hirfet Al-Ibra Ready-Made Garments Factory / Zarqa Governorate, Al-Dhulail Industrial City.
- Field visit to Atlanta Ready-Made Garments Factory / Capital Governorate, Sahab Industrial City.
- Field visit to Al-Abqari Ready-Made Garments Factory / Capital Governorate, Sahab Industrial City.
- Field visit to Al-Janoubiyah Ready-Made Garments Factory / Capital Governorate, Sahab Industrial City.
- Field visit to Fourth Generation Ready-Made Garments Factory / Capital Governorate, Sahab Industrial City.

4. The Right to a Healthy Environment

- Field visit to the former Pepsi Pool site to monitor its environmental impact on the surrounding area.
- Field visit to the industrial environment in Al-Dhulail Industrial City / Zarqa Governorate.

- Field visit to the industrial environment in the Industrial Clusters City / Capital Governorate, Sahab Industrial City.
- Monitoring visit to stone quarry sites / Ajloun Governorate.

Key Impact Achieved Based on the Center’s Recommendations and the Field Monitoring Visits for Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights⁴⁵⁴:

As part of the follow-up on the remarks and recommendations related to the condition of primary and secondary schools in terms of the level of services and care provided, and to assess their readiness to fulfill the intended educational mission as monitored by the National Center, 17 official correspondences were issued to the Ministry of Education. These letters included the outcomes of the monitoring visits carried out in 2024 for a number of primary and secondary schools in the southern region (Aqaba Governorate) and the central region (Madaba and Zarqa Governorates). The Ministry of Education responded by taking actions within its available human and material resources to improve the level of educational services and care provided⁴⁵⁵.

In addition, as part of the follow-up on the remarks and recommendations related to the condition of hospitals and comprehensive and primary health centers — in terms of the health, treatment, and preventive services provided to citizens — and to review the improvement measures led by the Ministry

of Health in these facilities as monitored by the National Center, 23 official correspondences were issued to the Ministry of Health. These letters included the outcomes of the monitoring visits carried out in 2024 for a number of hospitals and comprehensive, primary, and branch health centers in the southern region (Aqaba Governorate) and the central region (Madaba and Zarqa Governorates). The Ministry of Health responded to the Center’s correspondences and took a series of actions within its available human and material resources to enhance the level of health, treatment, and preventive services provided to citizens. Among the key measures taken were:

1. Renewal of the pediatric specialist’s contract to ensure that one of the southern hospitals is not left without the sole pediatric specialist.
2. An instruction by the Minister of Health to the relevant parties to form a committee to adopt the recommendations and remarks contained in the National Center’s letters and to take the necessary actions accordingly.

In the same context, two correspondences were issued to the Greater Amman Municipality regarding medical waste and its disposal mechanisms, specifically the disposal of domestic medical waste generated by Ministry of Health facilities and the disposal of treated medical waste in some hospitals so that it becomes non-infectious household waste. The response confirmed the need to increase the number of containers for health facilities and the necessity of periodically transporting medical waste, emphasizing that the concerned entity (the owner of the medical facility) is responsible for providing a sufficient number of medical waste

⁴⁵⁴ For further details on the impact achieved based on the Center’s recommendations and the field visits related to the Right to Work, Health, Education, and Environment, please refer to the same report.

⁴⁵⁵ For further details, please refer to the Right to Education section to review the specific measures taken based on the outcomes of the Center’s field visits.

containers and ensuring periodic waste collection through private companies.

Additionally, a correspondence was issued to the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities highlighting the National Center's observation of the need for medical and nursing staff in hospitals and health centers to receive training on how to interact with persons with disabilities of various types. The Higher Council responded to the National Center's letter, indicating that during 2024 it had assessed some hospitals and health centers in terms of accessibility and provided training for medical and nursing staff in certain hospitals and health centers on the rights-based approach and etiquette of effective communication with persons with disabilities and on ensuring their access to health services. Moreover, the Council has projects planned for implementation in 2025 to assess and study the availability of accessibility in 60 health centers and 8 hospitals through its Directorate of Accessibility. Based on this, efforts will be coordinated and a joint cooperation mechanism will be developed between the National Center, the Higher Council, and the Ministry of Health⁴⁵⁶ to strengthen the rights of persons with disabilities and the elderly in society. In this regard, a consultative meeting was held with the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by the National Center, during which a set of actions was agreed upon to strengthen the rights of persons with disabilities to access their right to health.

As part of the follow-up on the remarks and recommendations regarding the condition of workers and the extent to which they enjoy their labor rights, as well as the availability

of a suitable work environment as monitored by the National Center, five official correspondences were issued to the Ministry of Labor. These letters included the outcomes of the monitoring visits conducted in 2024 to the Qualified Industrial Zones. In this context, the Ministry of Labor indicated its readiness to carry out inspection tours by labor inspectors and the National Center's team to review the actual conditions of the factories. A series of actions were taken by the Ministry of Labor to implement the National Center's recommendations, as detailed in the report section on the Right to Work.

Regarding the right to a healthy environment, it is worth noting that, as part of the follow-up on the Center's remarks based on the outcomes of its monitoring visits to the Al-Dhulail Industrial Zone in Zarqa Governorate, the Center addressed the Ministry of Water and Irrigation and the Ministry of Environment and received responses indicating that the Ministry of Water and Irrigation had addressed the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation to secure the necessary financial allocations to update old studies and implement the wastewater network project. The process of updating technical studies, preparing tender documents, and executing the project will begin once the required funding is secured in accordance with procedures⁴⁵⁷.

In follow-up to the Center's recommendations based on the monitoring visits to the Pepsi Pool site in Al-Rusayfa area, the Center addressed the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Local Administration, and the Greater Amman Municipality. The Center received responses

⁴⁵⁶ The response of the Higher Council was sent via the official email on 6 June 2024.

⁴⁵⁷ Letter of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation No. (24111/2/7) dated 12 December 2024.

indicating that the Ministry of Environment had addressed the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Local Administration, and the Greater Amman Municipality to instruct the concerned parties to take the necessary actions in line with their respective mandates.

• Civil and Political Rights

- Monitoring of peaceful assembly, covering forty (40) activities, solidarity sit-ins, and others.
- The Center conducted ninety-two (92) visits to correction and rehabilitation centers in 2024, during which 111 inmates were interviewed, including 65 inmates interviewed based on complaints received by the Center and 46 inmates interviewed based on monitoring.
- Following up on detainees held in connection with certain protests or sit-ins, conducting field visits to them, and corresponding with the relevant authorities.
- The Center received seven hundred and nine (709) complaints in 2024, which were processed according to relevant procedures and in coordination with the concerned entities.
- The Center received five hundred sixty-three (563) official responses from the relevant entities in follow-up to the complaints.

Third: Annual, Specialized, and Monitoring Reports and Reports Submitted to Treaty Bodies

- Preparing a specialized report on the recommendations and outcomes related to the legislative impact of the Cybercrimes Law.

- Preparing the 2024 Parliamentary Elections Report for the Twentieth House of Representatives.
- Preparing and presenting the shadow report on the Convention against Torture before the Committee against Torture in Geneva, October 2024.
- Preparing and discussing the shadow report for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).
- Participating in the preparation of the official Beijing Report in cooperation with the National Commission for Women's Affairs.
- A statement submitted to the Human Rights Committee under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights regarding Jordan's concluding observations under the same Covenant.
- Preparing the first draft of the shadow report on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

Fourth: Integration of Human Rights Concepts into School Curricula

Within the Center's mandate to integrate human rights concepts into educational curricula, the Center undertook the following:

- Reviewing twelve (12) curricula developed by the National Center for Curriculum Development for the purpose of integrating human rights concepts and principles, covering the following subjects: Arabic language, social studies, Islamic education, history, national and civic education, geography, Islamic studies, for grades: first, fourth, seventh, ninth, tenth, twelfth (literary stream), and twelfth (all streams).

- Attending focused working groups aimed at reviewing curricula at the National Center for Curriculum Development.
- Presenting best practices regarding the Center's experience in integrating human rights concepts into curricula to the Arab Human Rights Network.

Fifth: Seminars and Discussion Panels Held

- Discussion panel on the food industries sector in Jordan.
- Discussion panel on the situation of women workers' rights in the agricultural sector.
- Discussion panel on the status of the rights of persons with disabilities in Jordan.
- Discussion panel titled "Water and Food Security from a Human Rights Perspective."
- Discussion panel on the implementation of recommendations for groups most in need of protection.
- Discussion session titled "The Health Sector: Universal Health Coverage as a Model."
- Discussion session on the "Law on the Right to Access Information No. (47) of 2007."

Seventh: Issuance of Statements

- Statement on the International Day of Women and Girls in Science.
- Statement on World Autism Awareness Day.
- Statement on World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.
- Statement on World Day Against Child Labour.

- Statement on the Arab Population and Development Day.
- Statement on the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression.
- Statement on the International Day of Families.
- Statement on International Day of Women Judges.
- Statement on International Day of Older Persons.
- Statement on International Day of the Girl Child.
- Statement on International Day of Rural Women.
- Statement on Universal Children's Day.
- Statement on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.
- Statement on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.
- Statement calling for support for the course of international justice against the crimes of genocide in Gaza, dated 4 January 2024.
- Statement on the right to peaceful assembly, dated 12 January 2024.
- Statement on the human rights movement in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan from 1999 to 2024, dated 7 February 2024.
- Statement on the International Day of Women Judges, dated 10 March 2024.
- Statement on the right to freedom of expression, dated 26 March 2024.
- Statement on solidarity sit-ins with Gaza, dated 31 March 2024.
- Statement on the decision issued by the Human Rights Council.
- Statement on the crime of genocide, dated 7 April 2024.
- Statement welcoming the decision to release a group of detainees.

- Statement on the announcement of the parliamentary elections date, dated 25 April 2024.
- Statement on World Press Freedom Day, May 2024.
- Statement welcoming the Ministry of Interior's decision to release 485 administrative detainees, dated 8 May 2024.
- Final statement on the elections of the University of Jordan Student Union Council, dated 22 May 2024.
- Final statement on the elections of Yarmouk University Student Union Council — 29th session, dated 29 May 2024.
- Final statement on the elections of the Hashemite University Student Union Council, dated 31 May 2024.
- Statement on the publication of the preliminary voter lists, dated 6 June 2024.
- Statement on the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, dated 26 June 2024.
- Statement on the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, dated 26 June 2024.
- Statement on the completion of the publication of preliminary voter lists and the publication of final voter lists, dated 28 July 2024.
- Statement issued by the Center regarding the nomination stage, dated 2 August 2024.
- First statement on the Twentieth House of Representatives elections — voting stage, dated 10 September 2024.
- Second statement on the Twentieth House of Representatives elections — voting stage, dated 10 September 2024.
- Third statement on the Twentieth House of Representatives elections

— voting stage, dated 10 September 2024.

- Fourth statement on the Twentieth House of Representatives elections — voting stage, dated 10 September 2024.
- Statement No. (5) on the Twentieth House of Representatives elections — ballot counting stage, dated 10 September 2024.
- Statement on Human Rights Day, dated 10 December 2024.

Eighth: National and International Participation:

In order to enhance institutional capacities and build the capacities and skills of the General Secretariat at the Center, the Center participated in a number of conferences, training courses, workshops, and research and discussion sessions. The most notable of these include:

- Participation in a workshop on ensuring the right to a safe environment free from violence and harassment at the workplace, held at the Geneva Hotel.
- Participation in a workshop on developing a national strategy for older persons in cooperation with the National Council for Family Affairs.
- Participation in a workshop on protecting women in shelters, organized by the Jordanian Women's Solidarity Association.
- Participation in a discussion session with focal points of the National Coalition for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325, organized by the Jordanian National Commission for Women.
- Participation in a training course on monitoring and evaluation, organized by the Jordanian National Commission for Women.

- Participation in the Fandy meeting / National Council for Family Affairs on domestic violence and the role of the National Center.
- Participation in a training session on legal aid for women victims of violence, organized by the Justice Center for Legal Aid.
- Participation in a workshop on UN Security Council Resolution 1325, organized by the Jordanian National Commission for Women.
- Participation in a dialogue session on the draft legal aid bylaw at the Bar Association.
- Participation and submission of a working paper on femicide in Jordan within a workshop organized by the Jordanian Women's Solidarity Association.
- Participation in the regional preparatory conference for the Global Disability Summit.
- Participation in a training course on gender equality.
- Participation in an online seminar on children's rights via Zoom, conducted by UNICEF.
- Participation in a workshop on social protection for the elderly, organized by Phoenix Center.
- Participation in the launch ceremony of the National Strategy for Older Persons, organized by the National Council for Family Affairs.
- Participation in the launch ceremony of the National Strategy to Prevent Human Trafficking, organized by the Ministry of Justice.
- Participation in a workshop on national referral mechanisms and human trafficking data, organized by the Ministry of Justice.
- Participation in a workshop on reducing child labor and begging, organized by the Ministry of Justice.
- Participation in a workshop on protection from domestic violence and reviewing the Domestic Violence Protection Law, organized by the Women's Union.
- Participation in a high-level meeting on the progress made in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action 30 years on, held in Muscat.
- Participation in the Social Work Conference held at the University of Jordan.
- Participation in a workshop for focal points of the committee to limit marriage under the age of 18.
- Participation in a seminar celebrating International Human Rights Day under the theme "Human Rights: A Pathway to Solutions."
- Participation in the National Human Rights Institutions seminar on climate change and human rights, held in conjunction with the 29th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan, from November 11-22.
- Attendance at the National Education Team meeting for Education by 2023.
- Participation in the training program "The Role of Women in Achieving Community Peace and Security."
- Participation in the consultative session between the UN Special Rapporteur on Climate Change and Human Rights and members of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions.
- Participation in the educational seminar on business and human rights.

- Participation in the training workshop on the link between climate change and human rights.
- Attendance at the third meeting of the Advisory Committee for the “Empowering Civil Society Organizations in Jordan” Project.
- Attendance at the fifth meeting of the Committee on Economic and Social Development and Rights at the Board of Trustees.
- Participation in the leadership and self-development skills training course.
- Attendance at the second meeting of the Advisory Committee for the “Empowering Civil Society Organizations in Jordan” Project.
- Representing the Center within the National Team concerned with achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (Good Health and Well-being).
- Participation in the workshop organized by the WHO Office in Jordan in cooperation with the Ministry of Health to review progress in data and governance of SDG 3 in Jordan.
- Participation in the discussion session entitled “Towards Inclusion of Digital Platform Workers in Social Security.”
- Participation in the public sessions of the 24th regular session of the Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, under the theme “The Right to Health: Islamic and Human Rights Perspectives.”
- Participation in the training course on “Promoting and Protecting Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights,” held in the Arab Republic of

Egypt by the United Nations Training and Documentation Centre, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the Arab Network of National Human Rights Institutions.

- Participation in the program for monitoring economic, social, and cultural rights via Zoom, organized by the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF).
- Participation in a workshop with the European Union to discuss recommendations of the 2024 Parliamentary Elections Report issued by the EU Mission.
- Participation in a dialogue conference on the political participation of women and youth in the parliamentary elections for the 20th House of Representatives (Rased).
- Representation of the Center at the National Dialogue Conference on Local Administration: Partnership for Development.
- Participation in a training course with the APF on gender equality.
- Participation in a capacity-building workshop held in India with the National Human Rights Commission of India.
- Participation in a dialogue session on parliamentary elections with the Arab Network for Educational Development.

Achievements of the Promotion Commission for the Year 2024

The Promotion Commission comprises three departments: the Awareness and Training Department, the Studies and Documentation Department, and the Legislation Department, in addition to the Projects Unit.

First: Awareness and Training Department

- Conducted 23 training courses and workshops for civil society organizations and university students.
- Delivered 18 lectures for school and university students and Greater Amman Municipality.
- Delivered 5 lectures for Public Security officers and the National Defense College.

Courses and workshops delivered by the Awareness and Training Department:

- Conducted the first training course on human rights and national legislation for service providers at SOS Children's Villages Association.
- Conducted the second training course on human rights for service providers at SOS Children's Villages Association.
- Held a foundational human rights training course for affiliates of Ibtinaa Training and Consulting Institution / Juwaideh.
- Conducted a human rights course for members of Al-Mazar Al-Shamali Youth Center / Irbid.
- Held a workshop on the Center's role in protecting and promoting human rights for students from the Global Education Foundation, USA.
- Conducted a specialized training course on human rights and elections for students of Ajloun National University.
- Held a training workshop for 15 participants from the Injaz Foundation for Creating Opportunities for Jordanian Youth.

- Delivered a specialized training course on monitoring and report writing for staff and members of the National Society for Human Rights.
- Held a dialogue session on elections and the role of the National Center for Human Rights – “Empowerment and Oversight” – at Yarmouk University.
- Held a dialogue session on elections and the role of the National Center for Human Rights – “Empowerment and Oversight” – at the University of Jordan.
- Held a dialogue session on elections and the role of the National Center for Human Rights – “Empowerment and Oversight” – at Ajloun National University.
- Held a dialogue session on elections and the role of the National Center for Human Rights – “Empowerment and Oversight” – at Al-Zaytoonah University.
- Held a dialogue session on elections and the role of the National Center for Human Rights – “Empowerment and Oversight” – at the University of Jordan / Aqaba Branch.
- Held a dialogue session on elections and the role of the National Center for Human Rights – “Empowerment and Oversight” – at Al-Hussein Bin Talal University / Ma'an.
- Held a dialogue session on elections and the role of the National Center for Human Rights – “Empowerment and Oversight” – at the Hashemite University.
- Held a dialogue session on elections and the role of the National Center for Human Rights – “Empowerment and Oversight” – at Jerash University.
- Held a dialogue session on elections and the role of the National Center

for Human Rights – “Empowerment and Oversight” – at Tafila Technical University.

- Held a dialogue session on elections and the role of the National Center for Human Rights – “Empowerment and Oversight” – at Al-Balqa Applied University.
- Held a dialogue session on elections and the role of the National Center for Human Rights – “Empowerment and Oversight” – at “All Jordan Youth Commission” / Mafrq.
- Conducted a foundational training course for service providers working at SOS Villages / Aqaba Governorate.
- Held a dialogue session titled “Elections and the Role of the National Center” in cooperation with “All Jordan Youth Commission” / Aqaba Governorate.
- Held a dialogue session titled “Elections and the Role of the National Center” in cooperation with “All Jordan Youth Commission” / Mafrq Governorate.
- Organized a workshop for a delegation of American university students to introduce them to the Center and its activities.

Lectures delivered by the Awareness and Training Department during 2024 include:

- Delivered a lecture on human rights and the Center’s role in protecting and promoting human rights to teachers and students at Khadija Umm Al-Mu’minin School in Zarqa Governorate.
- Delivered a lecture on child rights, bullying, and early marriage to teachers, students, and mothers at Nazal Girls School under UNRWA.
- Delivered a lecture on human rights and the Center’s role in protecting and promoting human rights to teachers and students at Umm Atiyya School in Zarqa Governorate.
- Delivered a lecture to Public Security officers on regulatory bodies in Jordan.
- Delivered a lecture at Greater Amman Municipality / Sweileh for local women on women’s participation in parliamentary elections.
- Delivered a lecture titled “The Extent of Compatibility of Human Rights in the Jordanian Constitution with International Covenants” for the Master’s Program on Strategies for Countering Extremism and Terrorism at the Royal Jordanian National Defense College.
- Delivered a lecture on women’s political participation at Greater Amman Municipality.
- Delivered a lecture on refugees’ rights and duties to a group of Public Security officers at the Judicial Police Department.
- Delivered a lecture at Public Security Directorate on oversight bodies in Jordan.
- Delivered a lecture at American schools on child rights.
- Delivered a lecture at Al-Murqab Secondary School for Girls.
- Delivered a lecture for students at Amman National Schools.
- Delivered a lecture at the Public Security Directorate / Judicial Police Department on human rights organizations in Jordan.
- Delivered a lecture at Greater Amman Municipality.
- Held a meeting with students from the German Jordanian University about asylum in Jordan.

Second: Legislation Department

A number of legal opinions have been prepared (the Centre's position regarding Jordanian laws) and contributions have been made to raising youth awareness of national laws. The most notable achievements include:

- Studying the Crime Prevention Law to ensure its compatibility with the Jordanian Constitution and international standards, and preparing a matrix of proposed amendments in cooperation with the Danish Institute.
- Preparing a concept paper on the first phase of the electoral process, including: candidacy instructions, electoral campaigning, and instructions for selecting observers.
- Preparing a legal opinion on the Centre's position regarding the 2024 amendment to the Labour Law.
- Preparing a legal opinion on the Centre's position regarding the 2024 amendment to the Social Security Law.
- Preparing a legal opinion on the proposed amendments to the Legal Aid System of the Jordanian Bar Association.

International Relations Department

The International Relations Department exercises its legal mandate derived from the National Centre for Human Rights Law No. (51) of 2006 and its amendments. Article (5/J) of the Law stipulates that one of the Centre's objectives is the exchange of information and expertise with national, Arab, Islamic, regional, and international organizations and institutions with similar

mandates. The main achievements can be summarized as follows:

- Following up on the Centre's participation in meetings, training workshops, courses, and conferences (e.g. Doha Conference, attendance at the Universal Periodic Review session, and the Training of Trainers course).
- Coordinating with the Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions regarding the joint statement issued by the Centre and the Network on the case brought by South Africa against Israel before the International Court of Justice concerning the crime of genocide committed against the people of Gaza.
- Contributing to the preparation of a working paper entitled "*The Role of National Human Rights Institutions and Civil Society Organizations as Actors in Addressing the Food Crisis through Monitoring, Documentation, Reporting, Advising, Following up on Implementation, and Engaging with the International System in this Regard.*"
- Reviewing the Arab Human Rights Strategy and communicating with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding it.
- Communicating with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) regarding the submission of an independent report by the Centre on progress in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.
- Following up with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) regarding securing a project to establish a Liaison and

Partnerships Unit under the Triangular Partnership Programme to support national human rights institutions.

- Strengthening the Centre's relations with relevant stakeholders in the field of human rights protection and promotion (e.g. USAID, the Norwegian Embassy, the UNHCR, the United Nations Office in Jordan, the Department of Statistics, the Jordanian Bar Association, the International Committee of the Red Cross – Jordan Office).
- Following up on the next phase (2024–2026) of the Danish Partnership Programme regarding upcoming activities (reviewing legislation, preparing reports, drafting the strategic plan, and updating the Centre's website).
- Following up on the Centre's participation in meetings and conferences (e.g. the 23rd Regular Session of the Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation in Jeddah, the Regional Forum on the Role of National Human Rights Institutions in Planning and Monitoring the Implementation of National Visions Related to Human Rights in Oman).
- Coordinating with the Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions to hold a regional event in Jordan in cooperation with the Centre on a human rights topic in November 2024.
- Following up with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to hold a regional event in Jordan in cooperation with the Centre on digital space and human rights, preparing a concept paper on

the topic and sharing it with the OHCHR.

- Contributing to the preparation of a concept paper for the Spanish project on capacity building and infrastructure development for the Centre.
- Meeting with the British Governance Fund to attract funding.
- Membership of the drafting committee for the Guiding Principles on the Role of National Human Rights Institutions in Conflict Situations in Asia and the Pacific.
- Following up on preparations to hold a regional roundtable on national human rights institutions and new and emerging digital technologies in the Middle East and North Africa region in cooperation with the OHCHR.
- Preparing and sending invitations for participation in the first meeting of the Working Group and Partnerships, held on 9 October 2024 in cooperation with the UNDP.
- Following up on the participation of the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees in Morocco from 15–19 October 2024 to attend the Tenth Jeju Dialogue on Human Rights.
- Following up on the Centre's participation in the Eighth Conference on Digital Transformation and the Right to Health Care in Moscow.
- Following up on the Centre's participation in the Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions course on economic, social, and cultural rights in Cairo.
- Preparing for the 23rd Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions Conference (visa issuance, sending invitations, and

logistical support during the two days of the conference).

- Following up on the Centre's participation in the review of the Anti-Torture Report in Geneva.
- Following up on the Centre's participation in the Executive Office Meeting of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions in Doha.
- Following up on the Centre's participation in the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation meeting in Jeddah.
- Following up on the Centre's participation in the Executive Capacity Building Programme for Senior Officials in India.
- Following up on the Centre's participation in the Arab Women's Academy Meeting in Doha.

Committee Memberships with Governmental and Civil Society Entities

To enhance cooperation and partnership between the National Centre for Human Rights and government bodies and civil society organizations, and to ensure the integration of human rights principles into national policies, the Centre represents its General Secretariat in the following committees:

- Committee for the Development of the Legal Aid Strategy (Justice Sector Strategy 2022–2026).
- Criminal Justice Committee / Ministry of Justice.
- Committee for Harmonizing National Legislation with International Conventions and Treaties Ratified by Jordan / Ministry of Justice.
- Committee for the Implementation of the Child Rights Law – National Council for Family Affairs.
- Advisory Committee on Reproductive Health – Information and Research Center.
- National Committee for Criminal Justice – Ministry of Justice.
- High Steering Committee for Juvenile Justice – National Council for Family Affairs.
- National Team for Protection from Domestic Violence.
- Anti-Human Trafficking Committee – Ministry of Justice.
- Equal Opportunities Committee / Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- National Observatory for Cases of Women and Girls' Killings / Ministerial Committee for Women's Empowerment.
- Committee for Financial Allocation for Alternatives to Shelters / Ministry of Social Development.
- SHAMA Network Committee / Jordanian National Commission for Women.
- Committee for the National Action Plan to Implement Resolution 1325 / Jordanian National Commission for Women.
- Committee for Monitoring the National Strategy for Older Persons / National Council for Family Affairs.
- Wage Equity Committee / Jordanian National Commission for Women.
- Amman Age-Friendly City Committee / Greater Amman Municipality.
- National Team for Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2030 (Good Health and Well-Being).

Delegations Received by the Centre

With the aim of introducing the Centre and exploring avenues of cooperation, the National Centre for Human Rights received, in 2024, a number of delegations from Arab and non-Arab embassies, as well as governmental, non-governmental, national, regional, and international institutions, as follows:

- Delegation from the American Embassy.
- Delegation from the Spanish Embassy.
- Delegation from the French Embassy.
- Delegation from the British Embassy.
- Delegation from the Norwegian Embassy.
- Delegation from the Saudi Embassy.
- Delegation from the German Embassy.
- Delegation from the European Union.
- The United Nations Resident Coordinator in Jordan.
- The President of the Arab Institute for Human Rights in Tunisia.
- Delegation from the United Nations Office.
- Delegation from the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID).
- Delegation from Amnesty International.
- The British Governance Team.
- The Commissioner-General for Human Rights in Palestine.
- Delegation from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).
- Delegation from the International Committee of the Red Cross.
- Delegation from Harir Organization for Community Development.

- Delegation from the International Penal Reform Organization.
- Delegation from the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) of the United States Department of State.
- The National Society for Human Rights.
- The International Labour Organization (ILO).
- The European Union Election Observation Mission in Jordan.
- Delegation from the Institute for Human Rights.
- Delegation from the League of Arab States for Election Observation.

Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)

In line with the National Centre for Human Rights' methodology to institutionalize relationships with national bodies relevant to human rights, and to enhance cooperation and coordination to achieve its objectives under Law No. 51 of 2006 and its amendments — which include monitoring the human rights situation in the Kingdom; striving to integrate human rights principles into all levels of education; conducting legal, political, social, educational, and intellectual studies and research relevant to the Centre's goals; organizing lectures, seminars, and conferences related to its objectives; participating in similar activities; and exchanging information and expertise with national, Arab, regional, and international organizations and institutions with similar mandates — the National Centre for Human Rights signed a number of Memoranda of Understanding in 2024 to strengthen cooperation and coordination with these entities. This aims to promote a culture of human rights, deepen the legal understanding of human rights issues within the framework of the Jordanian Constitution

and international human rights standards, and reflect this on the Jordanian reality. The MoUs signed were as follows:

- Memorandum of Understanding with Al-Zaytoonah University of Jordan, dated 2 June 2024.
- Memorandum of Understanding with the Jordanian National Committee for International Humanitarian Law, dated 3 June 2024.
- Memorandum of Understanding with the Independent Election

Commission regarding the provision of legal assistance for persons with disabilities during the 2024 Parliamentary Elections, dated 28 July 2024.

- Memorandum of Understanding with Al-Isra University, dated 21 August 2024.
- Memorandum of Understanding with Zaha Cultural Center / Greater Amman Municipality, dated 27 August 2024.

Press Statement Issued by the National Centre for Human Rights on the Draft Cybercrimes Law for the Year 2023

Amman — The National Centre for Human Rights (NCHR) has closely followed the Draft Cybercrimes Law for the year 2023 since it was submitted to the House of Representatives. The Centre conducted a thorough study of the draft law in all its aspects within the framework of the Jordanian Constitution — specifically Article 15, which guarantees the right to freedom of opinion and expression and freedom of the press and media — as well as within the framework of international human rights standards ratified by Jordan, foremost among them the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), specifically Article 19 thereof.

In order to present its legal position and to reinforce its approach of continuous engagement with relevant stakeholders, the Centre met with the Legal Committee of the House of Representatives and presented its observations on the proposed draft law, some of which were taken into consideration. Subsequently, the Centre continued to follow developments related to the draft law and met with the Legal Committee of the Senate, which also adopted a number of the Centre's recommendations — a matter that the Centre values and appreciates.

The Centre affirms the necessary positive developments included in the Draft Cybercrimes Law, such as the introduction of provisions addressing existing legal gaps. Notably, this includes the provision criminalizing the publication of any recording, image, or video that an individual wishes to keep private or concealed from the

public, which protects individuals' right to privacy in the digital space. The draft also introduces a provision addressing electronic blackmail and threats.

In this context, while the Centre continues to monitor developments regarding the Draft Cybercrimes Law, it points out that it has included recommendations on the Cybercrimes Law No. (27) of 2015 in its successive annual reports. With regard to the Draft Cybercrimes Law for 2023, the Centre emphasizes the following points:

First: The offences of defamation, libel, and insult should be addressed solely under the general provisions of the Penal Code No. (16) of 1960 and its amendments, given that the existing Penal Code provisions are sufficient and to avoid legislative duplication. This would also ensure overall consistency between relevant laws and reaffirm the principle of not detaining individuals for such offences. Should this provision remain within the Draft Cybercrimes Law, the penalty should be reduced in line with the Penal Code No. (16) of 1960 and its amendments to guarantee non-custodial measures.

Second: The criminal acts stipulated in certain articles of the draft law should be clearly defined, especially regarding hate speech, with its elements specified in accordance with Article 20 of the ICCPR. Additionally, certain terms used in the draft law, such as “false news,” should be more precisely defined.

Third: The presumed liability established under Article (25) of the Draft Cybercrimes Law should be repealed in compliance with the principle of personal liability for

criminal acts, which is a well-established principle of general criminal policy.

Fourth: The general principles of criminal legislation should be adhered to, particularly concerning the rules of criminal participation, and the principle of individualized sentencing should be applied in this regard. The Centre calls for a reconsideration of the wording of Article (27) of the proposed draft law.

In conclusion, the Centre reiterates its structural recommendation, as contained in its annual reports, on the necessity of institutionalizing an effective national legislative system aimed at ensuring

communication between legislation and society. This system should be based on key foundations, most importantly the partnership of all relevant stakeholders within the legislative process, the analysis of social, economic, cultural, and political phenomena in society through impact studies for proposed legislation, and addressing human rights legislation through a legislative policy that adopts a comprehensive review of the matrix of relevant laws as an integrated whole in a manner that safeguards the rights and freedoms enshrined in the Jordanian Constitution and international human rights standards.